

**STATED MEETING OF THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)  
March 23, 2019**

The March 23, 2019 Stated Meeting of the Synod Assembly of the Synod of the Covenant, Presbyterian Church, (U.S.A.), was called to order by Moderator Aaron Meadows at 9:03 a.m. The meeting was held at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan.

Moderator Aaron Meadows offered the opening prayer at 9:04 a.m.

The lighting of the Christ Candle took place.

The roll was formed as following:

**THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY ROLL**

**Moderator** –Minister of Word and Sacrament Aaron Meadows - Present

**Vice-Moderator** – Minister of Word and Sacrament Pat Megregian- Present

**Commissioners**

	Present	Absent	Excused
<b><u>Presbytery of Cincinnati</u></b>			
Minister of the Word and Sacrament– Deborah Uchtman	x		
Ruling Elder – Becky Lindsay	x		
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant			
<b><u>Presbytery of Detroit</u></b>			
Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Raphael Francis	x		
Ruling Elder – Daryl Taylor		x	
Young Adult Commissioner – Michael Barconey		x	
<b><u>Presbytery of Eastminster</u></b>			
Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Aaron Meadows	x		
Ruling Elder – Chet Cooper			x
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant			
<b><u>Presbytery of Lake Huron</u></b>			
Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Ted McCulloch	x		
Ruling Elder - vacant			
Young Adult Commissioner – vacant			

**Presbytery of Lake Michigan**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Timothy Chon x  
Ruling Elder – Sonja Fryer x  
Young Adult Commissioner – Amber Maupin-Clark x

**Presbytery of Mackinac**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Lois Aroian x  
Ruling Elder – Mike Stoll x  
Young Adult Commissioner – Brad Prevo x

**Presbytery of Maumee Valley**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament - David Tilly x  
Ruling Elder – Gillian Holzhauser-Graber x  
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant

**Presbytery of Miami Valley**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Diane Ziegler x  
Ruling Elder – Marvella Lambright x  
Young Adult Commissioner – Emily Knoth x

**Presbytery of Muskingum Valley**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Anne Weirich x  
Ruling Elder - vacant  
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant

**Presbytery of Scioto Valley**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Leland Platt x  
Ruling Elder – James Boggs x  
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant

**Presbytery of Western Reserve**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Rick Stein x  
Ruling Elder – Susan Vlcek x  
Young Adult Commissioner – Kamryn Wilson x

**Moderators of Designated Synod Organizations**

Moderator of the Presbyterian Women -  
Ruling Elder Pat McBride x  
Moderator of the Asian Caucus -  
Timothy Chon x  
Moderator of the Black Caucus -  
Ruling Elder Gail Coleman x  
Moderator of the Hispanic/Latino Caucus-  
Ruling Elder Jose Jones x

Moderator of the Native American Consulting Com. -  
Liz Saperstein

x

Moderator of the Middle Eastern Caucus-  
Ruling Elder Nahida Gordon

x

### **Voting Synod Staff**

Synod Executive – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Raafat Zaki - Present  
Synod Stated Clerk and Treasurer – Minister of the Word and Sacrament David Bartley – Present

### **Other Synod Staff**

Office Manager– Melanie Shoop – Excused  
Mobile Health Fair Coordinator – Lisa Florez - Excused  
MUSA Coordinator – Steve Gorman – Present

### **Registered Participants**

John Fife, Presbytery of de Cristo; Donald Gordon, Presbytery of Muskingum Valley; Alice Pleasnick, Presbytery of Maumee Valley; and Alvin Smith, Presbytery of Detroit.

### **STATED CLERK’S REPORT (Attachment A)**

1. The Stated Clerk declares that a quorum is present. The Synod of the Covenant Bylaws Article IV, D, 5 specifies that a quorum for a meeting of the Synod Assembly shall consist of ten commissioners made up of five ruling elders and five Ministers of Word and Sacrament. These commissioners shall represent a minimum of four Presbyteries.
2. There can be many “Non-voting Participants” at the Synod Assembly. The Stated Clerk would remind all present that the voting members of the Synod Assembly are Commissioners elected by the Presbyteries, the Synod Moderator and Vice-Moderator, the Synod Executive, the Treasurer of the Synod, the Stated Clerk and the Moderators (or their delegates) of Presbyterian Women, the Synod Asian Caucus, the Synod Black Caucus, the Synod Hispanic/Latino Caucus, the Synod Middle Eastern Caucus, and the Synod Native American Consulting Committee.
3. The Stated Clerk asks that all “Other Participants” register as attending the Synod Assembly. Their names will be recorded in the minutes.

