

**STATED MEETING OF THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
August 2, 2019**

The August 2, 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 10:05 a.m. The meeting was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Maumee, Ohio.

Moderator Aaron Meadows offered the opening prayer at 10:05 a.m.

The lighting of the Christ Candle took place.

The Stated Clerk declares that a quorum is present. The Synod of the Covenant Bylaws Article IV, D, 5 specify 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 the Word and Sacrament. These commissioners shall represent a minimum of four Presbyteries.

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
<u>Presbytery of Cincinnati</u>			
Minister of the Word and Sacrament– Deborah Uchtman	x		
Ruling Elder – Becky Lindsay	x		
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant			
<u>Presbytery of Detroit</u>			
Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Raphael Francis	x		
Ruling Elder – Daryl Taylor		x	
Young Adult Commissioner – Michael Barconey		x	
<u>Presbytery of Eastminster</u>			
Minister of the Word and Sacrament – Aaron Meadows	x		
Ruling Elder – Chet Cooper		x	
Young Adult Commissioner – Kaitlin Meadows	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 – Present
 Mobile Health Fair Coordinator – Lisa Florez - Present

Registered Participants

Ruth Azar, Presbytery of Detroit; Bill Bogdan, Presbytery of Cincinnati; Samantha Florez, Mobile Health Fair Team; Paul Helphinstine, Presbytery of Holston; Madison Huffman, Mobile Health Fair Team; Doyun George Kim, Mobile Heath Fair Team; Richard Lapehn, Presbytery of Eastminster; Stefanie Lewis, Presbytery of Detroit; Bill Lindsay; Presbytery of Cincinnati; Scott Mathews, Presbytery of Detroit; Bill Myers, Presbytery of Mackinac; Timothy Nigare, Presbytery of Detroit; Alice Pleasnick, Presbytery of Maumee Valley; Antonio Salinas, Mobile Health Fair Team; Bruce Saunders, Presbytery of Miami Valley; Aiyah Shepard, Mobile Health Fair Team; Rebecca Tollefson, Presbytery of Scioto Valley; Leah Tressel, Mobile Health Fair Team; and Druscilla Wrasse, Presbytery of Lake Michigan.

OPENING WORSHIP AND WELCOME

Raafat Zaki, Synod Executive welcomed the new commissioners, the Presbytery Moderators or presenters, and Paul Helphenstine and Timothy Ngare from the General Assembly Special Committee on Per Capita Based Funding & National Church Financial Sustainability.

Raafat Zaki lead worship on the Matthew 25 theme.

There was a motion and a second to seat Paul Helphenstine of the Presbytery of Holston as a corresponding member. The motion passed.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT (Attachment A and B)

For Information

1. 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 Stated Clerk/ Treasurer and the Moderators (or their delegates) of Presbyterian Women, the Synod Asian Caucus, the Synod Black Caucus, the Synod Hispanic Caucus, the Synod Middle Eastern Caucus and the Synod Native American Consulting committee.
2. The Stated Clerk asks that all "Other Participants" register as attending the Synod Assembly. Their names will be recorded in the minutes.
3. The remaining scheduled 2019 meeting of the Synod Assembly will be held on November 1-2, 2019 at Christ Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio. The dates for the 2020 Synod Assemblies are March 14, 2020, August 7, 2020 and November 6-7, 2020.
4. 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.
5. David Bartley, Stated Clerk, has recused himself from continuing to staff the Committee for Mackinac Presbytery.
6. James Boggs, of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, is no longer a member of a PC(U.S.A.) congregation and therefore is no longer a Synod Commissioner.

For Action

1. The Stated Clerk has received requests to be excused from Emily Knoth, Marvella Lambright, Pat McBride, Leland Platt, and Diane Ziegler. There was a motion and second to accept the excuses. The motion passed.
2. The minutes of the March 23, 2019 meeting of the Synod Assembly have been sent out to all the voting members of the Synod Assembly. There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2019 meeting. The motion passed.
3. The Stated Clerk has received resignations from Liz Saperstein from the Leadership Committee. There was a motion and a second to accept the resignation. The motion passed.
4. The annual review of presbytery minutes was held in Maumee, Ohio, on April 29-30, 2019. The report of the review is attached. The Stated Clerk recommends that the Synod Assembly approve the

Presbytery Minute Review Report. There was a motion and a second to approve the Presbytery Minute Review Report. The motion passed.

5. The Stated Clerk recommends that the Synod Assembly adopt the proposed docket. There was a motion and a second to approve the docket. The motion passed.



