



The Synod of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Synod Assembly Meeting Highlights

August 27, 2021 Administrative Commission Meeting

On August 27, 2021, eight members of the General Assembly Administrative Commission (AC) met by Zoom, joined by six guests from throughout the Synod, Jihyun Oh from the Office of the General Assembly and Synod staff members Chip Hardwick and Heather Johnston-Deeb.

Here are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- The meeting began with **Mid-Day Prayers** at the Beginning of the School Year, with the lifting up of students, teachers, and parents as they enter into a new season, one with both promise and pandemic, using resources created by Illustrated Ministry.
- The AC heard about the **gathering of Executive/General Presbyters** (EP/GPs) 8/24-25/21, in Tiffin OH. 11 of 12 EP/GPs attended and conversations centered around frustrations with the Office of General Assembly and opportunities to better support congregations in transition.
- The AC received a report about the “**Why of the Synod**” **retreat** held 8/25-26/21 with these same EP/GPs plus 7 Stated Clerks. Facilitated by Laurie Ferguson, this effort to articulate the purpose of the Synod in the medium term led to the following statement: “In our Synod, we’ll try anything to equip leaders who are tending to God’s evolving and creative future.”
- Interim Executive Chip Hardwick shared his evaluation of **progress toward meeting the AC’s goals for returning jurisdiction** to the Synod with respect to communications, financials, constituent engagement, and support for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) ministries and leaders. The most progress has been made in communications and constituent engagement, with financial clarity and support for BIPOC ministries/leaders continuing to need sustained attention.
- The AC discussed the dynamics of the **planned retreat/annual meeting for October 7-9, 2021**. Because of the pandemic, few of the AC members plan to attend in person. *(Note: on 9/8/21, the decision was made to hold the retreat online only.)*
- The **Synod Per Capita** was set for 2022, remaining at 3.25/member.



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- The AC requested that presbyteries adjust their **Synod Commissioners' terms**, so that terms will be staggered for the two commissioners from each presbytery.
- **2022 Synod Assembly Dates** were set for February 1, 2022 at 4:30, by zoom; Tuesday May 3, 2022 at 4:30, by zoom; and Friday-Saturday October 21-22 retreat and annual meeting.
- The **2021 Year-To-Date income statement** was received with the Synod approximately \$135,000 ahead of budget due to some timing issues and good stewardship. An updated balance sheet will be available at the October 7-9, 2021, meeting.
- A selection process for a **volunteer Synod treasurer** has begun.

The AC conducted several other administrative matters. You can find all of the meeting papers giving more background on everything in the meeting at [Assembly Information - Synod of the Covenant](#). Feel free to contact Interim Executive Chip Hardwick at 309-530-4578 or chip@synodofthecovenant.org for other information or questions.