

Synod Stated Meeting
Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center | Little Rock, AR
October 17, 2023

Welcome & Introductions –Synod Moderator Seth Saathoff called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. CDT, opening the meeting with prayer.

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Moderator Saathoff acknowledged the Native American peoples who lived on the land that is now called Little Rock, including the Caddo, Quapaw, Osage, Choctaw, and Cherokee peoples. Even the name *Arkansas* came from the Quapaw people. Moderator called for a moment of silence to remember those peoples who called the land around Ferncliff home.

Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum – In accordance with the Bylaws, Sec. 3.1.3 whereby 50% or more of the elected commissioners constitutes a quorum, a quorum was declared by the Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Steve Shive. 15 of 28 Commissioners were present (*Attachment A*).

Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors – Corresponding Members and Visitors were also acknowledged and seated. Polly Williams moved and David Watson seconded that the Corresponding Members and visitors be seated and given privileges of the floor. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Agenda – With the meeting agenda presented, Ben Davidson moved and Ron Fike seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried (*Attachment B*).

Approval of Minutes – Moderator Saathoff presented the minutes from the previous Synod Assembly on February 16, 2023, for approval. Without any additions or corrections, approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting on October 2022 were moved by Ron Fike and seconded by Jim Freeman. Motion carried (*Attachment C*).

Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Report – Synod Leader Steve Shive reported to the Assembly. Steve highlighted the process of evaluating the programs and missions of the Synod, visiting with Presbytery councils and Presbytery leadership. Steve also reported that the 2022 Presbytery minutes have been reviewed and reports sent to each presbytery. Steve has begun coaching the three Oklahoma presbyteries, as they explore becoming a new creation. The Synod Leader/Stated Clerk search team has begun their work and Steve reported that the process is moving forward. The Synod has started a program called “Living in Liminal Space” where an online conversation takes place with thought leaders about the future of the church. These conversations are also recorded and published on our Sunspots podcast.

Steve reported that Leaderwise and Boundaries Training has been established for four dates in 2024.

Synod Moderator Report – Moderator Seth Saathoff reported on how the churches, presbyteries and the Synod have changed since the last time we were able to meet in person. In our ‘liminal’ year, the Synod has transitioned leadership. While our year was not what we expected, Moderator Saathoff thinks that circumstances worked out for the best, maintaining what we have and setting us up to transition well to a new SL/SC.

Moderator Saathoff also reported of a sizable gift from the estate of Tyler Witt Aldridge of Baton Rouge. The Synod received a gift of \$1 million from this estate, along with gifts to his local church and the South Louisiana Presbytery and PC(USA) foundations.

Personnel Committee Report (*Attachment D*) – Committee Moderator Jeff Cranton reported that, with the recommendation of the SL/SC, the committee has assembled a Financial Oversight Committee to look over the finances of the Synod, clarifying our financial processes. Personnel Committee also proposed to the Coordinating Team the hiring of a part-time Administrative Assistant. The committee moved the approval of the new Administrative Assistant position. The motion carried.

Jeff also reported that the committee has oversight over the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search Team, reporting on the membership of the team. With the vision assessment, the team acquired the information they need to write the Ministry Discernment Profile. The search has now begun and candidates have submitted their names.

Jeff also reported that the Assistant Stated Clerk Ernie Higginbotham has announced his retirement, effective December 31, 2022. With regret and gratitude, the committee moved the acceptance of his resignation. Motion carried.

Committee on Representation Report (*Attachment E*) – Committee Moderator Rev. Minwoo Kim reported on behalf of the committee. The committee has been discovering their own role in the ministry of the Synod and how they can better communicate with the presbyteries. Minwoo also reported that this committee can serve as an ‘intercultural committee’, being a resource to churches who need support and guidance.

Empowering Committee Report (*Attachment F*) – Committee Moderator Wynona Bryant-Williams reported on behalf of the Committee. Wynona reported that the committee has spent the past couple of years discerning how they could use the \$20,000 gift given to each committee. After meeting with different ministry organizations, listening to their needs and concerns, the committee put out calls for proposals.

The Louisiana Organization for Refugees and immigration was awarded \$10,000 and the Global Ministry Committee of St. Charles Avenue Presbytery Church’s Refugee Welcome Backpack Project was awarded \$2500.

Coordinating Team Report (*Attachment G*) – Coordinating Team Moderator Kristy Rodgers reported on actions taken by the CT on behalf of the Synod. Kristy spoke of the recent work of the CT, retelling some of the recent history of the practices and policies of the Synod.

Kristy brought the following actions taken by the CT to be affirmed by the Assembly:

Adoption of a new job description for Synod Leader/Stated Clerk position
Adoption of Assessment and Visioning process for new leader search

Approved of a Disaster Relief grant of \$10,000 to Presbytery of Arkansas following tornadoes

Approved changing the Synod address to the Presbyterian Mission Center, located at 6100 Colwell Blvd. Ste. 200, Irving, Tx 75039.

Approved the creation of a Synod Financial Oversight Team to help develop a financial manual of operations that will capture and/or develop practices to help maintain continuity of operations, particularly during times of transition.

Approved remuneration for Bill Wiles' work on the Financial Oversight Team at a reduced CPA rate while we are in the process of sorting out these details and practices.

Approved the Synod Financial Oversight Team to develop and execute a plan for investing the Synod's idle cash funds into income generating financial vehicles including bank sweep accounts, certificates of deposit, money market funds, and the balanced equity fund offered by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation.

Approved that those authorized to be signers on these accounts will be Steve Shive, Kristy Rodgers, Seth Saathoff, Ben Davidson, and Bill Wiles, with the provision that it requires two signers to authorize any fund transfers or withdrawals.

Jeff Cranton moved to affirm these actions taken by the Coordinating Team, seconded by Ron Fike. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

The Financial Oversight Committee recommends to Assembly that a Certificate of Deposit with PILP that is renewable on October 28, 2023 at a higher rate of return be renewed. The CT moved that this CD be renewed. Polly Williams seconded. Discussion followed. Motion carried.

CT recommends the Stated Synod meeting for spring 2024 to be February 26-28, 2024, in New Orleans, LA. Motion carried.

Network Reports

Commissioner Kristy Rodgers reported on **Network for Dismantling Racism**, telling of their program "Resetting the Table" and their continued work of education and advocating.

Gary Holloman reported on **Synod Youth Workshop** (*Attachment H*), telling of this small group-based event that takes place at the University of Tulsa. SYW has a 67-year history in our Synod.

Ruth Dwyer, new Coordinator for **Solar Under the Sun**, reported the on the work of SUTS to eliminate energy poverty all over the world. In order to apply for and receive grants from a larger donor base, SUTS has recently become its own 501(c)(3) organization, but will retain its close relationship with the Synod, including a designated board member from Synod of the Sun.

Connecting Committee Report (*Attachment I*) – Committee Moderator David Watson reported on that the committee is getting back to basic, focusing on its core mission. The committee is looking forward to engaging our Covenant Partners.

Equipping Committee Report (*Attachment J*) – Committee Moderator Maggie Alsup reported on behalf of the Committee, directing Commissioners to the packet for a full report.

Grants and Scholarship Commission Report (*Attachment K*) – Commission Moderator Sharon Curry reported on the work of the Grants and Scholarship Commission. So far in 2023, the Commission has awarded \$88,243.83 and anticipates awarding \$100k by the end of the year. Sharon outlined some of the ministries, missions, and programs that have been funded by G&S.

