



The Synod of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Proposed Ministry Focus for 2021

Drafted by the Ministry Focus Team/Received by the Administrative Commission
For 3/11/21 Commissioners' Meeting

Some aspirational guidelines for the Synod's life together

- The Synod seeks to build trust through transparent communication with all of its constituencies, in particular on financial matters.
- The Synod seeks to look to other synods and judicatories to learn best practices.
- The Synod seeks openness to change to address future needs in presbyteries and churches.
- The Synod seeks to model diversity, inclusion, and equity intentionally.
- The Synod seeks to be a leader in adaptive thinking, exploring pilot programs, ministries, and approaches with appropriate risk-taking
- The Synod seeks to encourage presbyteries to work together.

Some aspirational guidelines for the Synod's 2021 ministry focus

- The Synod seeks to work through presbyteries, primarily, and churches, secondarily, rather than having ministries/missions/programs of its own.
- The Synod seeks to have as broad an impact as possible, touching as many presbyteries and regions as possible. We seek to have impact that is broad, not deep.
- The Synod seeks to avoid duplicating ministries/programs offered by its presbyteries.
- The Synod seeks to offer ministries/programs at scale where possible to support presbyteries by avoiding duplication of effort or by providing critical mass.
- In offering ministries/programs, the Synod seeks to engage the full range of gifts of the body of Christ, while also recognizing the particular gifts of its staff and leadership.
- The Synod, where possible, seeks to serve small churches in particular.
- The Synod seeks to invest significant financial support to the ministries it provides, while also exploring ministries which cost very little or nothing to provide.
- The Synod seeks to offer virtual/digital ministries wherever possible, to allow the broadest possible participation.
- The Synod seeks to foster Presbyterian/Reformed identity, core values, and beliefs in its ministries, and to articulate its purpose clearly.



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The Synod committed itself to the Matthew 25 movement in August, 2019. As such, in 2021 we will prioritize the following ministries

- Building Congregational Vitality
 - Discipleship/Formation
 - Evangelism
 - Outward Focus
 - Servant Leadership
 - Worship
 - Caring relationships
 - Healthy Systems
- Dismantling Structural Racism
- Eradicating Systemic Poverty

Possible 2021 Ministries to Live into Matthew 25 Focus

- *Interim Executive Speaking and Writing Opportunities*
- *Matthew 25 Grants and Higher Education Scholarships for Christian Leaders*
- *Web Resources, Social Media Posts, Newsletters*
- Building Congregational Vitality
 - Discipleship/Formation
 - *Support for Campus Ministries*
 - *Teaching/Formation Ministries (e.g., confirmation, adult Sunday School/small groups, etc.)*
 - Evangelism
 - Outward Focus
 - Servant Leadership
 - *Support for Presbytery Staffs, in particular EPs/GPs/AEPs and Stated Clerks*
 - *LeaderWise Leadership Development*
 - *Reaching out to Young Adults to see how the Synod can learn from and support them*



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- Worship
 - *Lenten, etc., worship services*
 - *Interim Executive Preacher's Group*
 - *Preaching opportunities for Interim Executive*
- Caring relationships
 - *Cross-presbytery cohorts (e.g., by size/type of community, congregational focus, etc.)*
- Healthy Systems
 - *LeaderWise Leadership Development*
 - *Lombard-Mennonite Healthy Synod workshop*
 - *Resource for discovering financial support for presbyteries and churches*
- Dismantling Structural Racism
 - *Reimagining/reestablishing CECA and the Racial Equity Caucuses*
 - *Accompaniment of Refugees and Immigrants*
- Eradicating Systemic Poverty
 - *Re-establishing SDOP*
 - *Accompaniment of Refugees and Immigrants*