

*The Synod of the Sun of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) serves Christ by
connecting, equipping, and empowering
Presbyterians for Christ's mission within and beyond the Synod's bounds.*

What does it mean to be a Synod Commissioner?

Commissioners serve as leaders and missionaries of the synod. They are called to seek and to discern the mind of Christ, interpret the mission and actions of the synod, and serve as an agent of Christ's mission in the region and member presbyteries.

What kinds of gifts, experience, and abilities do I need to have to be a Synod Commissioner?

As the synod continues to grow toward a more missional body, there is an ongoing need to communicate these changes and to develop ways and means by which the synod can continue to connect, equip, and empower. The synod needs leaders with a variety of gifts and skills in the areas of media and communications, finance, and development, among others, and with a heart for mission and ministry.

If elected by my presbytery as a Synod Commissioner, what is expected of me?

Commissioners are the direct link to constituent presbyteries and will maintain regular communication with their presbytery. Whenever possible, commissioners will secure time on their presbytery's meeting docket in order to provide a report of the work of the synod. Where a personal report is not possible, a written report will be provided for publication.

Every commissioner serves on one of three Standing Committees (Connecting, Equipping, Empowering). As a Commissioner to the synod, you are expected to fully participate in the life and work of the synod and your committee.

Do I get to choose which Standing Committee I serve on?

YES! God calls each of us independently, with special gifts for God's own purposes. We believe that you go and serve where God calls. Detailed descriptions of the Standing Committees is attached at the end of this document.

(continued on reverse)

How is the work of the commissions accomplished with in such a large geographical region?

Much of the work of synod is conducted primarily through email, conference calls, and video conferencing between Synod Assemblies. Depending on the committee, it is possible that there will be an occasional face to face meeting in a central location.

Are there other people active in the work of the Synod work that are not Synod Commissioners?

Co-opted and corresponding members, as well as synod staff, offer a unique perspective of the execution of the synod's mission.

Anyone can serve on one of the standing committees (Connecting, Equipping, Empowering). Persons who are not elected Commissioners are welcome to attend a Synod Assembly at their own cost. While they may be recognized as a Corresponding member, they would have voice but not vote on the Assembly floor.

How many Synod Commissioners are there?

Each Presbytery within the Synod of the Sun elects two Commissioners to serve a three-year term. In addition, the Synod itself elects six (6) At-large Commissioners in an effort to assure representation of all cultural groups of the Synod, and two (2) from the board of the synod's current designated mission.

How do I learn more about what the synod does and how it operates?

First, check out www.synodsun.org. The Toolbox page has all the relevant policies and bylaws. We hope poking around on the website will give you a real feel for the mission and ministry of the synod.

If you still have questions, call or email Valerie Young, Synod Leader & Stated Clerk valerie.young@synodsun.org.

STRUCTURE IN SERVICE TO MISSION

Connecting Committee

Charged with nurturing relationships between synod and the world! (i.e. Congregations; Presbyteries; Covenant Institutions & Agencies; PC(USA) Agencies)

- Presbyteries/Congregations
- Covenant Relationships
- Communication and maintenance of relationships (i.e. Synod Sunday; Video Bank; Conversations with the Clerk; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)
- Develop new and creative ways of strengthening relationships between and among the Body of Christ.

Community: *we live as the Body of Christ when we foster relationships, share responsibility, embrace diversity, and ensure every voice is heard (Acts 2:42-47; Romans 15:5-7; Ephesians 4:1-6; Galatians 3:26-28)*

Equipping Committee

Charged with oversight and development of that which equips presbyteries and the synod to live into their call to ministry. (i.e. Synod Communications Services Plan, as well as Synod Personnel)

- All aspects of the Communications Services Plan
- EP & Clerks (Forum; COM & leadership training)
- Develop new and creative ways of equipping Presbytery leadership and strengthening communications with and between presbyteries and the world.

Responsiveness: *we build Christ's church when we train leaders, support mission partners, connect resources to needs, and communicate effectively (Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:16-18)*

Empowering Committee

Charged with development, nurture, and empowerment of Synod Networks and providing deeper relationship through orientation. Networks should consist of participants from more than one presbytery, be responsive to emerging needs and locally generated initiatives seeking to fulfill a purpose beyond the reach of a single presbytery.

- Development
- Support
- Maintenance
- Celebration
- Orientation and interpretation

Openness: *we seek the Spirit of Christ when we listen for new ideas, voices, and methods in our midst; and practice transparency and accountability in our corporate life (Isaiah 43:19; John 3:21; 2 Corinthians 4:2)*

Functionality: *we fulfill the call of Christ when we place structures and resources in service to mission not institutional self-preservation (Mark 8:34-35; 2 Corinthians 9:8)*