



The Synod of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

2/12/21 Administrative Commission Meeting Highlights

On 2/12/21, seven members of the General Assembly Administrative Commission (GAAC) welcomed fifteen commissioners, corresponding members, and staff from throughout the SOC to its meeting. Here are some of the highlights:

- GAAC member Rev Adel Malek offered a thought-provoking reflection on Matthew 10:16-22 entitled “Suffering and Trust”
- Participants discussed steps toward the development of a short- and long-term ministry focus by receiving recommendations from the Ministry Focus Team for 2021 around the Matthew 25 initiative and approving a contract with Laurie Ferguson to develop a focus for three-five years.
- A new approach for Grants and Scholarships for 2021 was approved, with the former New Covenant and Racial Ethnic Grants becoming Matthew 25 Grants, and the former Higher Education Scholarships becoming Higher Education Scholarship for Christian Leaders.
- Continued progress toward financial clarity is being made, with 2020 results and an Analysis of Internal Controls to be delivered by auditors DeMarco and Associates at the 5/7/21 GAAC meeting.
- A covenant agreement with Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services of Michigan) was approved.
- The Synod’s nominating function will be fulfilled via conversations between commissioners, presbytery leaders, presbytery committees on representation, and the interim executive.



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- Here are the following dates for meetings of the GAAC and for commissioners in 2021. Commissioners, presbytery leaders, and other interested parties are welcome, but not expected, at GAAC meetings
 - March 11, 6 pm, Commissioners Meeting, by zoom
 - May 7, 12:00 pm, GAAC meeting, by zoom
 - August 27, 11:00 am, GAAC meeting, by zoom
 - October 7-9, times tbd, Commissioners Retreat (in person, 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: synod.covenant@gmail.com or 309-530-4578.