



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

Proposed Sequencing for Returning Jurisdiction to the Synod of the Covenant
Drafted for further consideration by Charles B Hardwick, Interim Executive
9/25/20 Assembly

The mandate for the Administrative Commission from the 223rd General Assembly (2018) included several tasks as part of a Special Administrative Review (G-3.10108(b)) (see the full list in the appendix). The list below also includes several other areas of ministry and administration for which jurisdiction must be returned. The following is a proposed sequencing by which jurisdiction could be returned to the Synod Assembly for all of these items.

Functions Ready for Jurisdiction to be Returned (Progress Achieved)

- Communications (*“To assure adequate communication with and among its presbyteries, G-3.0401(a), through commissioners to synod, presbytery leadership, staff, and others as it may determine helpful to its task.”*)
- Pastoral Care to and among presbyteries (*“To assure pastoral care among its presbyteries in order that the synod may live in the unity represented in the Sacraments, G-3.0401(b).”*)
- Service of the Permanent Judicial Commission (as needed)

Jurisdiction to be Returned in the Medium-Term (Progress Underway)

- Consultation (*“To assure effective consultation with the synod committees and commissioners, synod staff, racial ethnic caucuses, Presbyterian Women, presbyteries, presbytery executives, and others as it may determine helpful to its tasks.”*)
- Presbytery Support (*“To assure adequate support for the ministry and mission of its presbyteries as they seek to support the witness of congregations (G-3.0401).”*)
- Reconciliation (*“To address conflicts in a pastoral manner that promotes reconciliation, healing, and restores unity between synod and its presbyteries using professional mediation services if necessary. They may use processes of D-1.0103 Conciliate and Mediate as needed.”*)
- Financial oversight, transparency, accountability, and accuracy
- The conclusion of the relationship with former staff



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Jurisdiction to be Returned in the Long-Term (Progress Yet to Be Made)

- Policies and Procedures (*“To review and recommend revisions to synod procedures, to institute changes that are necessary to ensure the fulfillment of the PC(USA) principles of participation and representation as outlined in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103. This will include but is not limited to a review of records, bylaws, procedures, policies, and manuals of the synod.”*)
- Establishment of a system by which the Synod learns from and supports communities of color, in particular CECA and Racial Ethnic/Equity Caucuses.
- Process of preparing and developing Synod commissioners for full and healthy participation as the Synod level Council of the church.
- Identification/Election of Synod leadership for committees, Assembly, and other roles.
- Process for the development of a Synod vision and mission, leading to ministry priorities.



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Appendix

The mandate for the Administrative Commission from the 223rd General Assembly (2018) included the following tasks as part of a Special Administrative Review (G-3.10108(b)):

1. To review and recommend revisions to synod procedures, to institute changes that are necessary to ensure the fulfillment of the PC(USA) principles of participation and representation as outlined in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103. This will include but is not limited to a review of records, bylaws, procedures, policies, and manuals of the synod.
2. To assure effective consultation with the synod committees and commissioners, synod staff, racial ethnic caucuses, Presbyterian Women, presbyteries, presbytery executives, and others as it may determine helpful to its tasks.
3. To assure adequate support for the ministry and mission of its presbyteries as they seek to support the witness of congregations (G-3.0401).
4. To assure adequate communication with and among its presbyteries, G-3.0401(a), through commissioners to synod, presbytery leadership, staff, and others as it may determine helpful to its task.
5. To assure pastoral care among its presbyteries in order that the synod may live in the unity represented in the Sacraments, G-3.0401(b).
6. To address conflicts in a pastoral manner that promotes reconciliation, healing, and restores unity between synod and its presbyteries using professional mediation services if necessary. They may use processes of D-1.0103 Conciliate and Mediate as needed.
7. To assume original jurisdiction if deemed necessary by the commission.
8. To have full authority to enforce the findings and recommendations with due process, granting fair notice and an opportunity to be heard by all parties.

This commission shall report to the 224th General Assembly (2020).