



The Synod of the Covenant Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

7/24/20 Synod Assembly Highlights

On 7/24/20 the General Assembly Administrative Commission (GAAC) welcomed fifteen corresponding members and guests from throughout the Synod to its July Assembly. Here are some of the highlights:

- Elona Street-Stewart, Co-Moderator of the 224th General Assembly, reflected on our call to be one of three kinds of our sister grains—corn, for support; beans, for giving, and squash, for protecting. We pray the Synod of the Covenant offers these ministries—and more—to all presbyteries and congregations in our region.
- The Assembly congratulated Ruth Azar (Presbytery of Detroit) on the Women of Faith award, given by the Presbyterian Mission Agency in conjunction with the recent General Assembly. The award recognized her work through the Second Mile Center to dismantle poverty.
- The GAAC has hired the Lombard-Mennonite Peace Center for three components: information gathering, coaching for the Interim Executive, and a “Healthy Synods” training at the March assembly. The results of the first of these will be presented at the August assembly on 8/28/20.
- Guests and corresponding members suggested the following values guide the Synod’s communication efforts: clarity, ease of access, user-friendly organization, transparency, completeness, and timeliness.
- Applications for higher education scholarships and Racial Ethnic and New Covenant grants will be available in early August. Watch the Synod Newsletter and Website for more information. Applications will be reviewed beginning 8/31/20 (scholarships) and 10/1/20 (grants).
- The Personnel Committees hopes that the GAAC will elect a Stated Clerk at the August Assembly meeting on 8/28/20, and successfully recommended a job description for a half-time office manager, with a target hire date of 9/14/20.
- The Synod’s accounting firm is working to bring the books up to date.
- The rate for Per Capita support for the Synod will remain at \$3.25, in solidarity with presbyteries and congregations as many of us face difficult financial challenges.
- The 224th General Assembly re-affirmed the ministry of the GAAC stewarding the Synod. The GAAC hopes to return jurisdiction to the Synod by the end of 2020.



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- Mass communications from the Synod include Facebook (almost 200 followers), the newsletter (almost 600 on the mailing list), and the Synod's website, www.synodofthecovenant.org, which is in the finishing stages of a redesign.
- 7 members of the GAAC welcomed 15 corresponding members and guests, 2 staff from the Office of General Assembly, and the Interim Executive.

Please contact Interim Executive Chip Hardwick with any questions or for more information: synod.covenant@gmail.com or 309-530-4578.