Synod Partnership for Disaster Response (*Attachment L*) – Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Response, reported on the mission and ministry of SPDR. Kathy encouraged the Assembly to remember that she is the Synod's staff person to walk alongside presbyteries, churches, and groups to prepare for and respond to disasters. Over \$200k of PDA and SPDR funding has gone to disaster response in a coordinated fashion.

Dissolution of SCOOP – Synod Leader Steve Shive reported on the work of SCOOP, noting that this original committee was made up of members from all the Synod's presbyteries. It was noted from both General Assembly and other merged presbyteries that the effort to move forward should not be Synod-driven but come from the ground up.

The three Oklahoma presbyteries want to create their own group to bring proposals to their presbyteries, the Synod, and General Assembly. The Oklahoma Presbyteries Task Force has been formed.

It is recommended that SCOOP be dismissed, with the gratitude for the groundwork that they have laid, so that the new task force and be tasked with bringing forth the new creation. Jeff Cranton moved, and Jim Freeman seconded that SCOOP be dissolved. Motion carried.

Amendment of Synod Bylaws (*Attachment M*) – Synod Vice Moderator Ben Davidson began the discussion of amending the Bylaws. Ben moved that we suspend article 3.2 of the Synod Bylaws to allow Sharon Curry and Kristy Rodgers to serve as At-Large Commissioners for a third term, allowing Sharon to serve as Vice Moderator of the Synod for 2024. The motion also includes sending back to the Committee on Representation the motion to amend the Bylaws to

make room for additional persons to be included at At-Large Commissioners. David Watson seconded. Motion carried.

Nominations (*Attachment N*) – Synod Vice Moderator Ben Davidson reported on the work Synod Committee on Representation, presenting a slate of candidates to serve the Synod in 2024. Nominees for Diversity Representation, Committee Leadership, Standing Committees, Financial Leadership, and Synod Leadership were presented. The slate was elected.

The following candidates for leadership for Covenant Partners were listed:

Presbytery Foundation of Louisiana Board of Trustees

Class of 2025, James CJ Young, St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church

Class of 2024, F. David Grisset, St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church

Class of 2024, Betty Henderson, First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport

Class of 2023, Piper Morris, First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport

Class of 2023, Patty Kennel, St. Charles Ave. Presbyterian Church

Board of Trustees Lyon College

Victor Worley, Little Rock, AR

Gary Paxon , Batesville, AR

John Bellar, Cave City, AR

The slate was elected.

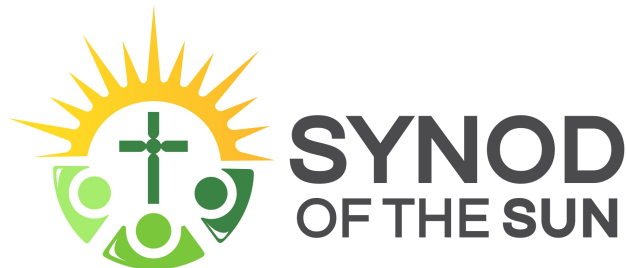
Approval of Preliminary Budget (*Attachment O*) – CT Moderator Kristy Rodgers presented the Preliminary Budget for 2024. Kristy highlighted some of the line items in the budget for the Assembly. The budget was approved.

Approval of SPDR Budget (*Attachment P*) – CT Moderator Kristy Rodgers presented the Preliminary Budget for SPDR for 2024. The budget was approved.

With the Assembly's business concluded, the Assembly then moved to the installation of the 2024 Moderator and Vice Moderator.

Synod of the Sun

2023 Fall Assembly | October 16-18
Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center



Commissioners Present

Maggie	Alsup	Commissioner	Arkansas
Carlos	Baladez	Commissioner	At Large
Wynona	Bryant-Williams	Commissioner	Arkansas
Jeff	Cranton	Commissioner	Eastern Oklahoma
Sharon	Curry	Commissioner	Grace
Ben	Davidson	Commissioner	Palo Duro
Carol	Davis	Commissioner	New Covenant
Ron	Fike	Commissioner	Cimarron
Jim	Freeman	Commissioner	Pines
Danita	Nelson	Commissioner	At Large
Isabel S.	Rivera-Velez	Commissioner	At Large
Kristy	Rodgers	Commissioner	Eastern Oklahoma
Janet	Ruark	Commissioner	Indian Nations
Seth	Saathoff	Commissioner	Mission
David	Watson	Commissioner	South Louisiana
Polly	Williams	Commissioner	Grace

Corresponding Members Present

Laurie	Barker	Corresponding Member	Tres Rios
Blake	Brinegar	Corresponding Member	Arkansas
Scott	Campbell	Corresponding Member	Palo Duro
Gordon	Edwards	Corresponding Member	Cimarron
Lynn	Hargrove	Corresponding Member	New Covenant
David	Kemp	Corresponding Member	Palo Duro
Christopher	Lee	Corresponding Member	Grace
Leigh	McCaslin	Corresponding Member	Eastern Oklahoma
Charles	Smith	Corresponding Member	Indian Nations
Stewart	Smith	Corresponding Member	Arkansas
David	Stipp-Bethune	Corresponding Member	Pines

Other Persons Present

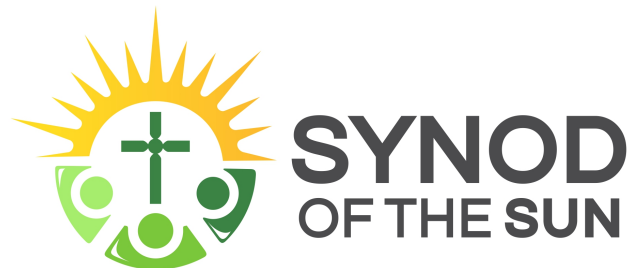
Lemuel Nikki	Garcia-Arroyo Collins	Institution/Agency Representative Institution/Agency Representative	PCUSA Ministry Engagement and Support 1001 New Worshiping Communities
Minwoo	Kim	Synod COR Member	Cimarron
Ernie Kathy Thomas Steve	Higginbotham Lee-Cornell Riggs Shive	Synod Staff Synod Staff Synod Staff Synod Staff	Grace South Louisiana Synod of the Sun Synod of the Sun
DONNA Gini Lil Mark Molly	MCKAY Norris-Lane Smith Sundby Casteel	Visitor/Guest Workshop Presenter Workshop Presenter Workshop Presenter Workshop Presenter	UKirk Collegiate Ministries Association SMU/Perkins Leaderwise Resetting the Table
Gary Ruth	Holloman Dwyer	Network Representative Network Representative	Synod Youth Workshop Solar Under the Sun

Excused Absent

Jerry Boksoon Stephen Bill Nancy Diana Katherine Sandra	Boles Egbert Hill Rose Ruff Smith Thomas Watson	Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner Commissioner	Tres Rios At Large New Covenant Tres Rios Palo Duro Indian Nations Cimarron Pines
<i>Marsha Arita</i>	<i>Schnendel Battiest</i>	<i>Commissioner Commissioner</i>	<i>Mission At Large</i>

Synod of the Sun

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Monday, October 16

- 4:00pm - Arrive/settle into your room
- 5:00pm - Gathering as Community & Exploring our Time Together- Steve
- 6:00pm - Dinner
- 7:00pm - Worship and Communion - Steve
- 8:00pm - Gather Around the Fire
- 9:00pm - Rest - A Celtic Prayer of the Evening

