

Synod Stated Meeting
Presbyterian Mission Center | Irving, TX
February 27, 2024

Welcome & Introductions –Synod Moderator Ben Davidson called the meeting to order at 1:00PM CT, opening the meeting with prayer.

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Vice Moderator Sharon Curry spoke of the Native American tribes that inhabited the land that is now Irving, Texas, offering a prayer of reconciliation and forgiveness.

Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum (*Attachment A*) – In accordance with the Bylaws, Sec. 3.1.3 whereby 50% or more of the elected commissioners constitutes a quorum, a quorum was declared by the Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Steve Shive. 21 of 28 Commissioners were present.

Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors (*Attachment A*) – Corresponding Members and Visitors were also acknowledged and seated. Seth Saathoff moved and David Watson seconded that the Corresponding Members and visitors be seated and given privileges of the floor. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Agenda (*Attachment B*) – With the meeting agenda presented, Polly Williams moved and Seth Saathoff seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes (*Attachment C*) – Moderator Davidson presented the minutes from the Fall 2023 Synod Assembly, for approval. Without any additions or corrections, approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting were moved by Seth Saathoff and seconded by David Watson. Motion carried.

Introductions – Synod Leader Steve Shive invited each participant to introduce themselves. A total of 56 participants attended this Assembly.

Worship – A contemplative worship experience was led by the Rev. Christopher Lee, Executive Presbyter of Grace Presbytery in the chapel of the Presbyterian Mission Center.

Synod Focus – Moderator Davidson outlined his vision for the 2024 year. Reading from two passages of the Gospels, Ben spoke of the great need in the world and the missions of the Synod that meet those needs. Ben encouraged the missions, ministries, and program to seek where the Spirit is leading us, taking bold steps.

Celebration of Solar Under the Sun (*Attachment D*) – Celebrating the transition of Solar Under the Sun from being a Network of the Synod to being a Covenant Partner. Steve Shive told the

story of Solar and gave thanks for this continuing ministry. Inviting board members forward, these friends talked about the mission and ministry and future of Solar Under the Sun.

Nominations – Moderator Davidson presented a list of names submitted by the Pan American School for their Board of Directors and Evergreen Life Services submitted a name to serve as their Synod Liaison:

Pan American School – Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo, Diana Freeman, Elizabeth Sinnet
David Watson moved and Sharon Curry seconded that these names be approved by Assembly.
Motion carried.

Evergreen Life Services – Jim Freeman
Polly Williams moved and Sharon Curry seconded that Jim Freeman be approved by Assembly.
Motion carried.

Approval of 2024 Budget (*Attachment E*) – Coordinating Team Moderator Seth Saathoff and Treasurer Bill Wiles outlined the changes from the Preliminary Budget approved at the Fall 2023 Assembly. Bill also described the job of a Treasurer as not a gate-keeper, but as a partner in bringing resources together for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Bill reported our pros and cons for 2024:

Our Pros: The synod is financially sound, we have sufficient resources to do ministry, and we have an enthusiastic leadership.

Our Cons: We have a drop in giving from the Presbyteries and we have lots of places where we could be using our funds.

The Coordinating Team moved the acceptance of the 2024 budget. The motion passed.

Overtures to General Assembly (*Attachment F*) – Moderator Davidson presented the first Overture from Palo Duro Presbytery to GA to amend the Book of Order G-2.1002. Executive Presbyter Scott Campbell spoke to the concurrence. Sharon Curry moved and Seth Saathoff seconded that Synod of the Sun concur with this Overture. The motion passed.

Moderator Davidson presented the second Overture (*Attachment G*) to provide the list of counties of the geographic areas of each presbytery. Sharon Curry moved and Polly Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Election of the new Synod Leader/Stated Clerk (*Attachment H*) – Rev. Jeff Cranton, Moderator of the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search Committee, presented his report. The Committee nominated the Rev. Michell Miller for this position. The terms of call were discussed. Questions from the Assembly were asked.

The Search Committee moved that Mitch Miller become our new Synod Leader/Stated Clerk. With great thanksgiving, the motion carried.

With gratitude, Jeff Cranton moved that the Search Committee be dismissed. The motion carried.

Announcements and Closing Prayer –

With the Assembly's business concluded, the Assembly gave thanks for the ministry and mission of Steve Shive in his time with us. With closing prayer by the Moderator, the Assembly goes forth doing the ministry and mission given to us by Jesus Christ.

Synod of the Sun

2024 Spring Assembly | February 27

Presbyterian Mission Center, Irving, TX



Commissioners Present

Princeton	Abaraoha	Grace Presbytery	Commissioner
Lisa	Almon	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Carlos	Baladez	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Jerry	Boles	Tres Rios Presbytery	Commissioner
Stacy	Clopton	Palo Duro Presbytery	Commissioner
Sharon	Curry	Grace Presbytery	Commissioner
Ben	Davidson	Palo Duro Presbytery	Commissioner
Carol	Davis	Presbytery of New Covenant	Commissioner
Todd	Freeman	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Commissioner
Minwoo	Kim	Cimarron Presbytery	Commissioner
Leah	McFadden	Presbytery of New Covenant	Commissioner
Danita	Nelson	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Isabel S.	Rivera-Velez	Presbytery of New Covenant	Commissioner
Kristi	Rodgers	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Commissioner
Bill	Rose	Tres Rios Presbytery	Commissioner
Janet	Ruark	Indian Nations Presbytery	Commissioner
Seth	Saathoff	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Diana	Smith	Indian Nations Presbytery	Commissioner
David	Watson	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Commissioner
Sandra	Watson	Presbytery of the Pines	Commissioner
Polly	Williams	Grace Presbytery	Commissioner

Corresponding Members Present

Tim	Blodgett	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Scott	Campbell	Palo Duro Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Gordon	Edwards	Cimarron Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Tracy	Evans	Indian Nations Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Lynn	Hargrove	Presbytery of New Covenant	Corresponding Member
Joshua	Kerr	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Corresponding Member
David	Stipp-Bethune	Presbytery of the Pines	Corresponding Member
Kyle	Walker	Grace Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Sallie	Watson	Mission Presbytery	Corresponding Member

Requesting Excused Absence

Maggie	Alsup	Presbytery of Arkansas	Commissioner
Boksoon	Egbert	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Commissioner
Ronald	Fike	Cimarron Presbytery	Commissioner
Jim	Freeman	Presbytery of the Pines	Commissioner
Katherine	Thomas	Cimarron Presbytery	Commissioner

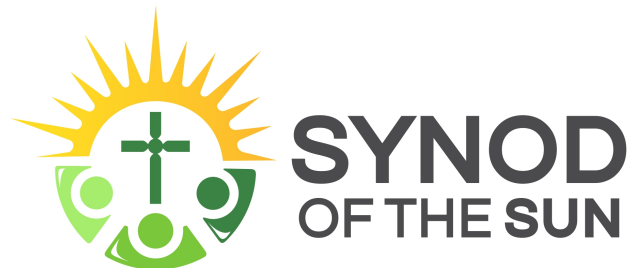
Other Persons Present

Lemuel	Garcia-Arroyo	Mission Presbytery	Institution/Agency Representative
Maria	Shupe	Grace Presbytery	Institution/Agency Representative
Jeff	Cranton	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Synod Leader Search Team
Claudia	Smith	Mission Presbytery	Synod Network Representative
Sally	Smith	Grace Presbytery	Synod Network Representative
Pat	Felter	Grace Presbytery	Synod Network Representative
Kathy	Lee-Cornell	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Synod Staff
Thomas	Riggs	Other/None	Synod Staff
Steve	Shive	Grace Presbytery	Synod Staff
Bill	Wiles	Other/None	Synod Staff

