

**Synod Called Meeting
ZOOM Conference Call
February 16, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

First Name	Last Name	Presbytery		Status
Maggie	Alsup	Arkansas	Equipping	Commissioner
Jerry	Boles	Tres Rios	Empowering	Commissioner
Wynona	Bryan-Williams	Arkansas	Empowering	Commissioner
Dzandria	Chiphe	South Louisiana	Connecting	Commissioner
Jeff	Cranton	Eastern Oklahoma	Equipping	Commissioner
Sharon	Curry	Grace	Connecting	Commissioner
Ben	Davidson	Palo Duro	Empowering	Commissioner
Carol	Davis	New Covenant	Connecting	Commissioner
Ron	Fike	Cimarron	Equipping	Commissioner
Stephen	Hill	New Covenant	Equipping	Commissioner
Kristy	Rodgers	Eastern Oklahoma	Equipping	Commissioner
Bill	Rose	Tres Rios	Empowering	Commissioner
Janet	Ruark	Indian Nations		Commissioner
Nancy	Ruff	Palo Duro	Connecting	Commissioner
Seth	Saathoff	Mission	Connecting	Commissioner
Diana	Smith	Indian Nations		Commissioner
Sandra	Watson	Pines	Equipping	Commissioner
<i>David</i>	<i>Watson</i>	<i>South Louisiana</i>	<i>Connecting</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>
Polly	Williams	Grace	Connecting	Commissioner
<i>Arita</i>	<i>Battiest</i>	<i>Eastern Oklahoma</i>	<i>Connecting</i>	<i>Commissioner At-Large</i>
Danita	Nelson	Mission	Equipping	Commissioner At-Large
Minwoo	Kim	Eastern Oklahoma		Commissioner At-Large
Isabel	Rivera-Velez	New Covenant	Empowering	Commissioner At-Large
Carlos	Baladez	Mission		Commissioner At-Large

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS				
Laurie	Barker	Tres Rios	Pastoral Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Tim	Blodgett	Eastern Oklahoma	Moderator, EP Forum & Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Barry	Chance	South Louisiana	Presbytery Stated Clerk	
Gordon	Edwards	Cimarron	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Lynne	Hargrove	New Covenant	Presbytery Stated Clerk & Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Sandra	Hayes	Eastern Oklahoma	PW Moderator	Corresponding Member
David	Kemp	Palo Duro	Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Kay	Long	Tres Rios	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Leigh	McCaslin	Eastern Oklahoma	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Charlie	Smith	Indian Nations	Interim Presbytery Pastor	Corresponding Member
Sallie	Watson	Mission	General Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Richard	Williams	South Louisiana	Interim General Presbyter	Corresponding Member
STAFF				
Thomas	Riggs		Communication & Administration Coordinator	Synod Staff
Ernie	Higginbotham	Grace	Assistant Stated Clerk	Synod Staff
Kathy	Lee-Cornell	Grace	SPDR Director	Synod Staff

CO-OPTED				
Joshua	Kerr	Eastern Oklahoma	Grants & Scholarships Commission	
VISITORS				
Caly	Fernandez	Mission		Visitor
David	Kemp	Palo Duro		Visitor
John	Nelson	Tres Rios		Visitor
Steve	Shive	Grace		Visitor
Gregory	Cuellar			Visitor
ABSENT				
Marsha	Schendel	Mission	Connecting	Commissioner
Kathy	Thomas	Cimarron		Commissioner
Bok Soon	Egbert	South Louisiana	Equipping	Commissioner At-Large
Scott	Campbell	Palo Duro	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Stewart	Smith	Arkansas	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
George	Wortham	Pines	Interim General Presbyter & Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Matt	Miles	Tres Rios	Vision and Outreach Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Blake	Brinegar	Arkansas	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Tracy	Evans	Indian Nations	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Laurie	Palmer	Mission	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Mark	Southard	Cimarron	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member

	Thursday, February 16, 2023
6:00pm	Welcome & Introductions – Kristy Rodgers, CT Moderator
	Acknowledgement of Land & People – Kristy Rodgers, CT Moderator
	Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum – Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator
	Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors - Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator
	Adoption of the Agenda - Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator
	Arte de Lagrimas (Art of Tears) – Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar
	Litany of Welcome & Opening Prayer
	Confession & Assurance of Pardon
	Scripture & Sermon – Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar
	Offering
	Communion of the People – Rev. Minwoo Kim
	Benediction – Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar
	Border Ministry Discussion – Rev. Gordon Edwards, John Nelson, Caly Fernandez
	Approval of Minutes – Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator · October 2022
	Acting Stated Clerk Report – Ernie Higginbotham
	Synod Moderator Report – Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator
	Personnel Committee Report – Rev. Jeff Cranton, Committee Moderator · Interim Synod Leader · Contract/Recommendation · Budget request/motion for SPDR travel expense · Synod Leader Search Committee
	Committee on Representation Report – Rev. Minwoo Kim, COR Moderator
	Financials – Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator · 2022 Final Quarter Reports · SPDR Budget · 2023 Final Budget

	Nominations – Ben Davidson, Vice Moderator
	Grants & Scholarship Report – Rev. Joshua Kerr, Commission Member
	Connecting Committee Report – CRE Arita Battiest, Committee Moderator
	Equipping Committee Report – Rev. Margaret Alsup
	Empowering Committee – Dr. Wynona Bryant Williams Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Solar Under the Sun – Elizabeth Brinegar · Synod Youth Workshop – Lisa Perkins · Hispanic Mission Ministries – Rev. Ezequiel Herrera · Network for Dismantling Racism – Erin Sorrels · SCOOP – Rev. Amy Meyers and Pat Osoinach
	Synod Partnership for Disaster Response – Rev. Kathy Lee- Cornell, Director

Welcome & Introductions – With our meeting framed in worship, Synod Moderator Seth Saathoff called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. CDT. Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Valerie Young led a short tutorial on navigating Zoom

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Coordinating Team Moderator Kristy Rodgers spoke to the sin of conquering and claiming land from those who inhabited in indigenously and those who forced others to move to this land via forced migration. Confessing that this is God’s land and we are merely stewards, Kristy invited us to consider how, sometimes in the name of God, we have not been God’s stewards. We are called to a restorative relationship with God and with others.

Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum – In accordance with the Bylaws, Sec. 3.1.3 whereby 50% or more of the elected commissions constitutes a quorum, a quorum was declared by the Acting Stated Clerk Ernie Higginbotham with 21 of 24 Commissioners present.

Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors – Corresponding Members and Visitors were also acknowledged and seated. Vice Moderator Ben Davidson moved and Commissioner Jerry Boles seconded that Corresponding Members and visitors be seated and given privileges of the floor. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Agenda (*Attachment A*) – With the meeting agenda presented, Commissioner Polly Williams moved and Commissioner Sharon Curry seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried

A Presentation by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar – Dr. Cuéllar told the assembly about the work of Arte de Lagrimas. Arte de Lágrimas uses art to tell the human story of the refugee Central American children and youth crossing over the Texas-Mexico border.

Opening Hymn & Call to Worship – Moderator Saathoff invited the assembly to worship with an Opening Hymn. Commissioner Sharon Curry called the Assembly to Worship with a Litany of Welcoming the Stranger, inspired by Deuteronomy 10:19.

Confession & Assurance of Pardon – Moderator Saathoff led the assembly in confession and pronounced an assurance of pardon.

Scripture and Sermon – Rev. Dr. Gergory Cuéllar spoke from Isaiah 55:12-13, telling the participants of the Assembly how scripture points to a borderless faith. Following the presentation, an offering was collected for the work of Arte de Lagrimas.

Sacrament of the Lord’s Table & Benediction – Communion was celebrated, led by Commissioner Minwoo Kim. Our Benediction was led by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar. Moderator Saathoff thanked Dr. Cuéllar for his presentation and message.

Discussion: Border Ministry Presentation – General Presbyter of Cimarron Presbytery Gordon Edwards spoke of the work of the Empowering Committee over the past six months, discussing on how the committee could be better partners to Presbyterian border ministries. The Committee gathered with some of these partners in the previous week to being the process of forming a Synod Border Ministries network.

John Nelson with the Tres Rios Border Foundation spoke about their ministry in the El Paso/Juarez area, including leading an encounter group of the Synod’s EP Forum.

Caly Fernandez spoke of how Puentes de Cristo is celebrating 38 years of working around the Texas/Mexico border in the Brownsville and McAllen area. Through their community partners, they serve the colonias along the parters.

Approval of Minutes (Attachment B) – Moderator Saathoff presented the minutes from the previous Synod Assembly on October 2022 for approval. Without any additions or corrections, approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting on October 2022 were moved by Commissioner Vice Moderator Davidson and seconded by CT Moderator Kristy Rodgers. Motion carried.

Acting Stated Clerk Report – Ernie Higginbotham reported there has been no Permanent Judicial Commission or traditional Stated Clerk activities since the last Assembly. Ernie reported one piece of correspondence from Mission Presbytery on January 23, 2023. The Presbytery’s General Council made an “over and above” gift to the Synod of \$113,658.90.

Synod Moderator Report – Moderator Seth Saathoff commented on his expectations in coming into office and learning how to do this work without a Synod Leader/Stated Clerk at the beginning of his tenure. The transition time will present many challenges for the Synod, with challenge presenting opportunity.

