



The Rhythm of the Synod

Faith Notes from the Meeting of the Synod of the Trinity
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania
October 11-12, 2010

Nan Best (Elder, Donegal) was installed as 2011 Synod Moderator and James Ihlenfeld (Elder, Beaver-Butler) was elected and installed as 2011 Vice Moderator during the second stated meeting in the 293rd year of the Synod of the Trinity. They were installed at the end of the business meeting and shall begin serving their terms on January 1, 2011.

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Stevens, Synod Executive, presented a paper proposing a future for the Synod that will be supportive of our sixteen presbyteries through "catalytic" funding, technical and process consulting, staff support and development, connecting and networking, constitutional services, and campus ministries. A major component of this proposal is to make available up to 5% of funds from the Synod reserves to assist presbyteries that are engaging in strategic areas of ministry and mission. Per capita will be maintained at its present level of \$2.20. In consultation with the presbyteries, there will be an exploration of a plan to move from funding through percentage distribution of shared mission to the Synod receiving funds as a result of direct appeals. There will be a 2011 New Initiatives Process to get support where it is needed. Synod Commissioners overwhelmingly accepted Dr. Steven's paper, as well as the 2011 New Initiatives Process.

Moderator Neal Galley reported on a positive trip to the 2010 General Assembly this past summer in Minneapolis. He showed a DVD advertising the 2012 General Assembly to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Significant parts of this DVD featured the voice and music of the late David M. Bailey who died on October 2, 2010 at the age of 44 as a result of a brain tumor. He was the son of well known Biblical scholar Ken Bailey.

Lawrence Davis (Elder, Philadelphia), Chairperson of the Finance and Budget Committee, gave a report on the 2011 budget. This budget was unanimously approved. Chantal Atnip, Synod Treasurer, reported that the third dividend from Brotherhood Insurance is \$49,872 (last year it was \$37,658). This will be distributed proportionately among the participating churches, presbyteries, and church camps.

Gregg Hartung (Elder, Beaver-Butler) shared information about the Communications Work Group's plans to update the Synod web site and offer assistance to presbyteries and churches in updating their web sites.

The Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland, Associate Synod Executive, spoke about her work with campus ministries, missional leadership, and developing Web Ex meetings. She lifted up ideas about discovering new ministry partners. She spoke of what it can mean to move beyond static boundaries, so that these boundaries cannot keep us boxed into ways of thinking and doing that are not productive, and we can reach out with vision and creativity.

Synod Treasurer, Chantal Atnip, was re-elected for another term from February 9, 2011 to February 10, 2016. The Rev. Lesley Shoup's title was updated to Associate Synod Executive /Stated Clerk in order to more accurately reflect her job description and the work she does. Both actions were unanimously endorsed by the Commissioners.

The next business meeting of the Synod will be Tuesday, June 7, 2011, at 1:30 PM at the conclusion of the 2011 Summer Conference. This will be at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College, Pennsylvania.

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