Synod of the Sun

2024 Spring Assembly | February 27

Presbyterian Mission Center, Irving, TX



Proposed Agenda

Welcome, Introductions, Opening Prayer	Moderator, Ben Davidson
Acknowledgement of Land & People	Vice Moderator, Sharon Curry
Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum	Ben Davidson
Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors	Ben Davidson
Adoption of Agenda	Ben Davidson
Approval of Fall Stated Assembly Minutes	Ben Davidson
Introductions	Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Steve Shive
Worship	Rev. Christopher Lee, Executive Presbyter, Grace Presbytery
Synod Focus for 2024	Ben Davidson
Celebration of Solar Under the Sun	Rev. Dr. Steve Shive
Election of Board Members - Pan American and Evergreen	Ben Davidson
Approval of 2024 Synod Budget	CT Moderator, Rev. Seth Saathoff
Overtures to General Assembly	Ben Davidson
Election of the new Synod Leader/Stated Clerk	Rev. Jeff Cranton, Moderator of SL/SC Search Team
Announcements	Ben Davidson
Closing Prayer and Adjourn	Ben Davidson

2023 Fall Stated Meeting Minutes - for Approval

Synod Stated Meeting Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center | Little Rock, AR October 17, 2023

Welcome & Introductions –Synod Moderator Seth Saathoff called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. CDT, opening the meeting with prayer.

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Moderator Saathoff acknowledged the Native American peoples who lived on the land that is now called Little Rock, including the Caddo, Quapaw, Osage, Choctaw, and Cherokee peoples. Even the name *Arkansas* came from the Quapaw people. Moderator called for a moment of silence to remember those peoples who called the land around Ferncliff home.

Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum – In accordance with the Bylaws, Sec. 3.1.3 whereby 50% or more of the elected commissioners constitutes a quorum, a quorum was declared by the Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Steve Shive. 15 of 28 Commissioners were present (*Attachment A*).

Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors – Corresponding Members and Visitors were also acknowledged and seated. Polly Williams moved and David Watson seconded that the Corresponding Members and visitors be seated and given privileges of the floor. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Agenda – With the meeting agenda presented, Ben Davidson moved and Ron Fike seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried (*Attachment B*).

Approval of Minutes – Moderator Saathoff presented the minutes from the previous Synod Assembly on February 16, 2023, for approval. Without any additions or corrections, approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting on October 2022 were moved by Ron Fike and seconded by Jim Freeman. Motion carried (*Attachment C*).

Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Report – Synod Leader Steve Shive reported to the Assembly. Steve highlighted the process of evaluating the programs and missions of the Synod, visiting with Presbytery councils and Presbytery leadership. Steve also reported that the 2022 Presbytery minutes have been reviewed and reports sent to each presbytery. Steve has begun coaching the three Oklahoma presbyteries, as they explore becoming a new creation. The Synod Leader/Stated Clerk search team has begun their work and Steve reported that the process is moving forward. The Synod has started a program called “Living in Liminal Space” where an online conversation takes place with thought leaders about the future of the church. These conversations are also recorded and published on our Sunspots podcast.

2023 Fall Stated Meeting Minutes - for Approval

Steve reported that Leaderwise and Boundaries Training has been established for four dates in 2024.

Synod Moderator Report – Moderator Seth Saathoff reported on how the churches, presbyteries and the Synod have changed since the last time we were able to meet in person. In our ‘liminal’ year, the Synod has transitioned leadership. While our year was not what we expected, Moderator Saathoff thinks that circumstances worked out for the best, maintaining what we have and setting us up to transition well to a new SL/SC.

Moderator Saathoff also reported of a sizable gift from the estate of Tyler Witt Aldridge of Baton Rouge. The Synod received a gift of \$1 million from this estate, along with gifts to his local church and the South Louisiana Presbytery and PC(USA) foundations.

Personnel Committee Report (*Attachment D*) – Committee Moderator Jeff Cranton reported that, with the recommendation of the SL/SC, the committee has assembled a Financial Oversight Committee to look over the finances of the Synod, clarifying our financial processes. Personnel Committee also proposed to the Coordinating Team the hiring of a part-time Administrative Assistant. The committee moved the approval of the new Administrative Assistant position. The motion carried.

Jeff also reported that the committee has oversight over the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search Team, reporting on the membership of the team. With the vision assessment, the team acquired the information they need to write the Ministry Discernment Profile. The search has now begun and candidates have submitted their names.

Jeff also reported that the Assistant Stated Clerk Ernie Higginbotham has announced his retirement, effective December 31, 2022. With regret and gratitude, the committee moved the acceptance of his resignation. Motion carried.

Committee on Representation Report (*Attachment E*) – Committee Moderator Rev. Minwoo Kim reported on behalf of the committee. The committee has been discovering their own role in the ministry of the Synod and how they can better communicate with the presbyteries. Minwoo also reported that this committee can serve as an ‘intercultural committee’, being a resource to churches who need support and guidance.

Empowering Committee Report (*Attachment F*) – Committee Moderator Wynona Bryant-Williams reported on behalf of the Committee. Wynona reported that the committee has spent the past couple of years discerning how they could use the \$20,000 gift given to each committee. After meeting with different ministry organizations, listening to their needs and concerns, the committee put out calls for proposals.

The Louisiana Organization for Refugees and immigration was awarded \$10,000 and the Global Ministry Committee of St. Charles Avenue Presbytery Church’s Refugee Welcome Backpack Project was awarded \$2500.

2023 Fall Stated Meeting Minutes - for Approval

Coordinating Team Report (*Attachment G*) – Coordinating Team Moderator Kristy Rodgers reported on actions taken by the CT on behalf of the Synod. Kristy spoke of the recent work of the CT, retelling some of the recent history of the practices and policies of the Synod.

Kristy brought the following actions taken by the CT to be affirmed by the Assembly:

Adoption of a new job description for Synod Leader/Stated Clerk position
Adoption of Assessment and Visioning process for new leader search

Approved of a Disaster Relief grant of \$10,000 to Presbytery of Arkansas following tornadoes

Approved changing the Synod address to the Presbyterian Mission Center, located at 6100 Colwell Blvd. Ste. 200, Irving, Tx 75039.

Approved the creation of a Synod Financial Oversight Team to help develop a financial manual of operations that will capture and/or develop practices to help maintain continuity of operations, particularly during times of transition.

Approved remuneration for Bill Wiles' work on the Financial Oversight Team at a reduced CPA rate while we are in the process of sorting out these details and practices.

Approved the Synod Financial Oversight Team to develop and execute a plan for investing the Synod's idle cash funds into income generating financial vehicles including bank sweep accounts, certificates of deposit, money market funds, and the balanced equity fund offered by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation.

Approved that those authorized to be signers on these accounts will be Steve Shive, Kristy Rodgers, Seth Saathoff, Ben Davidson, and Bill Wiles, with the provision that it requires two signers to authorize any fund transfers or withdrawals.

Jeff Cranton moved to affirm these actions taken by the Coordinating Team, seconded by Ron Fike. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

The Financial Oversight Committee recommends to Assembly that a Certificate of Deposit with PILP that is renewable on October 28, 2023 at a higher rate of return be renewed. The CT moved that this CD be renewed. Polly Williams seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

CT recommends the Stated Synod meeting for spring 2024 to be February 26-28, 2024, in New Orleans, LA. Motion carried.

Network Reports

Commissioner Kristy Rodgers reported on **Network for Dismantling Racism**, telling of their program "Resetting the Table" and their continued work of education and advocating.

2023 Fall Stated Meeting Minutes - for Approval

Gary Holloman reported on **Synod Youth Workshop** (*Attachment H*), telling of this small group-based event that takes place at the University of Tulsa. SYW has a 67-year history in our Synod.

