

The Synod of the Trinity
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
2011 Summer Conference Meeting
June 5-6-7, 2011
Penn Stater Conference Center
State College, Pennsylvania

“A Church for the Community – A Community for the Church” A Conference Based on Acts 2 and Pentecost

Meeting at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania, about 150 persons met for worship and fellowship. They learned new and exciting things about what it means to be the church in 2011. One keynote speaker was the Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, a Washington, D.C. pastor, as well as a best-selling author. The other keynote speaker was the Rev. Phil Tom who was appointed by President Barak Obama to be the Director of the U.S. Department of Labor’s Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

[\(Attachment A\)](#)

These two dynamic individuals presented compelling ideas and provided inspiration for listeners. They encouraged people at the conference to live out increasingly spiritually significant in order to reach out and minister to various people groups who represent a diversity of ages, a variety of ethnicities, and a multiplicity of socio-economic backgrounds.

The 2011 Conference Planning Team was led by Co-Chairpersons James Ihlenfeld (Elder, Commissioner, Beaver-Butler) and Barbara Smith (Executive Presbyter, Clergy, Lackawanna). Team members included 2011 Synod Moderator Nan Best (Elder, Donegal); Conference Worship Coordinators R.C. Smith (Clergy, Lehigh) and Bill Carter (Clergy, Lackawanna). Special assistance was provided by Linda Williams and Delinda Donovan (Christian Educators, Pittsburgh). Synod staff members Lesley Imler Shoup (Associate Executive and Stated Clerk, Clergy, Washington) and Catherine Gray (Administrative Assistant, Elder, Carlisle) worked with the Planning Team. Conference assistance was provided by other Synod staff, as well as by the people of the Penn Stater Conference Center.

Sunday, June 5, 2011

A bookstore was set up by the Byron and Beth Borger, owners of the Hearts and Minds Bookstore from Dallastown, Pennsylvania. Byron Borger previewed some of the interesting books he had recently read and that were on sale during the conference.

After dinner, the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge (Pastor to the Presbytery, Pittsburgh) preached for the evening worship service. Special sacred music was provided by Brittany Tranbaugh. After the worship service, Brittany Tranbaugh presented a “coffeehouse concert” for conference participants.

Monday, June 6, 2011

Morning Keynote Presentations

After breakfast, Elder Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) spoke to conference participants. Her presence was greatly appreciated.

Carol Howard Merritt and Phil Tom also gave morning presentations their work in church and government and how the community can be greatly and positively affected by the church community within the local neighborhood.

Monday Worship

The Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle, pastor of the Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, preached and sang for a moving and motivating service of worship.

Workshops and Small Group Discussions

Workshops were led by The Rev. R.C. Smith ("Jazzing Up the Word: the Oral Performance of Scripture"); The Rev. Bill Carter ("We Need More Than a Praise Band: Preparing Worship Music for Here-and-Now Christians"); the Rev. Chris Scott ("www.Growing Young Together.com"); and "Conversations" with Carol Howard Merritt, Phil Tom, and Cynthia Bolbach.

Evening Event

After the evening meal, "Bill Carter and Presbybop" presented Jazz Vespers and followed this with a concert. The group was joined by Warren Cooper, an Elder from the Presbytery of Philadelphia and member of the Middle Governing Bodies Commission, and Aisha Brooks-Lytle.

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

Morning Keynote Presentations

Carol Howard Merritt and Phil Tom gave their closing presentations to the conference crowd. Their talks were deeply appreciated. Their ideas were thoughtful and encouraging.

Conference Closing Worship with the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Rev. Bill Carter preached for the Communion service. It was a meaningful way to end the event and a beautiful way to thank God for the special time everyone had spent together since Sunday afternoon/evening.

Conclusion of Conference

Offerings from the three worship services totaled \$1,797. This amount was divided and distributed to the Laughlin Memorial Chapel in the Presbytery of Upper Ohio Valley and the "Not for Sale" campaign which is working to stem the tide of slave labor around the world. Both mission projects specifically benefit children. It was the hope that these funds will help some of the youngest members of our population experience better lives and give them healthy opportunities to live freely and be treated fairly.

Box lunches were distributed to conference participants and evaluations were collected. Commissioners prepared for the Synod Business meeting.

1:30 PM Synod Business Meeting

The 2011 June Stated Business Meeting of the Synod of the Trinity met in Room 107 of the Penn Stater Conference Center located in State College, Pennsylvania within the bounds of the Presbytery of Huntingdon.

Call to Order and Prayer

Synod Moderator Nan Best (Elder, Donegal) called this second meeting of 2011 to order. She told the gathering that this was the Synod at work in its 294th year. She opened the meeting by praying: *"Holy and Faithful God, it is You in whom we have our very being. We confess that without You we are nothing. Forgive us when we fail to see Your presence in our dally walk. Make us whole as a people who want to follow You faithfully. We give thanks for the spirit of this year's conference, for worship, for study, for finding new and old friends. May the experiences of the gathered Church here be carried into congregations and even into the world, because we have learned more of Your call to be witnesses. As gathered people of the Synod of the Trinity make us deeply aware of the energy of the Holy Spirit in all we do here this day. Draw us together so that in our reporting, our discussing, and our debating, we may follow Your desire for us to be Christ in a world unaware of You. So,*

*Come, O Spirit, dwell among us,
Come with Pentecostal power;
Give the church a stronger vision,
Help us face each crucial hour.*

*Built upon a firm foundation, Jesus Christ, the cornerstone,
Still the church is called to mission*

that God's love shall be made known. (John a. Dallas, 1983)

We pray in the name of our Redeemer Christ, Amen.

Introductions

New Commissioners, Guests and Corresponding Members were introduced.

Attendance

Synod Commissioners Present (* indicates second term)

Beaver-Butler

The Rev. John Porter, Class of 2011; Elder James Ihlenfeld, Class of 2012*

Carlisle

The Rev. Dale Williams, Class of 2012*; Elder Debra Hough, Class 2013

Donegal

The Rev. Bill Netting, Class of 2011*; Elder Nan Best, Class of 2012*

Huntingdon

The Rev. Bob Dunkleberger, Class of 2011; Elder Kate Sillman, Class of 2013

Kiskiminetas

The Rev. Ann Miner, Class of 2012; Elder David Murphy, Class of 2013*

Lackawanna

The Rev. William Samford, Class of 2011*; Elder Margo Tomlinson, Class of 2011

Lake Erie

The Rev. Mary Kathryn Crom, Class of 2011; Elder Audrey Beckes, Class of 2012*

Lehigh

The Rev. Barty Abdelnour, Class of 2011; Elder Regina Olson-Lash, Class of 2012*

Northumberland

The Rev. Philip Sanders, Class 2013; No Elder

Philadelphia

The Rev. Barbara Chaapel, Class of 2012; Elder Priscilla Peters, Class of 2011

Pittsburgh

Elder Ann Strong, Class of 2012*

Redstone

Elder Susan Nesti, Class of 2011

Shenango

The Rev. Robert Dayton, Class of 2013*; Elder Ella Lee, Class of 2011

Upper Ohio Valley

The Rev. Robert Nagy, Class of 2013; No Elder

Washington

The Rev. Noah McIntee, Class of 2013

West Virginia

The Rev. James Robinson, Class of 2012; Elder Mavis Grant-Lilley, Class of 2013*

Synod Commissioners Excused

Pittsburgh – The Rev. Douglas Portz, Class of 2013

Redstone – The Rev. Neal Galley, Class of 2012*

Washington – Elder David Leslie, Class of 2013

At-Large Racial/Ethnic Commissioners Present

Huntingdon – The Rev. Stanley Bhasker, Class of 2013*

Philadelphia – Elder Barbara Adams-Smelter, Class of 2011

Pittsburgh – Elder Madelyn Formley, Class of 2011*

At-Large Racial/Ethnic Commissioners Excused

Carlisle – Elder Seong Hwan Kim, Class of 2011*

At-Large Racial/Ethnic Commissioner Absent

The Rev. Gemechisa Guja, Class of 2012

YAADs (Young Adult Advisory Delegates) for 2011

No YAADs were present.

Ex Officio Members of Synod Present

Presbytery Executives

Donegal – Erin Cox-Holmes
Huntingdon – Joy Kaufmann
Northumberland – William Knudsen
Lackawanna – Barbara Smith
Pittsburgh – Sheldon Sorge

Committee Chairpersons

Committee on Representation: None
Finance and Budget: Larry Davis (Philadelphia) - Excused
Grants and Scholarships: John Richey (Beaver-Butler)
Nominating: Janet Kephart (Huntingdon) - Excused
Personnel: David Bailey (Carlisle)
Presbyterian Women: Mary McElroy (Upper Ohio Valley)
Self Development of People: Eugene Brown (Philadelphia)

Synod Staff

Bruce Stevens, (Clergy, Carlisle) Synod Executive
Susan Faye Wonderland, (Clergy, Lackawanna) Associate Executive
Chantal Atnip, (Church Member, Carlisle) Treasurer
Lesley Shoup, (Clergy, Washington) Associate Executive and Stated Clerk
Catherine Gray (Elder, Carlisle), Administrative Assistant and Journal Clerk
Marcia Humer, Synod Administrative Assistant

Corresponding Members

Jean Kennedy (Elder, Pittsburgh), 2005 Synod Moderator
Gary Lyon (Clergy, Kiskiminetas), 2007 Synod Moderator
Diana Malcolm (Clergy, Huntingdon), State College Presbyterian Church
Jim Mohr (Clergy, Shenango), Westminster College Chaplain
Mary Speedy (Elder, Carlisle), 2008-2009 Synod Moderator

Guests

Virginia Miner; C. Kennedy; V. Shaeffer; R. Best; Joseph Steele; Julia Brooks

Declaration of a Quorum

The Stated Clerk, the Rev. Lesley Imler Shoup, declared that the quorum requirements of the *Book of Order* (G-12.0202: "A quorum shall be determined by the Synod. The quorum shall include an equal number of Elders and Ministers, representing at least three Presbyteries or one-third of its Presbyteries, whichever is larger.") and the Synod Standing Rules (Standing Rule 10.31: "A quorum of the Synod shall be twelve commissioners, at least six of whom shall be Elders and at least six of who shall be Ministers representing at least six Presbyteries.") were met, and the Synod could conduct business under the requirements of the Constitution. The Clerk also recommended that the roll of the first stated meeting of the Synod of the Trinity, meeting in its 294th year, be established by the list of Commissioners who had registered and that Corresponding Members be listed in the minutes as noted in the introductions.

The recommendation of the Stated Clerk was approved.

Report of Stated Clerk Lesley Shoup

Docket

The Stated Clerk presented the docket. ([Attachment B](#))

Since there were no questions or objections, the Moderator declared the docket ordered as presented.

Minutes of the March 2011 Special Called Business Meeting

The Stated Clerk reported that these minutes were sent to all Commissioners by e-mail or regular mail and were provided online since last week.

The minutes were approved as described in Standing Rule 10.27 a-c.

Presbytery Records Committee

The Stated Clerk submitted the report of the Presbytery Records Review Committee ([Attachment B.1](#)).

The report of the Presbytery Records Committee was unanimously accepted by the Commissioners.