One of those opportunities is to discern God’s call for us, doing critical self-reflection. This could involve an Impact Assessment of our systems and structures in a post-COVID world. Rev. Saathoff also reported we have tentative plans to meet in person for Fall Assembly. Seth also recognized the effort and leadership of the Synod Staff.

Personnel Committee Report – Committee Moderator Jeff Cranton moved that the Synod elect Ernie Higginbotham as the Acting Stated Clerk from January 1, 2023 to March 15, 2023. Commissioner Jerry Boles seconded.

Jeff reported that this is a busy year for Personnel, tackling the challenges of a search for a Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk, work on discerning our identity and mission, needs for staffing, help the Synod committees assume responsibility for their ministries, work with committees to ensure current programming, work with the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk search team, and coordinate with the Synod Committee on Oklahoma Presbyteries.

The Personnel Committee moved the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Steve Shive to serve as the Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk before the Assembly. Rev. Shive is currently the Acting General Presbyterian for Grace Presbytery. The terms of call were presented in the Assembly packet. The motion carried (*Attachment C*).

The Personnel Committee has organized a Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search Team according to the personnel policies of the Synod (*Attachment D*). This team is comprised of representatives from each presbytery has been formed with names presented in the packet. Moderator Cranton nominated the names presented to the Assembly for approval. Motion carried.

Committee on Representation Report (*Attachment E*) – Committee Moderator Rev. Minwoo Kim reported on behalf of the committee. The committee is working from the theme “Why BIPOC Churches are Keeping Silent” and will work towards better understanding in the coming year.

Coordinating Team Report (*Attachment F*) – Coordinating Team Moderator Kristy Rodgers reported on actions taken by the CT on behalf of the Synod. The last team minutes are included in the packet.

CT Moderator Rodgers called upon Sharon Curry, Moderator of the Grants and Scholarship Commission, to report on their ministry (*Attachment G*). Sharon reported on the various programs, ministries, and individuals who have received grants since the last Assembly. Rev. Josh Kerr, Commission member, reported on how the Commission has been working with M.Div. scholarship applicants to get all of their paperwork turned in when some may have been misplaced during the transition.

CT Moderator Rodgers called upon Commissioner Arita Battiest to report on the work of the Connecting Committee (*Attachment H*). The Committee is slated to meet for the first time in 2023 soon.

CT Moderator Rodgers pointed out the report from the Equipping Committee and thanked them for their work (*Attachment I*).

CT Moderator Rodgers called upon Commissioner Wynona Bryant Williams to report on the work of the Empowering Committee. Wynona expressed her thanks and pride for the work of the Border Ministries group (*Attachment J*).

CT Moderator Rodgers reporting for the Solar Under the Sun Network, pointed out an upcoming Solar School on May 4-7 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center (*Attachment K*).

Without a representative present, CT Moderator Rodgers mentioned the work Synod Youth Workshop. A video and flyer were presented, encouraging participation in SYW 2023 (*Attachment L*).

In the absence of a Network representative, CT Moderator Rodgers shared the report from the Network for Dismantling Racism in the packet (*Attachment M*).

CT Moderator Rodgers called upon General Presbyter Gordon Edwards to speak on behalf of the Special Committee on Oklahoma Presbyteries. Gordon talked about the make of the of the Committee and reason why this team was pulled together to talk about the future viability of Cimarron Presbytery and how that impact all of the Oklahoma presbyteries (*Attachment N*).

Financial Report (*Attachment O*) – Synod Moderator Saathoff presented the 2023 Final Budget for the Assembly’s consideration, pointing out a potential \$23,081.64 surplus at the end of the year. The net income for 2022 is approximately \$61,000. Vice Moderator Ben Davidson moved the adoption of the 2023 budget. Commissioner Sharon Curry seconded. Commissioner Jeff Cranton pointed out two additions to the budget. The first was a budget line item for SPDR travel expenses of \$2500. The second was the correction of an oversight in the personnel budget regarding a 8.5% Cost of Living Increase to the Administration and Communication Coordinator’s salary. This adds \$4785 to that salary line item. Motion carried.

Nominations – Vice Moderator Ben Davidson reported on the work Synod Committee on Representation, calling upon the Assembly to prayerfully consider candidates for the two open slots on the Committee.

Synod Partnership for Disaster Response (*Attachment P*) – Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Response, reported on the mission and ministry of SPDR. Kathy told the Assembly that it’s been a busy disaster season in the Synod, with 6 of the 11 presbyteries reporting a major disaster. Kathy highlighted the following elements of the SPDR report:

There is a new set of resources on the Synod’s website under Disaster Recovery. There is even more pertinent information on the Synod’s blog as well.

Kathy also reported on another blog post that highlights a year recap of all that’s happened. \$94k has come in from PDA to support SPDR programming.

Kathy also highlighted that SPDR will broadly promote One Great Hour of Sharing, as it provides funds for much of the work of PDA.

There are six long-term recovery efforts going on in all four states of the Synod. Kathy encouraged church mission teams to assist in the recovery efforts.

A network of liaisons is being formed to communicate between presbyteries and people are bring recruited presently.

Imagine Event (*Attachment Q*) - Before the Assembly concluded, Commissioner Sharon Curry shared some information on an experiential event in New Orleans called *IMAGINE: Life on the*

Margins being planned for the month of June. Sharon discussed some of the details and encouraged the Assembly to consider attending and promoting.

With the Assembly's business concluded, Moderator Saathoff suggested that we allow soon-to-be Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Steve Shive to offer the closing prayer and adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jerry Boles moved this suggestion, Commissioner Jeff Cranton second. The motion passed and the Assembly was closed with prayer.

Spring Assembly | Synod of the Sun

February 16, 2023 · 6-9 pm

Welcome, Introductions, Opening Prayer	<i>Moderator, Rev. Seth Saathoff</i>
Instructions for Zoom Meeting	<i>Coordinating Team Moderator, Kristy Rodgers</i>
Acknowledgement of Land & People	<i>Coordinating Team Moderator, Kristy Rodgers</i>
Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum	<i>Moderator, Rev. Seth Saathoff</i>
Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors	<i>Moderator, Rev. Seth Saathoff</i>
Adoption of the Agenda	<i>Moderator, Rev. Seth Saathoff</i>
Arte de Lagrimas (Art of Tears)	<i>Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar</i>
Litany of Welcome & Opening Prayer	
Confession & Assurance of Pardon	
Scripture <i>Isaiah 55:12-13</i>	<i>Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar</i>
Sermon	
Offering	
Communion of the People	<i>Rev. Minwoo Kim</i>
Benediction	<i>Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar</i>
Synod Border Ministry Discussion	<i>Rev. Gordon Edwards, John Nelson, Caly Fernandez</i>
Approval of Minutes October 2022 Stated Meeting	<i>Rev. Seth Saathoff</i>
Acting Stated Clerk Report	<i>Ernie Higginbotham</i>
Synod Moderator Report	<i>Rev. Seth Saathoff</i>
Personnel Committee Report	<i>Committee Moderator, Rev. Jeff Cranton</i>
Interim Synod Leader Contract/Recommendation	
Budget request/motion for SPDR travel exp.	
Synod Leader Search Committee Info	<i>Committee Mod, Rev. Jeff Cranton</i>
Committee on Representation Report	<i>COR Moderator, Rev. Minwoo Kim</i>
Coordinating Team Report	<i>CT Moderator, Kristy Rodgers</i>
Actions for Affirmation	
Network/Commission reports	
Financials	<i>Moderator, Rev. Seth Saathoff</i>
2022 Final Quarter Reports (if required)	
SPDR Budget	
2023 Final Budget	

**Synod Called Meeting
ZOOM Conference Call
October 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

First Name	Last Name	Presbytery		Status
Margaret	Alsup	Arkansas	Moderator, Equipping Committee	Commissioner – FTE
Arita	Battiest	Eastern Oklahoma	Vice-Moderator, Connecting Committee	Commissioner At Large - FRE
A. William	Benner	Grace	Connecting	Commissioner – MTE
Jerry	Boles	Tres Rios	Empowering	Commissioner – MTE
Wynona	Bryant-Williams	Arkansas	Moderator, Empowering Committee	Commissioner – FRE
Dzandria	Chiphe	South Louisiana	Connecting	Commissioner – MRE
Jeff	Cranton	Eastern Oklahoma	Moderator, Personnel Committee	Commissioner – MTE
Sharon	Curry	Grace	Connecting; Moderator, Grants and Scholarshnips	Commissioner – FRE
Ben	Davidson	Palo Duro	Empowering	Commissioner - MRE
Ron	Fike	Cimarron	Equipping	Commissioner - MTE
Shelley	Hernandez	New Covenant	Connecting	Commissioner – FRE
Stephen	Hill	New Covenant	Equipping	Commissioner – MTE
Mitch	Miller	Indian Nations	Coordinating Team Chair	Commissioner – MTE
Katharine	Nipp	Cimarron		Commissioner - FRE
Isabel	Rivera Velez	New Covenant	Empowering	Commissioner At-Large - FRE
Kristy	Rodgers	Eastern Oklahoma	Empowering; Synod Moderator	Commissioner – FRE

