



The Synod of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Highlights from the 3/11/21 Commissioners Meeting

On 3/11/2021, nineteen commissioners were joined at their meeting by five members of the Administrative Commission, five corresponding members from presbytery staffs, and four Synod and Office of the General Assembly staff members.

- Commissioners Lora Manon and Andy Thorburn offered a meaningful time of reflection and prayer on the story of Lazarus, John 11: 1-44, with a lectio divina style reading and reflections.
- Participants got to know each other as they shared in small groups what their presbyteries or churches are doing to strengthen congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and/or eradicate systemic poverty (the 3 foci of the Matthew 25 initiative).
- Members of the Ministry Focus team presented a revision to the 2021 budget to allocate \$100,000 to the following ministries: Matthew 25 grants (\$50,000), Higher Education Scholarships for Christian Leaders (\$37,000), Teaching and Formation Ministries (\$5,000), Racial Equity Caucuses (\$5,000), and Cross-Presbytery Cohorts (\$3,000).
- Participants had the opportunity to discuss a draft/first read proposal for a potential new governance structure for the Synod, which balances the leadership of the assembly in providing governance and the leadership of the staff in overseeing the ministry.
- Interim Executive Chip Hardwick gave a brief ministry update, bringing attention to the \$8,000 gift that each presbytery received from the Synod at the close of 2020; Lenten worship services available for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Sunday after Easter; upcoming LeaderWise leadership development workshops; a workshop for new preachers offered by Maumee Valley Presbytery; \$50,000 in to be made in 2021 to campus ministries at public universities; and upcoming Higher Education Scholarships for Christian Leaders.



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- The members of the Administrative Commission voted on and approved the prior discussions of the commissioners within the meeting in affirming the ministry focus and budget modifications, and also confirmed the nominations of the full Grants and Scholarships Team and several members of the Self Development of People team.
- Future meetings include the following:
 - 5/7/21 12:00 pm ET Administrative Commission Meeting (commissioners and others welcomed but not expected)--Zoom
 - 8/27/21 11:00 am ET Administrative Commission Meeting (commissioners and others welcomed but not expected)--Zoom
 - 10/17/21 dinner through 10/19/21 mid-afternoon Commissioners Meeting—in person at Toledo area hotel, public health conditions permitting

For more information, you can find all meeting documents

at <https://synodofthecovenant.org/assembly-papers/>. Please contact Interim Executive Chip Hardwick with any questions or for more detail: chip@synodofthecovenant.org or 309-530-4578.