Proposed Change in Synod Standing Rules

The proposed changes were sent out by e-mail and regular mail in accordance with the time parameters set forth in Synod Standing Rule 60.02 ([Attachment B.2](#)).

A motion was made and supported to change Standing Rule 10.21 which removes the second sentence and adds this sentence: *"Meetings shall be held in person or by web conferencing, except as noted in 10.26 a-j (e-mail meetings).*

The Synod Commissioners unanimously supported this change.

Other Reports

Communications Work Group ([Attachment B.3](#))

Grants and Scholarships Committee ([Attachment B.4](#))

Pennsylvania Council of Churches ([Attachment B.5](#))

Self Development of People ([Attachment B.6](#))

Report of Synod Treasurer Chantal Atnip

The Treasurer also reported for the Finance and Budget Committee.

General Finance Report ([Attachment C](#))

Audit

The 2010 audit was completed in record time. The Finance and Budget Committee will review the audit and the report and audit will be made available at the October 2011 Synod Business Meeting.

Summary Income Statement

This information was presented for review by the Synod Commissioners ([Attachment C.1](#)).

New Initiative Grants ([Attachment C.2](#))

There is a Team in place continuing on the work approved last October 2011 for the application process and finding on the best ways to help presbyteries make use of utilizing Synod reserve for mission. At the moment, two proposals are before the Team. Team members are: Barbara Adams-Smelter (Racial Ethnic At-Large Commissioner, Elder, Philadelphia); William Knudsen (Executive Presbyter, Clergy, Northumberland); John Porter (Synod Commissioner, Clergy, Beaver-Butler); Jim Robinson (Synod Commissioner and Acting Presbytery Stated Clerk, Clergy, West Virginia); Barbara Smith (Executive Presbyter, Clergy, Lackawanna); Chantal Atnip, Synod Treasurer, and Associate Executive Susan Faye Wonderland.

There was a motion from the Finance and Budget Committee to change the name to New Initiative Grants for Presbyteries.

There were no questions or comments, so the Moderator ordered the name change.

2012 Synod Per Capita

The Finance and Budget Committee recommended that Synod Per Capita for 2012 be set at \$2.20 per church member.

The Commissioners concurred with the recommendation of the Finance and Budget Committee and voted to set the Synod Per Capita for 2012 at \$2.20.

Report of Synod Executive, the Rev. Dr. Bruce G. Stevens ([Attachment D](#))

Dr. Stevens reported that he was in the process of receiving his certification as a Professional Coach. He had several conversations with a variety of persons concerning the General Assembly's Middle Governing Body Commission. There were three new clusters of churches involved in the Partnership for the Missional Church. There will be an independent review of some clusters. He was looking forward to the Futuring Event planned for July where three to four persons from each Presbytery will meet and discuss possibilities for the future of the presbyteries in this Synod.

Report of the Synod Network Team ([Attachment E](#))

Commissioners Ann Strong (Elder, Pittsburgh) and Mavis Grant-Lilley (Elder, West Virginia) who serve on the Team gave a report. They referred to the historical information about Networks which was in the packets Commissioners received. They invited each Commissioner to help get his or her Presbytery involved in knowing about networks by assisting current and newly developing Networks to understand what kinds of work is being done through Networks and how Network grants are obtained from the Synod.

A Time of Sharing About the 16 Presbyteries in our Synod

Beaver-Butler – It was reported that the Presbytery is working on an overture to the 2012 General Assembly that will address concerns about the recent acceptance of the overture commonly called “10A”. There is also disquiet throughout the Presbytery about the New Form of Government.

Carlisle – It was reported that five regional associates were hired and there have been gatherings throughout the Presbytery based on these the regional groupings. One event will host one of the original composers of the Belhar Confession.

Donegal – It was reported that people from outside the Presbytery talked about different points of view on difficult overtures before the Presbytery voted on these issues. A sense of unity and bonding came about through five round table discussions that began with scripture study. The discussions were centered on the theme – “How Can You Think That Way?” – people were encouraged to talk about how and why they made decisions about some of the more controversial overtures before the denomination.

Huntingdon – It was reported that discussions took place about the Belhar Confession, the New Form of Government, and “10A”. There was a Presbytery conference on “Whether to Be a Big Tent or a Small Tent” denomination and/or Presbytery.

Kiskiminetas – It was reported that using FAQ sheets and conversations, the Presbytery communicated with pastors and elders about the Belhar Confession, the New Form of Government, and “10A”.

Lackawanna – It was reported that there were strong feelings about the different overtures in the Presbytery, but it was more of a family atmosphere where people have been accepting of each other’s opinion. They had discussions and small group meetings. No animosity, but all three – Belhar Confession, New Form of Government, and “10A” were voted down in the Presbytery voting.

Lake Erie – It was reported that invitations were sent out for churches to discuss the various overtures. Some voting still left to do. The Presbytery voted on a new Mission Statement and is using this one page statement to measure things they are doing.

Lehigh – It was reported that there had not been much discussion on “10A”. Some voting had been done and some was yet to come.

Northumberland – It was reported that Presbytery conversations took place on the three main overtures. All three – Belhar Confession, New Form of Government, and “10A” did not pass in this Presbytery.

Philadelphia – It was reported that the Presbytery felt that the Belhar Confession holds up the unity of the church and it received a “yes” vote. The Presbytery voted against the new Form of Government and voted for “10A”. Before each vote was taken there were small group discussions and scripture study.

Pittsburgh – It was reported that the Presbytery voted “yes” on the Belhar Confession and “no” on the new Form of Government and “10A”. Small group meetings have been held about these issues and will probably continue for other matters before the Presbytery.

Redstone – It was reported that the 80 congregations represented in a recent Presbytery meeting voted to certify a Christian Educator. They also voted “no” on the Belhar Confession and the New Form of Government.

Shenango – It was reported that there have been a lot of small and informal discussions about the overtures. These have been rather “rancorous” and while there has not yet been a vote on the Belhar Confession, the Presbytery voted “no” to the New Form of Government and “10A”.

Upper Ohio Valley – It was reported that the Presbytery is excited about their Malawi partnership and visits with their friends from Africa. There is also interest and enthusiasm surrounding the work of New Church Development being started within the Presbytery. All three controversial overtures were voted down.

Washington – It was reported that there was discussion time before each vote was taken on the three controversial overtures. There was a “no” vote on all three overtures.

West Virginia – It was reported that there were extensive conversations but no rancor about the overtures. There were “yes” votes on all three controversial overtures. Most people throughout the Presbytery held a wait-and-see attitude. The Presbytery is writing an overture to the 2012 General Assembly to ask General Assembly Commissioners to declare a hiatus on all overtures for the two years after the 2012 General Assembly. Prayer for the work in this Presbytery was requested.

Prayer by Moderator Nan Best

Moderator Best called the Commissioners to a time of prayer. *“Gracious God! Today we do thank you for the work of the staff of the Synod - Bruce, Sue, Lesley, Chantal, Catherine, Marcia, Gwenn and Judy. They provide so much for our existence as we prepare for meetings, reports, and activities year by year.*”

We are truly blessed by their faithfulness. May we always grow together as we stand in common ministry. Now Lord, we have shared how our presbyteries and congregations have been responding to the crucial issues before us in the PCUSA. In the midst of narrow voting results, differing understandings, and fear of the future, we long for a stronger bond in ministry within our denomination. May we, indeed, rely on Your love and grace. May we learn from each other through the amazing power of Your Spirit. Bring members together in prayer, study and conversation. Let us honor each other in all ways. We will find our voices joining together A WE DO Your work: bearing Good news, ministering to the needy and showing love to outcasts. Show us more faithful ways – with greater commitment – to be the Face of Christ in all we do and say. In the Resurrected, Living Christ we pray, Amen.

Report of Presbyterian Women in the Synod, Moderator Mary McElroy
(Attachment F)

Mrs. McElroy noted that her term ended in the month of June and she was glad to have served with the Synod Commissioners (Presbyterian Women in the Synod Moderator has voice and vote in meetings of the Synod). She said that Susan Mummert will be the next Moderator.

Report of the Synod Personnel Committee, David Bailey **(Attachment G)**

The committee worked on updating the evaluation process for all Synod staff. It was announced that Mrs. Judy Kim was retiring at the end of June.

The committee moved that the Synod approve a resolution to be framed and presented to Mrs. Kim during the reception for her retirement. (Attachment G.1)

This resolution was unanimously approved by the Synod Commissioners.

Report of the Nominating Committee **(Attachment H)**

On behalf of the Synod Nominating Committee, Lesley Shoup presented the following names for election:

Committee on Representation

Class of 2013 – Carol Evan LeBlanc (Clergy, Huntingdon, first term)

Class of 2014 – Robert Edmundson (Clergy, Carlisle, first term)

Finance

Class of 2014 - Joy Kaufmann (Clergy, Huntingdon, second term)

Grants and Scholarships

Class of 2014 - Ed Martin (Elder, Donegal, first term)

Nominating (only serve up to one three year term)

Class of 2012 – Mary Jane Knapp (Clergy, West Virginia)

Class of 2012 – Janet McCune Edwards (Clergy, Pittsburgh)

Permanent Judicial Commission (only serve up to one six year term)

Class of 2017 – Elaine Lenyo (Elder, Donegal)

Class of 2017 – Christina Hosler (Clergy, Washington)

Self Development of People

Class of 2014 – Gene Gordon (Clergy, Northumberland, first term)

Class of 2014 – Patrick Sileo (Clergy, Redstone, second term)

Class of 2014 – Mary Kathryn Crom (Clergy, Lake Erie, first term)

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations from the floor.

There was a motion, with support, to close the nominations and elect the individuals presented by the Nominating Committee.

This was unanimously agreed upon by the Synod Commissioners.

Report of Campus Ministry Task Group, the Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland
(Attachments I)

Task Group members Diane Malcolm (Clergy, Huntingdon, Pastor) and Jim Mohr (Clergy, Shenango, Campus Chaplain) assisted Rev. Wonderland with this report.

There was a motion with support to accept the purpose of Campus Ministry in the Synod of the Trinity as detailed in the paper "Campus Ministry: Why?"

This was approved by the Synod Commissioners.

There was a motion with support to accept the paper "Marks of Covenantal Campus Ministry" which describes what the Synod will be seeking in a relationship with a Campus Ministry.

This was approved by the Synod Commissioners.

The paper "Self-Evaluation/Application – Covenantal Camus Ministry" was provided for information only.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

There was a motion, with support, to close the second business meeting of the Synod of the Trinity meeting in its 294th year. The next meeting shall be October 10-11, 2011 at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania, in the Presbytery of Huntingdon.

This motion was approved by the Synod Commissioners.

