

Synod Sunday!

What is Synod Sunday? On this day, we invite the congregations and presbyteries in the Synod of the Trinity region to celebrate the gifts and blessings that take place in our bounds throughout the year.

Why Sept. 17? The Synod of the Trinity gathered for the very first time on Sept. 17, 1717. We hold Synod Sunday on the Sunday closest to Sept. 17 each year.

What is the Synod of the Trinity? We are a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mid council that serves 16 presbyteries in a region that encompasses Pennsylvania, all of West Virginia except for the eastern panhandle, and the counties of eastern Ohio (with West Virginia's northern panhandle) generally known as the Upper Ohio Valley.

What does the Synod do? Great question. Quoting our primary end (goal), *"As part of the Body of Christ, the Synod of the Trinity, through the responsible use of shared resources, supports and challenges member Presbyteries to be vital, innovative and faithful in their collaborative and distinctive callings."* We work hand-in-hand with the ministry and mission of our presbyteries as they seek to support the witness of congregations, to the end that the church throughout its region becomes a community of faith, hope, love and witness.

How do we do that? Another good question. The Synod supports presbytery leadership by offering training, networking and continuing education opportunities. We also annually award grants for mission travel, new initiatives in ministry, and promoting justice and righteousness.

How can I learn more? www.SynTrinity.org

What's new in the Synod?

- Rev. Michael Wilson begins tenure as new Synod stated clerk.
- Leadership changes in place for four presbyteries.
- Synod offers many grant opportunities for presbyteries, congregations and individuals in the region.

See reverse side for more details



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Michael Wilson brings stated clerk talents to Synod of the Trinity

Rev. Michael Wilson, the stated clerk at the Presbytery of Donegal, was elected the Synod's new stated clerk last fall and began serving in 2023.

"I am surprised to feel as called to this as I do. I have known Forrest (Claassen, current Synod executive) since seminary, although we have never been professional colleagues until now. I feel very called to this position."



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Four presbytery executives retire as regions begin new chapters

In the last year, the executive presbyters in Pittsburgh, Carlisle, West Virginia and Northumberland retired, leaving those regions with new leadership plans as they head into the fall.

- Sheldon Sorge retired as general minister of Pittsburgh Presbytery at the end of 2022. Brian Wallace is currently the acting head of staff.
- In Carlisle, Cheryl Galan retired in May after 4 ½ years as the interim executive presbyter. The presbytery's new staffing model now features two full-time presbytery leaders.
- Ed Thompson retired from his post in West Virginia at the end of July. Stated Clerk Maureen Wright was unanimously elected transitional executive presbyter.
- Steve Cureton is retiring from Northumberland at the end of August. Two part-time transitional executives will fill the vacancy.



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Grant opportunities available

The Synod of the Trinity offers several grant opportunities for presbyteries, congregations and individuals in our region. Below is a list of those options.

- Grants for Innovation in Ministry
- Grants for Ecumenical Efforts
- Grants for Presbytery Partnerships
- Grants for Promoting Justice and Righteousness
- Grants for Education and Nurture

We will continue to support mission travel, especially if it falls under one or more of the priorities above. More information, including how to get the right application form for your purpose, is available from Elizabeth Connelly, Connections Coordinator, at econnelly@syntrinity.org.

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