

Room at the Table

Glossary for DVD

Connectional Church: The Presbyterian Church (USA) consists of separate governing bodies that are united in a relationship governed by their common commitment to serve Jesus Christ (*Book of Order*, Chapter 9)

Church Member: A person who responds in trust and obedience to God's grace in Jesus Christ and desires to be part of the church's fellowship and ministry and mission. (*Book of Order*, Chapter 5)

Session: In a church, the Session consists of the Pastor or Co-Pastors, the Associate Pastors, and the Elders in active service. They are responsible for the mission and governing of a congregation. (*Book of Order*, Chapter 10)

Presbytery: All the Presbyterian (USA) congregations and Ministers of Word and Sacrament located in a certain geographic area. When it meets, each church is represented by an Elder commissioned by Session. It is responsible for the mission and government of the church throughout its geographical area. (*Book of Order*, Chapter 11)

Synod: All the Presbyterian (USA) Presbyteries located in a certain geographic area. There must not be fewer than three Presbyteries. Elders and Ministers are elected as Commissioners in equal numbers, as well as other determined by the Synod. It is responsible for mission and government of the church throughout its geographical area. The office of the Synod of the Trinity is in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. (*Book of Order*, Chapter 12)

General Assembly: This is the highest governing body in the denomination and represents the unity of the Synod, Presbyteries, Sessions, and Congregations in the Presbyterian Church (USA). It meets every two years and each Presbytery elects equal numbers of Elders and Ministers to serve as Commissioners. The office of the General Assembly are in Louisville, Kentucky,

Leadership Development: In addition to the responsibilities listed in Chapter 12 of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) *Book of Order*, the Synod's basic priority for the next three years will be Leadership Development. We are called by God as the Synod of the Trinity to live as demonstration communities of the Kingdom of God, and therefore, in partnership with our 16 Presbyteries, we will transform and grow churches by training, coaching and equipping leaders.

Missional Church: "God provides all the gifts necessary for the future that God prefers and promises each local church...each journey begins where you are, not where you should be or where the ideal church is or should be...the journey begins with, 'We are here now.'" Missional churches understand themselves as "called, gathered, and sent in God's mission." (Taken from *We Are Here Now* by the Rev. Dr. Patrick Keifert)

Synod Commissioners: One Elder and one Minister from each Presbytery. Also, there are six racial ethnic at-large Commissioners. There are also Young Adult Delegates. They meet three times each year and at other times as called by the Synod.

Synod Staff for 2008:

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevens, Synod Executive
The Rev. Lesley Imler Shoup, Synod Stated Clerk
Chantal Atnip, Synod Treasurer
Judy Kim, Synod Bookkeeper
Gwenn Egresitz, Synod Staff, Administrative Assistant
Catherine Gray, Synod Staff, Administrative Assistant
Marcia Humer, Synod Staff, Administrative Assistant

Synod Summer Conference: Every summer, the Synod hosts a conference with keynote speakers, workshops, worship, and a time for Presbyterians in the Synod (and beyond) to get together and learn more about the missional church, leadership development, and other important issues. The next Summer Conference will be June 10-12, 2009, at Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

"Table Talks": The Synod officers initiated this way of meeting with Commissioners, Executive Presbyters, and others throughout the Synod. Conversations around either a lunch or a dinner have been held to focus on a particular subject and bring the information learned back to Synod meetings.

Trinity Youth Conference (TYC): One of six Synod Mission Networks, this yearly summer conference focuses on youth and developing faith, as well as inspiring youth's leadership abilities in the church.