Moderator Nan Best closed the meeting with this prayer: *"Gracious and Ever-Faithful God - Your abiding presence is truly constant through all times. This day we have gathered as the Synod of the Trinity in its 294th year. We have come together as the Church of Jesus Christ in this truly unique time. We ask that wisdom and patience will follow us in a new governing document of nFOG. Give the PCUSA congregations, presbyteries and synods strength in the midst of change. Together we seek to be faithful to your call to carry the Gospel into all the world including our own congregations and neighborhoods. Above all the clamor around us, let our chief desire be to show Christ to the world, down streets and avenues where Jesus is the 'Unknown God'. Show us how to be the face of Christ as we return to the places where we live and serve. Now bless us with safe travel and loving hearts until we meet again. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."*

Sincerely Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lesley Imler Shoup". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Lesley Imler Shoup, Synod Stated Clerk
Elder Catherine Gray, Synod Journal Clerk



A Community for the Church

"The promise is for you and your children and to all who are far off,
for all whom the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:39

The Synod of the Trinity

Summer Conference - June 5-6-7, 2011

The Penn Stater Conference Center, State College, Pennsylvania

Featuring Keynoters

The Rev. Carol Howard Merritt

Author of "Tribal Church" and "Reframing Hope"

The Rev. Philip Tom

Director - U.S. Department of Labor's

Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Elder Cynthia Bolbach

Moderator of the 219th General Assembly P.C. (U.S.A.)

\$250 Single Room \$200 Double Room \$100 Commuter

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The Synod of the Trinity Stated Business Meeting
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, June 7, 2011 1:30 PM – 4:00 PM
Docket Dated: May 17, 2011

- 1:30 PM Call to Order** Opening Prayer and Welcome - Moderator Nan Best
- 1:40 Quorum Statement and Presentation of Docket (Attachment A)
Presbytery Records Review Report (Attachment B)
- 1:45 Finance and Budget Committee Report (Attachment C)
- 2:00 Synod Executive Report
- 2:10 Network Team Report (Attachment D)
- 2:20 Discussion about Synod Committee on Representation (Attachment E)
- 2:35 Break
- 2:40 Reactions within Presbyteries: 10-A; nFOG; Belhar Confession
- 2:50 Update on PCUSA Middle Governing Body Commission
- 2:55 Presbyterian Women (Attachment F)
- 3:00 Personnel Committee Report (Attachment G)
- 3:05 Nominating Committee Report (Attachment H)
- 3:15 Campus Ministries Report (Attachment I)
- 4:00 PM Closing Prayer**

2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

October 10-11, 2011 (Monday 1:30 PM – Tuesday noon) Synod Stated Business Meeting
Penn Stater Conference Center, State College, Pennsylvania

2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

March 6, 2012 (Tuesday 10 AM – 11:30 AM) Synod Virtual Stated Business Meeting

June 30 – July 7, 2012 General Assembly Meeting in the Presbytery of Pittsburgh

July 17, 2012 (Tuesday 10 AM – 11:30 AM) Synod Virtual Stated Business Meeting

October 15-16 (Monday 1:30 PM – Tuesday noon) Synod Stated Business Meeting
Penn Stater Conference Center, State College, Pennsylvania

**The Synod of the Trinity - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbytery Records Review Committee
Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, State College, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, May 4, 2011**

Present David Byers (Beaver-Butler); Jim Speedy (Carlisle); William Netting (Donegal); Virginia Rainey (Huntingdon); Marilyn Tully (Kiskiminetas); Robert Bryden (Lackawanna); Doug Megill (Lake Erie); Robert Nickels (Lehigh); Bob Shandry (Northumberland); Bruce Barstow (Philadelphia); Jay Lewis (Pittsburgh); Gary Close (Redstone); Jerry Mahaffey (Shenango); Tom Armstrong (Upper Ohio Valley); Frank Mansell (West Virginia); Lesley Shoup (Synod of the Trinity)

Excused John Rodgers (Washington)

Virginia Rainey, Chairperson, convened the meeting with devotions and prayer at 10 AM.

It was agreed that if the nFOG passes, the Stated Clerks will meet on Wednesday, September 21, 2011, from 10 AM until 3 PM for a training session with Virginia Rainey. It will be held at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania.

Reports were given for each Presbytery's minutes. Each set of minutes was reviewed by a Clerk from another Presbytery. Each Clerk's report on the minutes was discussed. Consensus was achieved for each exemption, delinquency and/or comment. The minutes of all 16 of our Synod's Presbyteries were reviewed.

The Stated Clerks met with Elder Warren Cooper (Philadelphia) who is serving as a member of the Middle Governing Bodies Commission. This Commission was created at the last General Assembly and will report to the next General Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (2012) as to possible changes in the structure of our government.

Virginia Rainey was unanimously elected to continue serving as the Chairperson of this Committee.

Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission Training is scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2011, and Wednesday, November 9, 2011. Also scheduled is another Child Protection Training Event on Saturday, September 17, 2011. All three events will begin at 10:30 AM and will be held at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania. Possibly, Child Protection events will be scheduled for Ohio and West Virginia churches to include those states' laws.

The next meeting of the Presbytery Records Review Committee will be held at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, May 2, 2012, at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,
Lesley Shoup, Stated Clerk
The Synod of the Trinity

Presbytery Record Review (Minutes) Report
Minutes were approved by the Records Review Committee on May 4, 2011.

Descriptions:

EXCEPTIONS	Items required and are not included in minutes.
DELINQUENCIES	Incomplete recordings of actions.
REMARKS	Comments made by the reader of the minutes.

Beaver-Butler - David Byers, Stated Clerk**EXCEPTIONS** 1 Triennial visits not recorded**DELINQUENCIES** 0**REMARKS** 5 Well done; various practices in reviewing Session minutes; coordinating team recommended election of a Treasurer, but election is not recorded; terms of interim and stated supply contracts not recorded; source of funding (for mortgage) should be recorded or referenced**READ BY** William Netting of Donegal**Carlisle** – James Speedy, Stated Clerk**EXCEPTIONS** 1 No Committee on Representation report**DELINQUENCIES** 1 Budget line item for insurance, but no explicit statement that the Presbytery has insurance**REMARKS** 1 Good order and easy to read**READ BY** Doug Megill of Lake Erie**Donegal** – William Netting, Stated Clerk**EXCEPTIONS** 0**DELINQUENCIES** 0**REMARKS** 4 Great table of contents and index; necrology report – nice biographical information; per capita payments reported quarterly; clear and readable**READ BY** David Byers of Beaver-Butler**Huntingdon** – Virginia Rainey, Stated Clerk**EXCEPTIONS** 0**DELINQUENCIES** 0**REMARKS** 1 Well written**READ BY** John Rodgers of Washington**Kiskiminetas** – Marilyn Tully, Stated Clerk**EXCEPTIONS** 1 No complete roll of the Presbytery (at least once a year)**DELINQUENCIES** 1**REMARKS** 5 Listing of a temporary member of Presbytery; need consistent use of name for Presbytery Council; should include in ordination/installation commissions "the ordination/installation questions were answered in the affirmative"; some items not necessary (pp. 3 and 5); need clarity in triennial visits and use of term "district" in terms of listing specific congregations**READ BY** Bruce Barstow of Philadelphia

Lackawanna – Robert Bryden, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 4 No indication that floor was opened for nominations; no annual roll of Presbytery; no report of review of Synod's Presbytery Records Committee

DELINQUENCIES 2 More information required in reports of triennial visits; greater detail needed regarding the redress of imbalance between elders and clergy

REMARKS 2 Well written. Clearly organized

READ BY Robert Nickels of Lehigh

Lake Erie – Doug Megill, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 0

DELINQUENCIES 0

REMARKS 3 Well written; suggested use of words "Attachment" or "Appendix" rather than "Addendum"; clearly mark any action taken by Presbytery – perhaps by writing the word "action" in bold prior to the approval of something by Presbytery

READ BY James Speedy of Carlisle

Lehigh – Robert Nickels, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 0

DELINQUENCIES 0

REMARKS 1 I will be using several of Bob's formatting practices this year

READ BY Robert Bryden of Lackawanna

Northumberland – Robert L. Shandry, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 0

DELINQUENCIES 0

REMARKS 1 Minutes were well written with special attention to detail especially on property transactions

READ BY Gary Close of Redstone

Philadelphia – Bruce Barstow, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 0

DELINQUENCIES 1 Administrative Commissions – no report of the work of the commission and the dismissal of the commission

REMARKS 1 Well written and easy to follow and reports the work of the Presbytery in a clear and concise manner

READ BY Marilyn Tully of Kiskiminetas

Pittsburgh – Jay Lewis, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 0

DELINQUENCIES 0

REMARKS 1 Very clear and concise for a large Presbytery

READ BY Jerry Mahaffey of Shenango

Redstone – Gary Close, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 0

DELINQUENCIES 0

REMARKS 1 Complete and well written

READ BY Robert Shandry of Northumberland

Shenango – Jerry A. Mahaffey, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 0 None for 23 years!

DELINQUENCIES 0

REMARKS 1 A compact and regular read

READ BY Jay Lewis of Pittsburgh

Upper Ohio Valley – Tom Armstrong, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 0

DELINQUENCIES 0

REMARKS 1 Minutes are well prepared, consistent and complete

READ BY Frank Mansell of West Virginia

Washington – John Rodgers, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 5 No audit report; no COR report; no report of General Assembly Commissioners; no report of Synod Commissioners; no report of triennial visits

DELINQUENCIES 3 Incomplete recording of Executive session; incomplete recording of ordination and installation commissioners; incomplete recording of commissions to lay pastors

REMARKS 2 Consider use of Commissioned Lay Pastor training; leases need more detail or referenced that the detail is in trustee minutes

READ BY Virginia Rainey of Huntingdon

West Virginia – Frank Mansell, Stated Clerk

EXCEPTIONS 2 No mention of minutes of special meeting approved; triennial visits not recorded in Presbytery minutes

DELINQUENCIES 5 Incomplete recording of Corresponding members; no call for nominations from the floor; council report incomplete in not calling for nominations from the floor to the Presbytery's nominating committee; incomplete details about call to pastor from another denomination; actual GA statistical report not included

REMARKS 3 The minutes are well organized and it is easy to find information; they are neatly organized; financial reporting is especially thorough

READ BY Tom Armstrong of Upper Ohio Valley



Dr. Virginia Rainey, Chairperson
Presbytery Records Committee

6/21/11

Date

Possible Change to Synod Standing Rules

June 7, 2011

10.20 Meetings and Expenses

10.21 The Synod shall meet in regular session, up to four times per year. ~~One of these meetings shall be designated the Annual Conference Meeting~~

Meetings shall be held in person or by web conferencing, except as noted in 10.26 a-j (e-mail meetings).