Bill	Rose	Tres Rios	Vice Moderator, Empowering Committee	Commissioner – MRE
Nancy	Ruff	Palo Duro	Connecting	Commissioner – FRE
Seth	Saathoff	Mission	Connecting: Synod Vice -Moderator	Commissioner – MTE
Marsha	Schendel	Mission	Connecting	Commissioner – FRE
Diana	Smith	Indian Nations		Commissioner - FRE
David	Stipp-Bethune	Pines	Equipping	Commissioner – MTE
David	Watson	South Louisiana	Moderator, Connecting Committee	Commissioner - MTE
Sandra	Watson	Pines	Equipping	Commissioner - FRE
CO-OPTED				
Timothy	Marquez	New Covenant	Committee on Representation	Moderator
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS				
Laurie	Barker	Tres Rios	Pastoral Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Tim	Blodgett	Eastern Oklahoma	Moderator, EP Forum & Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Blake	Brinegar	Arkansas	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Scott	Campbell	Palo Duro	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Gordon	Edwards	Cimarron	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Lynne	Hargrove	New Covenant	Presbytery Stated Clerk & Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Sandra	Hayes	Eastern Oklahoma	PW Moderator	Corresponding Member

Kay	Long	Tres Rios	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Matt	Miles	Tres Rios	Vision and Outreach Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Laurie	Palmer	Mission	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Charlie	Smith	Indian Nations	Interim Presbytery Pastor	Corresponding Member
Stewart	Smith	Arkansas	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Sallie	Watson	Mission	General Presbyter	Corresponding Member
STAFF				
Valerie	Young	Grace	Synod Leader & Stated Clerk	Synod Staff
Thomas	Riggs		Communication & Administration Coordinator	Synod Staff
Ernie	Higginbotham	Grace	Assistant Stated Clerk	Synod Staff
Kathy	Lee-Cornell	Grace	SPDR Director	Synod Staff
VISITORS				
Liz	Branch	Arkansas	Solar Under the Sun	Visitor
Gary	Holloman	Grace	Synod Youth Workshop	Visitor
Ezequiel	Herrera	Mission	Hispanic Mission Ministries	Visitor
Elizabeth	Brinegar	Arkansas	Network for Dismantling Racism	Visitor
Lisa	Perkins	Grace	Synod Youth Workshop	Visitor
EXCUSED ABSENCES				

Greg	Ables	Indian Nations		Commissioner – MRE
Boksoon	Egbert	South Louisiana	Equipping	Commissioner At-Large – FRE
Steve	Shive	Grace	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member

	Monday, October 3, 2022
6:00pm	Welcome & Introductions – Kristy Rodgers, Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Instructions for Zoom Meeting – Valerie Young</i>
	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Opening Hymn</i> · <i>Call to Worship & Opening Prayer</i>
	Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Roll Call & Declaring a Quorum</i> · <i>Seating of Corresponding Members and visitors</i> · <i>Adoption of Agenda</i> · <i>Approval of Minutes – January 2022 Called Meeting; March 2022 Meeting</i>
	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Acknowledgement of Land & People</i> · <i>Confession & Assurance of Pardon</i> · <i>Passing of the Peace</i>
	Synod Leader & Stated Clerk Report – Valerie Young <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>SCOOP</i> · <i>GA Minutes Reading</i> · <i>Presbytery Minutes Reading</i>
	Personnel Committee Report – Rev. Jeff Cranton, Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Synod Leader/SC contract renewal</i> · <i>Honorarium Policy</i> · <i>Credit Card Policy</i>
	Committee on Representation Report – COR Moderator, Rev. Timothy Marquez
	Coordinating Team Report – Rev. Mitch Miller <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions for Affirmation Financials – Moderator, Kristy Rodgers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 2021 Financial Review · 2022 Financial Reports – SOS, SPDR · 2023 Preliminary Budget Nominations – Vice Moderator, Rev. Seth Saathoff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Chair, Coordinating Team
	Scripture & Sermon – Kristy Rodgers

	<p>Grants & Scholarship Report – Sharon Curry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Awards Report · M.Div. SELB Scholarship · Volunteers in Mission
	<p>Connecting Committee – Rev. David Watson</p>
	<p>Equipping Committee – Rev. Margaret Alsup</p>
	<p>Empowering Committee – Dr. Wynona Bryant Williams</p> <p>Networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Solar Under the Sun – Liz Branch · Synod Youth Workshop – Gary Holloman · Hispanic Mission Ministries – Rev. Ezequiel Herrera · Network for Dismantling Racism – Rev. Elizabeth Brinegar
	<p>Synod Partnership for Disaster Response – Rev. Kathy Lee- Cornell, Director</p>
	<p>Worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Communion Hymn · Communion & Installation of the 2023 Moderator · Closing Hymn · Charge & Benediction

Welcome & Introductions – With our meeting framed in worship, Synod Moderator Kristy Rodgers called the meeting to order. Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Valerie Young led a short tutorial on navigating Zoom

Opening Hymn & Call to Worship – Moderator Rodgers invited the assembly to worship with an Opening Hymn. She then Called the Assembly to Worship with the words of Isaiah 2:3 and prayer.

Call to Order – Moderator Rodgers called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. CDT.

Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum – In accordance with the Bylaws, Sec. 3.1.3 whereby 50% or more of the elected commissions constitutes a quorum, a quorum was declared by Stated Clerk Valerie Young with 22 of 25 Commissioners present.

Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors – Corresponding Members and Visitors were also acknowledged and seated. Commissioner Jerry Boles moved and Vice Moderator Seth Saathoff seconded that Corresponding Members and visitors be seated and given privileges of the floor. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Agenda – With the meeting agenda presented, Commissioner Sharon Curry moved and Vice Moderator Saathoff seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – Moderator Rodgers presented the minutes from two previous Synod Assemblies for approval. Approval of the minutes for the Called Meeting in January 2022 was moved by Commissioner Jeff Cranton and seconded by Commissioner Jerry Boles (*Attachment A*). Motion carried. Approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting in March 2022 were moved by Commissioner Steve Hill and seconded by Commissioner Dzandria Chiphe (*Attachment B*). Motion carried.

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Vice Moderator Saathoff told the history of the Native American tribal lands of San Antonio, highlighting the Tāp Pīlam Coahuiltecan Nation.

Confession & Assurance of Pardon – Having acknowledged the land and the tribes from whom it was taken and being reminded of the sin of racism and of human nature, Vice Moderator Saathoff led the assembly in confession and pronounced an assurance of pardon.

Passing of the Peace – Experiencing the peace of Christ in our lives, Vice Moderator Saathoff invited the assembly to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Synod Leader & Stated Clerk Report – (*Attachment C*) - Valerie Young reported on a letter from the Cimarron Presbytery Council inviting the Synod into discernment with them about their future viability as a presbytery. A special committee (The Special Committee on Oklahoma Presbyteries – SCOOP) has been formed with the following charge to enter into discernment

with Cimarron Presbytery regarding future viability, join with the Oklahoma Presbytery Network and individual Presbyteries in Oklahoma, in discernment and conversation regarding presbytery boundaries.

The 2021 Presbytery minutes reading has been completed, as mandated by the Book of Order (*Attachment D*). Valerie noted that there is cause for concern regarding possible irregularities and/or delinquencies of the Presbytery of the Pines.

Valerie moved that the Synod Assembly direct her, as Stated Clerk, to notify the Presbytery of the Pines Stated Clerk and Council that under G.3.01.08b that the Presbytery of the Pines is required to provide the items of exception placed in a corrected set of Minutes no later than December 31, 2022. Vice Moderator Saathoff seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed.

Valerie recognized three Commissioners who are rolling off at the end of the year. Shelly Hernandez, Rev. Mitch Miller, and Rev. David Stipp-Bethune. The Assembly thanked them for their service as Committee Chairs, Synod Moderators, and Coordinating Team Chairs.

Valerie noted that the Synod of the Sun continues to be a model in the PC(USA) in our deeply held relationships with the presbyteries and the networks we nurture and support. She also unveiled our new Synod logo that will appear more frequently over the coming months.

Synod Moderator Report – Moderator Kristy Rodgers reported on the continuing work of dismantling racism and moving to reconciliation. She spoke of the privilege of participating in the life of the wider church in new, eye-opening ways.

Personnel Committee Report – (*Attachment E*) - Committee Moderator Jeff Cranton reported that they continue to work on policy and procedures and the employee handbook.

On behalf of the committee, Jeff moved the adoption of a new Credit Card Policy (*Attachment F*). The motion carried.

On behalf of the committee, Jeff moved the adoption of a new Honorarium Policy (*Attachment G*). The motion carried.

Jeff also reported that the committee hired Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell as the new Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery (*Attachment H*).

On behalf of the committee, Jeff moved the adoption of a Contract Renewal for the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk (*Attachment I*). The motion carried.

On behalf of the committee, Jeff moved the approval of Ernie Higginbotham as the Assistant Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Sun. Commissioner Mitch Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Jeff also reported that Employee Reviews are in process and they expect good feedback.

Committee on Representation Report – (*Attachment J*) - The Committee on Representation submitted their report without verbal presentation. Commissioner Jeff Cranton moved that the Assembly receive this report, Commissioner Steve Hill seconded. Motion carried.

Coordinating Team Report – Coordinating Team Chair Mitch Miller reported on three actions taken by the CT on behalf of the Synod which are in the report (*Attachment K*).

Moderator Rodgers presented the 2021 Financial Review. On behalf of the CT, she moved that the report be accepted by the Assembly (*Attachment L*). Motion carried.