Tuesday, October 17

- 8:00am - Breakfast
- 9:00am - Opening Celtic worship
- 9:30am - Assembly Meeting
 - Vote of vision and new initiatives
 - Vote on Budget
 - Election of New Moderator and Vice Moderator
 - Update from the SL/SC Search
 - Other
- 12:00pm - Lunch
- 1:00pm - Workshops
 - Niki Collins - Learning 5 Things the Church Can Learn from our Newest Worshipping Communities
 - Gini Norris-Lane - UKirk: The Changing Landscape of Campus Ministry
- 2:30pm - Break

3:00pm - Workshops

Mark Sundby - Resilience for Weary Leaders

Lil Smith - Cultivating Stillness in Chaos

4:30pm - Rest/Relax/Play

6:00pm - Supper

7:00pm - Keynote Speaker - Mark Sundby- Co-Director of Leaderwise
"Hope in a Liminal Time"

8:30pm - Evening Prayer

Wednesday, October 18

8:00am - Breakfast

9:00am - Morning Worship

10:00am - Workshops

Kristy Rodgers - Resetting the Table

Kathy Lee-Cornell - Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery (SPDR)

11:30am - Going Forth

12:00pm - Lunch

1:00pm - Heading Home

**Synod Called Meeting
ZOOM Conference Call
February 16, 2023**

ATTENDANCE

First Name	Last Name	Presbytery		Status
Maggie	Alsup	Arkansas	Equipping	Commissioner
Jerry	Boles	Tres Rios	Empowering	Commissioner
Wynona	Bryan-Williams	Arkansas	Empowering	Commissioner
Dzandria	Chiphe	South Louisiana	Connecting	Commissioner
Jeff	Cranton	Eastern Oklahoma	Equipping	Commissioner
Sharon	Curry	Grace	Connecting	Commissioner
Ben	Davidson	Palo Duro	Empowering	Commissioner
Carol	Davis	New Covenant	Connecting	Commissioner
Ron	Fike	Cimarron	Equipping	Commissioner
Stephen	Hill	New Covenant	Equipping	Commissioner
Kristy	Rodgers	Eastern Oklahoma	Equipping	Commissioner
Bill	Rose	Tres Rios	Empowering	Commissioner
Janet	Ruark	Indian Nations		Commissioner
Nancy	Ruff	Palo Duro	Connecting	Commissioner
Seth	Saathoff	Mission	Connecting	Commissioner
Diana	Smith	Indian Nations		Commissioner
Sandra	Watson	Pines	Equipping	Commissioner
<i>David</i>	<i>Watson</i>	<i>South Louisiana</i>	<i>Connecting</i>	<i>Commissioner</i>
Polly	Williams	Grace	Connecting	Commissioner
<i>Arita</i>	<i>Battiest</i>	<i>Eastern Oklahoma</i>	<i>Connecting</i>	<i>Commissioner At-Large</i>
Danita	Nelson	Mission	Equipping	Commissioner At-Large
Minwoo	Kim	Eastern Oklahoma		Commissioner At-Large
Isabel	Rivera-Velez	New Covenant	Empowering	Commissioner At-Large
Carlos	Baladez	Mission		Commissioner At-Large

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS				
Laurie	Barker	Tres Rios	Pastoral Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Tim	Blodgett	Eastern Oklahoma	Moderator, EP Forum & Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Barry	Chance	South Louisiana	Presbytery Stated Clerk	
Gordon	Edwards	Cimarron	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Lynne	Hargrove	New Covenant	Presbytery Stated Clerk & Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Sandra	Hayes	Eastern Oklahoma	PW Moderator	Corresponding Member
David	Kemp	Palo Duro	Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Kay	Long	Tres Rios	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Leigh	McCaslin	Eastern Oklahoma	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Charlie	Smith	Indian Nations	Interim Presbytery Pastor	Corresponding Member
Sallie	Watson	Mission	General Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Richard	Williams	South Louisiana	Interim General Presbyter	Corresponding Member
STAFF				
Thomas	Riggs		Communication & Administration Coordinator	Synod Staff
Ernie	Higginbotham	Grace	Assistant Stated Clerk	Synod Staff
Kathy	Lee-Cornell	Grace	SPDR Director	Synod Staff

CO-OPTED				
Joshua	Kerr	Eastern Oklahoma	Grants & Scholarships Commission	
VISITORS				
Caly	Fernandez	Mission		Visitor
David	Kemp	Palo Duro		Visitor
John	Nelson	Tres Rios		Visitor
Steve	Shive	Grace		Visitor
Gregory	Cuellar			Visitor
ABSENT				
Marsha	Schendel	Mission	Connecting	Commissioner
Kathy	Thomas	Cimarron		Commissioner
Bok Soon	Egbert	South Louisiana	Equipping	Commissioner At-Large
Scott	Campbell	Palo Duro	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Stewart	Smith	Arkansas	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
George	Wortham	Pines	Interim General Presbyter & Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Matt	Miles	Tres Rios	Vision and Outreach Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Blake	Brinegar	Arkansas	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Tracy	Evans	Indian Nations	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Laurie	Palmer	Mission	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Mark	Southard	Cimarron	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member

	Thursday, February 16, 2023
6:00pm	Welcome & Introductions – Kristy Rodgers, CT Moderator
	Acknowledgement of Land & People – Kristy Rodgers, CT Moderator
	Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum – Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator
	Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors - Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator
	Adoption of the Agenda - Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator
	Arte de Lagrimas (Art of Tears) – Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar
	Litany of Welcome & Opening Prayer
	Confession & Assurance of Pardon
	Scripture & Sermon – Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar
	Offering
	Communion of the People – Rev. Minwoo Kim
	Benediction – Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar
	Border Ministry Discussion – Rev. Gordon Edwards, John Nelson, Caly Fernandez
	Approval of Minutes – Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator · October 2022
	Acting Stated Clerk Report – Ernie Higginbotham
	Synod Moderator Report – Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator
	Personnel Committee Report – Rev. Jeff Cranton, Committee Moderator · Interim Synod Leader · Contract/Recommendation · Budget request/motion for SPDR travel expense · Synod Leader Search Committee
	Committee on Representation Report – Rev. Minwoo Kim, COR Moderator
	Financials – Rev. Seth Saathoff, Moderator · 2022 Final Quarter Reports · SPDR Budget · 2023 Final Budget

	Nominations – Ben Davidson, Vice Moderator
	Grants & Scholarship Report – Rev. Joshua Kerr, Commission Member
	Connecting Committee Report – CRE Arita Battiest, Committee Moderator
	Equipping Committee Report – Rev. Margaret Alsup
	Empowering Committee – Dr. Wynona Bryant Williams Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Solar Under the Sun – Elizabeth Brinegar · Synod Youth Workshop – Lisa Perkins · Hispanic Mission Ministries – Rev. Ezequiel Herrera · Network for Dismantling Racism – Erin Sorrels · SCOOP – Rev. Amy Meyers and Pat Osoinach
	Synod Partnership for Disaster Response – Rev. Kathy Lee- Cornell, Director

Welcome & Introductions – With our meeting framed in worship, Synod Moderator Seth Saathoff called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. CDT. Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Valerie Young led a short tutorial on navigating Zoom

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Coordinating Team Moderator Kristy Rodgers spoke to the sin of conquering and claiming land from those who inhabited in indigenously and those who forced others to move to this land via forced migration. Confessing that this is God's land and we are merely stewards, Kristy invited us to consider how, sometimes in the name of God, we have not been God's stewards. We are called to a restorative relationship with God and with others.

Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum – In accordance with the Bylaws, Sec. 3.1.3 whereby 50% or more of the elected commissions constitutes a quorum, a quorum was declared by the Acting Stated Clerk Ernie Higginbotham with 21 of 24 Commissioners present.

Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors – Corresponding Members and Visitors were also acknowledged and seated. Vice Moderator Ben Davidson moved and Commissioner Jerry Boles seconded that Corresponding Members and visitors be seated and given privileges of the floor. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Agenda (*Attachment A*) – With the meeting agenda presented, Commissioner Polly Williams moved and Commissioner Sharon Curry seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried

A Presentation by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar – Dr. Cuéllar told the assembly about the work of Arte de Lagrimas. Arte de Lágrimas uses art to tell the human story of the refugee Central American children and youth crossing over the Texas-Mexico border.

Opening Hymn & Call to Worship – Moderator Saathoff invited the assembly to worship with an Opening Hymn. Commissioner Sharon Curry called the Assembly to Worship with a Litany of Welcoming the Stranger, inspired by Deuteronomy 10:19.

Confession & Assurance of Pardon – Moderator Saathoff led the assembly in confession and pronounced an assurance of pardon.

Scripture and Sermon – Rev. Dr. Gergory Cuéllar spoke from Isaiah 55:12-13, telling the participants of the Assembly how scripture points to a borderless faith. Following the presentation, an offering was collected for the work of Arte de Lagrimas.

Sacrament of the Lord's Table & Benediction – Communion was celebrated, led by Commissioner Minwoo Kim. Our Benediction was led by the Rev. Dr. Gregory Cuéllar. Moderator Saathoff thanked Dr. Cuéllar for his presentation and message.

Discussion: Border Ministry Presentation – General Presbyter of Cimarron Presbytery Gordon Edwards spoke of the work of the Empowering Committee over the past six months, discussing on how the committee could be better partners to Presbyterian border ministries. The Committee gathered with some of these partners in the previous week to being the process of forming a Synod Border Ministries network.

John Nelson with the Tres Rios Border Foundation spoke about their ministry in the El Paso/Juarez area, including leading an encounter group of the Synod's EP Forum.

Caly Fernandez spoke of how Puentes de Cristo is celebrating 38 years of working around the Texas/Mexico border in the Brownsville and McAllen area. Through their community partners, they serve the colonias along the parters.

Approval of Minutes (Attachment B) – Moderator Saathoff presented the minutes from the previous Synod Assembly on October 2022 for approval. Without any additions or corrections, approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting on October 2022 were moved by Commissioner Vice Moderator Davidson and seconded by CT Moderator Kristy Rodgers. Motion carried.

Acting Stated Clerk Report – Ernie Higginbotham reported there has been no Permanent Judicial Commission or traditional Stated Clerk activities since the last Assembly. Ernie reported one piece of correspondence from Mission Presbytery on January 23, 2023. The Presbytery's General Council made an "over and above" gift to the Synod of \$113,658.90.

Synod Moderator Report – Moderator Seth Saathoff commented on his expectations in coming into office and learning how to do this work without a Synod Leader/Stated Clerk at the beginning of his tenure. The transition time will present many challenges for the Synod, with challenge presenting opportunity.

One of those opportunities is to discern God's call for us, doing critical self-reflection. This could involve an Impact Assessment of our systems and structures in a post-COVID world. Rev. Saathoff also reported we have tentative plans to meet in person for Fall Assembly. Seth also recognized the effort and leadership of the Synod Staff.

Personnel Committee Report – Committee Moderator Jeff Cranton moved that the Synod elect Ernie Higginbotham as the Acting Stated Clerk from January 1, 2023 to March 15, 2023. Commissioner Jerry Boles seconded.

Jeff reported that this is a busy year for Personnel, tackling the challenges of a search for a Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk, work on discerning our identity and mission, needs for staffing, help the Synod committees assume responsibility for their ministries, work with committees to ensure current programming, work with the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk search team, and coordinate with the Synod Committee on Oklahoma Presbyteries.

The Personnel Committee moved the nomination of the Rev. Dr. Steve Shive to serve as the Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk before the Assembly. Rev. Shive is currently the Acting General Presbyterian for Grace Presbytery. The terms of call were presented in the Assembly packet. The motion carried (*Attachment C*).

The Personnel Committee has organized a Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search Team according to the personnel policies of the Synod (*Attachment D*). This team is comprised of representatives from each presbytery has been formed with names presented in the packet. Moderator Cranton nominated the names presented to the Assembly for approval. Motion carried.

Committee on Representation Report (*Attachment E*) – Committee Moderator Rev. Minwoo Kim reported on behalf of the committee. The committee is working from the theme “Why BIPOC Churches are Keeping Silent” and will work towards better understanding in the coming year.

Coordinating Team Report (*Attachment F*) – Coordinating Team Moderator Kristy Rodgers reported on actions taken by the CT on behalf of the Synod. The last team minutes are included in the packet.

CT Moderator Rodgers called upon Sharon Curry, Moderator of the Grants and Scholarship Commission, to report on their ministry (*Attachment G*). Sharon reported on the various programs, ministries, and individuals who have received grants since the last Assembly. Rev. Josh Kerr, Commission member, reported on how the Commission has been working with M.Div. scholarship applicants to get all of their paperwork turned in when some may have been misplaced during the transition.

CT Moderator Rodgers called upon Commissioner Arita Battiest to report on the work of the Connecting Committee (*Attachment H*). The Committee is slated to meet for the first time in 2023 soon.

CT Moderator Rodgers pointed out the report from the Equipping Committee and thanked them for their work (*Attachment I*).

CT Moderator Rodgers called upon Commissioner Wynona Bryant Williams to report on the work of the Empowering Committee. Wynona expressed her thanks and pride for the work of the Border Ministries group (*Attachment J*).

CT Moderator Rodgers reporting for the Solar Under the Sun Network, pointed out an upcoming Solar School on May 4-7 at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center (*Attachment K*).

Without a representative present, CT Moderator Rodgers mentioned the work Synod Youth Workshop. A video and flyer were presented, encouraging participation in SYW 2023 (*Attachment L*).

In the absence of a Network representative, CT Moderator Rodgers shared the report from the Network for Dismantling Racism in the packet (*Attachment M*).

CT Moderator Rodgers called upon General Presbyter Gordon Edwards to speak on behalf of the Special Committee on Oklahoma Presbyteries. Gordon talked about the make of the of the Committee and reason why this team was pulled together to talk about the future viability of Cimarron Presbytery and how that impact all of the Oklahoma presbyteries (*Attachment N*).

Financial Report (*Attachment O*) – Synod Moderator Saathoff presented the 2023 Final Budget for the Assembly’s consideration, pointing out a potential \$23,081.64 surplus at the end of the year. The net income for 2022 is approximately \$61,000. Vice Moderator Ben Davidson moved the adoption of the 2023 budget. Commissioner Sharon Curry seconded. Commissioner Jeff Cranton pointed out two additions to the budget. The first was a budget line item for SPDR travel expenses of \$2500. The second was the correction of an oversight in the personnel budget regarding a 8.5% Cost of Living Increase to the Administration and Communication Coordinator’s salary. This adds \$4785 to that salary line item. Motion carried.