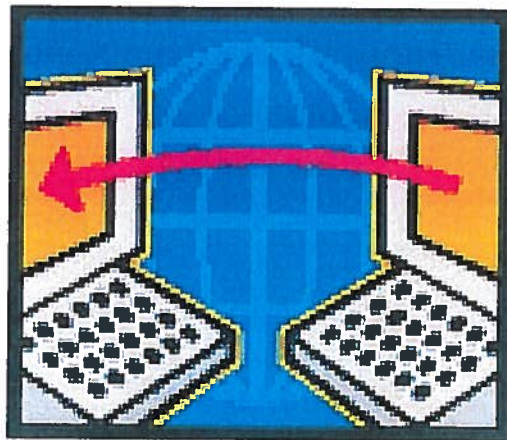
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Synod of the Trinity Web Site Design Packages

Presbytery/Large Church - \$5500 (\$10,500 value)

Includes:

- Project producer, project management, assistance with creative/concepts, consulting as to best practices and latest technology initiatives
- Unique, professional design
- Unlimited pages and access to all content management features
- All pages client managed through a password protected content management system as well as the ability to add additional pages.
- Ability to produce and add videos and rich media
- Google Analytics added for visitor tracking
- Technical support
- Web Hosting for (1) Year with unlimited e-mails \$240/Yearly

Mid-Sized - \$3500 (\$6,000 value)

Includes:

- Project producer, project management, assistance with creative/concepts, consulting as to best practices and latest technology initiatives
- Unique, professional design of up to 25 pages
- All pages client managed through a password protected content management system.
- Google Analytics added for visitor tracking
- Technical support
- Web Hosting for (1) Year with unlimited e-mails \$240/Yearly

Small Sites - \$2250 (\$3,500 value)

Includes:

- Project producer, project management, assistance with creative/concepts, consulting as to best practices and latest technology initiatives
- Unique design of up to 10 pages
- Up to (3) client managed pages (ie News & Events, Calendar, etc) that can be easily updated by client through a password protected content management system
- Google Analytics added for visitor tracking
- Technical support
- Web Hosting for (1) Year with unlimited e-mails \$240/Yearly



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- Google Analytics added for visitor tracking
- Technical support
- Web Hosting for (1) Year with unlimited e-mails \$240/Yearly

Mid-Sized - \$3500 (\$6,000 value)

Includes:

- Project producer, project management, assistance with creative/concepts, consulting as to best practices and latest technology initiatives
- Unique, professional design of up to 25 pages
- All pages client managed through a password protected content management system.
- Google Analytics added for visitor tracking
- Technical support
- Web Hosting for (1) Year with unlimited e-mails \$240/Yearly

Small Site+ - \$2250 (\$3,500 value)

Includes:

- Project producer, project management, assistance with creative/concepts, consulting as to best practices and latest technology initiatives
- Unique design of up to 10 pages
- Up to (3) client managed pages (ie News & Events, Calendar, etc) that can be easily updated by client through a password protected content management system
- Google Analytics added for visitor tracking
- Technical support
- Web Hosting for (1) Year with unlimited e-mails \$240/Yearly



Starter - \$1,375 (\$1,800 value)

Includes:

- Project coordinator with phone/e-mail support
- Professional, unique design of a static home page (with ability to change Pastor name and worship time)
- (2) dynamic pages (Calendar, News & Events, Contact form, etc) that can be easily updated by client through a password protected content management system
- Google Analytics added for visitor tracking
- Technical support
- Web Hosting for (1) Year with unlimited e-mails \$240/Year

One Page Site - \$650.00 (\$950.00 value)

Includes:

- Project coordinator with phone/e-mail support
- Professional, unique design of a home page (with ability to change Content within the body of the page)
- Web Hosting for (1) Year with unlimited e-mails \$240/Year

Terms:

- Proposal valid for 90 days from proposal date
- 50% of total due upon start of project before on-location shooting
- 50% of total due in payments over life of project (TBD)

For more information please contact
Marcia Humer
or
Susan Faye Wonderland
at the Synod of the Trinity
1-800-242-0534





Grants and Scholarships Committee Synod Meeting – June 2011



The Grants and Scholarships Committee prayerfully coordinates and oversees the areas of Educational Scholarships & Grants, Mission Development Resource Committee Grants, Network Grants, Peacemaking Grants, Restricted Grants and other grants as approved by the Synod.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS:

The deadline for the Synod's Educational Scholarships and Grants was April 30, 2011. Applications for Racial Ethnic Educational, Synod of the Trinity Educational, Rusch-Shepard Memorial Educational, Mary Meade Maxwell and Mary L. Clark will be reviewed and scholarships & grants awarded in June. Complete details will be available at the October Synod meeting.

NETWORK GRANTS:

We granted three (3) networks a total of \$7,250 of our \$25,000 budget in early February. Networks receiving grants were Presbyterian Men Mission Network and 2 new ones, the Presbyterian Media Mission Tech Development Network and the Crestview Community Church PCUSA Web Project. PMM Tech Development's grant was a match of a gift from the Trull Foundation to upgrade their website and develop social networking for ministry and mission while the Crestview Community Web Project brings together community groups (fire department, post office, etc) to host a community website connecting the church and the community. Recipients are to submit information and updates on their network which is shared on the Synod's website. The committee will be review and award the second & last group of applications at our June meeting. The final report of networks will be given in October.

PEACEMAKING GRANTS:

The committee has been meeting online and via email to review and grant peacemaking funds since January. Grants of \$11,000 have been approved for 6 applicants (individuals and groups) who will be or have been peacemakers throughout the world including Lithuania and Latvia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras and Kooperston, West Virginia with one grant being used for training expenses in preparation of going to Columbia as an International Accompanist. Recipients submit a synopsis on their return which is shared on the Synod's website. We are enthused by these people and their desire to spread God's peace throughout the universe. Peacemaking grants are possible through generous Peacemaking Offerings and \$12,000 from the Synod's general budget. Details will follow in October.

RESTRICTED FUNDS:

Restricted funds applications will be reviewed at our June meeting and those approved will be submitted to the General Assembly Council Restricted Funds Oversight Subcommittee (RFOC) by the deadline of July 1, 2011. Final report will be made in October.

UPCOMING MEETING:

On June 13 and 14, the committee will meet face-to-face at the Synod Office in Camp Hill to review and award Educational Scholarships and Grants, Restricted Grants, MDRC Grants, Peacemaking Grants, Network Grants and any other business brought to the committee's attention.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. John Dickey, Chair
Grants and Scholarships Committee
Email: jnbdickey@yahoo.com

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

A report on our work in 2010

OUR MISSION

Article 12 of the Council's *Constitution and Bylaws* sets its mission: "The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is a voluntary association of separate and autonomous Christian churches, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, through which its members seek to manifest their fellowship (koinonia) with one another, to engage in common ministries of witness and service, and to advance towards the goal of visible unity." This brief annual report illustrates how the Council tried to fulfill its mission in 2010. For additional information, visit www.pachurches.org.

FELLOWSHIP

The former presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Pr. H. George Anderson, once noted that "it is clear that personal relationships between our bishops and leaders of other traditions enabled them to take the lead in ecumenical arrangements of all sorts." The Council has focused on building and sustaining personal relationships and fellowship among the leaders of its member church bodies by

- engaging in common prayer and worship at its board meetings,
- encouraging leaders to share stories of their coming to faith and their call to ministry,
- encouraging the sharing of both the opportunities offered by and the concerns of member church bodies around Pennsylvania, and
- hosting an overnight gathering for religious leaders at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College.

COMMON MINISTRIES OF WITNESS AND SERVICE

WITNESS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Through its public advocacy ministry, the Council witnessed on behalf of social justice and for the common good. Highlights in 2010 include writing and promoting "God's Kingdom is for Everyone: Discussing Poverty in a Christian Framework," a four session study guide exploring poverty and ways Christians can work toward addressing it; advocating for comprehensive health care reform; while the legislation enacted did not address all the concerns deemed significant by the Commission, it continues to educate constituents about the effects of the law; drafting a resolution on Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction for consideration and endorsement by the Council's Board of Directors at its October 2010 meeting; and raising awareness about regional opportunities and equity issues in Pennsylvania through Building One Pennsylvania and screenings of "The New Metropolis." Information about these highlights and other activities, including the study guide on poverty, can be found at www.pachurchesadvocacy.org.

MINISTRIES OF SERVICE

The Council supported local churches engaging in trucker and traveler ministry along a portion of I-80, where a chaplain served along with volunteers and local church leaders. The Council also supported local churches engaged in ministry with migrant and seasonal farm workers. Field chaplains and volunteers offer farm workers and their families worship services, spiritual counseling, clothing and other material aid, assistance with immigration issues, emergency transportation for medical care, translation services, emergency housing and food, and recreation.

WITNESS AMONG PERSONS AT LEISURE

The Council also worked with local park ministry committees to assist in chaplain recruitment and program administration. The annual training held just after the Memorial Day holiday ensured that chaplains were equipped for their ministry. Twenty chaplains served campers in 33 state, federal, and private campgrounds.

CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR CHURCH WORKERS

The Council sponsored a three-day continuing education event for clergy and other church workers, the Pennsylvania State Pastors' Conference. Planned by a committee of representatives from member bodies, the conference featured Shane Clairborne, Eric Law, and a host of workshops on evangelism and stewardship.



Self-Development of People

Synod of the Trinity

Synod Meeting – June 2011



Committee Members: Catherine Adam, Hendrik Bossers, Julia Brooks, Zoe Bordes, Eugene Brown, David Caves Jr., Gene Gordon, Maxine E. Jenkins, Margaret Johnston, Manuela Kauer, Soo Lee, Patrick Sileo

Synod Staff: Susan F. Wonderland, Marcia Humer

2011 National Notification & Certification:

We received notification from the National SDOP Office that \$43,221 is available in 2011 for our use for partnerships with communities of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people within the Synod bounds. We may use up to 10% for administrative expenses however the total could be lowered if additional presbyteries are certified during the year. National would notify Synod SDOP Chair, Eugene Brown and Marcia Humer, Synod office, of the change. In addition, the committee is certified through 2011.

2011 Application Action:

Eleven of our twelve members met face-to-face at Bedford Presbyterian Church on May 19-20. The committee reviewed 4 proposals and agreed that two (2) are self-development projects:

1. Holy Smokes! Fellowship Café, Cheswick Presbyterian Church, Cheswick, PA (third year)
2. The Alumni Group, Inc, Wallingford, PA (third year)

Each project was asked to respond by mid-July to concerns. Pending that outcome and with mentoring from our committee members and assigned site visits, the committee will review and meet online in August to discuss the possibility of funding these projects. Summaries of each project and the decisions of the committee will be reported at the October Synod meetings.

Please promote and encourage the Self-Development of People grant within your presbytery and congregations. Let's get the word out to those economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people that help is available.