Synod Assembly

August 2, 2019

First Presbyterian Church of Maumee -- 200 East Broadway, Maumee, Ohio 43537

Friday August 2, 2019

10:00 a.m.	Convening of the Assembly	
	Call to Order	Aaron Meadows, Moderator
	Opening Prayer	Aaron Meadows, Moderator
	Lighting the Christ Candle	
	Announcement of Quorum	David Bartley, Stated Clerk
10:10 a.m.	Opening Worship	Raafat Zaki, Synod Executive
10:20 a.m.	Stated Clerk's Report	David Bartley, Stated Clerk
	Review of Presbytery Minutes	
10:25 a.m.	Presentations by Presbyteries (10 minutes each)	
	Cincinnati – Detroit – Eastminster- Lake Huron – Lake Michigan – Mackinac- Maumee Valley- Miami Valley- Muskingum Valley- Scioto Valley- Western Reserve	
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Moderators' Committee	Aaron Meadows, Moderator
	Becoming a Matthew 25 Church	Raafat Zaki, Synod Executive
1:10 p.m.	Treasurer's Report	David Bartley, Treasurer
1:15 p.m.	Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness Report	Pat Megregian, CORI Moderator
1:20 p.m.	Synod Executive Report	Raafat Zaki, Synod Executive

1:30 p.m.	Listening Session with the General Assembly Special Committee on Per Capita Based Funding & National Church Financial Sustainability	Paul Helphenstine Timothy Ngare
2:30 p.m.	Mobile Health Fair Team Report and Conversation	Raafat Zaki, Synod Executive
3:00 p.m.	Closing Prayer	Pat Megregian, Vice-Moderator
	Adjournment	Pat Megregian, Vice-Moderator

PRESBYTERY PRESENTATIONS (Attachments CC, DD, EE, and FF)

Bill Bogdan, the Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Cincinnati reported on some of what is going on in the Presbytery of Cincinnati. This is a time of transformation and transition. The Transformation started in March of 2017 with a prayerful time of discernment that involved evaluation and imagination. There is now a new thinking about covenant partnerships. The Presbytery has rewritten their bylaws. The role of Presbytery functions as a relational catalyst, resource center and regulatory agency. They are also in a time of transition as they are now in the process of searching for a new Executive Presbyter.

Stefanie Lewis, the Moderator of the Presbytery of Detroit, indicated that the Presbytery of Detroit is in the fourth year of a five-year plan to strengthen congregations and improve communications between the Presbytery and congregations. This year the focus was on the pastoral part of the mission statement which is: "Strengthening and Transforming Our Congregations to be Missional, Pastoral, and Prophetic. The Presbytery of Detroit has voted to become a Matthew 25 Church. The Presbytery is awarding a series of larger grants coming from an anonymous contribution of over \$320,000 to be used by churches that make a difference in their community.

Richard Lapehn, the Moderator of the Presbytery of Eastminster, indicated that the geographic area of the has had a population loss. However, every congregation has support financially for books and supplies for schools related to Syria and Lebanon. There have been two teams that have traveled to Lebanon. There are twelve pastors who are participating in the Board of Pensions Healthy Pastor, Healthy Congregations program. Four Pastors have completed the program. The Presbytery does have a Disciple Feast in October.

Ted McCulloch reported for the Presbytery of Lake Huron. While there is stability with the Presbytery Executive, all the churches in the thumb of Michigan are vacant. There are 17 vacancies out of 39 churches. The Mission Committee has bought back small grants to help with programming. The PDA film "The Poisoning of an American City" is about the water crisis in Flint.

Drucilla Wrasse, the Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan, informed us that the Transitional Executive Staff is being shared between Calvin Bremer and Fran Lane-Lawrence. There now four regional gatherings within the Presbytery. There is congregational sharing and the Presbytery has discovered that this does help with networking. There will be 23

congregations working on Vital Congregations in 2020. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan has a mission plan that has four steps: define your ministry purpose, evaluate your ministry, next steps for 2020, and working the plan.

Bill Myers, the Moderator of the Presbytery of Mackinac, wanted to thank the Synod for the Administrative Commission that helped identify issues within the Presbytery and noted that a Committee from the Synod is still helping in this process. Three churches sent youth to Triennium. Some churches are exploring the Vital Congregations program. Because there is not a General Presbyter there are three or four people who function as one.

Bruce Saunders, the Moderator of the Presbytery of Miami Valley, reported that the new Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk has had a busy first year. Then a tornado on May 27, 2019 struck the Dayton area. Representatives from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance met with the Presbytery on May 31. An initial grant of \$7,500 was received and member churches and members contributed \$20,000. Church World Services provided 180 clean up buckets, 60 hygiene kits and 60 blankets. The response was God's people doing God's work. This year the Presbytery is having a focus on a section of the Book of Order. With the Presbytery of Cincinnati there has been a training in conflict management and reconciliation led by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

Commented [DB1]: bla

Anne Weirich presented the report for the Presbytery of Muskingum Valley. The Presbytery is trying to right size itself. They have sold a building and have moved the Presbytery Office into the First Presbyterian Church in Uhrichsville. The Presbytery has started on-line sharing, becoming an inside out faith, there is a new Chinese Congregation associated with the First Presbyterian Joe with a \$1,000 grant to the congregation for the Pastor who logs the most cups of coffee. Anne Weirich also reported on the New Covenant Grant that received funding for the Addiction Coalition of New Concord.