Moderator Rodgers presented the 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment M*). On behalf of the CT, she moved that the report be accepted by the Assembly. Motion carried.

Moderator Rodgers presented the 2023 Preliminary Budget (*Attachment N*). Two options on the budget were presented, depending on the outcome of the Contract Renewal of the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk. Kristy asked the Assembly to look at the budget figures based on the approval of the contract renewal. On behalf of the CT, she moved that the preliminary budget be accepted by the Assembly. Motion carried.

Vice Moderator Seth Saathoff presented a slate of nominations from the Coordinating Team (*Attachment O*). Vacancies for the Class of 2025 and unexpired terms were presented. One nomination that came in after the report was submitted. Bridget Venture of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery has been nominated to serve on the Presbyterian Pan American School. Motion carried.

Scripture and Sermon – Synod Moderator Kristy Rodgers preached from the Second chapter of Ephesians.

Grants and Scholarship Report – Grants and Scholarship Commission Moderator Sharon Curry reported that the Commission distributed grants and scholarships throughout the Synod (*Attachments P & Q*). There are still funds that are available via the various funds.

Moderator Curry presented on behalf of the Commission a motion to approve the criteria and purpose of the M.Div SELB Scholarship fund for persons to attend Non-PC(USA) seminaries because of language barriers. Motion carried.

Moderator Curry presented on behalf of the Commission a motion to approve changes to the Volunteers in Mission Fund. This is a fund provided support to participants in the Volunteers in Mission program, which no longer exists. The fund would now provide assistance for participants in the Young Adult Volunteer program who are members of churches, presbyteries, or institutions in covenant relationship with the Synod; those serving at Young Adult Volunteer

sites within the Synod; and YAV sites within the Synod based on funds availability. Motion carried.

Connecting Committee Report - (*Attachment R*) – Committee Moderator David Watson presented on behalf of the committee. Synod Sunday was expanded to Synod September this year. The committee pledged \$3000 to the Association of Partners in Christian Education, allowing for some representatives at the Annual Meeting. The committee is re-coordinating with Covenant partners, working towards more personal interaction.

The committee is working towards a project, scheduled for May, to provide tools self-care for church leaders in the aftermath in COVID.

Equipping Committee Report – (*Attachment S*) - Committee Moderator Margaret Alsup presented on behalf of the committee. Margaret highlighted the new Synod logo and an upcoming website redesign. The Committee initiated the work of Boundaries Training, to help those we serve within our bounds to be up-to-date on that training and to keep records in a central place.

Margaret invited Thomas Riggs, Director of Communication and Administration, to talk about the Communication Services Plan and the Small Congregation Website Plan (*Attachment T*). Thomas reported that we now have 20 clients across the country that use of CSP for website maintenance & redesign, mass e-mail services, and social media service. Thomas also reported that we have four CCSP clients who are in the process of getting new websites for their small congregations.

Empowering Committee Report – (*Attachment U*) - Committee Moderator Dr. Wynona Bryant Williams reported on behalf of the committee. The committee continues its work to support the Synod Networks. The committee has also been about the work of revising its policies and procedures. There has been an interest in Immigration and Border ministries and the committee invited persons who are engaged in that effort to speak more about those ministries. The committee has funded such projects and programs, including purchasing tents.

Wynona introduced each of the following networks to give a report to the Assembly:

Solar Under the Sun, Liz Branch – Liz reported on the work and ministry of Solar Under the Sun, who train volunteers to help people to install and maintain clean, sustainable energy in countries experiencing energy poverty (*Attachment V*).

On behalf of the committee, Wynona moved that the Assembly accept the financial reports of Solar Under the Sun (*Attachment W*). Motion carried.

Synod Youth Workshop, Gary Holloman and Lisa Perkins – Gary reported on the SYW program over the past few years, including inventive programming during COVID and the community partners that they have made in Tulsa. Lisa Perkins also reported on the revamped SYW website

and publicity materials (*Attachment X*).

On behalf of the committee, Wynona moved that the Assembly accept the financial reports of Synod Youth Workshop (*Attachment Y*). Motion carried.

Hispanic Mission Ministries Network, Rev. Ezequiel Herrera – Ezequiel reported that HMMN has been working on strengthening their relationship with the Synod and will soon host their first in-person annual conference since 2019 with leadership from around the PC(USA) (*Attachment Z*).

On behalf of the committee, Wynona moved that the Assembly accept the financial reports of the Hispanic Mission Ministries Network (*Attachment AA*). Motion carried.

Network for Dismantling Racism, Rev. Elizabeth Brinegar – Sharing the Network's Mission Statement, Elizabeth reported on the ongoing work of the N4DR and invited the Assembly to attend their regular meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Elizabeth directed the Assembly to N4DR.org website for a plethora of resources. She also reported that the Network is reviewing the work of General Assembly to see how it is applicable to the Synod and beyond (*Attachment BB*).

Synod Partnership for Disaster Response – Having reminded the Assembly of their earlier vote to approve the contract for a Director of the SPDR, Sallie Watson, a member of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Response Leadership Group, introduced the Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell.

Kathy introduced herself to the group and reminded the Assembly that, in light of recent storms, we ourselves are vulnerable and that we need to be mindful and prayerful as we stand ready to support those who have been impacted Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. Our own calm skies remind us to be collaborative, communicative, and coordinated. Kathy reported that she will be about the business of speaking to as many groups and persons as possible to get a sense of how presbyteries and churches can be a resource (*Attachment CC*).

Following Kathy's comments, Sallie brought to the Assembly for approval the 2023 budget for SPDR (*Attachment DD*). Motion carried.

Sallie also brought a motion to accept the 2022 Financial Report of SPDR (*Attachment EE*). Motion carried.

Following Communion and the Installation of Seth Saathoff as the 2023 Moderator of Synod of the Sun, Moderator Kristy Rodgers gave a charge and benediction.

Jerry Boles moved that the Assembly be adjourned. Motion carried.

**Contract for Synod of the Sun
Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk**

The Synod of the Sun, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), being well satisfied with your qualifications for ministry, and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose service will be profitable to the spiritual interests of our synod and fruitful for the Kingdom of our Lord, earnestly and solemnly contracts Rev. Stephen A. Shive in service to the Synod as Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk beginning March 15, 2023 to March 14, 2024, making null and void all other contracts, and promising you in the discharge of your duties all proper support, encouragement and allegiance in the Lord.

So that you may be free to devote yourself full-time to this ministry, we promise and obligate ourselves to pay you the following in regular, annual payments:

Cash Salary	\$16,118.00
Housing	\$83,882.00
Effective Salary	\$100,000.00
Board of Pensions	\$39,000 (39%)
FICA Share	\$ 6,200.00
Professional Expenses	\$ 1,500.00
Professional Development	\$ 2,500.00 (2 weeks)
Annual Paid Vacation – 5 weeks	
Personal Days 10	

Reasonable and necessary travel and professional expenses in service to the Synod, as determined by the Synod budget, including auto mileage reimbursed per Synod Policy.

Additionally, Synod will send Rev. Shive to the Synod Leader Gathering February 27-29, 2023 and pay all reasonable and necessary travel expenses as well as any registration fees, lodging, and meals.

Benefits are subject to regulations and restrictions of accrual according to current Personnel Policies.

Vacation shall not accrue beyond the calendar year except as permitted within the personnel policies of Synod, with any unused accrued vacation (up to six weeks) shall be compensated through the date of dissolution. No continuing education funds/time or reimbursed allowances (auto, medical, etc.) shall be authorized beyond the date of dissolution.

The Synod may terminate this contract, with or without cause, by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the Bridge Interim. In addition, Board of Pensions dues and medical coverage will be paid, as needed, for an additional thirty (30) days beyond the salary continuation period. The Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk may terminate this contract, with or without cause, by giving thirty (30) days written notice of termination to the Moderator of Personnel Committee, understanding that salary and benefits will discontinue at the end of service.

The Bridge Interim will check in with members of the Personnel Committee every ninety (90) days for conversation about the state of the Synod and the Synod's progress.

The following duties are in addition to the stated job description (attached).

- help the Synod to clarify our identity and direction,
- identify needs in staffing and overall,
- help the Synod committees assume responsibility for their respective ministries,
- help the Synod evaluate where we are and where we are going (possibly through a mission study, etc.),
- work with the Coordinating Team and Committees,
- ensure continuation of current programming,
- work with the SL/SC search team,
- work with the Oklahoma Presbyteries as they consider transition/merger.

In testimony of the action by the Synod Coordinating Team on _____, we
here subscribe our names: Date

Synod Moderator

Stated Clerk

This is to certify that I have received and accepted these terms.

Rev. Stephen A. Shive

Date

Synod of the Sun

SYNOD LEADER/STATED CLERK

This is a full-time, exempt position elected by the Assembly every 5 years.

Purpose

The purpose of the position of Synod Leader/Stated Clerk is to facilitate the work of the Coordinating Team in developing and administering the vision and mission of the Synod of the Sun and to be the primary communicator and interpreter of that vision and mission both within and outside the bounds of the synod; to develop relationships that promote and foster a spirit of cooperation and understanding among the synod and its presbyteries; and to connect, equip and encourage (from synod mission statement) Presbyterians for Christ's mission, strengthening the bonds of unity in the Body of Christ.