Websites for SDOP grant information:

- a. Synod: <http://syntrinity.org/Programs/ScholarshipsGrantsLoan.htm>
- b. PC(U.S.A.): <http://www.pcusa.org/sdop/applicationprocess.htm>

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Eugene Brown, Chair
Self-Development of People Committee, Synod of the Trinity
May 25, 2011

**The Synod of the Trinity
Financial Report
Summer Conference Meeting – State College
June 7, 2011**

2010 Audit Draft Completed

**Will be Accepted by Finance & Budget June 20th and presented
At Fall Synod Meeting**

2011 Current Financials

Two WebEx/Conference Meetings held Jan & May

2012 Budget Status

**Projected income down significantly
Recommending maintaining Per Capita at \$2.20 per
member**

- **Projected income to be will be approx
\$488,000 which is less than the \$500,000
threshold established in 2008**

Next Budget Meeting Scheduled for June 20th



The Synod of the Trinity
Summary Income Statement - January 1, 2011 - May 25, 2011

	Year-to-date 2011	Year-to-date 2010	2011 Annual Budget
<i>Revenues</i>			
<i>. Presbytery Related Income</i>			
. Per Capita	\$ 218,572.21	259,871.09 \$	504,475.00
. Mission	156,768.26	200,514.20	338,000.00
. Peacemaking	0.00	0.00	0.00
. <i>TOTAL - Presbytery Related Income</i>	<i>(375,340.47)</i>	<i>(460,385.29)</i>	<i>(842,475.00)</i>
. Mission Investment Income	5,722.14	7,591.57	12,000.00
. Planned Distribution from Reserves	150,650.00	100,964.23	296,000.00
. Additional Transfers from Reserves	50,000.00	0.00	0.00
. Restricted Funds Income	1,422.37	1,095.50	22,000.00
. Pass Through/Offsetting Income	45,478.69	111,977.91	135,000.00
. Other Income	17,423.93	16,894.21	40,750.00
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<i>646,037.60</i>	<i>698,908.71</i>	<i>1,348,225.00</i>
<i>Expenses</i>			
<i>. Administrative Expense</i>			
. Personnel Administrative	214,562.09	207,918.77	505,905.00
. Continuing Education	3,608.94	3,562.00	3,600.00
. Staff Development	1,216.00	679.00	1,500.00
. Executives Discretionary Account	653.69	(500.00)	7,900.00
. Travel	19,062.93	20,362.34	50,000.00
. Office Support	25,361.15	23,107.85	74,000.00
. Building Expense	31,318.39	26,358.22	58,350.00
. <i>TOTAL - Administrative Expense</i>	<i>295,783.19</i>	<i>281,488.18</i>	<i>701,255.00</i>
<i>. Program Expense</i>			
. Synod Meetings	(12,565.00)	(11,053.69)	50,000.00
. Presbytery Leadership/Mission	100,797.14	27,247.18	76,500.00
. Standing Committees	85,627.74	172,621.13	260,250.00
. Other Committees and Task Groups	34,660.61	30,212.36	63,396.00
. Permanent Judicial Commission	8,796.97	25,031.68	8,755.00
. Synod Priorities	100,908.08	129,345.98	173,069.00
. <i>TOTAL - Program Expense</i>	<i>318,225.54</i>	<i>373,404.64</i>	<i>631,970.00</i>
<i>. Extraordinary Expenses</i>			
. Disaster Relief	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
. 2012 GA	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
. <i>TOTAL - Extraordinary Expenses</i>	<i>15,000.00</i>	<i>10,000.00</i>	<i>15,000.00</i>
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>629,008.73</i>	<i>664,892.82</i>	<i>1,348,225.00</i>
<i>Net Income</i>	<i>\$ 17,028.87</i>	<i>34,015.89 \$</i>	<i>0.00</i>



THE SYNOD OF THE TRINITY

New Initiative Grants for Presbyteries

In an era in which the Church is confronted with massive cultural and contextual change along with enormous opportunities to reach people for Jesus Christ, it is critical that we build the church's capacity to respond faithfully to those opportunities through faithful innovation. The 2011 New Initiative for Presbyteries Grant process is intended to provide a means to provide funding and encouragement to presbyteries to stimulate innovation and creativity in mission and ministry through funds specifically designated for new initiatives.

The objectives of this program are:

- 1) To provide funding to presbyteries to stimulate new initiatives in mission and ministry.
- 2) To encourage financial stewardship by providing "matching" dollars wherever possible.
- 3) To provide a source of funding outside of the Synod budget process for experimental and innovative initiatives attempting to address the challenges of our new context for mission.
- 4) To encourage opportunities for exploration and incubation without fear of failure.
- 5) To focus resources and creativity, as much as possible, on mission areas identified as priorities of The Synod of the Trinity.
 - a. Leader Development, including Racial/Ethnic and New Immigrant Leader Development
 - b. Missional Church Development
 - c. Campus Ministry
 - d. Communications

In order to encourage creativity and to be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, the Synod will seriously and prayerfully consider any applications that come forward, but priority consideration will be given to those applications that:

- 1) Represent a new or innovative way of achieving stated results.
- 2) Address an issue in the area of Leader Development, Missional Church Development, Campus Ministry or Communications.
- 3) Can be easily adapted and incorporated in other presbyteries.
- 4) Grow out of partnership between two or more presbyteries.
- 5) Seek to achieve specific and measurable results.

2011 New Initiative for Presbyteries Grant Application Process

New Initiative for Presbyteries Grant proposals will be processed in the following sequence:

1. All proposals are to be submitted electronically by the Presbytery, in a single .doc or .docx file, on the application form on page three (3), to: Treasurer@syntrinity.org
2. The Treasurer of the Synod will record receipt of the proposal and forward the document to the New Initiative Review Task Force (hereafter, the Task Force).
3. The Task Force will verify funds availability, and then consider the appropriateness of funding the proposal, during which consideration they may request additional information or recommend additional work to strengthen the proposal.
4. The Task Force may negotiate a schedule of “staged funding” in which full funding is contingent on achievement of certain stages of the initiative.
5. The Task Force may choose not to recommend a proposal.
6. If the Task Force chooses to recommend a proposal, it will then be presented to the Synod by the Leadership Team for action.
7. Recipients are required to provide a follow-up report on the effectiveness of the project in achieving desired results and anything else learned through the project.



THE SYNOD OF THE TRINITY New Initiative Grants for Presbyteries

2011 New Initiative for Presbyteries Grant Application

List Participating Presbyteries:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Project Name:

Primary Contact :

_____	_____
NAME	TITLE

_____	_____
EMAIL ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NUMBER (S)

_____	_____	_____	_____
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP

SIGNITURE of PRESBYTERY EXECUTIVE OR STATED CLERK: _____

Please include the following information with your application:

1. Describe your vision for this initiative.
2. Who are the partners in this initiative?
3. What specific results do you wish to achieve?
4. How will you measure or determine when and whether those results have been achieved?
5. Please provide a detailed plan for this initiative, including goals and objectives. In short, what are you going to do to make this happen? Include a timeline.
6. What new concepts, skills or habits do you need to develop for this initiative to be successful?
7. How have you tried to identify other similar efforts by other entities? What was learned by their attempts to achieve similar results?
8. Please provide a detailed financial plan, including income and expense. Identify funding sources: Synod Grant, Presbytery, local ministry, other.
9. What medium(s) will be utilized to share what you have learned: website, social media, printed report, PowerPoint, etc. Will you need assistance with technology?

Report to the Synod of the Trinity
Bruce G. Stevens
June 7, 2011

Well, here we are, about half way done with 2011. Its been a pretty interesting year so far for me. Grandchild number 11, Bela Gray Snell, came screaming into the world about a month ago. I've been captivated by a one-year old named Caleb, who is becoming my travel guide in the rediscovery of wonder and curiosity. I've completed 360 hours of training with the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching and yesterday received my final certification as a "professional coach" in my continuing efforts in the leader development. And along the way, I had my heart rebuilt. Maybe in more ways than one. I want to thank you all for your concern, your support, your cards, letters and emails and visits – it was almost overwhelming. It was one of the most remarkable experiences of my life. I especially want to publicly thank our staff – they did a wonderful job of keeping things moving. I am convinced that the eight weeks I was gone established the fact that the Synod really doesn't need me. Just joking.

They kept things moving forward. And I think it is really important to keep things moving forward right now. This is a frightening time in the life of the church for many people. So many things are happening that seem to be beyond our control, and many of them are beyond our control. Then there are the things that are happening that are within our control which leave some of us rejoicing and some of us lamenting, and just makes others of us very, very angry. And its like we have to wait for these things to pan out – we have to wait and see what happens with the response to A10; we have to wait and see what happens with nFOG, we have to wait and see what happens with the Fellowship meeting in August, we have to wait and see whether we'll have money for a budget next year. We have to wait

You know what frightens me the most? That we will be so frozen, so stuck by the waiting to see, that we will stop doing what we are called to do. What a temptation that is! Let's put everything on hold until we know how the story is going to come out.

But we need to remember that most of that unfolding story, most of the stuff we are waiting to see happens with – most of that doesn't mean a thing to the people God has called us to reach with the Good News of Jesus. They don't know about or care about nFog or A10 or the Fellowship, All of which matter, but none of which are ultimate values. The people to whom God called us to go do not care about those things and don't need to know about those things – what they need to know about is the love of God, and letting them know that is the job God gave us. They do not need an experience of good governance, they need an experience of life in the Reign of God – and that is the witness God calls us to bear – they need it now, not whenever all this stuff has come to pass.

That is why the Synod will keep doing what God has called us to do and what you have asked us to do.

Some quick things about what we continue to do:

- 1) We are as engaged as we can be in the conversations about the best way to organize to get ministry done through the Middle Governing Body Commission. Our representative, Warren Cooper, is doing a marvelous job of representing us, he is becoming a leader on that commission – and they don't even know he can sing.
- 2) Our Partnership for Missional Church program continues to expand. We currently have requests for two new clusters to be formed in the Fall. We are midway through a third-party, independent evaluation of PMC, and this Fall we are rolling out Standing at the Crossroads, a six month Missional Training experience for church sessions.
- 3) Later in this meeting you will receive information about new communication offerings and major work we are doing in the area of campus ministry.
- 4) We currently have active consultation services engaged with 5 presbyteries. Susan and I are being asked to engage in exciting new ways – we both give thanks for the relationships we have with our presbyteries and their leadership – you have no idea what a gift that is to the church.
- 5) We are initiating expanded conversations about how we can most effectively partner for ministry and mission in the future.

Yes, we have to wait for some of that future to unfold. But while we're waiting, we are going to do some stuff for Glory of God in Jesus Christ, because those people to whom God has called us to go? They are too important to God for us to wait.



Proposed Changes to Synod Network Team

For use by the Synod Network Team and for the information of the Synod Commissioners

The Network Team will assist persons to connect with others who are interested in starting, supporting, or sharing ideas about a Network. Team members will also help provide information about Network grants administered through the Synod Grants and Scholarships Committee.

Each presbytery in the Synod of the Trinity will be invited to encourage a person serve and work with the Synod Network Team.

Members of the Team will, first, extend invitations to Synod Commissioners to actively participate with the Team. The invitations will include a request that Commissioners identify someone in their presbyteries who might have great interest in serving and working with the Network Team.

The Team will meet in-person, and by conferencing using virtual meetings, a few times each year.

Regular reports will continue to be made to the Synod Commissioners about the work of the Team.

The Synod Network Team shall choose from among its members who will serve as Moderator for each year.

Synod Network Team

October 15-16, 2009



Members:

Keith Conover, W. Lee Dreyer, Mavis Grant-Lilley, Julia Hill, Ann Strong

Synod Staff:

Lesley Shoup, Synod Stated Clerk, Marcia Humer, Synod Administrative Assistant

The Team welcomed new member, Lee Dreyer (Clergy, Beaver-Butler) to our group as appointed by Moderator Mary Speedy. There is one more opening to be filled.

At our June meeting attended by Synod Executive Bruce Stevens, the team unanimously voted to revise the definition of a network to: ***“A network is a group of people responding to Jesus’ call who are passionate about a common interest or concern and connect with one another in a variety of ways.”*** This replaces the original definition created in 2003 and will appear on all

network publications. We also chose a logo to represent networks (on left).