Nominations – Vice Moderator Ben Davidson reported on the work Synod Committee on Representation, calling upon the Assembly to prayerfully consider candidates for the two open slots on the Committee.

Synod Partnership for Disaster Response (*Attachment P*) – Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Response, reported on the mission and ministry of SPDR. Kathy told the Assembly that it’s been a busy disaster season in the Synod, with 6 of the 11 presbyteries reporting a major disaster. Kathy highlighted the following elements of the SPDR report:

There is a new set of resources on the Synod’s website under Disaster Recovery. There is even more pertinent information on the Synod’s blog as well.

Kathy also reported on another blog post that highlights a year recap of all that’s happened. \$94k has come in from PDA to support SPDR programming.

Kathy also highlighted that SPDR will broadly promote One Great Hour of Sharing, as it provides funds for much of the work of PDA.

There are six long-term recovery efforts going on in all four states of the Synod. Kathy encouraged church mission teams to assist in the recovery efforts.

A network of liaisons is being formed to communicate between presbyteries and people are bring recruited presently.

Imagine Event (*Attachment Q*) - Before the Assembly concluded, Commissioner Sharon Curry shared some information on an experiential event in New Orleans called *IMAGINE: Life on the*

Margins being planned for the month of June. Sharon discussed some of the details and encouraged the Assembly to consider attending and promoting.

With the Assembly's business concluded, Moderator Saathoff suggested that we allow soon-to-be Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Steve Shive to offer the closing prayer and adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jerry Boles moved this suggestion, Commissioner Jeff Cranton second. The motion passed and the Assembly was closed with prayer.

Synod of the Sun Personnel Committee Report Fall Assembly 2023

Since our Spring Assembly, the Personnel Committee has been quite busy. Rev. Steve Shive has been hired as Bridge-Interim and is working hard for the Synod. Steve recommended to the committee that we entertain the idea of a Financial Oversight Committee comprised of three people and Rev. Shive as Bridge Interim. The committee agreed and took it to the Coordinating Team who approved the motion. The Financial Oversight Committee includes Rev. Shive Shive (Bridge Interim, Elder Bill Wiles (Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, and Rev. Rick Young (President, Texas Presbyterian Foundation) and Kristy Rodgers (Coordinating Team Moderator). Their work is already producing good fruit.

The committee with the help of Steve and others we have put together a proposal for a new parttime Administrative Assistant. The job description is as follows:

POSITION DESCRIPTION – Synod of the Sun Administrative Assistant

PURPOSE:

To serve as a member of Presbytery staff and assist the Synod Leader/ Stated Clerk, Director of Communications and the Synod Committee Moderators in fulfilling the mission goals of the Synod of the Sun.

REPORTS TO:

The Synod Leader of the Synod of the Sun

GENERAL GOAL OF THE POSITION:

To provide efficient, accurate and effective administrative and financial duties using current and standard software and formats used by the Synod.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Create the payables report.
- Weekly check the mail, deposit checks, and scan and send them to the Bookkeeper and, as needed, distribute the mail.
- Produce the Grant/Scholarship financial report prior to each Grants & Scholarships quarterly meeting.
- Record any incoming payments (especially for the Communication Services Plan(CSP) in Apos.
- Periodically produce a report to the Communication and Administration Coordinator (CAC) of any payments not received from CSP clients. The CAC will handle billing for CSP clients.
- Establish tax exempt status relationships with vendors and keep a running list e.g. Hertz, Hyatt, Office Depot, etc.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Maintain/update our commissioner database, both in Dropbox and on Airtable.
- Maintain the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk (SL/SC) calendar and the Synod calendar.
- Update the Synod calendar with current information of the Presbytery's Stated Meetings dates/times/locations.
- Have contact/relationship with Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF) and Presbyterian Foundation (PF).
- Administrate our Google workspace (email addresses for staff), our Microsoft 365 subscriptions and our Zoom phone administration.
- Administrate our UCCIB liability insurance, worker's comp., work with the Board of Pensions for staff.

SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, AND ABILITIES

- Maintain strict confidentiality.
- Complete correspondence, reports according to established timelines.
- Respond to messages in a timely, accurate and courteous manner.
- Must possess demonstrated skill in the following areas:
- Communication (oral and written)
- Strength at organizing and attention to details
- Proficiency and/or willingness to learn the following applications:
- Microsoft 365 – subscription management
- Google Workspace
- Zoom Office – including our phone system
- Google calendar
- Airtable.com – database management
- Aplos.com – financial management
- Cognitofirms.com – registration forms
- Dropbox
- Smart Receipts Plus – phone application
- Basic knowledge and/or experience with church organizations
- A working understanding of Presbyterian polity and programs is helpful
- Maintains a professional appearance, ethical conduct, and confidentiality.
- Can learn new job responsibilities quickly and effectively.
- Effective at relating to people with a variety of interests and opinions.
- Communicates cordially with the public in person, on the telephone and electronically.
- Handles or executes, with accuracy, multiple concerns and tasks at the same time. .
- Desire to function as a responsible member of a staff team.
- Self-motivated, able to prioritize and organize time and tasks effectively

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Willingness to learn new skills as the changing position parameters and effective office management may require.

This is a virtual position and the Synod of the Sun will provide the home equipment for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of this position.

The Personnel Committee moves approval of the new Administrative Assistant position and seeks the Assembly's permission to advertise and search for the new hire.

The Personnel Committee also has oversight of the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search Team, as all the members of Personnel are also on the Search Team as per Synod policy. The Search Team was on hold for a short time as we awaited the results of the Synod's Visioning Assessment. Upon receipt of the results, the Search Team went to work crafting the MDP or Ministry Discernment Profile (formerly the Ministry Information Form or MIF. After prayer and discussion, the Search Team Developed the MDP and took it to the Coordinating Team for approval. The motion passed with a couple minor corrections. The MDP has been posted on the CLC (Church Leadership Connection) website.

Lastly, our beloved Assistant Stated Clerk has announced his retirement from his position effective December 31, 2023. Ernie's time and work have been invaluable to the Synod.

With regret and tremendous gratitude, the Personnel Committee moves acceptance of Ernie's retirement.

This concludes the report of the Synod Personnel Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Jeff Cranton, Moderator
Synod of the Sun Personnel Committee

2023, Committee on Representation report
Rev. Minwoo Kim
(Moderator of the Committee on Representation)
Synod of the Sun
October 16~18, 2023

1. Overview of COR During and after COVID-19 world
 - April 6, 2021: AAIP (Asian Hate crime) conversation led by Synod Moderator, Bok Soon Egbert
 - April 20, 2021: Committee on Representation regular meeting by ZOOM (first meeting after the Pandemic)
 - June 16, 2021: Committee on Representation regular meeting by ZOOM (for reading and updating documents)
 - August 18, 2021: Committee on Representation regular meeting by ZOOM (for documents sharing with Valerie Young)
 - September 14, 2021: Preparing for the meeting of Conversation with Racial and Ethnic representation, and **finding representation existence in each presbytery in Synod.**
 - October 11, 2021: Conversation with Korean immigrant churches in Synod led by Synod Moderator, Bok Soon Egbert
 - ➔ Finding a problem in Synod and Ethnic groups of the church
 - Call the “problem” to “questioning.” Why BIPOC churches are afraid of White congregations?
 - ➔ After the Committee on Representation members contacted some of Presbyteries Clarks and found out there have been a few acknowledge of Representation on Synod or absence of representation.