Ruth Dwyer, new Coordinator for **Solar Under the Sun**, reported the on the work of SUTS to eliminate energy poverty all over the world. In order to apply for and receive grants from a larger donor base, SUTS has recently become its own 501(c)(3) organization, but will retain its close relationship with the Synod, including a designated board member from Synod of the Sun.

Connecting Committee Report (*Attachment I*) – Committee Moderator David Watson reported on that the committee is getting back to basic, focusing on its core mission. The committee is looking forward to engaging our Covenant Partners.

Equipping Committee Report (*Attachment J*) – Committee Moderator Maggie Alsup reported on behalf of the Committee, directing Commissioners to the packet for a full report.

Grants and Scholarship Commission Report (*Attachment K*) – Commission Moderator Sharon Curry reported on the work of the Grants and Scholarship Commission. So far in 2023, the Commission has awarded \$88,243.83 and anticipates awarding \$100k by the end of the year. Sharon outlined some of the ministries, missions, and programs that have been funded by G&S.

Synod Partnership for Disaster Response (*Attachment L*) – Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Response, reported on the mission and ministry of SPDR. Kathy encouraged the Assembly to remember that she is the Synod's staff person to walk alongside presbyteries, churches, and groups to prepare for and respond to disasters. Over \$200k of PDA and SPDR funding has gone to disaster response in a coordinated fashion.

Dissolution of SCOOP – Synod Leader Steve Shive reported on the work of SCOOP, noting that this original committee was made up of members from all the Synod's presbyteries. It was noted from both General Assembly and other merged presbyteries that the effort to move forward should not be Synod-driven but come from the ground up.

The three Oklahoma presbyteries want to create their own group to bring proposals to their presbyteries, the Synod, and General Assembly. The Oklahoma Presbyteries Task Force has been formed.

It is recommended that SCOOP be dismissed, with the gratitude for the groundwork that they have laid, so that the new task force and be tasked with bringing forth the new creation. Jeff Cranton moved, and Jim Freeman seconded that SCOOP be dissolved. Motion carried.

Amendment of Synod Bylaws (*Attachment M*) – Synod Vice Moderator Ben Davidson began the discussion of amending the Bylaws. Ben moved that we suspend article 3.2 of the Synod Bylaws to allow Sharon Curry and Kristy Rodgers to serve as At-Large Commissioners for a third term, allowing Sharon to serve as Vice Moderator of the Synod for 2024. The motion also includes sending back to the Committee on Representation the motion to amend the Bylaws to

2023 Fall Stated Meeting Minutes - for Approval

make room for additional persons to be included at At-Large Commissioners. David Watson seconded. Motion carried.

Nominations (*Attachment N*) – Synod Vice Moderator Ben Davidson reported on the work Synod Committee on Representation, presenting a slate of candidates to serve the Synod in 2024. Nominees for Diversity Representation, Committee Leadership, Standing Committees, Financial Leadership, and Synod Leadership were presented. The slate was elected.

The following candidates for leadership for Covenant Partners were listed:

Presbytery Foundation of Louisiana Board of Trustees

Class of 2025, James CJ Young, St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church

Class of 2024, F. David Grisset, St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church

Class of 2024, Betty Henderson, First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport

Class of 2023, Piper Morris, First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport

Class of 2023, Patty Kennel, St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church

Board of Trustees Lyon College

Victor Worley, Little Rock, AR

Gary Paxon , Batesville, AR

John Bellar, Cave City, AR

The slate was elected.

Approval of Preliminary Budget (*Attachment O*) – CT Moderator Kristy Rodgers presented the Preliminary Budget for 2024. Kristy highlighted some of the line items in the budget for the Assembly. The budget was approved.

Approval of SPDR Budget (*Attachment P*) – CT Moderator Kristy Rodgers presented the Preliminary Budget for SPDR for 2024. The budget was approved.

With the Assembly's business concluded, the Assembly then moved to the installation of the 2024 Moderator and Vice Moderator.

Synod of the Sun

2023 Fall Assembly | October 16-18
 Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center



Commissioners Present

Maggie	Alsup	Commissioner	Arkansas
Carlos	Baladez	Commissioner	At Large
Wynona	Bryant-Williams	Commissioner	Arkansas
Jeff	Cranton	Commissioner	Eastern Oklahoma
Sharon	Curry	Commissioner	Grace
Ben	Davidson	Commissioner	Palo Duro
Carol	Davis	Commissioner	New Covenant
Ron	Fike	Commissioner	Cimarron
Jim	Freeman	Commissioner	Pines
Danita	Nelson	Commissioner	At Large
Isabel S.	Rivera-Velez	Commissioner	At Large
Kristy	Rodgers	Commissioner	Eastern Oklahoma
Janet	Ruark	Commissioner	Indian Nations
Seth	Saathoff	Commissioner	Mission
David	Watson	Commissioner	South Louisiana
Polly	Williams	Commissioner	Grace

Corresponding Members Present

Laurie	Barker	Corresponding Member	Tres Rios
Blake	Brinegar	Corresponding Member	Arkansas
Scott	Campbell	Corresponding Member	Palo Duro
Gordon	Edwards	Corresponding Member	Cimarron
Lynn	Hargrove	Corresponding Member	New Covenant
David	Kemp	Corresponding Member	Palo Duro
Christopher	Lee	Corresponding Member	Grace
Leigh	McCaslin	Corresponding Member	Eastern Oklahoma
Charles	Smith	Corresponding Member	Indian Nations
Stewart	Smith	Corresponding Member	Arkansas
David	Stipp-Bethune	Corresponding Member	Pines

Other Persons Present

Lemuel Nikki	Garcia-Arroyo Collins	Institution/Agency Representative Institution/Agency Representative	PCUSA Ministry Engagement and Support 1001 New Worshiping Communities
Minwoo	Kim	Synod COR Member	Cimarron
Ernie Kathy Thomas Steve	Higginbotham Lee-Cornell Riggs Shive	Synod Staff Synod Staff Synod Staff Synod Staff	Grace South Louisiana Synod of the Sun Synod of the Sun
DONNA Gini Lil Mark Molly	MCKAY Norris-Lane Smith Sundby Casteel	Visitor/Guest Workshop Presenter Workshop Presenter Workshop Presenter Workshop Presenter	UKirk Collegiate Ministries Association SMU/Perkins Leaderwise Resetting the Table
Gary Ruth	Holloman Dwyer	Network Representative Network Representative	Synod Youth Workshop Solar Under the Sun

Excused Absent

Jerry Boksoon Stephen Bill Nancy Diana Katherine Sandra	Boles Egbert Hill Rose Ruff Smith Thomas Watson	Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner	Tres Rios At Large New Covenant Tres Rios Palo Duro Indian Nations Cimarron Pines
<i>Marsha Arita</i>	<i>Schnendel Battiest</i>	<i>Commissioner Commissioner</i>	<i>Mission At Large</i>

SUS History:

Established in 2009, Solar Under the Sun emerged from the awareness within our sister organization, Living Waters for the World, of the profound consequences of energy poverty on essential aspects of life—clean water, education, and economic equity. With its close ties to the Presbyterian Church (USA), it was originally organized under the auspices of the Synod of the Sun (PCUSA’s regional governing body encompassing Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.)

Under the visionary guidance of Chris McRae, our inaugural Executive Director, a dedicated team of talented individuals came together to spearhead this endeavor. This collaboration first bore fruit in July of 2009 with the installation of a solar-powered clean water system at the St. Thomas Episcopal Parish in Arcahaie, Haiti. Furthermore, it began to scale its impact in May of 2010, with the first Solar Under the Sun training session at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center outside of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Since its inception, SUS has held twenty-four Solar schools (including one in Puerto Rico) and trained a diverse array of individuals with backgrounds that include technology, education, community development, family management, health, and business. These trained individuals have subsequently gone on to execute over 170 projects spanning 7 countries across three continents, creating a lasting impact in the realm of sustainable energy solutions for those in energy poverty.