The importance of communicating what the networks are and the telling of their stories is crucial to raising awareness in the Synod. This discussion resulted in the decision that each team member will travel throughout the Synod and attend a council or mission committee or a presbytery meeting beginning this fall. Each person has selected presbyteries (not their own) and will connect with the appropriate person to schedule ‘talking time’. In addition, a wonderful visual presentation was created by Keith Conover explaining the mission of the networks while highlighting two currently active networks. Each team member will use this resource as well as the 2010 Network Request Form (see Grants & Scholarships Report, Attachment D) and a ‘frequently asked questions’ flyer as they travel. Additionally, the members, in concert with Bruce and Susan Faye Wonderland, Synod Associate Executive, will be exchanging network information with each other as they find, encourage, connect, and support passionate groups of people.

The Synod website was revised to include the new definition and logo, the essentials of a network, recommendations for networks, a request form for potential network grants and a list of networks we know about. The webpage is: http://www.syntrinity.org/Programs/Mission_Network_firstpg.htm.

The Network Team encourages *everyone* to spread the word that networks can be a vital, interesting, and exciting way to do ministry and mission as we partner with others to live out a particular passion for serving the Lord our God!

Respectfully submitted,
 Marcia R. Humer
 Email: mhumer@syntrinity.org
 October 8, 2009

Current Update:

At our May meeting, we met with Bruce and Susan to establish lines of communication and to exchange ideas on mission networks as the two key Synod officers working with networks. Some of suggestions from this meeting:

- Create a more fluid Mission Network definition
- Create criteria/guidelines to assist Grants & Scholarships Committee
- Create ways to publicize networks within the Synod to personally 'tell their own story'
- Utilize the Synod message board by Executives and Network Team members to stay current on all networking developments and current networking activities

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia R. Humer
Synod Administrative Assistant
June 5, 2009



MISSION NETWORKS



**Network Task Force
The Synod of the Trinity
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

**Report of the Synod Network Task Force (NTF)
To the March 2009 Synod Meeting in Reading, Pennsylvania**

Members:

Keith Conover (2003 and 2004 Synod Moderator, Presbytery of Redstone)
Mavis Grant-Lilley (Elder Commissioner, Class of 2010, Presbytery of West Virginia)
Julia Hill (Former Elder Commissioner, Class of 2002, Presbytery of Philadelphia)
Ann Strong (Elder Commissioner, Class of 2009, Presbytery of Pittsburgh)

Synod Staff:

Marcia Humer (Administrative Assistant)
Lesley Shoup (Stated Clerk)

Note:

Michael Bongart (Clergy Commissioner, Class of 2009, Presbytery of Upper Ohio Valley) resigned after one meeting due to other pressing commitments.

Background

The NTF was appointed by Synod Moderator Mary Speedy at the Called Meeting of the Synod in May, 2008. This was in response to the Review Team Report of October, 2007, which indicated that continued support of networks is important and that the process of forming networks needs to be reviewed and updated. Although commissioners authorized the appointment of a Network Task Force in February, 2004, it took a few years to gain solid footing in the new Synod structure.

Meetings

The NTF met in 2008 in Bedford, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, July 16; Monday, August 25; Thursday, October 16; Wednesday, October 22; Thursday, November 13; Wednesday, December 2; and in 2009, Tuesday, January 13 and Thursday, February 12. The NTF met by conference call on Tuesday, February 24, 2009.

Understanding our Task

It is our understanding that our tasks were

1. to review the current Synod Mission Networks,
2. to make recommendations about whether to work with or not work with these Mission Networks and,
3. to consider the best practices, if the recommendation were to work with Mission Networks,

General Content of Meetings

- ...Learning about Synod Mission Networks to date
- ...Talking to representatives of Synod Mission Networks
- ...Talking with executive presbyters about their expectations and experiences of networks
- ...Talking with representatives of informal networks and a representative of a network that has been discontinued
- ...Talking a second time with representatives of one of the Synod Mission Networks
- ...Having conversations about: formal and informal networks; funding; future; definition; history in the Synod; role of Task Force

What is a Synod Mission Network?

"A network is a group of people who connect with one another in a variety of ways in order to share information, services and help one another accomplish tasks and activities related to an area of common interest, commitment and passion." (Synod Standing Rules, Attachment A)

Networks are to address new ideas or needs, inspirations and passions. They may or may not continue from year-to-year. There is a sense in which networks exemplify the true spirit of the Synod, most especially when they function as the R & D (Research & Development) heart of what the Synod does.

Why Have Synod Mission Networks?

In the April, 2003, Mission Strategy Team Report, and, again, in the October, 2007, Review Team Report, the Synod affirmed core values which drive our collective life. We said:

"In organizing ourselves as a Synod and carrying out our mission, we seek to be: relational, flexible, trusting, trustworthy, serving, responsive, missional, and diverse."

As a missional synod, we believe that we are a sent people. We believe that God calls us

- into a gathered community of faith (called the church), and
- into the community (both immediately around us & beyond).

We believe that we are called by God to seek *God's Mission* and to make it our own, rather than to seek our own narrowly focused and rigidly defined mission and declare it to be God's!

We worship and serve a Living Lord who comes to us in unexpected ways, and places, and people. Our Synod must leave the windows of its organization and structure open so that the gust (should we say, Holy Ghust?) of God's Spirit may blow freely in and among us.

While some tasks and responsibilities in the life of the Synod necessarily require more organized, on-going structures expressed in the form of units, or committees, or teams, or task forces, we must guard against the temptation to regard such established structures as the sum total of the mission and ministry into which God calls us.

Synod Mission Networks are our Synod's windows to the Spirit and the passion of the faith with which God has gifted us. They represent our intentional organizational attempt to remain open, as a community of faith, to the surprising pushing, prodding, and leading of God. Of course, all windows need to be equipped with screens if we are to keep the bugs out! On the other hand, we could simply close the windows or remove them altogether and brick up the openings, thereby keeping out the bugs, but it would also keep out the "Holy Ghust".

We believe we need the Synod Mission Network windows, and we need them wide open - even at the risk of a "bug infestation"! It is one faithful response to our missional calling. We will trust God to carry the fly swatter.

History of Mission Networks in the Synod of the Trinity

The Synod's first formally recognized networks were pre-existing groups in the Synod and participated in the network system primarily to get funding. Some groups came together out of a common passion or desire to be in community about some specific cause(s) and/or to get some task or event accomplished.

At present, there are six Mission Networks that have completed the paperwork, gone through the process of being endorsed by at least two presbyteries, and been formally recognized by the Synod of the Trinity. There are also informal networks that are functioning very well and have not gone through this process.

Specific Recommendation Concerning a Network:

Peacemaking Ministries: The current group could continue to function as a network by refocusing their energies on peacemaking efforts and sharing ideas rather than putting their efforts into the Synod administrative task of distributing the Synod portion of the denominational Peacemaking Offering funds and other Synod Peacemaking Grants. That distribution can be appropriately accomplished by the Synod Grants and Scholarships Committee. (Peacemaking Network members would like to have a representative on the Grants and Scholarship Committee, but we do not feel this is necessary. The Peacemaking Network may make recommendations for the use of the funds, however, the Grants and Scholarship Committee can utilize the criteria already established for the Peacemaking Offering and other Peacemaking Grants.)

General Recommendations to Commissioners:Recommendation 1:

(A) Eliminate formal networks and remove the description from the Standing Rules.

Twice each year, invite networks to apply for Synod funds through the Grants and Scholarship Committee. Part of such a request may be for insurance coverage for a specified event. The only criteria considered would be;

- (1) a description of the need and,
- (2) a reference from a Presbytery – i.e. a certified action of the presbytery itself, a presbytery staff person (or officer) or the presbytery council.

Recommendation 2:

(A) Continue to encourage the growth of a culture in which networks may flourish.

(B) Work to consistently gather and disseminate better information about, and advertise communication links with, networks so they may be more generally known and so others of like passion may have the opportunity to join them.

Recommendation 3:

Provide for a Network Team to facilitate and encourage the development of Synod Mission Networks. There will be six persons appointed by the Synod Moderator serving on this Team.

Their tasks will include:

- (1) communicate with networks to gather information about their purpose and work, and identify ways in which the Synod might be helpful;
- (2) gather information about potential networks from the Synod Executive and Associate Executive;
- (3) initiate contacts with presbytery executives or other appropriate presbytery staff on a regular basis to assess what is and what is not working for them in cultivating the growth of a network culture;
- (4) initiate a request through the presbytery executive and/or stated clerk to talk with the presbytery council and, if granted, talk with presbytery councils to promote networks and help provide means to cultivate their growth.
- (5) be aware of and interface with the Communications Work Group plan for the Synod.

Synod Network Team

Formerly Synod Network Task Force

June 10-11, 2009

Members:

Keith Conover, Mavis Grant-Lilley, Julia Hill, G. Ann Strong

Synod Staff:

Lesley Shoup, Stated Clerk, Marcia Humer, Administrative Assistant

Meetings:

The Network Task Force presented their report in person at the March Synod meeting and had meetings in Bedford, PA on March 28 and April 28 and in Greensburg, PA on May 20, 2009. Our May 20th meeting included Synod Executive, Bruce Stevens and Synod Associate Executive, Susan Faye Wonderland.

Approved Recommendations (attached):

Following the March Synod Meeting, the task force has instituted and continues to work on the approved recommendations as follows:

Recommendation 1: A request application form for network grants was created and provided to the Grants & Scholarships Committee. A list of suggestions/guidelines to aid networks will be created and given to the Grants & Scholarships Committee.

Recommendation 2: The Team is working on avenues to broadcast the networks' message to encourage growth and for potential ones to form. Various approaches may include publishing news on the Synod and presbyteries' websites, helping to create video and/or power point presentations of networks telling their story, speaking with and/or attending presbytery meetings, sessions, church groups, etc.

Recommendation 3: Mary Speedy, Synod Moderator, is currently searching for the fifth and sixth members to complete the team. The Team will assist if contacted by networks, interact with each presbytery, keep ongoing exchange flowing with the Synod Executive and Associate Executive, and keep communication lines flowing to the Synod, presbyteries, and networks.

Recommendation 4: Each of the six former Synod Mission Network Chairpersons was notified by email and letter of the Synod Commissioners' recommendation of March 2009 changing the way the Synod relates to Networks. The funding that each had requested was issued on April 6, 2009 as the first of two approved network distributions for the year. All networks gracefully received the changes with only two having trouble with the transition: Trinity Youth Conference and Peacemaking Ministries Network. Chantal Atnip, Synod Treasurer, will assist TYC in setting up a checking account while Susan Faye Wonderland will help them get better organized for their event. Lesley Shoup and Marcia Humer have spoken with the Peacemaking Chair and explained that the Grants and Scholarships Committee has the responsibility now to administer peacemaking offerings and that the Peacemaking Ministries Network can and should be an active group promoting peacemaking activity. Following a conference call with Lesley during their recent network meeting, an official letter was sent by email and mail to all Peacemaking Network members detailing this information.