4. The remaining 2019 Stated Meetings of the Synod Assembly will be held on August 2, 2019 at the First Presbyterian Church in Maumee, Ohio and November 1-2, 2019 (Friday-Saturday) at the Christ Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio.

5. Expense vouchers for synod commissioners, and moderators of designated committees need to be turned in following the meeting. Itemized receipts are needed to pay for meals purchased either coming to or returning home from the meeting. Please attach the receipts to your voucher or mail a voucher for a meal purchased on the way home.

6. The Book of Order, D-5.0206b, requires that the Stated Clerk report to the Synod Assembly annually the names of those members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the last six years. Those persons are:

Class of 2018

Ruling Elder Fred Bohse  
Minister of Word and Sacrament Russ Brandt  
Ruling Elder Norma Carnahan  
Minister of Word and Sacrament Greg Gibson

Class of 2016

Minister of Word and Sacrament Doyll H. Andrews  
Minister of Word and Sacrament Barbara Esterly  
Minister of Word and Sacrament Inkyu Park  
Ruling Elder William Postmus

Class of 2014

Ruling Elder Michael Downing  
Ruling Elder Georgana Taggart

7. In order to transition from year to year in a more efficient manner; each Presbytery is asked when there are vacancies, to elect commissioners for the appropriate class prior to October 15 in the year before the term would start.

8. Prior to the Synod Assembly on March 21-22, 2019 there was a Retreat for Synod Commissioners and invited guests at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. The retreat included orientation for commissioners; conversations on the Sanctuary Movement with John Fife, the Moderator of the 204<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; and Immigration with Sister Attracta Kelley, Amanda Craft, Nik Schillack and Kayla Park. Boundaries training that was led by Pat Megregian. The worship leadership was John Fife for Thursday night Vespers, Aaron Meadows for Friday Morning Watch and Sister Attracta Kelly for Friday night Vespers. Lisa Florez, the new Mobile Health Fair Coordinator and Steve Gorman, the new Mission to the USA Coordinator were both at the Retreat. There were some members of the Cabinet on Ethnic Affairs who attended the Synod Retreat.

## For Action

1. The Stated Clerk has received requests to be excused from James Boggs, Gail Coleman; Chet Cooper, Leland Platt, Liz Saperstein, Mike Stoll, Anne Weirich, and Kamryn Wilson. On motion and second the excuses were granted.
2. The State Clerk has received a request from Rusty Cowden to resign from the Board of Trustees and from Sung Yang to resign from the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission. On motion and second the resignations were accepted.
3. The minutes of the November 2-3, 2018 Synod Assembly have been sent out. On motion and second the minutes of the November 2-3, 2018 Synod Assembly were approved.
4. The Stated Clerk recommends that the Synod Assembly adopt the docket with the addition of a meeting of the Corporation to be added during New Business. On motion and second the docket was approved.



## Synod Assembly

March 23, 2019

Weber Conference Center -- 1257 E. Siena Heights Dr., Adrian, MI 49221

7:30 – 8:45 p.m. **Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. **Convening of the Assembly**

Call to Order

Aaron Meadows, Moderator

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Christ Candle

9:15 a.m. **Stated Clerk's Report**

David Bartley

9:20 a.m. **Synod Executive's Report**

Raafat Zaki

9:30 a.m. **Peacemaking & Justice Committee Report**

Nahida Gordon

9:50 a.m. **Treasurer's Report**

David Bartley

9:55 a.m. **Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness**

Pat Megregian

Nominating Report

10:00 a.m.	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 a.m.	<b>Moderators' Committee Report</b>	Aaron Meadows
10:50 a.m.	<b>Old Business</b>	
10:55 a.m.	<b>New Business</b>	
11:00 a.m.	<b>Closing Prayer and Adjournment</b>	Aaron Meadows, Moderator
11:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch</b>	

### **THE SYNOD EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (Attachment B)**

Raafat Zaki, the Synod Executive, reported that there are two new staff members. Steve Gorman for the Mission to the USA Program and Lisa Florez for the Mobile Health Fairs. Lisa Florez is working on finalizing the summer schedule.

Raafat Zaki reported that the Website has been overhauled. This does include the addition of a giving portal. Everyone has received a copy of the Annual Report and soon a copy will be available on the Website.