2. Summary of 2022: The committee on representation tried to overcome the burning out of the committee selves, and tried to advertise Representation to the presbytery and own ethnic group (Black, Asian, and Hispanic churches)
 - ➔ The result of all the actions was disappointing, and also losing one of the Committee members. (3->2) Also **absence of Synod leaders, Valerie Young and Bok Soon Egbert made Committees lose energy.**

3. Overview of 2023:
 - January 25th, 2023: First ZOOM meeting with new members and Committee on Representation (2->4)
 - February 28, 2023: One member dropped out because of a health issue (4->3)
 - March 23, 2023: Second ZOOM meeting and elected both Vice-Modulator and Committee Clark. Also, set the slogan of “Why BIPOC churches are keeping silent.”
 - May 19, 2023: Third ZOOM meeting of Committee met new member. (3->4), and members want to break in summer activities

- July 6~July 9, 2023: Intercultural Youth conference by Hispanic women in Synod at Mo Ranch, TX. (About 50 international Youth were attended)



- September 5th ~ 8th, 2023: National Pastors Conference by Korean (PC U.S.A) churches in Chicago, IL. (100 pastors and 20 spouses, 2 instructors came from South Korea)





4. What do we learn?
 - a. BIPOC churches' silence is the silence of their crying; Most BIPOC churches want to reconnect with white churches, but it is truly hard to "re"-connect (culture, language, methods, and connection issues).
 - b. Absence of interest in many presbyteries: Some presbyteries even do not know the existence of the Committee on Representation in Synod.

5. Solution?
 - a. Inform Representation to own presbytery; ask them what they know.
 - b. Find BIPOC churches near you, and reach out to them. Most BIPOC churches do not feel connected with Presbytery or Synod.
 - c. Remember the difference, but do not overreact. Most BIPOC churches already accept differences, but this does not mean, they need "extreme care." Find a common bridge between your congregation and them. take a slow step with them and teach them if they cannot follow you. Remember, they all need your support.
 - d. Contact with Committee on Representation. We will help you if you need to.

CORRECTED COPY

EMPOWERING Committee

Fall Assembly Meeting

The Empowering Committee (**EC**) has spent most of the year trying to identify ministries that focused on working with the crisis at the border. Under the leadership of Rev. Gordon Edwards and Isabel Rivera-Velez, met with various groups to both communicate our purpose of wanting to help facilitate their needs as well as to understand their mission and purposes(s).

Many groups were invited to meet with the entire committee to give the full committee an opportunity to hear from the various border ministry's, to ask questions and to engage in meaningful conversation that would assist the **EC** in making informed decisions.

After listening to the groups, the **EC** put out a call for proposals. Two ministries responded to the call. The two ministries who responded were:

- (1) Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants (LORI)
- (2) The Global Ministry Committee at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church with a program entitled "Refugee Welcome Backpack Project.

The LORI ministry was awarded **\$10,000** and the "Refugee Welcome Backpack Project was awarded \$2,500.00.

Please see the attachments for a detailed explanation for each ministry.

Each ministry has been informed to submit receipts for monies spent for documentation that spending has been in alignment with **EC** requirements. These receipts are to be submitted to Mr. Thomas Riggs and the new incoming **EC** moderator, Isabel Rivera-Velez.

Coordinating Team Report to Synod Assembly 101723

The CT has been busy working and learning in this time of transition, and seek your affirmation of the following actions taken since the last Assembly.

Affirm:

Adoption of a new job description for Synod Leader/Stated Clerk position
Adoption of Assessment and Visioning process for new leader search

Approved of a Disaster Relief grant of \$10,000 to Presbytery of Arkansas following tornadoes

Approved changing the Synod address to the Presbyterian Mission Center, located at 6100 Colwell Blvd. Ste. 200, Irving, Tx 75039.

Approved the creation of a Synod Financial Oversight Team to help develop a financial manual of operations that will capture and/or develop practices to help maintain continuity of operations, particularly during times of transition.

Approved remuneration for Bill Wiles' work on the Financial Oversight Team at a reduced CPA rate while we are in the process of sorting out these details and practices.

Approved the Synod Financial Oversight Team to develop and execute a plan for investing the Synod's idle cash funds into income generating financial vehicles including bank sweep accounts, certificates of deposit, money market funds, and the balanced equity fund offered by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation.

Approved that those authorized to be signers on these accounts will be Steve Shive, Kristy Rodgers, Seth Saathoff, Ben Davidson, and Bill Wiles, with the provision that it requires two signers to authorize any fund transfers or withdrawals.

CT recommends the Stated Synod meeting for spring 2024 to be February 26-28, 2024 in New Orleans, La. (Need to set date for Fall Assembly)

Respectfully submitted,
Kristy Rodgers, CT Chair

Synod Youth Workshop 2023

In 2023, the Synod Youth Workshop staff includes 7 Planning Team youth, 13 adult small group leaders from across the Synod, 14 adult staff, 12 small group leaders and a keynote speaker. This team extended the hospitality of Christ to 131 youth and adults from 23 churches in 7 Presbyteries across the Synod of the Sun. SYW continued to have a strong multi-cultural presence with 28% of the conference being racial/ ethnic. A list of those churches attending is included in this report.

The youth of the SYW Planning Team represented 4 of the 7 presbyteries that attended SYW. The youth continue to be a vital part of the leadership, for they prepare themselves to lead all of the music (overseen by a music coordinator), all the drama, recreation and dance activities. They also lead large group vespers. During the fourth day of activities, Thursday, all participants engage in service projects throughout the city of Tulsa, sharing their faith and lending a hand.

The director for 2023 was John Mark Solomon from St. Barnabas, Richardson, TX. The assistant director, Sandy Barber is a member of First Presbyterian, Bonham. The keynote speaker for 2023 was The Rev. Princeton Abaraoha, United African, Dallas, TX.

The 2023 Synod Youth Workshop began with leadership orientation and instruction on July 7-9 at College Hill Presbyterian – Tulsa. The adult and youth (9th-graduation) participants began arriving early on Monday, July 10 and were quickly introduced to the theme developed by the Planning Team youth and Rev. Abaraoha, was "Slide Left for Fear, Slide Right for Faith". Princeton and the PT youth made the theme 'come alive.' The theme seemed to be timely and relative.

Throughout the week, small groups met 9 times, attended keynote, music, drama and energizer time together; worship services; a night out on the town; a Variety Show, a dance, food and fun.

The Planning Team for SYW 2024 has a Fall Planning Team Meeting set for October 7-8, 2023. At this meeting the theme will be developed with the thoughts and ideas that the Planning Team Youth bring to the weekend along with those of the Keynote Speaker the Rev. Josh Robinson of Hope Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX. The dates for Synod Youth Workshop are July 8-13, 2024

Synod Youth Workshop continues to be a life changing event for students and adults.

Gary Holloman
Coordinator, Synod Youth Workshop

Project Sites 2023:

#1- Kendell Whittier Grow Garden: Kendell Whitter, Inc. was formed in 1968 by University Church (Methodist) and joined with other congregations in our neighborhood to form the Kendall-Whittier Ministry. KW Ministry provides a variety of services to our area of Tulsa, including emergency food assistance, Meals-on Wheels, advocacy during the Urban Renewal process, support for our neighborhood schools, and other needs as they are identified. This neighborhood lies on the outskirts of the University of Tulsa.