Recommendation 4:

- (A) The Task Force urges the Synod's immediate approval of this report and implementation of its recommendations.
- (B) The Task Force recommends that the following be approved:
 - (1) Adults with Disabilities - \$1,000 plus insurance coverage for their event
 - (2) Eastern Church Transformation - \$2,500 for their event
 - (3) Presbyterian Men - \$1,000 for their meetings and work
 - (4) Trinity Disaster Assistance - \$3,000 for their work
 - (5) Trinity Youth Conference - \$6,000 plus insurance coverage for their event
 - (6) Peacemaking Ministries - \$1,000 for their meetings and work

Total: \$14,500





MISSION NETWORKS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

What is a network?

A network is a group of people responding to Jesus' call who are passionate about a common interest or concern and connect with one another in a variety of ways.

What is its mission?

1. A network proceeds from these Bible passages - Matthew 25:31-46 and Matthew 28: 18-20 (*The Message*) :

Matthew 25: 31-46

³¹⁻³³"When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left. ³⁴⁻³⁶"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why:

I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.'

³⁷⁻⁴⁰"Then those 'sheep' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?' Then the King will say, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.' ⁴¹⁻⁴³"Then he will turn to the 'goats,' the ones on his left, and say, 'Get out, worthless goats! You're good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—

I was hungry and you gave me no meal, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was homeless and you gave me no bed, I was shivering and you gave me no clothes,
Sick and in prison, and you never visited.'

⁴⁴"Then those 'goats' are going to say, 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn't help?' ⁴⁵"He will answer them, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.' ⁴⁶"Then those 'goats' will be herded to their eternal doom, but the 'sheep' to their eternal reward."

Matthew 28:18-20:

¹⁸⁻²⁰Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

2. A network addresses new ideas and inspirations
3. A network may apply for grants from the Synod of the Trinity
4. A network may have a page on the Synod web site
5. A network may or may not continue from year-to-year
6. A network is expected to become self-funded over time

Where do networks exist?

The Synod of the Trinity is divided into sixteen presbyteries and encompasses all of Pennsylvania, the state of West Virginia except for the counties of Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan, and Pendleton and in Ohio, only the counties of Belmont, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe, and the southern sector of Columbiana. A network can also exist within any of these presbyteries, in cooperation between presbyteries, or it can exist between the Synod of the



What is a reasonable amount to request for a grant?

Requests have been quite varied. The Synod Grants and Scholarships Committee simply invites networks to ask for the amount they really need. Preference is given to first-time applicants.

How should we manage our finances?

Good practices can be found in the Presbyterian Book of Order, G-10.04001 in the Finance section:

- 1) The counting and recording of all offerings by at least two duly appointed persons, or a fidelity bonded person;
- 2) The keeping of adequate books and records to reflect all financial transactions, open to inspection by authorized (church) officers at reasonable times;
- 3) Periodic reporting of the financial activities to the board or boards vested with financial oversight at least annually, preferably more often;
- 4) A full financial review of all books and records relating to finances once each year by a public accountant or public accounting firm or a committee of members versed in accounting procedures. Such auditors should not be related to the treasurer (or treasurers). Terminology in this section is meant to provide general guidance and is not intended to require or not require specific audit procedures or practices as understood within the professional accounting community.

Website: http://www.pcusa.org/oga/boo/fog_ch10.htm#g100400

What are some good network practices?

- Criminal Background Check of all members: [OH — PA — WV](#)
- FBI Background Check of all members: <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/fprequest.htm>
- Child Abuse Clearance of all members: [OH — PA — WV](#)
- Insurance for events. The Synod's insurer, Jim Bower, Jr., of James O. Bower Insurance is recommended. Location: 2145 Market St., Camp Hill, PA 17011. Phone: 717-763-5668
Website: <http://www.bowerins.com/>
- Keep minutes of your meetings.
- Keep in contact with people interested in the network.
- Plan activities well and enjoy the outcome of prayerful, Spirit-led, meaningful programs and meetings.

Questions? Contact any Member of the Synod Network Team:

Keith Conover in Redstone Presbytery	Email: sky.pilot1@verizon.net
Lee Dreyer in Beaver-Butler Presbytery	Email: dreyerlc@zoominternet.net
Mavis Grant-Lilley in West Virginia Presbytery	Email: mgranlil@verizon.net
Julia Hill in Philadelphia Presbytery	Email: jhill541@aol.com
G. Ann Strong in Pittsburgh Presbytery	Email: astrong409@verizon.net
Lesley Imler Shoup, Synod Stated Clerk	Email: lshoup@syntrinity.org
Marcia Humer, Synod Admin. Asst.	Email: mhumer@syntrinity.org

Additional information is available on the Synod of the Trinity's website by clicking on Networks:
<http://www.syntrinity.org/index/index.htm>



Previously-Funded Network:

In addition to answering questions 1 - 5, please describe your accomplishments so we may celebrate with you:





2011 Network Request

The Synod of the Trinity

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
3040 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011
Phone: 800-242-0534 or Email: mhumer@syntrinity.org



Requests due: December 31, 2010 and May 30, 2011
Grants distributed by: February 28, 2011 and July 31, 2011

Twice a year, a Network* may apply for a Synod Grant through the Grants and Scholarships Committee with preference given to first-time applicants. A network is expected to become self-funded over time. Contact Marcia Humer, Synod Office, with questions at phone: 800-242-0534 ext. 233, or email: mhumer@syntrinity.org. **Please print.**

First Application Previously Funded Network - Complete question on reverse →

1. Name of Network: _____
Contact's Name: _____ Email: _____
Contact's Phone: _____

2. Amount of request: \$ _____

3. Description of need: _____

4. Reference from a Presbytery in the Synod of the Trinity by **one** of the following:

a. Certified action of the _____ Presbytery on _____
Name of Presbytery Date of Action

Signature of Stated Clerk Print Name

OR

b. _____ Presbytery Staff Person or Officer on _____
Name of Presbytery Date

Signature of Staff Person/Officer (i.e.: General Presbyter or Moderator) Print Name and Title

OR

c. The _____ Presbytery Council on _____
Name of Presbytery Date

Signature of Council Moderator Print Name

5. Check payable & mailed to: _____

Address: _____

*** A network is a group of people responding to Jesus' call who are passionate about a common interest or concern and connect with one another in a variety of ways.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
in the
SYNOD OF THE TRININTY
June, 2011

Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Trinity are busy preparing for four Regional Gatherings which will take the place of our one large Gathering. The format is much different as we are having a spiritual retreat called God's Wonder Full World which is put out by Group International. Each will follow the same format with a time for the business meeting and some special Synod missions. Our hope is to reach many more women than we have in the past. The special mission focus will be items for our veterans.

Presbyterian Women are always busy with mission. Our 2011 project has been the Presbyterian Education Board's girls school in Pakistan. Our goal is to contribute \$20,000 for improvements for the school that is under the leadership of Veeda Javaid. Perhaps you have seen some of the silk scarves or beautiful shawls that are made at the school. They will be available for purchase at our Gatherings. The 2012 mission will be ROOT International. Look for more information following our Gatherings.

In September we sent three women to Florida for National Leadership Training. Jan Marsh, (Lehigh), Judy Jerry (Pittsburgh), and Nancy DeStefano (Upper Ohio Valley), are ready to share what they learned in each Presbytery. If you have a need for some quality Leadership Training contact any one of them or our Moderator and we can set up a program for you.

My term as Moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Synod will come to a close in June. It has been a joy to represent PW on the Synod Council. We are so grateful for the respect given to us along with the opportunity to have a voice in what is happening around the Synod. Susan Mummert will replace me in this position.

Peace and Blessings,
Mary McElroy, Moderator

Synod of the Trinity Personnel Committee

Report to Commissioners

Summer Meeting – June 2011

The Synod of the Trinity Personnel Committee met on April 11 and 12 at the Camp Hill Office. All committee members were present, plus Associate Synod Executive / Stated Clerk Rev. Lesley Shoup substituted for Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevens. During the meeting, a conference call was made to Rev. Dr. Stevens who was recuperating at home. He updated the committee on several synod matters, and the committee reviewed its planned agenda for this meeting.

Much of the meeting revolved around the evaluation system for both professional and administrative staff. The committee had developed a self-evaluation form for all personnel this year and made modifications to it for the coming year. It was decided that each member of the committee would make personal contacts with the presbyteries' executives and stated clerks for evaluation feedback of the professional staff. The committee developed a brief form for this purpose. It is hoped that by making contacts directly with the presbyteries, the process will be completed quickly and efficiently.

This meeting was also the annual individual appointment with synod staff to review their self-evaluation material and provide a time to dialogue together. In past years this had been done later in the fall; however, it was felt that with the changes being made in the process, the evaluation both by the committee and the presbyteries could now be completed in time for the fall Commissioners' meeting where any recommendations may be made.

The next meeting will be held via conference call on September 8 with the final meeting of the year scheduled for November.



Resolution of Appreciation
For the Work and Dedication of Mrs. Judy Kim

❧

Whereas, Mrs. Judy Kim has provided over twenty-four years of faithful and dedicated service to The Synod of the Trinity and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and

Whereas, Mrs. Kim has always made her work as Bookkeeper for the Synod not only her occupation but one of her missions with the church, and

Whereas, throughout the many changes and adjustments that have been a part of the life of the Synod during the past several years, Mrs. Kim has always graciously and successfully adapted to the many new procedures and technologies, and

Whereas, Judy Kim continues as a respected member of the staff of the Synod, she has now decided to conclude her career June 30, 2011 and retire to a new chapter of her life,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Commissioners of the Synod of the Trinity take this opportunity to extend their congratulations on the conclusion of a long, successful and outstanding career of service to others and wish for her God's blessings and many years of enjoyable retirement in the days ahead.

Approved by The Synod of the Trinity Commissioners at State College, Pennsylvania on this 7th Day of June 2011.

Elder Nan Best, Moderator

Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevens, Synod Executive

Chantal Atnip, Synod Treasurer

David A. Bailey, Personnel Committee Chairperson

**Synod Nominating Committee Report
The Synod of the Trinity
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Open Positions in Colors, Positions to be Elected in Black
Date: May 16, 2011**

**Synod Committee Positions for 2011
(Some need filled now and Class of 2014 starts 1/1/12)**

Committee on Representation

Class of 2012: Carlisle, Lackawanna, Philadelphia, first term

Class of 2013: Huntingdon, first term

Class of 2014:

Derek Campbell, Clergy, Kiskiminetas, eligible for second term

Frank Duncan, Clergy, Lake Erie, eligible for second term

Robert Edmundson, Elder, Donegal, first term

Finance

Class of 2013: Shenango, first term

Class of 2014:

Joy Kaufmann, Clergy, Huntingdon, second term

John Russell, Elder, Carlisle, eligible for second term

Redstone, first term

Grants and Scholarships

Class of 2014

Donegal, first term: Elder Ed Martin

Philadelphia, first term

Shenango, first term

Nominating (may serve one three year term)

Class of 2012: West Virginia – The Rev. Mary Jane Knapp,

If the way be clear at September Presbytery meeting.