PS- We have opened registration for Solar School #26- (May 2-5, At Second Presbyterian, Little Rock, AR)- Please pass on the information and consider joining us yourself. (See flyer below).




WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE POOREST 1 BILLION PEOPLE?

Come to Solar School and Learn How to Light up a Life!

Track 1
Leadership and Partnership Development

Track 2
Technical System Design and Installation

MAY 2-5, 2024, Little Rock, AR
Registration deadline: April 4th
Tuition \$300 pp
www.solarunderthesun.org



2.6.24

SYNOD OF THE SUN
2024 BUDGET PACKAGE

William M. (Bill) Wiles

2024 BUDGET WORKSHEETS
Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.

			UnRestricted	Funds	Totals	2023	Earlier	Current
			Funds	With		Budget	2024	2024
				Restrictions			Budget	Budget
UnRestricted Incomes								
1	40001	Previous year roll-over funds			0	0	150,000	60,000
2		Presbytery Contributions	126,725		126,725	126,725	85,000	89,000
3								
4	42110	Unrestricted Mission Support (SOSFD)	201,000		201,000	201,000	201,000	208,000
5	42110	Administration Support (SOSFD)	88,000		88,000	88,000	88,000	91,000
6	42100	Contributions	55		55	2,000	2,000	1,000
7	42150	Special Contributions--Mission Presbytery		113,659	113,659	0	0	0
8	42210	PILP Interest Earned	2,035		2,035	1,500	4,000	4,000
9		Other Interest (checking account interest)	4		4	0	35,000	25,000
	43100	Communication Services	60,219		60,219	65,000	65,000	65,000
10		Transfers from Synod-Designated Funds			0		0	0
11		Total Revenues	478,038	113,659	591,697	484,225	630,000	543,000
12								
13	UnRestricted Expenses (Details on pages 2-3)							
14	61000	Connecting Expenditures	1,948		1,948	18,000	18,000	18,000
15	62001	Equipping	35,462		35,462	22,000	45,000	45,000
16	63000	Empowering	14,452		14,452	34,100	34,100	27,950
17	64001	Coordinating Team	114,779		114,779	102,250	121,250	141,250
18	65000	Personnel	225,795		225,795	276,793	331,549	331,549
19	61040	Grants and Scholarships	25,000		25,000	0	40,000	8,000
20	66002	Representation	0		0	1,000	1,000	1,000
21	66003	Permanent Judicial Commission	0		0	2,000	2,000	2,000
22	90200	Depreciation	0		0			
23		Total Expenses	417,436	0	417,436	456,143	592,899	574,749
24	Pass Through Funds							
25		Pass Through Income	0	544	544	0	0	0
26		Pass Through Expenses	0	(10,971)	(10,971)	0	0	0
27		Net Expense	0	(10,427)	(10,427)	0	0	0
28								
29		OPERATIONAL FUNDS INCOMES	60,602	103,232	163,834	28,082	37,101	(31,749)
30								
31	Transactions in the Restricted Funds Accounts (details on page 4):							
32	Restricted Funds Incomes							
	<u>Synod Designated Funds:</u>							
33		Presbytery Mission Giving		89,102	89,102			
34		Other Synod Designated Funds		29,074	29,074			
35		SPDR Funds Transfer						15,317
	<u>Donor Restricted Funds:</u>							
36		SOSFND Scholarship Funds Income		16,600	16,600			17,000
37		Other Donor Restricted Funds Income		73,166	73,166			
	Restricted Funds Expenditures							
38		Synod Designated Funds		(45,996)	(45,996)			
39		SPDR Funds Pledge						(15,317)
40		Donor Restricted Funds		(63,871)	(63,871)			
41		Scholarship funds for #61040		(30,500)	(30,500)			(17,000)
42		Investment Funds drawn down		(18,000)	(18,000)			
43		Net Funds Income (Expense)		49,575	49,575	0	0	0
44		Suspended Items		(913)	(913)	0	0	0
45		Net Income from Operations	60,602	151,894	212,496	28,082	37,101	(31,749)

			UnRestricted	Funds	Totals	8% Projected 2024 Gains	
Summary of Investment Funds 2023			Funds	With		Unrestricted	Restricted
				Restrictions			
46		Withdrawals	(27,271)		(27,271)	(30,000)	0
47		Unrealized Change in Values	108,135	263,400	371,535	60,000	100,000
48		Totals	80,864	263,400	344,264	30,000	100,000

2024 Budget Worksheet
Expense Item Details

Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.

			12.31.23	2023	Earlier	Budget
			Actual	Budget	2024	Change
					Budget	
Administration & Operations						
Connecting Expenditures						
1	61080	Presbyterian Women	0	500	500	
2	61100	Covenant Relationship Travel	448	4,000	4,000	
3	61110	Lyon College	100	100	100	
4	61120	Austin College	100	100	100	
5	61130	University of Ozarks	100	100	100	
6	61140	Schreiner University	100	100	100	
7	61150	Trinity University	100	100	100	
8	61160	Tulsa University	100	100	100	
9	61170	PanAmerican School	100	100	100	
10	61180	Austin Seminary	100	100	100	
11	61190	Presby Children's Home & Service	100	100	100	
12	61200	Evergreen Presby. Ministries	100	100	100	
13	61210	Vera Loyd Home & Family	100	100	100	
14	61220	Goodland Academy	100	100	100	
15	61230	Mo Ranch	100	100	100	
16	61240	Presby. Historical Society of SW	100	100	100	
17	61250	Texas Presbyterian Foundation	100	100	100	
18	61260	Multi-Cultural Youth Conf.	0	3,500	3,500	
19	61302	Connecting Initiatives	0	5,000	5,000	
20	61310	Critical Needs Fund	0	2,000	2,000	
21	61330	National Event Hospitality	0	1,500	1,500	
22		Totals	1,948	18,000	18,000	None
Equipping Expenditures						
24	61030	COM Event	0	0	10,000	
25	61035	Development Courses	9,302	10,000	10,000	
26	61070	EP Forum	13,598	5,000	18,000	
27	61280	Clerk Forum	4,253	3,000	3,000	
28	62030	CSP Operations (PT)	287	0	0	
29	62060	Communications Initiatives	1,538	4,000	4,000	
30		Totals	28,978	22,000	45,000	None
Empowering Expenditures						
32	61020	Solar Under the Sun	3,801			
33		SUS Insurance		150		(150)
34		SUS Bookkeeping		5,000		(5,000)
35		SUS Audit		1,000		(1,000)
36	46170	SUTS Distributions from TPF	(626)			
37	61050	Network Nurture	6,881	5,000	5,000	
38		Hispanic Mission Ministries Network	0	3,000	3,000	
39		IMAGINE Event	0	10,000	10,000	
40		Synod Partnership for Disaster Response	0	2,500	2,500	
41	61270	Synod Youth Workshop	3,500	3,500	3,500	
42		SYD Insurance		150	150	
43		SYD Bookkeeping		3,000	3,000	
44		SYD CLC Licensing		300	300	
45		SYD Audit		500	500	
46		Totals	13,556	34,100	27,950	(6,150)

2024 Budget Worksheet

Expense Item Details

Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.