This next week Raafat Zaki will be going to Stoney Point for the second organizing meeting of the Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea. The Synod Peacemaking funds helped cover the costs for a lunch at General Assembly in St. Louis.

Raafat Zaki hopes to meet with Lutheran Bishops and see if a similar covenant to the one with Samaritas can be arranged for Ohio churches.

### **PEACEMAKING AND JUSTICE REPORT (Attachment C and D)**

Nahida Gordon presented the Peacemaking and Justice report.

The Peacemaking and Justice Committee approved support for Rieek Nyoach, a student from South Sudan. The support amounted to \$5,000 from the Welcome All Refugees program.

In addition, a bank account has been opened to allow for pass through funds to support program areas. Hopefully this is a way to increase support for the Welcome All Refugees program and other missions that the Synod of the Covenant can seek financial support for in the future. This would be connected to the Website for credit card donations or for checks sent to the Synod office.

The Synod of the Covenant has received contributions for the Welcome All Refugees program for \$5,500. This support was designated by the donors for Rieek Nyoach to help cover expenses that include college expenses.

Pat McBride, the Moderator of the Synod Presbyterian Women reported on the upcoming Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Covenant gathering on July 12-13, 2019 at the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Ohio. The theme is “What does the Lord require of you?”

**TREASURER’S REPORT (Attachments E,F,G,H,I,J and K)**

David Bartley presented the Treasurer’s Report. The Loan Funds has one loans left. The Synod is in a good financial position at the end of 2018. The expenses and receipts for 2019 are what would be expected to date.

**COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND INCLUSIVENESS REPORT (Attachment L)**

Pat Megregian, the Moderator of the Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness, presented the following names for election to the Committees of the Synod Assembly.

On motion the Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness recommends the following names for election by the Synod Assembly.

**Peacemaking and Justice Committee**

Class of 2019	Marvella Lambright (RE/B) Miami Valley
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**Permanent Judicial Commission**

Class of 2022	Vacant - Detroit
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Class of 2024	Vacant - Lake Huron Patrick Warren (TE/W) - Miami Valley Vacant – Muskingum Valley
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**CECA**

Class of 2020	Raul Echevarria (M/H/L) Detroit
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Nominations from the floor were asked for. There were none. The motion passed.

**MODERATORS’ COMMITTEE REPORT (Attachment M and N)**

**For your Information**

1. The Moderators’ Committee has set the following dates for future Synod Assemblies. They are March 14, 2020 at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan; August 7, 2020 at the First Presbyterian Church in Maumee, Ohio; November 6-7, 2020 at the Christ Presbyterian Church

in Toledo, Ohio; March 13, 2021 at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan; August 6, 2021 at the First Presbyterian Church in Maumee, Ohio; and November 5-6, 2021 at the Christ Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio.

2. Both March Assemblies will have a retreat the two days before the Assembly for Commissioners and invited guests. The Retreat dates at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan are March 12-13, 2020 and March 11-12, 2021.

#### **For Action**

1. On motion the Moderators' Committee recommends to the Synod Assembly the approval of a Covenant Agreement between the Synod of the Covenant and Samaritas. The motion passed.

The Covenant Agreement with Samaritas is an ecumenical agreement with an agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This is a five-year agreement.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT (Attachment O)**

The meeting of the Synod Assembly was recessed, and the meeting of the Corporation was called to order by Rick Stein at 9:36 am on March 23, 2019 at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan.

#### **For Action**

1. There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2018 meeting of the Corporation of the Synod of the Covenant. The motion passed.

2. Pat Megregian presented the report of the Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness Committee report on Nominations. The Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness moved the following:

President of the Board of Trustees for 2019: Rick Stein (TE/W) Western Reserve.

There were nominations asked for from the floor. There were none. The motion passed

The meeting of the corporation was closed at 9:45 a.m. on March 23, 2019.

The Synod Assembly reconvened.



## **ADJOURNMENT and CLOSING PRAYER**

Before the adjournment John Fife, the Moderator of the 204<sup>th</sup> General Assembly talked about his experience of becoming Moderator and the importance of the Sanctuary Movement in determining his election as Moderator.

There was a motion to adjourn and close with a prayer. The motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was closed with prayer by Aaron Meadows at 9:45 a.m. on March 23, 2019.

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David Bartley  
Stated Clerk  
Synod of the Covenant