Class of 2012: Pittsburgh - Rev. Janet McCune Edwards

Class of 2013: Philadelphia

Class of 2014:

Carlisle

Northumberland

Shenango

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2017:

Carlisle, Elder, Female

Donegal, Elder, Female - Elder Elaine Lenyo

Lackawanna, Clergy, Female

Washington, Clergy, Female - The Rev. Dr. Christina Hosler

Personnel

Class of 2011: Beaver-Butler (first term)

Class of 2014:

Lehigh, first term

Pittsburgh, first term

Washington, first term

Self Development of People (SDOP)

Class of 2014:

Northumberland

Gene Gordon, Clergy, Northumberland, second term

Redstone

Patrick Sileo, Clergy, Redstone, second term

Huntingdon, first term

Lake Erie, first term

NO SYNOD ACTION NEEDED

**People elected directly by the Presbytery
Presbyteries need reminded of these positions**

Commissioner Positions Open

Class of 2014 (Term begins 1/1/2012)

Carlisle, Racial Ethnic At-Large (Elder or Clergy)

Donegal, Clergy - The Rev. Diane Burkland, first term

Lackawanna, Clergy

Lehigh, Racial Ethnic At-Large (Elder or Clergy)

Pittsburgh, Racial Ethnic At-Large (Elder or Clergy)

Commissioners Eligible for Re-Election

Class of 2014 (Term begins 1/1/2012)

Barty Abdelnour, Clergy, Lehigh

Barbara Adams-Smelter, Elder, Racial Ethnic At-Large, Philadelphia

Mary Kathryn Crom, Clergy, Lake Erie

Bob Dunkleberger, Clergy, Huntingdon

Ella Lee, Elder, Shenango

Priscilla Peters, Elder, Philadelphia

John Porter, Clergy, Beaver-Butler

Margo Tomlinson, Elder, Lackawanna

Commissioners Already Re-Elected by Their Presbytery

Class of 2014 (Term begins 1/1/12)

Susan Nesti, Elder, Redstone, second term

Campus Ministry: Why?

Each time we pour the baptismal waters, we make a covenant to nurture the faith of the newly baptized. Campus ministry provides a valuable resource to the church as we live out that covenant with college aged students.

The promises congregations make in the sacrament of baptism are vital to discipleship. We promise, on behalf of the whole Christian Church, to guide and nurture those being baptized by word and deed, with love and prayer, encouraging them to know and follow Christ Jesus as faithful members of Christ's church. But congregations often struggle with how best to live out these promises with respect to college students, who are learning to think critically, exploring the assumptions of their lives, often in locations far away from the churches of their childhood.

Campus ministry serves the larger church in fulfilling these baptismal promises. It offers an opportunity for college students to explore their evolving selves and to share their experiences with others who also are asking questions of faith. It provides a Christian presence and voice that walks with students as they ask questions of faith – as they express doubt – as they embrace science and critical thinking – as they mature into the people God created them to be. Campus ministry mentors and empowers college students to claim faith for themselves as they experience and navigate the transitions that college brings. Through worship, service and fellowship, it shapes disciples of Jesus Christ and encourages students to become leaders on campus, in the church, and in the world.

At a time when church participation among people of all ages is declining and many young people are leaving the church, campus ministry provides a welcome opportunity to engage college students in the life of faith and in Christian community. By offering a Christian presence on campus, and by encouraging local congregations to connect with college students, campus ministry serves the larger church in living into the baptismal promises made to college youth.

Just as Christ meets people where they are, just as they are, so too campus ministry meets students where they are and walks with them as they grow in life and faith, exploring and sharing their evolving selves and their maturing experience of themselves, others, God, and the world in the context of Christian community.

The ministry and outreach opportunities presented by campus ministry are vital to the future of the church, and deserve the wholehearted support of the Synod of the Trinity.

Book of Order references:

W-2.3013 The congregation as a whole, on behalf of the Church universal, assumes responsibility for nurturing the baptized person in the Christian life.

W-2.3012 e. Making certain that those baptized are nurtured in understanding the meaning of their Baptism, of the Lord's Supper, and of their interrelation, and that they are surrounded by Christian encouragement and support.

Revised Draft: Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Marks of Covenantal Campus Ministry

Synod of the Trinity

Campus Ministry provides a unique opportunity for young adults to develop spiritually, intellectually, and morally as in covenant community they consider and struggle with questions of faith and life.

Recognizing and encouraging the diverse ways in which ministry occurs on different campuses and in different geographic regions, the Synod of the Trinity focuses its support on ministries that are:

- a) reflective of the Reformed tradition,
- b) connected to the larger church,
- c) sensitive to the age-appropriate needs and issues of college students, and
- d) safe environments for faith development.

In making decisions about campus ministries with which the Synod will be in covenant relationship (*and which will thus be eligible for Synod funding and other support*) the Synod will assess the following marks of campus ministry:

1. Worship

Campus Ministry provides opportunities for students to worship together and with the larger church.

2. Service

Campus Ministry connects students with opportunities on the international, national, local, and campus levels to embody the servanthood of Jesus.

3. Community & Fellowship

Campus Ministry facilitates community among students, so that they might build solid, healthy relationships where they learn to live out the commandment to love God and neighbor while recognizing themselves as beloved children of God.

4. Discipleship

Campus Ministry helps students grow as followers of Jesus, as they learn to discern, embrace and employ their gifts, integrating their faith and thus participating in God's work in the world.

5. Leadership

Campus Ministry gives students the opportunity to have active roles in the formation, practice, and evaluation of the ministry

6. Congregationally Connected

Campus Ministry builds relationships between students and local congregations, encouraging both the campus and the congregation to identify ways to grow together in ministry.

(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**Self-Evaluation/Application Covenantal Campus Ministry*****Synod of the Trinity***

The Synod seeks relationship with campus ministries that embody particular characteristics of faith and practice. Please answer the following questions in reference to the program of ministry and the students served, as opposed to the work of a particular individual. Thank you!

1. **Worship:** Campus Ministry provides opportunities for students to worship together and with the larger church.
 - a) Where, when, and how, does worship take place in the ministry?
 - b) Do the students have a role in planning and/or leading worship? Please describe how that works.
 - d) How many students are participating in worship and what is the size of the core group that worships together?

2. **Service and Outreach:** Campus Ministry connects students with opportunities on the international, national, local, and campus levels to embody the servanthood of Jesus.
 - a) Describe the service initiative in the ministry that generated the most spiritual energy/growth this year? How did that energy play out subsequently in the group and its life together?
 - b) List the service initiatives in which the ministry participated over the past year and the number of students involved in each? How many total students were involved (realizing that some students participate in multiple opportunities).
 - c) How many distinct opportunities for service are made available to students each year on the campus?

3. **Community & Fellowship:** Campus Ministry facilitates community among students, so that they might build solid, healthy relationships where they learn to live out the commandment to love God and neighbor while recognizing themselves as beloved children of God.
 - a) Tell us what is happening in the ministry to facilitate this kind of community among the students. How effective is it and how do you assess that effectiveness?
 - b) Where did you see meaningful relationships growing between this group and the larger campus?
 - c) Where did you see meaningful relationships growing between students and members of congregations beyond the campus?

4. Discipleship and Evangelism: Campus Ministry helps students grow as followers of Jesus, as they learn to discern, embrace and employ their gifts, integrating their faith and thus participating in God's work in the world.

- a) What programs are in place to help students develop as disciples? Give two examples and why you see them as effective?
- b) What is one way that you are helping the students with vocational discernment? Please explain briefly.

5. Leadership: Campus Ministry gives students the opportunity to have active roles in the formation, practice, and evaluation of the ministry

- a) What are the primary ways that students are engaged in ministry leadership?
- b) Do students participate in leadership roles in community congregations? Y/N. If so, what kinds of roles do they play?
- c) What is the role of the campus pastor/board in relation to the students with regard to planning and setting directions for the ministry?

6. Congregationally Connected: Campus Ministry builds relationships between students and local congregations, encouraging both the campus and the congregation to identify ways to grow together in ministry.

- a) Which local congregations are most involved with the ministry? What does that involvement look like?
- b) In what ways are the students connected to a local church "back home" in which they are active? What proportion of the students would you estimate are connected in to their home church in some way?
- c) In your observation, what ways work best to connect students with congregations that are local to campus?

7. Is the presbytery aware of your ministry? If so, how do you relate to the presbytery?

Please attach COMPLETE financial information, including detailed budget of income and expenses for personnel, property and program ministry expenses.

Thank You!



The Rhythm of the Synod

Faith Notes from the Summer Conference Meeting of the Synod of the Trinity
Gathering at the Penn Stater Conference Center
State College, Pennsylvania June 5-7, 2011

"A Church for the Community – A Community for the Church" was the Summer Conference theme this year. Speakers were the Rev. Carol Howard Merritt (minister and author) and the Rev. Phil Tom (Director, U.S. Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships). They presented compelling ideas and inspiration for becoming an important presence in the community where churches are located. They also challenged listeners to be increasingly spiritually significant for various people groups who represent a diversity of ages, a variety of ethnicities, and a multiplicity of socio-economic backgrounds.

Three worship services featured excellent preaching by the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge (Pastor to Pittsburgh Presbytery); the Rev. Aisha Brooks-Lytle (Mt. Airy Presbytery Church); and the Rev. William Carter (Clarks Summit Presbyterian Church). All three pastors are talented jazz musicians, so worship and other events were especially enjoyed by participants as Dr. Sorge played the piano, the Rev. Brooks-Lytle sang, and the Rev. Carter led the group PresbyBop in a wide range of jazz music.

Worship music and a concert were also provided by the delightful young singer/songwriter Brittany Ann who played the guitar and sang in a folk music style. She provided ethereal melodies, intricate instrumental methods, and astute observations of life in her lyrics.

Elder Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), spoke in a general session, as well as with people gathered in small groups. Her presence was greatly appreciated and Presbyterians were pleased to interact with her.

Offerings taken during the worship services will be divided equally between the Laughlin Memorial Chapel in the Presbytery of Upper Ohio Valley and the "Not for Sale" Campaign working to stem the tide of slave labor around the world. Both mission projects benefit children and a total of just over \$1,600 was collected help the youngest members of our population have better lives and healthy opportunities to live freely and to be treated fairly.

At the Synod stated business meeting, Commissioners voted to maintain the Synod per capita at \$2.20. Synod Presbyterian Women Moderator Mary McElroy reported that this was her last Synod meeting in this role. The new Moderator will be Susan Mummert. Commissioners also approved a rationale for Synod support of Campus Ministry and Congregational Based Campus Ministries, as well as a list of criteria to be used for evaluating these kinds of ministries.

The 2011 Summer Conference Co-Chairs, Barb Smith, Executive Presbyter (Clergy, Lackawanna) and James Ihlenfeld (Elder, Beaver-Butler), faithfully, gladly and creatively led the planning team that developed this event. Team Members were: 2011 Synod Moderator Nan Best (Elder, Donegal), R.C. Smith (Clergy, Lehigh) and William Carter (Clergy, Lackawanna) along with Synod staff Lesley Shoup and Catherine Gray. Special assistance for worship was provided by Linda Williams and Delinda Donovan (Christian Educators, Pittsburgh).

The next stated business meeting in this 294th year of the Synod of the Trinity will be held Monday – Tuesday, October 10-11, 2011 at the Penn Stater Conference Center.

Submitted Joyfully in the Name of Christ,
The Rev. Lesley Imler Shoup, Associate Executive/Stated Clerk