



Synod of the *Trinity* Being More Together





Virtual work slogan
during the pandemic



Partaking of Communion
at the Synod Assembly

Supporting

For more than 300 years, the Synod of the Trinity has been a nurturing source of support and resources for its presbyteries as they seek to be faithful to Christ's commission in their support of vital, mission-oriented congregations.

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.

The Synod supports presbytery leadership by offering training, networking and continuing education opportunities such as: executive presbyter forums; COM/CPM, PJC and General Assembly trainings; cost-sharing for education for first-time presbytery executives and access to demographic ministry analysis.

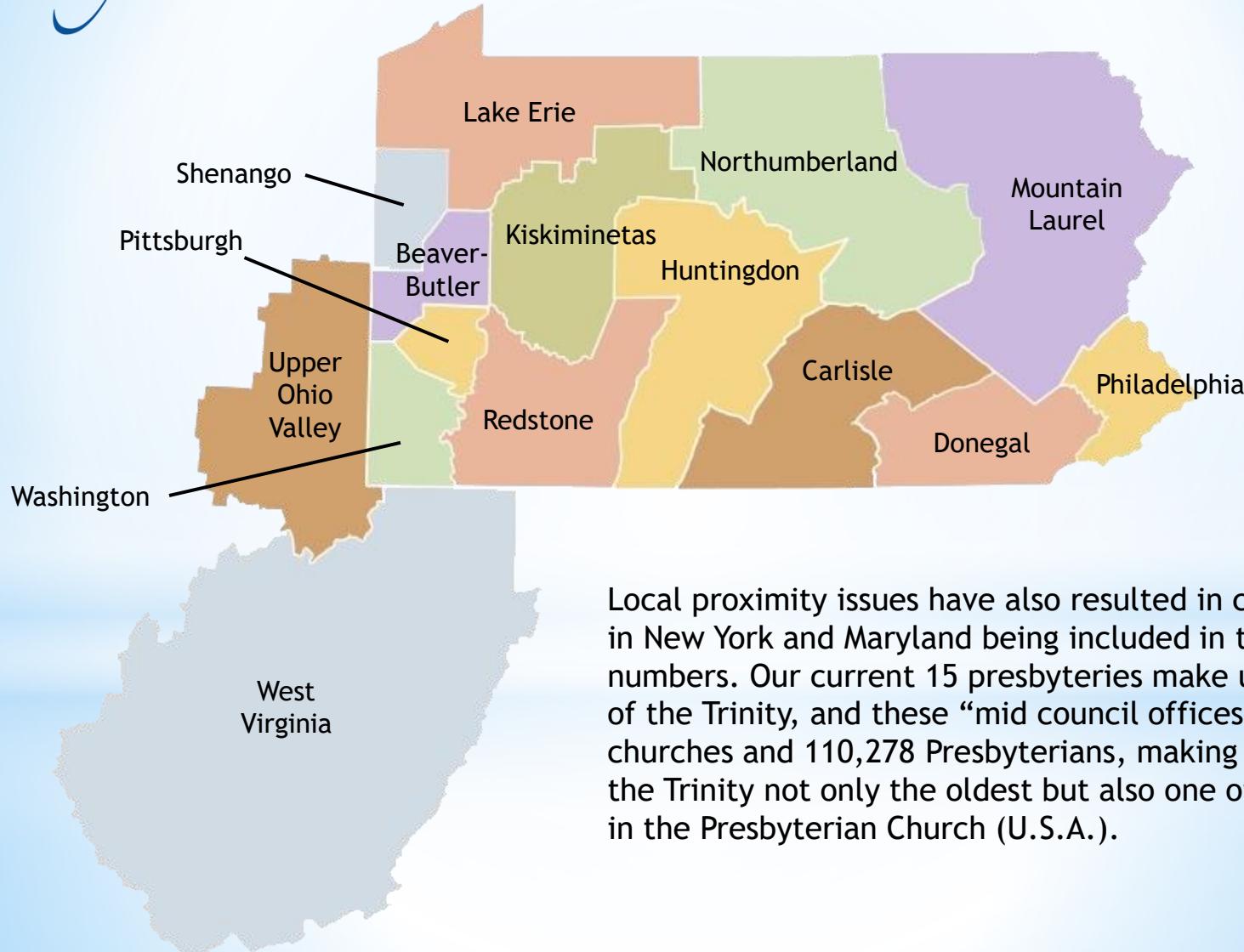
In addition, the Synod participates in objectives relating to the larger mission strategies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly.



Regional Gatherings

Supporting

The Synod of the Trinity region covers all of Pennsylvania, most 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.