Rebecca Tollefson, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley Moderator and past executive director of the Ohio Council of Churches, offered the report for the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. There are 94 congregations and there are two new fellowships, one is Indonesian and the other is from Cameron. The Presbytery commission structure is working well to meet the needs of the Presbytery. Scioto Valley will be hosting General Assembly in Columbus June 25-July 2, 2022. They do hope for volunteers and financial support. Jimmie Hawkins of the Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C. will be in the Presbytery September 14-17, 2019. Three of the younger Pastors in the Presbytery have developed a Pod Cast under the heading of Bad Calvinists.

Susan Vlcek presented the report for the Presbytery of Western Reserve. Sharon Core, the Executive Presbyter is presently recovering from knee replacement surgery. The Presbytery of Western Reserve has been focusing on purpose. There is an effort to have spiritual renewal for individuals and for congregations. Outreach includes congregational partners, ecumenical partners, and international partners. There is an effort for justice for undocumented persons.

The Nominating Committee has made an effort to connect with Moderators of the Presbytery Committees so they can grow in their work together.

Gillian Holzhauser-Graber reported for the Presbytery of Maumee Valley. Matt Meinke is the new General Presbyter. The Committee structure of the Presbytery is being reorganized and should be in place in 2020. There were 24 people who went to Triennium from the Presbytery of Maumee Valley. There have been some members of Presbytery trained to lead boundary training workshops. There is a Presbytery wide youth retreat scheduled for November.

MODERATORS' COMMITTEE REPORT (Attachment GG)

Aaron Meadows presented the Moderators' Committee Report. Aaron Meadows invited Raafat Zaki to speak to the Synod of the Covenant becoming a Matthew 25 Church. On motion the Moderators' Committee recommends to Synod Assembly that the Synod of the Covenant Become a Matthew 25 Church. The motion passed.

The Moderators' Committee has established the following Synod Assembly dates for 2021. They are March 13, 2021 at 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. Prior to the March 13, 2021 Synod Assembly there will be a retreat for Commissioners and invited guests on March 11-12, 2021.

SELF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE REPORT (Attachment HH)

Aaron Meadows invited Lois Aroian to report on the work of Self Development of People. She encouraged Presbyteries to promote possible projects for projects.

LUNCH

Aaron Meadows offered a prayer for lunch at 12:19 p.m.

MOBILE HEALTH FAIR REPORT

Aaron Meadows asked if the Mobile Health Fair Report could be moved up. This morning was the final Mobile Health Fair for the summer. Lisa Florez is the Mobile Health Fair Coordinator. The summer team of Samantha Florez, George Kim, Madison Huffman, Antonio Salinas, Aiyah Shepard, and Leah Tressel reflected on their summer experience. They reported that 990 individuals were served. Age appropriate books were handed out for the youth to promote education.

After the report Aaron Meadows called for the Order of the Day.

LISTENING SESSION WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PER CAPITA BASED FUNDING & NATIONAL CHURCH FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Paul Helphenstine and Timothy Ngare lead the listening session with for the General Assembly Committee. The Synod Commissioners participated in the discussion. The information

provided will be included in the Special Committee discussion and evaluated for their final report.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Attachments II and JJ)

David Bartley, Synod Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. The final loan payment has been paid to the Synod, so there are no more outstanding loans. The expenses are on target. Per Capita received is what would be expected. The Basis Mission giving is down. But this reflects the mission giving that is coming to Presbyteries from the congregations.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND INCLUSIVENESS REPORT (Attachment KK)

Pat Megregian presented the nomination for the Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness.

On motion the Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness nominated for the Synod of the Covenant Permanent Judicial Commission in the Class of 2022 from Detroit Stefanie Lewis. Nominations were asked from the floor. There were none. The motion passed.

It should be noted that there are two vacant positions for the Synod of the Covenant Permanent Judicial Commission. They are for the Class of 2024 from Lake Huron and for the Class of 2024 from Muskingum Valley.

SYNOD EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Raafat Zaki, Synod Executive reported that work is being done on the Website. A giving portal is in place to accept donations.

The Mobile Health Fairs have included offering books.

The Mission to the USA program is planning on 5 Mission Partners from Africa. Three of them have a Visas This is the third year with a focus on Christian Muslim relations.

Raafat Zaki announced that a \$5,000 grant through the Welcome All Refugees Program has been given to a church in Michigan that is going to use the money to rehab a house so young people can have a place to stay.

CECA has had three meetings and is making progress.

The Committee for Mackinac is doing well in their work with the Presbytery and the Coordinating Council.

The Ohio Council of Churches will be celebrating their 100th Anniversary on September 6, 2019. Raafat Zaki, through the Synod of the Covenant support, is the only Presbyterian leader engaged with the Ohio Council of Churches.

Raafat reminded the Committee Moderators of the need to get budget requests into the Board of Trustees by September 1, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

There was a motion to adjourn and close with a prayer. The motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pat Megregian at 3:02 p.m. on August 2, 2019.

David Bartley
Stated Clerk
Synod of the Covenant