Accountability

The Synod Leader/Stated Clerk, acting as both the chief administrative officer and the chief ecclesiastical officer of the Synod, is accountable to the Synod Assembly through the Synod Coordinating Team.

Relationships

The Synod Leader/Stated Clerk is the chief administrative officer and the chief ecclesiastical officer of the Synod of the Sun and shall function in that capacity in exercising his/her duties and responsibilities in relating to the member presbyteries, General Assembly agencies, other synods, and ecumenical and interfaith bodies.

EQUIP AND ENCOURAGE

- * Provide a pastoral presence for presbytery leadership and staff.
- * Oversee the work of the synod and staff.
- * Review and recommend the Synod's administrative structure and utilization of resources.
- * Serve as Resource to Standing Committees and Commissioners of the Synod.
- * Resource Planning Teams for Synod events (COM Event, Leadership Convocation, etc.)
- * Ensure proper accounting and reporting of all Synod financial accounts including a yearly audit and other financial reviews.
- * Enable, empower, and encourage Synod Commissioners in efforts to represent the work of the Synod in their presbyteries.

COMMUNICATION AND CONNECTION

- * To be the primary interpreter of the Synod of the Sun's mission and ministry by preaching and speaking in congregations and at presbytery meetings throughout the Synod.

- * To be a key connector with other mid-councils and build up the ministry of the Church of Jesus Christ through representation and collaboration.
- * To interpret and facilitate the connectional ministry of the Synod of the Sun by personal, virtual, and electronic presence.
- * To work with and strengthen existing mission networks and encourage and facilitate the development of additional mission networks within the Synod of the Sun.
- * To provide support for constituent members of the Synod as they search for and develop leaders, to develop educational materials as appropriate to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

STATED CLERK

- * Responsible for recording, obtaining and maintaining official records of the Synod (Minutes, Legal Documents, Historical Records, et al).
- * Resource the Stated Clerks of the member presbyteries of the Synod and encourage relationships and training among them.
- * Oversee the annual review of Presbytery Minutes and participates in the General Assembly’s review of Synod minutes.
- * Provide staff resource to the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission, the Committee on Representation, and any Administrative Commissions, including appropriate training.
- * Participate with other Synods’ Stated Clerks in General Assembly consultations.
- * Interpret and implement the policies of the General Assembly and the Book of Order.

Evaluation

An annual evaluation of work performance shall be conducted in accordance with the personnel policies of the Synod. A comprehensive review will be conducted at least every five years, and at least ten months prior to expiration of the term.

Term

The Synod Leader/Stated Clerk is elected by the Synod Assembly for a five-year term and is eligible for reelection.

Minimum Qualifications

1. Ordained as a ruling or teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
2. Knowledge of and familiarity with the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*
3. Knowledge of parliamentary process including *Robert’s Rules of Order*
4. Experience working at the mid-council level in Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
5. Bachelor’s degree or equivalent.

SYNOD OF THE SUN
COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION MEETING
January 25, 2023

The committee of Representation met for its first meeting Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 10:00 A M by Zoom. Those present were: Rev. Tim Marquez (New Covenant), Nancy Diaz (New Covenant), Maribeth Culpepper (Indian Nation-visitor) and Moderator Rev. Minwoo Kim (Cimarron).

CHECK-IN AND INTRODUCTION

Because of the first meeting of new committees and moderators, each committee introduced themselves, their location, and presented their expectation.

REVIEWING MEETING

Rev. Tim Marquez, Moderator of 2020~22, presented the report of the former meeting and its agenda. Rev. Tim also mentioned that COR (Committee of Representation) needs to be a tool for connecting the BIOPOC churches. He also mentioned two following questions; why are BIOPOC churches not want to join the Synod and how we can support those minority churches that can look at joining the representation. Nancy Diaz mentioned how representation or synod can be of internal interest to them and she exemplified the Texas Women's conference. She also suggested a survey with them or a small meeting that kept their comfort zone, instead of a bigger level of the meeting. Maribeth Culpepper expressed this is a cultural and traditional boundary and difference, and she also expresses what is keeping or grouping to wanted from outside (uncomfortableness). She exemplified; a meeting with only one woman or only one ethnic group of people attending. She/he might be concerned that my voice can be heard or can be a meaningful or personal connection with that meeting.

DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITY

Moderator Rev. Minwoo Kim addressed the question of What we know about and what others have to know about representation. Rev. Tim Marquez addressed that this question needs to start from this question: instead of why BIOPOC churches are not joining the Synod, WHY BIOPOC CHURCHES ARE KEEPING SILENT? He addressed some examples: 1. My participation in the meeting consider can be supported. 2 Wondering what I can say in the meeting 3. I need to focus on my community or interest first. After these examples, Rev. Tim suggested how representation can be the bridge or committee, so being a tool for people who never heard about it can hear. Maribeth Culpepper suggested bringing something that represents the personal love of God (stone, bible, etc.) to the meeting and finding out how we can look forward to what is connection meaning to us together. She also told a story of her General Assembly works and mentioned the category we divided (racial or ethnic group) is questionable. She asked: is category really represent us and is language really represent ourselves? Nancy Diaz mentioned, WHY BIOPOC CHURCHES ARE KEEPING SILENT, can be our theme for this year.

ELECTION OF VICE MODERATOR AND STATE CLERK

Maribeth Culpepper nominated Nancy Diaz for Vice moderator of COR. The motion was made by Rev. Tim Marquez and was seconded. This motion passed unanimously. State Clerk suggested by Rev. Minwoo Kim to Rev. Tim Marquez, and Rev. Minwoo Kim and Rev. Tim Marquez are co-state Clerk at this time.

DISCUSSION POSSIBLE IN-PERSON GATHERING

Moderator Rev. Minwoo Kim addressed and reported the former idea of in-person gatherings. Nancy Diaz made a motion for the possibility of an in-person gathering and asked for a fall gathering. Rev. Tim Marquez was seconded and this motion passed unanimously. Moderator Rev. Minwoo Kim suggested the steps and discussions of this in-person gathering with other committees, but we will look over it deeply in the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Moderator Rev. Minwoo Kim requests Maribeth Culpepper to bring a sample tool that she mentioned for the next meeting.
- Maribeth Culpepper requested an updated BIOPOC church list of Synod of the Sun.
- Rev. Tim Marquez suggested the right statement and make a proposal for 2023 at the next meeting.
- The next COR meeting will be held Thursday, March 23, at 11:00 AM.

Coordinating Team
Synod of the Sun
Monthly Meeting via Zoom
January 10, 2023

Attending:

Coordinating Team Chair Kristy Rodgers
Synod Moderator Seth **Saathoff**
Synod Moderator-Elect **Ben Davidson**
Connecting Committee Moderator **Arita Battiest**
Equipping Committee Moderator **Maggie Alsup**
Equipping Committee Vice-Moderator **Stephen Hill**
Empowering Committee Moderator **Wynona Bryant Williams**
Empowering Committee Vice-Moderator **Isabel Rivera-Velez**
Committee on Representation Moderator **Minwoo Kim**
Grants & Scholarships Commission Moderator **Sharon Curry**
EP Forum Moderator **Charlie Smith**
Personnel Committee Member **Jerry Boles**
Acting Stated Clerk **Ernie Higginbotham**

Absent:

Personnel Committee Moderator **Jeff Cranton**
Connecting Committee Vice-Moderator **David Watson**

Kristy called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm, offered the opening prayer and led everyone in introductions.

Moderator Seth Saathoff share theme/vision for the year

It was **moved, seconded and agreed** to approve the minutes of the December 13 Coordinating Team Meeting as corrected.

Personnel Committee

Jerry reported that in the search for Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Steve Shive was suggested and is interested. Personnel has checked his checked references and recommends that he be hired. The Personnel Committee moved and it was agreed to offer Rev. Steve Shive a one-year contract as Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk beginning March 15, 2023 with a total package of \$164,200. The Personnel Committee will begin forming the Search Team for the Called/Installed Synod Leader/Stated Clerk

Report of the Stated Clerk

Ernie reported that there has been no Clerk activity, but he is picking up the mail and depositing checks until Thomas opens a new box where mail can be forwarded.

Synod Assembly

The Assembly will meet on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6:00 pm via Zoom. Information for packet must be in to Thomas and Kristy and Seth in time for the packet to go out 2 weeks earlier. The theme was discussed with possible focus on the border a panel discussion of loving people. Isabel and Jerry will take the lead and will involve Bill Rose and Gordon Edwards.

For Worship Sharon and Kristy will reach out regarding a Preacher and Music.

New Synod Commissioner Training

Since we only have a few new commissioners, Seth will use the videos we have used before. Seth and Kristy will reach out to new Commissioners and meet with them.

Synod CT Meetings

CT Will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 700 via Zoom. Written Reports should be available ahead of time or at the meeting at latest. Committee meeting schedules should be emailed to Kristy who will make a calendar.

Committee Reports

Connecting –Anita reported that David Watson will serve as Vice-Moderator.

Equipping -Maggie had nothing to report

Empowering – Wynonna reported they are still getting border ministry reports and are getting organized

Representation – Minwoo reported that a meeting is coming up soon

Grants & Scholarships – Sharon said they will meet on the 19th

Personnel – previously reported

EP Forum - Charlie had nothing to report

Finances

No discussion

Nominations

Ben looking at slots that need to be filled and will do a few each month. We need to line up 2025 moderator from Grace (minister) as soon as possible'

Old Business:

Synod Leadership Transition Plan – on going

OGA recommendations - document in Dropbox for Coordinating Team response

Solar Under the Sun Transition Plan - awaiting additional information

New Business:

nothing else

At 8:53 pm, it was **moved, seconded and agreed** to adjourn, and Ben offered the closing prayer.