Kendall Whittier GROW Garden – A community garden with the intent of *Gardening to Reach Out and Welcome*, a project of Kendall Whittier, Inc supporting the Kendell Whittier Emergency Food Bank.

Type of Work:

The group worked in this urban garden weeding, mulching and other garden work that was needed.

#2- Bridges Foundation: Bridges Foundation enhances the quality of life for individuals with mental disabilities, their families and the community through training, education, employment services and advocacy.

Type of Work:

The group assisted with their summer camp activities and assisted the adult clients in their workshop sorting and assembling products to sell.

#3- Irongate of Tulsa: Iron Gate provides more than a meal. This downtown soup kitchen offers a safe, friendly and welcoming place to get out of the storm for a couple of hours every day. Although the numbers of people needing food assistance are staggering, they are more than numbers to them. They are people they know and care about. You will be feeding their clients from the soup kitchen.

Type of Work:

- Food Pantry stocking.
- Serving Food to the homeless population.
- Bagging Groceries
- Dining Room Cleaning/Serving

#4- Crosstown Learning Center in Tulsa: Crosstown Learning Center is a three-star nationally accredited facility providing childcare for children of parents who need financial assistance.

Type of Work:

The group worked with the kids doing art and water projects.

#5- Kendall Whittier: Kendell Whitter, Inc. was formed in 1968 by University Church (Methodist) and joined with other congregations in our neighborhood to form the Kendall-Whittier Ministry. KW Ministry provides a variety of services to our area of Tulsa, including emergency food assistance, Meals-on Wheels, advocacy during the Urban Renewal process, support for our neighborhood schools, and other needs as they are identified. This neighborhood lies on the outskirts of the University of Tulsa.

Kendall Whittier, Inc Emergency Food Pantry collects and distributes food for the Kendall Whittier neighborhood. The Pantry is housed at University United Methodist Church near the University of Tulsa

Type of Work:

Cleaned out grass and weeds from garden. Carted the mulch from mulch site to garden. Then distributed the mulch throughout the garden.

#6- Hudson Villas: Hudson Villas is an apartment complex that provides those suffering from chronic homelessness with a new home and an ongoing support system to encourage self-sufficiency. Clients who have received housing at Hudson Villas have experienced an improvement in health, overcome addiction and some have even returned to the workforce. The goal of Hudson Villas is to create an environment that allows residents to create a sense of home and:

- Avoid returning to homelessness
- Improve health
- Build life skills and self esteem
- Find opportunities in volunteerism
- Increase employment abilities and opportunities
- Enhance financial position and personal well being

Type of Work:

Deep cleaning vacant apartments.

#7- Catholic Charities: The mission of Catholic Charities is to be Christ's merciful love to those who suffer. Our mission is carried out by Catholic people and others in fraternal goodwill pooling their resources to reach out and assist those in need. In so doing, Catholic Charities is the primary instrument of the Church in carrying out the works of mercy by providing 14 separate ministries to those in need.

Type of Work:

The group served in their market and food pantry stocking/shelving food and distributing food directly to their clients. Also in their Clothing Center/Donation Center.

#8- The Parent Child Center: The Parent Child Center of Tulsa helps children and parents find hope and learn skills to end child abuse and neglect through education, prevention, treatment, and advocacy.

Type of Work:

- General Cleaning of building/toys.
- Filling packets with brochures/assembling items for packets.

- Detailing vans.
- Car Wash for United Way Fundraising effort.
- Weeding/lawn work.
- Window washing.

#9- Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless: The Tulsa Day Center provides basic services to Tulsa's homeless. Shelter, food, clothing, case management and clinical services.

Type of Work:

The group sorted donations. Cleaned outside windows. Interacting with homeless children.

#10- Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma: Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma is a program designed to assist in feeding the hungry in the Tulsa—Eastern Oklahoma area. According to a recent article, Oklahoma is ranked 9th in the country for having hungry or food insecure citizens. 15% of households cannot afford nutritional or enough foods to ward off hunger. In Eastern Oklahoma, children make up 41% of the people receiving food assistance and of that number, 7% are below the age of 5.

Type of Work:

Sort, stock, and repackage donated grocery items. This is the largest food pantry distributor for Tulsa.

#11- Blessings International: Blessings International was founded in 1981 to serve as a source of pharmaceuticals, vitamins, and medical supplies for clinics and hospitals in developing nations that serve indigent populations and short-term medical teams that travel to such sites to provide donated medical services. Blessings also serves a growing number of clinics in the USA that serve the health needs of the working poor of this country.

Type of Work:

The project consisted of rebottling / relabeling medicine and boxing medicine to over 80 countries.

#12- Special Kids Care Center: Special Kids Care is a day care for all children including those with special needs. They support the right of every child and his or her family, regardless of ability, to participate as full members of families, communities, and society. They believe inclusive experiences for children with and without disabilities include a sense of belonging, positive social relationships and development and learning to reach their full potential. A place where everyone is included and no one is left out. A place with swings that are inclusive and play is accessible. At Special Kid's Care no one has to sit on the sidelines.

Type of Work:

The group did a deep indoor cleaning, painted inside, and cleaned out a storage shed.

SYW 2023 Participating Churches

First Presbyterian, Central Presbyterian,	Conway, AR Russellville, AR	Arkansas Presbytery
First Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, Grace First Presbyterian, NorthPark Presbyterian, St. Andrew Presbyterian, St. Barnabas Presbyterian, Woodhaven Presbyterian,	Bonham Dallas Garland Grapevine Longview Weatherford Dallas Denton Richardson Irving	Grace Presbytery
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, St. Mark Presbyterian,	San Antonio Boerne	Mission Presbytery
Covenant Presbyterian, Northwoods Presbyterian,	College Station Houston	Presbytery of New Covenant
First Central Presbyterian, First Presbyterian,	Abilene Canyon	Palo Duro Presbytery
Grace Presbyterian,	Lafayette, LA	South Louisiana Presbytery
First Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, Grace Presbyterian, St. Paul Presbyterian,	Fort Davis Fort Stockton El Paso San Angelo	Tres Rios Presbytery

Report for the Connecting Committee: Fall Assembly, Synod of the Sun

Summary

The Connecting Committee recognizes that we're in a pivotal period within our Synod and the greater Presbyterian Church USA. In light of this, we're getting back to basics, focusing on our core mission. Specifically, we're zeroing in on revitalizing our relationships with Covenant Partners and facilitating stronger bonds between congregations and other organizations.

Core Mission: A Refresher

The committee initially served as a nexus for various participants. Given the evolving landscape of the Presbyterian Church USA and the wider religious community, revisiting our foundational mission is more important than ever.

Strengthening Ties with Covenant Partners

1. Engagement: Let's step up communication by regularly reaching out through newsletters, virtual meet-ups, and collaborative events.
2. Transparency: It's all about trust. To build that, we'll share regular updates on what we're doing and planning.
3. Collaboration: We'll look for joint initiatives that benefit both us and our Covenant Partners, based on shared goals and values.

Connecting Congregations

1. Networking Events: We plan to host gatherings where congregations can share knowledge, successes, and challenges.
2. Resource Sharing: We're working on creating a network for sharing essential ministry resources like books, volunteers, or tech services.
3. Skill-Building: Let's empower congregations with the tools they need, offering workshops that help them adapt to modern ministry needs.

