



# The Rhythm of the Synod

Faith Notes from the Meeting of the Synod of the Trinity  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
A Special Called Virtual Synod Meeting  
March 8, 2011

Moderator Nan Best (Elder, Donegal) led the Synod in its first ever Virtual Meeting. Some people joined the meeting by online computer; some people joined the meeting by telephone; and some people joined using a combination of both online computer and telephone. A total of 58 individuals participated in this event!

Moderator Nan Best opened the meeting with prayer remembering our Synod Executive, the Rev. Bruce G. Stevens, who is home recuperating from very successful open heart surgery. He is expected to return to work after Easter.

Business undertaken at this meeting included approving a 2011 version of the legal assistance the Synod has been providing for presbyteries involved in property disputes being argued in civil courts. A similar motion was approved in each of the past three years.

A new member for the Synod's Self Development of People (SDOP) Committee was elected from the Presbytery of Pittsburgh. The Rev. Hendrik Bossers will join the Class of 2012 as a first term member.

There was a brief update on the Synod's interaction with the General Assembly's Middle Governing Bodies (MGB) Commission. Twenty persons have been invited to meet with two members of the MGB Commission in early May. Presbytery Stated Clerks from this Synod will spend an afternoon with two members of the MGB; and Presbytery Executives from this Synod will spend an evening with those same two members. The three dialogues will, hopefully, help bring ideas to the recommendations the MGB will be making to the General Assembly which will be meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 2012.

There was a multi-faceted discussion about the future of the Synod's Committee on Representation (COR). While the issues of diversity remain important to the Synod, ideas were shared concerning finding new, creative ways to make sure diversity is addressed in a steadfast and productive way. There have been meetings of the Synod COR since the inception of the "new" Synod in 2004. These have taken place on a regular basis (every year) either by conference call or in person. There have also been special training events prepared by the Synod COR, as well as materials made available to each Presbytery COR. There has been deep frustration at the seeming lack of interest in these activities.

The conversation went over the promised one-hour time frame set aside for this Virtual Meeting. When there was a motion, with support, to "table the original motion about changing the work of the COR, as well tabling an amendment to the main motion" the Commissioners participated in a roll call vote and agreed to table the motions. This means that if someone seeks to "take the motions from the table" at the next meeting of the Synod, there may be discussion and voting on these subjects. However, if there is no motion to take these items "from the table", the matter will end. If desired, the subject may be introduced at another time in a new way.

The next regular stated business meeting of the Synod of the Trinity will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at 1:30 PM until 4:00 PM at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania.

Submitted Joyfully in the Name of Christ by,  
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