Next Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 pm on February 14

Submitted by Ernie Higginbotham, Acting Stated Clerk

Synod of the Sun

Spring Assembly

Grants and Scholarships Commission Report

February 16, 2023

What an exciting Commission we have! To be able to help fund the mission and ministry of our Synod through the distribution of grants and scholarships is such a blessing! Through the generosity of our donors we were able to distribute \$23,200 in funding for support throughout our Synod for the fourth quarter of 2022.

These funds will allow churches to engage in creating opportunities for:

- Cross-Cultural Youth Ministries; Ministries, inviting Cameroonian youth and their parents/ sponsors to join in Bible Study, fellowship, and mission opportunities.
- Language translation services that will allow training to be updated to include spiritual care for the poor and needy.
- Funding for a neighborhood pantry that serves 175 families twice a month, allowing them to shop, with dignity and respect, in a fully stocked pantry, including fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Provide support for a migrant community center located in Mexico, to provide support through after-school activities in a safe environment, housing and helping people learn to take better care of themselves and their needs/health.
- Help provide funding for Parenting with Love and Logic classes that reach out to the Ghanaian community, in conjunction with the local school district.
- Funding to help with an afterschool program, in conjunction with the Young Adult Volunteers, to provide assistance with reading, life skills art, and a safe, stable environment.

Scholarship requests for this year have been delayed because of missing documents. The Commission has reached out to applicants for the additional documents and extended the deadline for submitting them until February 16.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Curry, Moderator

Grants and Scholarships Commission

CONNECTING COMMITTEE TEAM

MODERATOR—ARITA BATTIEST

VICE MODERATOR—DAVID WATSON

Our first meeting of the year was January 17, 2023. The plan for 2023 to

Have a gathering event to connect with our Covenant Partners sign a

Agreement covenant renewals aiming for the Fall Assembly in October.

David Watson is our Personal Committee Representative for connecting team.

Our connecting committee will meet every Third Tuesdays of every month.

Equipping Committee Report February 2023

Our committee at this time realizes that it is in our best interest to help equip those who are in leadership during our season of transition. We are working with Thomas and Lindsey to make sure that the CSP and CCSP are still operational. **At this time, we have 20 CSP plans and 3 CCSP plans we are working with.** We are grateful for Thomas and Lindsey during this time, their leadership in this aspect of our committee work is vital for the work of our of ministries.

Thomas, with the direction of Kristy, is working on the Synod Sunspots podcast. They are gathering resources and people to help fill content for the podcast. Kristy is always looking for ideas and ministry that is happening in the Synod. If you have a story or ministry that you think would be great to highlight and lift up through this platform, please reach out to myself or Kristy.

Our boundaries training for Synod ministries and leaders is going well. We are grateful that people are signing up and completing training. Thomas is working with the Synod of Southwest executives, to help track and update our system. The Synod has a list of those who have completed trainings. If your presbytery is in need of an updated list, please reach out to us. Also, our committee realizes the importance of this training and is looking for ways to continue this offer this training. There has been discussion on partnering with the EP forum to bring more offer more boundaries training.

Thomas and Lindsey are still working on website design. If you have feedback or things that you think would be valuable on this platform, please reach out to Thomas.

During this season of transition, our goal is to help assist Thomas and those who are in charge of tasks from our committee. We want the CSP, CCSP, podcast, and website updates to be supported during this season. Once we have an interim, we will begin to look at the programming aspect of our committee work. In the meantime, if you have ideas or suggestions, please reach out to us!

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Alsup, Moderator of Equipping Committee

EMPOWERING COMMITTEE REPORT

SPRING SYNOD MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2023

The work of the Empowering Committee this past year has focused on establishing relationships with various border miniseries. Several representatives who are involved in doing the work on the border have met with the **Committee** to share their needs and concerns as it relates to their border efforts.

The **Committee** has contributed \$7,800.00 to assist these efforts at this time. Representatives continue to meet with persons to maintain and assist with this work. Leadership from the **Committee** is being provided by: Rev. Gordon Edwards, Rev Isabel Rivera – Velez and Rev. Jerry Boles. These leaders met most recently last week and will share the results of this meeting during this SYNOD meeting.

The Empowering **Committee** is also making stronger efforts to be present in the work of the networks we are responsible for. It is the **Committee's** intent to be a positive reinforcement by assisting and empowering these networks to be successful in their projects.

The Empowering **Committee** continues to meet and address those concerns that will make all of us stronger and we continue to do the work of the Kingdom of God.

Prayerfully submitted,

Wynona Bryant-Williams, Ph.D.

Moderator, Empowering Committee

February 24, 2023

To the Coordinating Team of the Synod of the Sun:

Greetings on behalf of the Board of Directors of Solar Under the Sun! We pray that this letter finds you well. First, please accept my sincere apologies for missing the Synod Assembly last week; there was a health scare in our household and my attention was needed there.

We would like to invite you to attend Solar School 25 on May 4-7 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center. We are incredibly excited to be hosting our 25th school, and we know that you would enjoy your time with us if you, members of your congregation, and your friends are able to attend. For more information or to register, please visit our website at:

www.solarunderthesun.org

The main focus of our board meeting last week dealt with the establishment of SUS as her own 501(c)3. Since the Synod last met, our attorney has filed the articles of incorporation in the state of Arkansas; we are officially established as an organization with our own EIN. However, we are still in the process of filing non-profit certification on the national level. Pending approval of our 501(c)3 status we will be seeking to transfer our funds into our new accounting system as an incorporated entity. We know that this transition will require a lot of intentional attention to detail, and we look forward to working with you on this.

As previously stated, we are incredibly grateful for your generous offer to help us as we transition into our own organization although we are unclear as to what “help” means in this situation. Would it be possible to have a conversation to explore this idea? We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Synod of the Sun as we all seek to serve God and others.

Respectfully yours,
Rev. Elizabeth Brinegar
Director of Operations, SUS

Join us for Solar School!



May 4-7, 2023
Ferncliff Camp &
Conference Center
Little Rock, AR

FAITH

= SYW '23

FEAR



SYNOD YOUTH WORKSHOP

July 10-15, 2023



**REV. PRINCETON
ABARAOHA**

Keynote Speaker

WHERE: UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

COST: \$396 YOUTH & ADULTS

**WHO: RISING 9TH GRADERS
THROUGH GRADUATING
SENIORS**



**LED BY YOUTH
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**FAITH. FUN.
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**RESETTING
THE TABLE**

<https://www.resettingthetable.org>

Training for courageous conversations across divides

24 people from throughout the Synod

4 Sessions (June 6, 8, 15, & 22)



Report to Synod of the Sun on SCOOP Activities

The Special Committee on Oklahoma Presbyteries (SCOOP) is an Ad Hoc committee of the Synod of the Sun charged with entering into discernment and conversation with Cimarron Presbytery regarding future viability and joining with the Oklahoma Presbytery Network, and individual presbyteries in Oklahoma in discernment and conversation regarding presbytery boundaries. SCOOP is composed of members from Arkansas, Grace, Mission, New Covenant, Palo Duro, Pines, Tres Rios, and South Louisiana Presbyteries. A list of SCOOP members is attached to this report. After an initial organizational Zoom meeting, SCOOP met with Cimarron Presbytery during their October 11, 2022 presbytery meeting. The minutes of that meeting are attached to this report. One of our members also contacted a colleague who has had some dealings with another presbytery that was discerning boundaries and future directions. The notes of that conversation are also attached to this report. Both SCOOP CoModerators have contacted the Cimarron Presbytery Stated Clerk to determine what support the presbytery would like from SCOOP at this time. The Stated Clerk confirmed that continuing discernment was on the agenda for the upcoming presbytery meeting on February 21. He stated that the presbytery wanted to continue to explore what options might be available and was appreciative of SCOOP's support, but felt the presbytery did not need direct involvement at this particular time. Cimarron staff will update SCOOP on any decisions that might be reached during the presbytery meeting. At this time Cimarron Presbytery is in compliance with all Book of Order requirements for both congregations and Minister members. SCOOP will contact the Cimarron staff to set up further meetings.