		12.31.23	2023	2024	Budget	
		Actual	Budget	Budget	Change	
Coordinating Team						
47	61340	Moderator Expenses		2,000	2,000	
48	62040	Computer Hardware	280	2,000	2,000	
49	62050	Online Operations	9,337	5,000	5,000	
50	62055	Online Processing Fees	170	250	250	
51	62057	Synod Leader Discretionary Fund	200	10,000	10,000	
52	64010	Stated Meeting, Fall	20,968	0	0	25,000
53	64020	Stated Meeting, Spring			25,000	(15,000)
54	64030	Leadership Gathering		10,000	0	10,000
55	64050	Administrative Commission		5,000	5,000	
56	64100	Other Committee Expenses		10,000	10,000	
57	66000	Office Expenses				
58	66010	Office Rent		0	0	
59	66020	Telephone		3,000	3,000	
60	66030	Postage	680	1,000	1,000	
61	66040	Copiers				
62	66050	Supplies	36	3,000	3,000	
63	66060	File Retention/Storage	5,731	5,000	5,000	
64	66070	Bookkeeping Services	28,906	18,000	20,000	
65	66071	Audit Fees	15,000	9,000	5,000	
66	66072	Additional Accounting Services	0	0	0	
67	66090	Insurance	6,181	5,000	5,000	
68	66100	Bank Charges	155	500	500	
69	66105	APLOS Fees	1,609	1,500	1,500	
70	66110	Miscellaneous Charges	670	1,000	1,000	
71	66120	Contingency	500	1,000	1,000	
72	65420	Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search	9,960	10,000	16,000	
73		Totals	100,383	102,250	121,250	20,000
Personnel Expenditures						
75	65010	Synod Leader/SC Salary & House	75,000	100,000	103,000	
76	65020	Synod Leader/SC BOP	20,893	39,000	40,170	
77	65030	Synod Leader/SC FICA Share	4,650	6,200	6,200	
78	65040	Synod Leader/SC Prof Expenses	1,201	1,500	1,500	
79	65050	Synod Leader/SC Prof Development	3,833	2,500	2,500	
80	65510	Synod Leader/SC Travel	15,229	24,500	24,500	
81		Synod Leader Totals	120,806	173,700	177,870	
82						
83	65110	Comm & Admin Coordinator Salary	59,386	59,785	61,579	
84	65120	Comm & Admin Coordinator BOP	18,475	18,100	18,100	
85	65130	Comm & Admin Coordinator FICA Share	4,228	4,208	4,500	
86	65140	Comm & Admin Coordinator Prof Dev.	102	1,500	1,500	
87	65520	Comm & Admin Coordinator Travel	2,897	2,500	2,500	
88		Comm & Admin Totals	85,088	86,093	88,179	
89						
	65150	Administrative Assistant			25,000	
	65530	Administrative Assistant--Travel			2,500	
		Administrative Assistant Total			27,500	
	65170	Treasurer			18,000	
	65540	Treasurer--Travel			1,000	
	65180	Treasurer--Prof Dev			2,000	
		Treasurer Total			21,000	
90	65220	Temp Staff & Other Staff Expense	8,442	15,000	15,000	
91	65410	Personnel Committee	832	2,000	2,000	
92		Personnel Totals	215,168	276,793	331,549	None

**RESERVE BUDGETING TOOL
for Calendar Year 2024**

		Projected 12.31.23 balances	2024 Budget Income	Projected Funds Available	Budget Expenditures	Projected Balance @12.31.24
SYNOD DESIGNATED RESERVES						
1		Gatewood Cash in Checking Account	100,782		100,782	100,782
2	31140	Translation Fund	29,906		29,906	29,906
3	31150	Future Church	628		628	628
4	31160	Racial Ethnic Ministries	0		0	0
5	31180	Special Meetings	17,507		17,507	17,507
6	31190	Synod Leadership Travel	5,512		5,512	5,512
7	31220	COR Network	471		471	471
8	31222	CP Network	15,121		15,121	15,121
9	31230	PresbyGiving--Odd Years	17,095		17,095	17,095
10	31240	PresbyGiving--Even Years	72,007		72,007	72,007
11	31250	Promotional Swag	2,089		2,089	2,089
12	31260	Network Reserves	30,121		30,121	30,121
13	31270	Cross Cultural Intern	4,793		4,793	4,793
14	31280	Presby. Leader Formation	17,234		17,234	17,234
15	31300	International Mission Trips	9,000		9,000	9,000
16	32130	Opioid Crisis	500		500	500
17	32140	Network for Dismantling Racism	(2,590)		(2,590)	(2,590)
18	32155	ESL Scholarship Fund	25,000		25,000	25,000
19		Synod Designated Reserves	345,176	0	345,176	0

		Projected 12.31.23 balances	Estimated 2024 Income		Projected Funds Available	Budget Expenditures	Projected Balance @12.31.24
DONOR RESTRICTED FUNDS							
24	33130	David Robinson Fund	853		1,738		1,738
25	33140	Seminary Scholarships	29,089		29,784		29,784
26	33150	Volunteers in Mission	46,546		51,993		51,993
27	33160	Educational Programs	(28)		517		517
28	33170	Peacemaking	193		1,594		1,594
29	33187	Aid for Pastors	5,589		9,254		9,254
30	33188	Church Extension/DevImp	11,977		20,190		20,190
31	33189	National Missions in TX	36,610		44,807		44,807
32		Missions in Texas	0		283		283
33	33200	Old Age Concerns	116,396		140,846		140,846
34	33210	Higher Education	65,271		85,240		85,240
35	33220	Child & Youth Schroeder	(4,685)		(4,208)		(4,208)
36		Children & Youth			2,072		2,072
37	33240	Viola Williams Memorial	35		46		46
38	22900	SOSPF Scholarship	(7,050)		10,250		10,250
39			300,796		394,406	0	394,406

x Presbyterian Foundation Distributions
Balance are funds from TPF
1 Budgeted in Scholarship section

2024 Review of Synod of the Sun Investment Funds

For the XXX

Fund Description	Portfolio				Ending \$	Annual return	Net Change
	Beginning \$	Gains	Income	Withdrawals			
Unrestricted Funds							
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12214 Gatewood Account	51392						
	Q1	601,641.89			601,641.89	0.0%	
	Q2	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q3	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q4	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
TOTALS FOR 2024		601,641.89	0.00	0.00	601,641.89	0.0%	
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12229 Ministry Reserves	54201						
	Q1	56,150.28			56,150.28	0.0%	
	Q2	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q3	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q4	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
TOTALS FOR 2023		56,150.28	0.00	0.00	56,150.28	0.0%	
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12231 Year-End Reserves	54495						
	Q1	52,228.00			52,228.00	0.0%	
	Q2	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q3	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q4	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
TOTALS FOR 2024		52,228.00	0.00	0.00	52,228.00	0.0%	
Unrestricted Funds Totals		710,020.17	0.00	0.00	710,020.17		0.00
Synod Designated Funds							
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12233 Disaster Assistance Fund	54825						
	Q1	24,555.90			24,555.90	0.0%	
	Q2	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q3	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q4	0.00			0.00		
TOTALS FOR 2024		24,555.90	0.00	0.00	24,555.90	0.0%	
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12112 Synod Regional PDA	55716						
	Q1	128,636.54			128,636.54	0.0%	
	Q2	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q3	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q4	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
TOTALS FOR 2024		128,636.54	0.00	0.00	128,636.54	0.0%	
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12218 Hispanic American Ministries	50900						
	Q1	65,377.05			65,377.05	0.0%	
	Q2	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q3	0.00			0.00	#DIV/0!	
	Q4	0.00			0.00		
TOTALS FOR 2024		65,377.05	0.00	0.00	65,377.05	0.0%	
Mappa Fund							