Local proximity issues have also resulted in congregations in New York and Maryland being included in the Synod's numbers. Our current 15 presbyteries make up the Synod of the Trinity, and these "mid council offices" serve 1,007 churches and 110,278 Presbyterians, making the Synod of the Trinity not only the oldest but also one of the largest in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Our calling

Synod's primary end:

- As part of the body of Christ, The Synod of the Trinity, through the responsible use of shared resources, supports and challenges presbyteries to be vital, innovative and faithful in their collaborative and distinctive callings.

Secondary ends:

- Denotes an end that has been emphasized for the work of the Synod by the Governing Commission.

Synod Ends

- Connecting presbytery leadership for coordination, spiritual support and sharing best practices.
- Encouraging innovation in, between and among presbyteries through the use of human, programmatic and financial resources.
- Providing services of education and nurture for presbyteries.
- Encouraging partnerships among presbyteries in joint and shared mission and ministry.
- Nurturing relationships within the larger church for the purpose of greater witness.
- Fostering conversation and mutual understanding among presbyteries for action toward and promotion of justice and righteousness. (Amos 5:24-25)



Leading

The Synod Assembly is comprised of **32 commissioners** representing each of the Synod's 15 presbyteries plus six racial ethnic at-large commissioners.

Leading

Since 2015, the Synod of the Trinity has been following a model of governance and leadership created by John and Miriam Carver called "[Policy Governance](#)." This format is based on four philosophical pillars:

- Accountability
- Servant Leadership
- Clarity of Group Values
- Empowerment

Through this governance model, the Synod's primary stakeholders are its member presbyteries and their congregations, whom the Carvers label as "owners." A Governing Commission (a leadership board acting on behalf of the Synod Assembly throughout the year) attends to the Synod's primary documents while the Synod executive leads and works closely with staff and volunteers to implement the Synod's ends.



The [Governing Commission](#) consist of the Synod's co-moderators, eight elected commissioners, five ex-officio (four Synod staff members plus the previous co-moderator) and two advisory executive presbyters.

Making a difference

Each year, the Synod of the Trinity awards hundreds of thousands of dollars to presbyteries and churches. Money is generally distributed in the following ways:

■ **Justice & Righteousness Grants**

This grant is designed to promote conversation or action that leads to greater justice and righteousness in the church and the wider world. Efforts may include direct action, preventive measures, community education and heightening awareness.

■ **Mission Travel Grants**

Short-term mission trip travel represents a special kind of experience, and the Synod of the Trinity wants to help congregations and individuals put faith into action through this grant.



Synod Grants

Making a difference

■ **Innovation Grants**

Through these one-time grants, congregations, presbyteries and faith-based organizations are encouraged to dream and explore innovative and new possibilities for ministry and mission. Applicants are encouraged to brainstorm new project initiatives intent on building the church's capacity without the fear of failure.

■ **Ecumenical Relationships Grant**

Guided by the Synod's fifth end ("Nurturing relationships within the larger church for the purpose of greater witness"), the Ecumenical/Wider Church Grant is designed to encourage joint and shared ministry and mission in local communities among ecumenical partners.



Making a difference

■ Partnership Grants

The Partnership Grant is designed to encourage joint and shared ministry and mission by groups of people from different organizations, congregations and presbyteries.

Synod Grants



■ Education & Nurture Grants

This opportunity is designed specifically to support undergraduate and seminary scholarships, camperships and new programming for regional PC(USA) camps, congregational efforts that address local educational needs and similar endeavors.



Making a difference

■ Small Church Leadership Development

Funds are provided to our presbyteries to distribute to their smaller congregations (membership of 100 or less) for the training of clergy and lay leadership. Each year, the Synod distributes as much as \$32,000 to its presbyteries for this purpose.



■ **Brotherhood Insurance Partnership**

Profits generated by Brotherhood Insurance are given back to the Synod and then shared with those entities that participate in the program. Annually, \$50,000 is distributed back to our presbyteries.

Being more

Reaching out to the world is at the core of the gospel and is a significant commitment of the Synod's presbyteries and congregations, which have relationships and partnerships all over of the world.