Attach 1: SCOOP Members

Attach 2: Minutes of SCOOP Meeting with Cimarron Presbytery

Attach 3: Notes of Conversation with Corey Schlosser-Hall

First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone	Presbytery
Rev. Amy	Meyer	1stpreselgin@sbcglobal.net	512-963-8278	Mission Presbytery
Rev. Blake	Brinegar	bbrinegar2@gmail.com	870-321-9102	Arkansas Presbytery
Debbie	Battise Kleinman	DebBKleinman@gmail.com	936-327-5124	New Covenant Presbytery
Pat	Osoinach	jsoinach@sw.rr.com	940-781-2624	Palo Duro Presbytery
Robert	Folsom	robertfolsom@lendersoption.net	318-393-7063	Pines Presbytery
Sharon	Fortin	s4tyne@gmail.com	504-376-3325	Presbytery of South Louisiana
Rev. Timothy	Davenport-Herbst	drtimdh@gmail.com	325-716-8474	Tres Rios Presbytery
Rev. Judith	Hardie	judithhardie67@gmail.com	779-200-2247	Grace

Minutes of SCOOP presentation
At Cimarron Presbytery Meeting

The SCOOP committee met with the Cimarron Presbytery on October 11 at First Presbyterian Church in Stillwater Oklahoma. SCOOP Co-Moderator Pat Osoinach was present in person and Co-Moderator Rev. Amy Meyers, and other SCOOP members were present via Zoom. After brief introductions Pat Osoinach began the discernment process by asking members of the Presbytery to give a bit of the history and experiences of the presbytery. The members shared their feelings about the collegiality of the churches as well as their sense of family. Several members have served in multiple congregations and many have shared preaching duties. Because the presbytery is small the members are able to serve in many mid-council and higher positions. Pat Osoinach then asked the members to list what they saw as the strengths of the presbytery. Responses included connectionism, sense of family, sense of mission, ability to hold good meetings, easy access to each other, and an openness to talk about controversial subjects without anger. Pat Osoinach then asked what the members saw as the fears and hopes of the presbytery. Responses included fear of being subsumed and losing identity, fear of losing close connections, fear of small congregations closing, fear of not enough people to fill the jobs in the presbytery, hope that the presbytery could somehow continue and flourish. There was then some discussion of how the demographics of the presbytery, ie. declining city populations and rural ethos, was making it tough to sustain the presbytery. It is hard to attract pastors to the presbytery. There was concern that rural churches would lose their connections with each other. Rev. Amy Meyers related that Mission Presbytery had developed Cluster groups to help maintain regional identity and connection. Several members were encouraged by the discussions within the Oklahoma Presbytery Network which shared resources and opportunities. Pat Osoinach then asked the group if they could identify things that kept Cimarron Presbytery from moving forward. Again the fear of being lost in a bigger presbytery was raised, as well as concern about finding comparable theological matches in another presbytery. The positive feelings about the Oklahoma Presbytery Network were confirmed. In response to a question by Rev. Amy Meyer, the history of Cimarron Presbytery was discussed as a way to look at how the presbytery has changed. Then the discussion turned to thoughts on how the decline in churches and pastoral leadership could be addressed. Several possibilities were discussed to include joining another presbytery or presbyteries in Oklahoma, requesting a waiver to the Book of Order requirements, having some churches join presbyteries outside of Oklahoma while the remaining churches join an Oklahoma presbytery, reorganizing the three Oklahoma presbyteries to make the numbers in each presbytery more even, and exploring the possibility of inviting churches in other presbyteries(both Oklahoma and non-Oklahoma) to join Cimarron. There was a desire to organize along lines of shared mission and interest. There was also a desire to involve the OGA to see if there are any examples in how others have handled similar challenges. Under any circumstance, the members of Cimarron presbytery felt that love and care for each member church would be required no matter what changes were made. Pat Osoinach suggested that it would be advantageous for Cimarron to be the ones to propose any solutions instead of having something thrust upon the presbytery from above. Pat Osoinach reiterated that Synod of the Sun will walk along side Cimarron and the Oklahoma Presbytery Network until an acceptable solution is found. Pat Osoinach thanked the presbytery for allowing SCOOP to participate in the meeting and begin the discernment process.

Notes from Meeting with Corey Schlosser-Hall

Corey was the EP at North Puget Sound Presbytery which then merged with Alaska Presbytery, and then merged with Central Washington Presbytery and became the Northwest Coast Presbytery. So, he has worked with presbyteries and discerned what goes into facing the possible merger of a presbytery due to dwindling numbers.

In the conversation we talked about the reality of Cimmaron Presbytery and the future. The question of the longevity was never thought to be anything other than some form of merger, and the discernment process which goes into helping a presbytery understand/discern/think about their future. I know the scope of SCOOP is to help Cimmaron discern how to address their situation. Short of writing overtures to the Book of Order, some sense of new identity will have to occur. It is with this in mind that this conversation was had.

Some key factors which helped in the discernment process was looking at partnerships, are there any preexisting relationships, partnerships, covenants between the presbytery in discernment and other presbyteries. For instance, North Puget Sound presbytery had a relationship with Alaska Presbytery, where they had been working together for over 10 years. There was some familiarity and trust which already existed. Another interesting thing to keep in mind is are there already natural traffic/travel patterns. Again, Alaska Presbytery (Extreme SE Alaska) found that many of its members had connections to Seattle for economic, family, and some ecclesiastical connections. Even though the presbytery is much closer to Yukon Presbytery (the main land mass of Alaska), geography was merely the connection, not in a real and tangible manner, though. People were far more likely to go to the Seattle area, than to the land mass of Alaska.

In the discernment process, one of the questions which may help is, "Where is the pull?" What Corey means by that is where is there enthusiasm, where are people more likely to lean. When Alaska Presbytery was discerning their future, they received letters from Yukon and North Puget Sound presbyteries. The tone of the letters spoke volumes though. Yukon Presbytery sounded like they could make it work, they thought it might be a good idea. North Puget Sound Presbytery was talking about how excited they were, how they looked forward to the possibility of doing more ministry together. And open to the possibility of what a joining together might look like. It is not hard to hear the difference. In discerning a future, there has to be a commitment on the part of both parties to make this work. Ambiguous communication creates ambiguous relationships. So in discussing/discerning the future, is the pull and energy to remain intact, or would there be some interest/willingness in breaking up and going in different ways.

I inquired of Corey about the concern we had heard about the closeness of the presbytery, that they were literally a family, and so if they were to merge, there was a concern about loss of identity. Corey, spoke of Alaska Presbytery, and how through the merger, the sense of identity was not lost. Corey referred to the congregations of the former Alaska Presbytery as a built-in cohort. Once Alaska Presbytery joined North Puget Sound Presbytery, the Alaskans were invited to meetings a day early to catch-up, to discuss what was happening in their part of the presbytery, and to maintain their identity, even within the context of a new identity (their new presbytery). Corey also highlighted the fact that doing this didn't diminish the connections but strengthened them. This was between the congregations in Alaska, but also with the other congregations in the presbytery. The people in the presbytery understand the historic connection of those congregations which used to be a presbytery of their own, and encourage it.

Another thing Corey pointed out was for Cimmaron Presbytery, in this case, to ask the questions, what is the greater purpose of what might result from our discernment. Are we only doing this because we don't meet a minimum number to be a presbytery, or is there some greater good which could be gained. This is important because at the next step it could be helpful. One presbytery actually interviewed several other presbyteries to see which presbytery fit with their mission interests, what their gifts and talents were, and to see where the gifts of the presbytery might best serve a larger purpose than merely reorganization to appease an ecclesiastical rule. So in this instance, there are 8-10 questions (I am currently waiting to see if Corey can find them and send them to me.) they asked other presbyteries, to help them discern a way forward. The result of this was a sense of self-determination, autonomy in decision-making, and allowed for a sense of having made a good decision for themselves.

Corey ended our conversation with a discussion of mergers as being Trinitarian:

Incarnational—this is the most important component and lasts the longest. It is the building of relationships with one another in a presbytery, but also with the presbytery to which you are merging. If this is not handled well, then the merger will not succeed.

Ecclesiastical—The steps required to take for the merger to happen, including the merger agreement. What are the denominational requirements. This is probably the second least important component.

Corporate—This is where Articles of Incorporation are changed, Bylaws adopted, etc. This is the least important for process. Not much energy should be exerted here until it is necessary.

What we see here is it is all about relationships, building, forging, and sustaining the relationships. If the relationships don't come to fruition, that just might be an indicator for the discernment process that the current path is not the ideal path.

2023 Budget Worksheet

Account Name		2021 Year End****	2022 Final ** Budget	Est YE 2022	2023 Prelim Budget Approved	2023 Final Budget	NOTES/QUESTIONS
Income							
Budgeted Revenue							
40001	PY Rollover/Retained earnings	0.00	20,146.91	20,146.91			
41000	Presbyteries	120,858.36	113,641.53	113,641.53	120,000.00	126,724.64	
42100	Contributions	112,508.93	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
42110	SOSPF Endowment	266,900.00	280,100.00	280,100.00	269,358.00	289,000.00	
42200	Investment income						
42210	PILP Interest earned	3,037.56	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
42230	TPF Interest earned	22,080.74	20,000.00	25,000.00	20,000.00	25,000.00	
Total 42200 - Investment income		25,118.30	21,500.00	26,500.00	21,500.00	26,500.00	
43000	Services Income						
43100	Communication Services Program	43,284.67	45,000.00	47,500.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	
Total 43000 - Services Income		43,284.67	45,000.00	47,500.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	
Total Budgeted Revenue		568,670.26	482,388.44	489,888.44	477,858.00	509,224.64	
Restricted Income							
44310	Regional PDA Position - gifts from Presbyteries	60,000.00	Moved to SPDR books				
Total Restricted income		60,000.00					
Board designated income							
46230	Pbty giving for use next year	113,641.53		120,000.00			
Total Board designated income		113,641.53		120,000.00			