Fund Description	Beginning \$	Portfolio Gains	Income	Withdrawals	New Funds	Ending \$	Annual return	Net Change
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12220 Hispanic American Ministries 50901 MACC Fund	Q1 36,063.19 Q2 0.00 Q3 0.00 Q4 0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,063.19	0.0% #DIV/0! #DIV/0! 0.0%	
TOTALS FOR 2024	36,063.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	36,063.19	0.0%	0.00
Synod Designated Funds Totals	254,632.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	254,632.68		
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12225 Albert S Crisp Scholarship Fund #51736	Q1 117,565.18 Q2 0.00 Q3 0.00 Q4 0.00					117,565.18	0.0% #DIV/0! #DIV/0! 0.0%	
TOTALS FOR 2023	117,565.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	117,565.18	0.0%	
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12223 Albert S Crisp Scholarship Children's #51737 Home Endowment Fund	Q1 93,501.15 Q2 0.00 Q3 0.00 Q4 0.00					93,501.15	0.0% #DIV/0! #DIV/0! 0.0%	
TOTALS FOR 2024	93,501.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93,501.15	0.0%	
<u>Texas Presbyterian Foundation</u> 12235 Betsy Kerr Munson & John Steele 55474 Kerr Scholarship	Q1 1,263,981.58 Q2 0.00 Q3 0.00 Q4 0.00					1,263,981.58	0.0% #DIV/0! #DIV/0! 0.0%	
TOTALS FOR 2024	1,263,981.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,263,981.58	0.0%	
Donor Restricted Funds Totals	1,475,047.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,475,047.91		0.00

TOTAL SOS FUNDS	
2,439,700.76	0.00
2,439,700.76	0.00

New Investment Funds	0.00
Withdrawals	0.00
Change in investment values	0.00
Net Change	0.00

Other SOS Funds at TPE

Texas Presbyterian Foundation

SPDR MIM

55916

Fund Description	Beginning \$	Portfolio Gains	Income	Withdrawals	New Funds	Ending \$	Annual return	Net Change
<i>TPF Balanced Pooled Fund</i>	29,095.78							
Q1	0.00					0.00		
Q2	0.00					0.00		
Q3	0.00					0.00		
Q4	0.00					0.00		
TOTALS FOR 2024	29,095.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	29,095.78	0.0%	0.00

Texas Presbyterian Foundation

Synod Regional PDA--Donor

55717

Fund Description	Beginning \$	Portfolio Gains	Income	Withdrawals	New Funds	Ending \$	Annual return	Net Change
<i>TPF Balanced Pooled Fund</i>	75,045.57							
Q1	0.00					0.00		
Q2	0.00					0.00		
Q3	0.00					0.00		
Q4	0.00					0.00		
TOTALS FOR 2024	75,045.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	75,045.57	0.0%	0.00

**Overture: Regarding Clarifying the Intent of G-2.1001
on Use of Commissioned Pastors**

RECOMMENDATION

The Presbytery of Palo Duro overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

To amend Book of Order G-2.1002 to allow commissioned pastors by amending G-2.1001, Book of Order to read:

G-2.10 Commissioning Ruling Elders To Particular Pastoral Service

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning ¹

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which training courses are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements. The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve ~~but is not~~ **and is** authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery **subject to annual review by the presbytery. The Commissioned Pastor will carry voice and vote as Commissioned Pastor while they continue their life in the presbytery.**

Rationale

The General Assembly amended G-2.1001 in 2022 to clarify that a ruling elder could serve as Commissioned Pastor (CP) to multiple worshipping communities or missions in the presbytery, subject to approval of the presbytery and the appropriate sessions. This is a recognition by the

denomination of the growing importance of the CP. Commissioning a CP for service in multiple congregations or other ministries is a frequent practice in the PCUSA.

CPs provide faithful service to our denomination and with their gifts provide service to congregations that might otherwise go unserved. It makes sense to allow the use of the gifts in as broad a venue as possible. Through this change in the Book of Order, presbyteries, churches and CPs will benefit in many ways. Some instances of that are:

1. Some who are serving churches as lay leaders have expressed an interest in becoming a CP but have not pursued that path because they want to serve more than one church. By this change, the call to become a CP may attract a larger number of candidates.
2. CPs who are not currently commissioned to a church are ready on the quick to fill empty pulpits provide as pool of CPs ready on the quick to fill empty pulpits.
3. Because of the expanded role of a CP, congregations will more likely opt for a CP in small, chronic empty pulpits in rural areas when a teaching elder is not available. Hopefully, the congregations will see the advantage of a trained pastor who will be readily available.
4. This change is consistent with the Presbyterian call to those who are called to be proclaimers of the word.
5. This change lifts the title, the calling and the professionalism of this role from location to location.
6. CPs gain experience and wisdom that can be shared at presbytery and council meetings.

¹ Strikethrough text are deletions; underline and bolded text are additions.

The Synod of the Sun overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to approve the geographic districts of its presbyteries as follows:

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Arkansas consists of the counties of Arkansas, Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clark, Cleburne, Conway, Craighead, Crawford, Cross, Desha, Faulkner, Franklin, Fulton, Garland, Grant, Greene, Hot Spring, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Lawrence, Lee, Logan, Lonoke, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Montgomery, Newton, Perry, Phillips, Pike, Poinsett, Polk, Pope, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, St. Francis, Saline, Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, Washington, White, Woodruff and Yell, all in the state of Arkansas.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Cimarron consists of the counties of Alfalfa, Beaver, Blaine, Cimarron, Dewey, Ellis, Garfield, Grant, Harper, Kay, Kingfisher, Logan, Major, Noble, Payne, Texas, Woods, and Woodward, all in the state of Oklahoma.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma consists of the counties of Adair, Atoka, Bryan, Cherokee, Choctaw, Coal, Craig, Creek, Delaware, Haskell, Latimer, Johnston (the county subdivision of East Johnston), LeFlore, McCurtain, McIntosh, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pawnee, Pittsburg, Pushmataha, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington, all in the state of Oklahoma.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Grace consists of the counties of Anderson, Bell, Bosque, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Cherokee, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Franklin, Freestone, Grayson, Gregg, Hamilton, Harrison, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Hopkins, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Lamar, Limestone, Marion, McLennan, Milam, Mills, Morris, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Panola, Parker, Rains, Red River, Rockwall, Rusk, Shelby, Smith, Somervell, Tarrant, Titus, Upshur, Van Zandt, Wise, and Wood, all in the state of Texas.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Indian Nations consists of the counties of Beckham, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cleveland, Comanche, Cotton, Custer, Garvin, Grady, Greer, Harmon, Hughes, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnston (the county subdivisions of Tishomingo and West Johnston), Kiowa, Lincoln, Love, Marshall, McClain, Murray, Oklahoma, Pontotoc, Pottawatomie, Roger Mills, Seminole, Stephens, Tillman, and Washita, all in the state of Oklahoma.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Mission consists of the counties of Aransas, Atascosa, Bandera, Bastrop, Bee, Bexar, Blanco, Brooks, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Cameron, Comal, Coryell, DeWitt, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, Fayette, Frio, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Lampasas, Lavaca, Lee, Live Oak, Llano, Mason, Matagorda (that portion west of the Colorado River), Maverick, McCulloch, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Nueces, Real, Refugio, San Patricio, San Saba, Starr, Travis, Uvalde, Val Verde, Victoria, Webb, Wharton (that portion west of the Colorado River), Willacy, Williamson, Wilson, Zapata, and Zavala, all in the state of Texas.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of New Covenant consists of the counties of Angelina, Austin, Brazoria, Brazos, Burlison, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Grimes, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Matagorda (that portion east of the Colorado River), Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Robertson, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto,

Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller, Washington, and Wharton (that portion east of the Colorado River), all in the state of Texas.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Palo Duro consists of the counties of Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Baylor, Borden, Briscoe, Brown, Callahan, Carson, Castro, Childress, Clay, Cochran, Coleman, Collingsworth, Comanche, Cottle, Crosby, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Eastland, Fisher, Floyd, Foard, Garza, Gray, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hardeman, Hartley, Haskell, Hemphill, Hockley, Hutchinson, Jack, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Lamb, Lipscomb, Lubbock, Lynn, Mitchell, Montague, Moore, Motley, Nolan, Ochiltrie, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Roberts, Scurry, Shackelford, Sherman, Stephens, Stonewall, Swisher, Taylor, Terry, Throckmorton, Wheeler, Wichita, Wilbarger, Yoakum, and Young, all in the state of Texas.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of the Pines consists of the counties of Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Cleveland, Columbia, Dallas, Drew, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Lincoln, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, and Union, all in the state of Arkansas; and the parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, LaSalle, Lincoln, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Red River, Richland, Sabine, Tensas, Union, Webster, West Carroll, and Winn, all in the state of Louisiana.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of South Louisiana consists of the parishes of Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafourche, Lafayette, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Point Coupee, Rapides, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana, all in the state of Louisiana.

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Tres Rios consists of the counties of Andrews, Brewster, Coke, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, El Paso, Gaines, Jeff Davis, Glasscock, Howard, Hudspeth, Irion, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton, Terrell, Tom Green, Upton, Ward, and Winkler, all in the state of Texas.

Rationale

In 2021 the Office of the General Assembly initiated a project to develop a database with the descriptions of each presbytery's geographic district, as well as a precise and accurate map. When the process revealed a variety of discrepancies and needs for clarification, OGA had conversations with mid council leaders in every synod to resolve identified issues. Agreements developed during those consultations resulted in these clear descriptions, now presented to the General Assembly for approval.

Synod of the Sun

2024 Spring Assembly | February 27

Presbyterian Mission Center, Irving, TX



**SYNOD
OF THE SUN**

Rev. Mitchell Lee Miller

Mitch was born in Norman, Ok, but grew up on a dairy farm in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Growing up in the church, his earliest memories revolve around the church leading to his role as Donegal Presbytery Youth Observer to Synod of the Trinity's annual meeting in 1984 and YAD to the PCUSA General Assembly in 1985.

At this time Mitch became involved in Presbytery and Synod committee work. He earned his BS in Education/History from Millersville University in 1987, and His MDiv from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia in 1995. Ordained as a Ruling Elder for Chestnut Level Presbyterian Church, Quarryville, PA in 1987, he later served as the Youth Director of First PC, Strasburg, PA. Ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in June, 1995, Mitch served as pastor to Falling Waters PC, Hedgesville, WV and Fallston PC, Fallston, MD before answering his latest call to Santa Fe PC in Edmond, OK in 2009.



Mitch has served on a number of synod and presbytery committees since his ordination in 1987, including areas of Christian Education, Youth Ministry, New Church Development, Congregational Support, and most recently, COM. He has served on both the Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Foundation and the Indian Nations Presbytery Foundation boards. Mitch served as the INP Commissioner to the Synod of the Sun (2017-2022), and as the 2020 Moderator and 2021 and 2022 Coordinating Team Chair for the Synod of the Sun.

Mitch is an experienced small group, workshop, worship, and retreat leader, and is a certified Spiritual Director. Mitch and his wife Leigh have been married since 1995 and have two grown children, Nathan and Emma. He enjoys history, story-telling, folklore, whittling, balloon twisting and the majesty of the great out doors.

Terms as follows:

\$103,000.00 - Effective Salary

\$40,170.00 - Board of Pensions

\$6,386.00 - SECA Reimbursement

\$2,000.00 - Professional Expenses

\$2,500.00 - Professional Development

Start Date will be May 1, 2024

Mitch will work with Steve the first two weeks and then take time off (3-4 weeks) to move, ect., then will be back at work June 12.

Synod will cover moving expenses when the time comes.

Attachment H



**SYNOD
OF THE SUN**

Network Reports

Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery

Synod of the Sun Assembly

February 2024 Report

The SPDR Leadership Group consists of Jim Kirk (2022), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Matt Miles (2022), Tres Rios Presbytery; Cheryl Pennington (2024), Indian Nations Presbytery; Stewart Smith (2024), Presbytery of Arkansas; Richard Williams (2022), Presbytery of South Louisiana; and Steve Shive (2023), Interim Bridge Synod Leader and Stated Clerk, Synod of the Sun.

The Leadership Group met in-person on November 28-30, 2024 to present to the EP Forum SPDR's activities and accomplishments in 2023, as well as to conduct a review of the partnership and to identify partnership goals for 2024. **The 2024 SPDR goals are to:**

- Refine and clarify the responsibilities of PDA, SPDR and its Leadership Group, Presbytery Liaisons, and local Presbytery disaster committees/task forces in times of disasters
- Develop and organize workshops and training events for presbyteries and congregations, with particular emphasis on emotional/spiritual care, Long Term Recovery, and how individuals can engage in disaster response and recovery,
- Enhance the communication and storytelling of SPDR, and
- Create and implement a Synod event designed for Presbytery Liaisons and Presbytery disaster committees/task forces to strengthen disaster preparedness, response and recovery capacities

SPDR Director's Report: 2024 has already tested our SPDR network with several severe storm systems and arctic weather impacting several presbyteries. On February 7th, Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery applied for a Church Damage Grant to PDA to support St. James PC (Jenks, OK) who suffered water damage from a burst pipe.

The SPDR Presbytery Liaison's Team met last month and began discussions of an in-person Training/Retreat event in the Fall to strengthen the Liaison Team's relationships and capacity to serve Synods and Presbyteries through SPDR.

A new **12 Step Guide to Building Resiliency** was released in January with additional resources, podcasts, and more social media content to come, designed to inspire disaster preparedness and response activities with congregational and presbytery leaders.

Upcoming SPDR Director's travel include:

- March 1-2: Presbytery of Arkansas Meeting, Clarksville, AR
- March 8-9: Tres Rios Presbytery Meeting, San Angelo, TX
- March 13-14: Recovery Work Site Visit with OK ROAD
- March 15-19: PDA National Response Team Annual Conference, Mo-Ranch, TX

Respectfully submitted,

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

HISPANIC MINISTRIES MISSION NETWORK of the SYNOD OF THE SUN RED DE MINISTERIOS HISPANOS del SINODO DEL SOL

2/15/2024

REPORT / INFORME

2024 marks the **10th Anniversary** of the Hispanic Ministries Mission Network (HMMN) as a validated Network of the Synod of the Sun. And it is with gratitude to God Almighty for this first decade of challenges, discernments, learnings, and blessings.

BEGININGS

In 2014, under the guidance of the Reverend Rubén Armendáriz (HR), a team of Hispanic leaders started a process to reorganize the former *Hispanic American Ministries Council* (HAMC) into the Network structure required by the Synod of the Sun for the new relationship with its Racial Ethnic constituencies. The planning process produced a goals and objectives document in which the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary became the institution providing the logistic support for HMMN events and financial administration through its Education Beyond the Walls Office.

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Annual Convocations at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Campus have been held in the spring of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (canceled due to the pandemic), 2021 (virtual), and the fall of 2022. 2023 was skipped due to logistical challenges as churches came out of COVID. Our 2024 meeting is happening Friday the 8th and Saturday the 9th of March 2024. The Rev. Dr. Daniel Beteta (HR) and Dr. Patricia Bonilla, Austin Seminary Christian Education Assistant Professor, are our 2024 Keynote speakers.