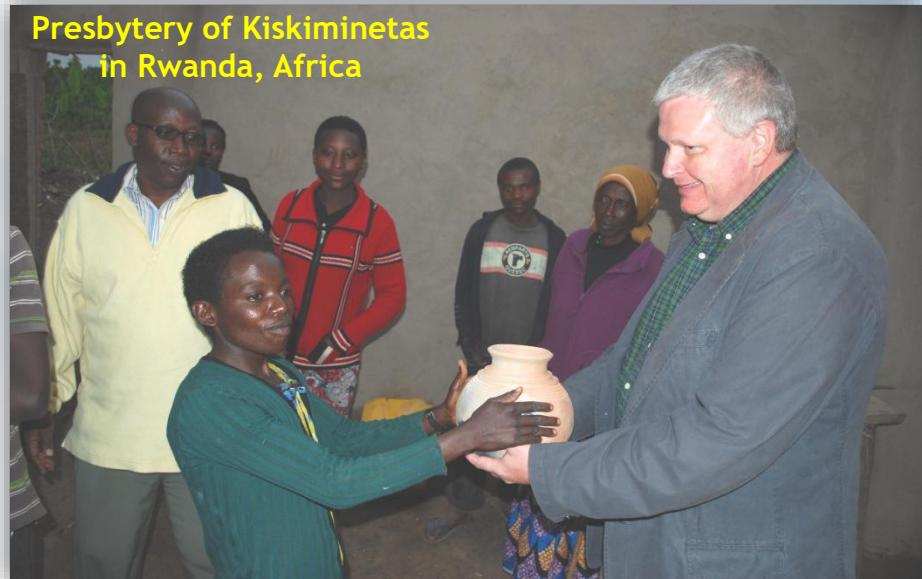
As just one example, a Synod grant helped support a six-month stay of a pastor in Rwanda who strengthened the bond between church and presbytery. Grants have assisted mission travel for many groups within the Synod that have been called to build partnerships with Christians in Africa, Central America and the Middle East, as well as in the United States.



Presbytery of Carlisle
in Honduras



Lehigh Presbytery in Point Pleasant, N.J.



Presbytery of Kiskiminetas
in Rwanda, Africa

Coming together

The Synod of the Trinity, its presbyteries and churches are committed to being involved in conversations that bring to light civil and social issues that plague our world today. We pray that raising awareness with a push toward action will make a difference for Christ in our local communities and beyond.

At Synod Assembly meetings, prayer and conversations center around racial and social issues that are plaguing our nation. A congregation within our bounds created a remembrance to the lives lost during one of the world's deadliest acts of war — the bombing of two Japanese cities that resulted in the deaths of 120,000 people. We as a region continue to gather, talk and look to the future for ways that lead to action and living in faith.



Walk for Peace & Unity by
Williamsport Presbyterian Church



Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance
Market Square PC in Harrisburg, PA

Nurturing

There are eight camp and conference centers within the Synod's region. They have direct partnerships with specific presbyteries and receive regular financial support from Synod grants.

Synod Camps & Conference Centers

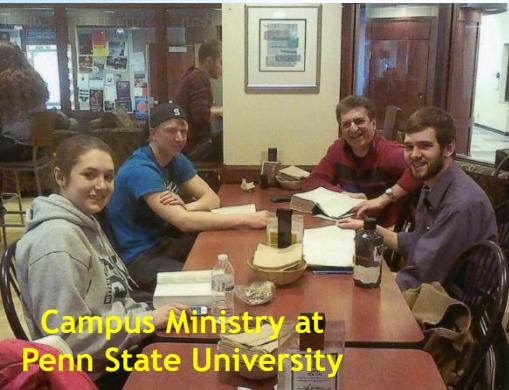


- **Beaver Creek Presbyterian Church Camp**
Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery
- **Bluestone Camp and Retreat**
West Virginia Presbytery
- **Camp Lackawanna**
Lackawanna Presbytery
- **Camp Lambec**
Beaver-Butler, Lake Erie,
Kiskiminetas, Shenango Presbyteries
- **Camp Presmont**
Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery
- **Crestfield Camp & Conference Center**
Pittsburgh Presbytery
- **Krislund Camp & Conference Center**
Carlisle, Huntingdon,
Northumberland Presbyteries
- **Pine Springs Camp**
Redstone, Washington Presbyteries



Educating

Synod funds are given to several colleges and universities within our bounds to support Campus Ministries. In some cases, the funds go toward the salaries of the college chaplains and help cover programming costs.



- **Bloomsburg University**
 Protestant Campus Ministry
- **Mansfield University**
 Protestant Campus Ministry
- **Penn State University**
 Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship
- **Wilson College**
 Protestant Campus Ministry
- **West Liberty University**
 Protestant Campus Ministry
- **Westminster College**
 Westminster Presbyterian Fellowship

Synod College Affiliations

The Westminster Foundation serves as the campus ministry arm of the Presbytery of West Virginia, supporting several universities in the state. The Synod provides funds to the Foundation through the presbytery, which in turn passes them on to those schools' campus ministries.

- **Beckley (WVU Tech)**
- **Davis & Elkins College**
- **Fairmont State University**
- **Marshall University**
- **West Virginia University**



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