

November 22, 2022

Dear Fellow Synod of the Covenant Assembly Commissioners;

We are writing to you to share the Draft Synod of the Covenant Bylaws. This version has been revised after listening to you in the feedback session at the recent Synod Assembly in Oregon, Ohio, discussions with the Finance Committee, and overall comments shared with us at the presentation.

These Bylaws reflect and are consistent with the PC(USA) *Book of Order*, the State of Ohio's Revised Code requirements for non-profit religious corporations, the State of Michigan's Nonprofit Corporation Act, and the Legal Resource Manual for Councils and Churches 2020, Fourth Revised Edition, input from PC(USA) Louisville, input from several Ohio attorneys with non-profit law experience, and input from a Michigan attorney with non-profit law experience. The Governance Committee was tasked with developing Bylaws for the Synod and we are bringing them to you for review, sharing with interested persons in your Presbytery as you see appropriate, and information for consideration for adoption by the Synod.

The Governance Committee was guided by several goals; make the Ecclesiastic and state non-profit corporation function as a unicameral body to the extent possible, have the Bylaws ready for consideration before the end of the year, and have the Bylaws provide overall guidance with Operations Manual for detail tasks, responsibilities, membership, etc., next year.

As you review these Bylaws, the first 3 articles define the Ecclesiastical organization of the Synod. Articles 4 through 10 define the corporate organization officers, roles, and authority.

With the release of this draft, we are asking for your review and to share any comments or suggestions with us at a Zoom meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. for us to consider as we open our work to you in preparation for adoption at a special Synod Meeting called on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. If you are unable to attend the Zoom meeting, you are invited to share feedback/comments via email at Fran@synodofthecovenant.org.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this document. We, the Governance Committee, look forward to listening to you next week and hearing your input and consideration.

Thank you for your trust in us!

Governance Committee

Andy Thorburn, Commissioner, Lake Michigan Presbytery

Mark Johnson, Commissioner, Scioto Valley Presbytery

Jon Carlisle, Commissioner, Scioto Valley Presbytery

Tom James, Maumee Valley Presbytery

Committee Resource Persons

Fran Lane-Lawrence, Stated Clerk, Synod of the Covenant

Cathy Ulrich, Executive Presbyter, Eastminster Presbytery