Every year, keynote speakers and lectures have been given by General Assembly staff and former Co-Moderators, Seminary Professors, as well as National and Regional Hispanic Leaders. HMMN **by-Laws** were updated in 2021 and formally approved in 2022 when the co-moderators leadership model was adopted. HMMN is very grateful to the Synod of the Sun for its financial, administrative, and spiritual support.

CHALLENGES and HOPES

Hispanic Ministries in the Synod of the Sun are concentrated in the Texas Presbyteries of Mission, Grace, New Covenant, and Tres Rios.-To date there are no validated Hispanic Ministries in the Presbyteries of Palo Duro, Cimarron, Indian Nations, Eastern Oklahoma, Arkansas, Pines, and South Louisiana.

However in Texas, during the past decade the number of Hispanic Congregations and Ordained Active Pastors has decreased, with Ordained Pastors being replaced, in some cases by Commissioned Lay Pastors. Nevertheless, our Network is a beacon of hope to current Hispanic Leaders for a future of spiritual and numerical growth.

EXPECTATIONS from THE SYNOD of THE SUN

HMMN encourages the Synod to be more intentional in supporting all its validated Networks, especially by enhancing and creating collaboration opportunities between Synod Racial Ethnic Networks. HMMN encourages the Synod to be more proactive, through its Presbyteries, in the sustainability of existing Hispanic Congregations as well as projecting new Hispanic Latino outreach within its bounds. HMMN joins You in lifting up the Synod's many ministries, networks and programs in prayer, and welcomes the opportunity to share its experiences and "know how" throughout the Synod

En Cristo:

Rev. Ezequiel Herrera and Rev. Dr. Jesse González (HR) - Co-Moderators.

Deacon Miguel Carlin - Secretary. Elder Bernabé Martínez - Treasurer.

CRE Estela Sifuentes - Historian.

Synod Youth Workshop

Plans for Synod Youth Workshop (SYW) 2024 are going well. The theme, “We are Enough” is generating a lot of excitement! It was developed by the 7 youth planning team members, representing Mission, Tres Rios and Grace presbyteries in conjunction with Keynote Speaker, the Rev. Josh Robinson of Hope Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX. Planning team youth will be a visible and important part of leadership during the conference. They will lead all of the music, drama, recreation and large group vespers.

On the fourth day all participants will engage in service projects throughout the city of Tulsa. Each small group will be assigned to a non-profit for the day. This is a powerful component of Synod Youth Workshop. Recently a PCUSA church in Minneapolis, MN, contacted Synod Youth Workshop Coordinator, Gary Holloman, to discuss including their youth and adults who will be on a mission trip in Tulsa during the week of SYW. Gary is working with them to incorporate their participants into the service project groups. They will also attend worship and the variety show that evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce and welcome participants from another synod, as the leadership of SYW continues to focus on including participants from more churches in and outside of Synod of the Sun.

Registration is now open for rising ninth graders through graduated seniors. All participants will be in small groups with members from other churches. They will be housed with their home groups.

The conference will once again be held at the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The director for 2024 is John Mark Solomon from St. Barnabas, Richardson, TX. The assistant director, Sandy Barber is a member of First Presbyterian, Bonham. The dates for Synod Youth Workshop are July 8-13, 2024

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW) OF SYNOD OF THE SUN

presbyterianwomen.org

2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women

August 8 – 11, 2024

Marriott Grand Hotel, St. Louis, Missouri

Theme: “Do everything in love” – I Corinthians 16:14

Registration

Gathering registration will open March 2024.

Three registration options are available

Full Registrant | \$450

In-person Gathering of Presbyterian Women begins with dinner on Thursday, August 8 and ends with morning worship on Sunday, August 11. Full registration is your ticket to community, learning and worship with PW siblings from across the country, workshops from inspiring leaders, shopping, three provided meals, book groups, opportunities for spiritual development and the incomparable energy of more than 1,000 PWs gathering to “Do everything in love.”

One-Day Registrant (Friday or Saturday only) | \$150

Enjoy the day’s plenary sessions, provided meal of the day and select from the day’s programming options. Attend up to three workshops, visit the exhibit hall, bookstore and silent auction, and/or join a book group!

Online Registrant | \$150

Slide up to your computer (or grab your smart phone!) to take in the large-group plenary sessions, worship and select workshops.

***We are encouraging ALL to Build a Virtual Bouquet with proceeds going to the PW Annual Fund.**

Build a Bouquet

New, the “Build a Bouquet” campaign invites us to celebrate all the individuals and programs that help Presbyterian Women bloom in so many spectacular ways and places.

Your gift will strengthen Presbyterian Women’s Annual Fund, the soil from which every PW ministry grows. After you give online, you’ll receive a link to several floral cards that can be downloaded or emailed as a symbol of your gift.

What is the “Build a Bouquet” campaign?

We cultivate our PW garden every time we nurture our PW Purpose, either individually or as a community. Every kindness, every prayer, every instance we build our PW community through participation and support, we beautify God’s world through loving service as Presbyterian Women. In other words, together, in faithful community, we are in full beautiful bloom!

Your online gift to the “Build a Bouquet” campaign will be recognized with a thank-you email and receipt (of course!), and you will also receive a card featuring a bouquet. The card may be emailed to the person or group you honored, or you can save or print the card as a visual reminder of the many blooms in the PW garden.

[Download a Build a Bouquet flier/order form to share the word about this campaign.](#)

[Download “In Full Bloom,” a *Horizons* article that digs into what this campaign means for PW.](#)

These symbolic bouquets will be displayed (digitally!) during the [2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women](#).

What flowers or donation amounts are available?

You may give any amount. Following are the flowers with minimum donation amounts, along with lilies, which can be given in memorial at any amount.

Flower	Minimum Donation
Carnations	\$10
Tulips	\$25
Daisies	\$35
Sunflowers	\$45
Mixed bouquet	\$55
Roses	\$100
Community garden	\$500
Lilies	\$10

Online gifts must be at least \$10 due to processing fees.

Can I mail my gift?

Yes! Send your check with the bouquet option you choose with pertinent details (your name and address, email address and telephone number, the type of bouquet) to: Presbyterian Women, Inc., Remittance Processing—Giving, PO Box 643652, Pittsburgh PA 15264-3652.

You will receive a receipt letter via mail, which will include a link to cards that may be emailed or downloaded/printed.

Will a bouquet be mailed to recognize my gift?

You will receive a link to a variety of card options, each featuring one of the lovely flower options listed above. You may download/print or email the card that corresponds to your gift.

What will my gift fund?

Your gift will go to [PW’s Annual Fund](#).

2024 Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women

Recipients:

**Advocates for Community Choice
dba Bethel Hills**

Villa 5 Apartments and Recreation area

Marthasville, Missouri

Bethelhills.org

\$123,500

Shawnee Presbyterian Church

Café Gingko

Louisville, Kentucky

facebook.com/louisvilleshawneepresbyterian

\$150,000

***please visit presbyterianwomen.org for more information**

UP-COMING in 2025:

2025 Synod of the Sun Gathering of Presbyterian Women

July 24 – 26, 2025

First United Presbyterian Church

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, Arkansas

IMAGINE

Going to the Edges and Discovering Life

November 6-8, 2024

New Orleans, LA



Explore, listen, and learn from ministry partners and communities operating at the intersection of systemic poverty, structural racism, and congregational vitality.

**What is happening here?
How does it inspire our ministry?**

Partners include:

Okra Abbey | Louisiana Just Recovery Network | Synod of the Sun
RHINO | Young Adult Volunteers | Berean Community Center
St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church

Save the Dates:

November 6-8, 2024 (as a part of Fall Synod Assembly)
More information and registration coming soon