2023 Budget Worksheet

Account Name		2021 Year End****	2022 Final ** Budget	Est YE 2022	2023 Prelim Budget		NOTES/QUESTIONS
					Approved	2023 Final Budget	
Expense							This was not in the 2022
Budgeted Expense							
61000	Connecting						
61080	Presbyterian Women	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
61100	Covenant relationships travel	533.12	4,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00	
61110	Lyon College	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61120	Austin College	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61130	University of Ozarks	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61140	Schreiner University	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61150	Trinity University	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61160	Tulsa University	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61170	Pan American School	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61180	Austin Seminary	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61190	Pby. Children's Homes & Service	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61200	Evergreen Pby. Ministries	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61210	Vera Lloyd Home & Family	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61220	Goodland academy	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61230	Mo Ranch	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61240	Pres History Society of SW	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61250	TPF	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61260	Multi-Cultural Youth Conf.	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	
61300	National Conf Sponsorships	-		0.00	0.00	0.00	
61302.00	Connecting Initiatives	-	5,000.00	81.00	0.00	5,000.00	
61310	Critical Needs Fund	973.67	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
61330	National Event Hospitality	1,264.88	5,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Total Connecting Expenditures		8,271.67	22,400.00	12,081.00	11,000.00	18,000.00	

2023 Budget Worksheet

Account Name		2021 Year End****	2022 Final ** Budget	Est YE 2022	2023 Prelim Budget		NOTES/QUESTIONS
					Approved	2023 Final Budget	
	Equipping						
61030	COM Event	0.00			0.00		
61035.00	Development Courses		12,000.00	2,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
61070	EP Forum	0.00	3,000.00	7,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
61280	Clerk Forum	0.00	2,000.00	5,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
61290	Mission Convocation/Leadership event	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
62000	Communication	0.00		0.00	0.00		
62030	CSP Operations (PT)	512.04	0	0	0	0	
62060	Communications Initiatives	2,292.31	5,000.00	5,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Total Equipping Expenditures		2,804.35	22,000.00	19,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	

2023 Budget Worksheet

Account Name		2021 Year End****	2022 Final ** Budget	Est YE 2022	2023 Prelim Budget		NOTES/QUESTIONS
					Approved	2023 Final Budget	
	Empowering Expenditures						Value
61050	Network Nurture	86.25	7,000.00	7,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
	Commissioned Pastors Network	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Oklahoma Presbytery Network (OPN)	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	
	Hispanic Mission Ministries Network (HMMN)	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
	Faithful Action on Climate Change Network	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	IMAGINE event	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
	Synod Partnership for Disaster Response	0.00	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	
	Network for Dismantling Racism	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	
61020	Solar Under the Sun						
	SUS Insurance		0.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	1,150.00
	SUS Bookkeeping	2,781.25	6,500.00	4,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	9,000.00
	SUS Audit		2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	10,000.00
61270	Synod Youth Workshop	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	1,150.00
	SYW Insurance		0.00	150.00	150.00	150.00	Cost split
	SYW Bookkeeping	1,042.50	2,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	Cost split
	SYW CLC licensing		300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	\$350.00
	SYW Child Protection Training		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	SYW Audit		0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	Cost split
	Total Empowering Expenditures	10,410.00	44,300.00	22,600.00	31,600.00	34,100.00	

2023 Budget Worksheet

Account Name		2021 Year End****	2022 Final ** Budget	Est YE 2022	2023 Prelim Budget		NOTES/QUESTIONS
					Approved	2023 Final Budget	
Representation							
64090	Committee on Representation	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Total Representation Expenditures		0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Coordinating Team							
61340	Moderator Expenses	473.78	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
62040	Computer Hardware	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
62050	Online Operations (Zoom/DB, et.)	5,784.36	5,000.00	6,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
62055	Online Processing Fees	157.39	1,000.00	500.00	250.00	250.00	
Synod Leader Discretionary Fund					10,000.00	10,000.00	
64000	Meeting and Book of Order Expenses	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
64010	Stated Meeting, Fall	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
64020	Stated Meeting, Spring	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
64030	(Mid-Year) Committee Gathering	0.00	13,500.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
64050	Administrative Commission	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
64100	Other Committee Expenses	1,696.53	10,000.00	3,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
64200	Emergency COVID19 & Disaster response	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
66000	Office Expenses	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	
66010	Office rent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
66020	Telephone	2,715.05	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
66030	Postage	1,068.29	1,000.00	750.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
66040	Copiers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
66050	Supplies	1,854.80	3,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
66060	File Retention/Storage	3,355.32	3,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
66070	Bookkeeping services	15,557.50	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	
66071	Audit Fees	10,100.00	10,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	Cost split with Networks
66090	Insurance	8,153.44	5,500.00	5,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	Cost split with Networks
66100	Bank charges	305.00	1,000.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
66105	Aplos fees	594.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
66110	Miscellaneous Charges	918.08	1,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
66120	Contingency expense	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Total Coordinating Team		56,733.54	84,500.00	68,250.00	92,250.00	92,250.00	

2023 Budget Worksheet

Account Name		2021 Year End****	2022 Final ** Budget	Est YE 2022	2023 Prelim Budget		NOTES/QUESTIONS
					Approved	2023 Final Budget	
65000	Personnel						cost of living increase yet to be approved.
65010	Synod Leader/SC Salary & House	93,905.13	102,262.54	102,262.54	105,000.00	100,000.00	
	403(b) contribution				6,000.00	0.00	
65020	Synod Leader/SC BOP	27,831.99	28,450.94	28,450.94	31,500.00	39,000.00	
65030	Synod Leader/SC FICA share	6,896.18	7,823.08	7,823.08	8,200.00	6,200.00	
65040	Synod Leader/SC Prof Expenses	289.91	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	
65050	Synod Leader/SC Prof Development	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
65110	Comm. & Admin Coordinator Salary	50,650.08	55,000.00	55,000.00	59,785.00	59,785.00	
65120	Comm. & Admin Coordinator BOP	16,413.91	16,944.38	16,944.38	18,100.00	18,100.00	
65130	Comm. & Admin Coordinator FICA Share	3,587.78	4,207.50	4,207.50	4,208.00	4,208.00	
65140	Comm. & Admin Coordinator Prof Dev	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
65220	Temp Staff & Other Staff expense	12,418.73	20,000.00	10,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
65410	Personnel Committee	1,334.16	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
65510	Synod Leader/SC Travel	8,706.99	24,500.00	24,500.00	24,500.00	24,500.00	
65520	Comm. & Admin Coordinator Travel	1,469.00	2,500.00	1,000.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
	Total Personnel Expense	226,503.86	268,188.44	256,688.44	282,793.00	276,793.00	
	Grants & Scholarships						
61040	Mission Grants	24,600.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	
	Total Grants & Scholarships	24,600.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	
	Permanent Judicial Commission						
64040	Perm Jud Commission	3,000.00	2,000.00	650.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
	Total Permanent Judicial Commission	3,000.00	2,000.00	650.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
	Total Budgeted Expense	332,323.42	484,388.44	420,269.44	482,643.00	486,143.00	
	Total Expense	442,932.16	484,388.44	420,269.44	482,643.00	486,143.00	
	Net Income (Loss)	125,738.10	-2,000.00	69,619.00	-4,785.00	23,081.64	
							This is surplus.

Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery

February 2023 Report

The SPDR Leadership Group consists of Jim Kirk, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Matt Miles, Tres Rios Presbytery; Sallie Watson, Mission Presbytery; and Richard Williams, Presbytery of South Louisiana.

The Leadership Group met virtually on December 14, 2022 to discuss the transition with Valerie Young's departure from the Synod. The Leadership Group agreed to a protocol for sending out 2023 SPDR invoices to Covenant Partners and to invite the SPDR Director to attend an EP Forum call to discuss recruitment for the SPDR Liaison position.

SPDR Director's Report

Over the winter months, numerous instances of severe weather, tornadoes, freezing conditions and burst pipes have impacted the majority of presbyteries in the Synod. Regular monitoring and communication regarding these events and needs are occurring between SPDR, presbytery leadership, and PDA.

In 2023, the work of developing and building the 4Cs of disaster preparedness and recovery continues – cooperation, communication, coordination and collaboration. In addition to working with presbyteries to identify and appoint SPDR Liaisons to build a synod-wide communications network, SPDR is also making connections with state-wide VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) groups, PDA National Response Team members residing in the Synod, and each of the disaster response/preparedness groups formed by various presbyteries and their staff.

The Synod's website has undergone a major upgrade to provide contact information, educational resources, and opportunities for engagement for individuals, congregations, and presbyteries.

Previous and upcoming visits at the invitation of presbytery leadership include:

- January 11: EP Forum
- January 24: Arkansas Disaster Preparedness & Response Subcommittee Meeting
- February 11: Pines Presbytery Meeting in Ruston, LA
- February 13: Disaster Preparation and Response Task Force of Mission Presbytery
- February 14: Presbytery of South Louisiana Meeting in Jefferson, LA
- March 2-3: Tres Rios Presbytery Meeting in Odessa, TX
- March 3-4: Mission Presbytery Meeting in San Antonio, TX
- March 18: New Covenant Presbytery Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery



June 22-24, 2023
New Orleans, LA

IMAGINE: LIFE IN THE MARGINS

Bearing Witness to God’s Work:

Engaging Matthew 25 Together!

Joining with PCUSA congregations and partners working with those living on the margins as we develop eyes to see how we can reach out and respond to the needs in our own communities.



- Building congregational vitality
 - Dismantling structural racism
 - Eradicating systemic poverty
- www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/