Next Steps

1. Survey: We'll run a survey to get a read on what our Covenant Partners and congregations actually need and want.
2. Quarterly Review: We'll make it a point to regularly review how well our initiatives are working.
3. New Partnerships: We're on the lookout for new Covenant Partners and organizations that can help us fulfill our mission.
4. Keep it REALISTIC! : We recognize that there is an overwhelming amount of need across our region, but the committee is committed to maintaining healthy boundaries for its members.

In summary, the Connecting Committee is doubling down on its essential mission as we navigate a crucial period for our Synod and the broader Presbyterian Church USA.

Blessings,

Rev. David Watson
Chair, Connecting Committee
Synod of the Sun

Equipping Committee Report October 2023

During this time of transition, it has been the goal of our committee to continue with the Communications Service Plan and the Congregational Communications Service Plan. We currently have 24 CSP clients. At this time, we do not have any CCSP clients, but we should have our first one later this month. If your ministry needs assistance or would like more information, please reach out to Thomas Riggs (thomas.riggs@synodsun.org.)

Our committee is grateful for the work and ministry support of Lindsay Freeman, who serves with Thomas on developing and maintaining the CSP. If you have been impacted by the work of Thomas or Lindsay, feel free to add your thanks via email: csp@synodsun.org. And send along a note of thanks for Thomas for holding all the things together in this transition time!

Last year, we wanted to find ways to support our leaders and offered boundaries training for those in the Synod. We have had a great first training with 65 individuals in the Synod in fall of 2022. We continued to host trainings and 462 people have completed boundaries training since fall 2022. Our next training will be our sixth training and that will take place in November. If you are interested in signing up or working on a training for a specific church or group, please reach out to Thomas Riggs (thomas.riggs@synodsun.org.)

We look forward to the coming year and possibilities of better serving and equipping you all as we begin the search process for our new synod executive.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Alsup, Moderator of Equipping Committee

Grants and Scholarships Fall Assembly Report 2023

What an honor and privilege it has been to serve on this committee for the past 6 years. I can't thank you enough for this opportunity to have a firsthand look at the amazing work that is being done throughout our Presbyteries and Synod and beyond. It is amazing to see all the lives that have been touched by the impact of our Grants and Scholarship funds.

Following is a recap of your Grants and Scholarship dollars at work so far this year:

Grants and Scholarships Awarded in 2023 \$88,243.83

By Presbytery:

Cimmaron Presbytery	\$ 4,400.00
Eastern Oklahoma	\$ 5,000.00
Grace Presbytery	\$10,300.00
Indian Nations	\$ 9,787.02
Mission Presbytery	\$ 6,082.81
New Covenant Presbytery	\$ 10,773.00
Palo Duro Presbytery	\$ 10,000.00
Presbytery of Arkansas	\$ 14,000.00
Presbytery of the Pines	\$ 5,000.00
South Louisiana Presbytery	\$ 8,000.00

By Fund:

31300	International Mission Trips	1,500.00
31310	Mission Grants	15,000.00
33120	Albert Crisp Orphanage Support	10,000.00
33130	David Robinson Fund	3,273.00
33140	Seminary Scholarship Fund	1,081.81
33160	Education Programs	300.00
33160	Racial Ethnic Ministries	8,900.00
33170	Peacemaking Fund	4,787.02
33188	Church Extension and Development	5,000.00
33200	Old Age Concerns	5,000.00
SOSPF		33,500.00



Where have your dollars gone??

10 - Presbyteries

4 – states

3 – countries

1 – Synod Network

5 – Theological Seminaries

What have they supported??

Professional and Education Training:

MDIV Education and Training

Diversity Training



Suicide Prevention Training for Pastors

Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Training

Diversity:



Korean Pastors Training

Asian PW Conference

Bilingual Family Camp

"Thank you! This is the most relaxing weekend I have ever had!" a mom, Bilingual Family Camp

Disaster Relief:

Insurance deductible for Korean Presbyterian Church, Tulsa

Expansion of facilities at Camp Gilmont to facilitate delivery of PDA disaster kits



International Mission:



Kenya International medical and spiritual development mission

Puerto Rico Theological Education

Romania Playground construction for orphans and Ukrainian refugees; Summer camp experience for orphans and refugees

What is next??

We still have two more quarters to review this year and look forward to many more exciting opportunities for our Synod and Presbytery members to be God's hands and feet in the world.

A few examples of what is coming up for funding opportunities are:

- Presbytery Spiritual Pilgrimage
- Making Space for Community Connections
- Presbytery Community Crisis Response Team Training
- Opportunities to help pastors in need
- Preparing for Life After Vera Lloyd
- Continuing to support the expansion of Disaster Kit pick up through Ferncliff/Gilmont partnership
- Scholarships

2024 Leadership will change to Polly Williams, Grace Presbytery Commissioner, will assume the role of Moderator of the Grants and Scholarships Commission. This Commission will also need a Vice-Moderator and we look forward to someone stepping up to take on that role.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Grants and Scholarships Commission

Sharon Curry, Moderator

Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery

Synod of the Sun Assembly

October 2023 Report

The SPDR Leadership Group consists of Jim Kirk, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Matt Miles, Tres Rios Presbytery; Sallie Watson, Mission Presbytery; Richard Williams, Presbytery of South Louisiana; and Steve Shive, Interim Bridge Synod Leader and Stated Clerk, Synod of the Sun.

The Leadership Group met virtually on June 14, 2023 to plan for an in-person meeting in the Fall, which will take place on November 29-30 in San Antonio, Texas. Members of the Leadership Group also met on September 8, 2023 to prepare and submit the 2024 proposed SPDR budget to the Synod Coordinating Team.

SPDR Director's Report

The SPDR Presbytery Liaisons Team consists of eight voluntary members representing the Presbyteries of the Synod of the Sun. SPDR hosts quarterly virtual Liaisons Calls to check in with each presbytery and share any relevant information and resources among the team, such as heightened church safety and security protocol.

The Synod has experienced a large number of storms and events in the course of the year. These have resulted in **15 grant application approvals** from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Synod's Grants Commission, totaling in **\$211,500** in financial assistance distributed to presbyteries and congregations impacted by disasters and supporting community needs and first responders.

The Synod's website offers information and resources, including an easy **12 Step Guide to Church Disaster Preparedness** available in English, Spanish, and Korean languages. A Guide to Receiving & Distributing Disaster Funds is currently in its final stages of development. SPDR continues to provide monthly communication through the **Synod's blog/website and e-newsletter** and have recorded several **podcast episodes on Sunspots** highlighting the work of disaster preparedness, response and recovery happening across the Synod of the Sun.

Previous and upcoming visits include:

- September 22-23: Grace Presbytery Meeting, Dallas, TX
- October 4-6: PDA National Volunteer Recruitment Strategy Meeting, Louisville, KY
- October 13-14: Presbytery of the Pines Meeting, Ruston, LA
- October 16-18: Synod Assembly Meeting, Little Rock, AR
- November 4-5: PDA Hosting Site Visit, Houston, TX
- November 10-11: Preaching, Presbyterian Church of Muskogee, OK
- November 28-30: SPDR Leadership Group Meeting, San Antonio, TX

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery

BYLAWS AMENDMENT

The Coordinating Team recommends that the Assembly amend Article 3.2 of the Restated and Amended Bylaws. The amendment would give the Synod the opportunity to hear the voices of those with sexually alternative orientations and to bring on commissioners with the talents and abilities to help it meet the unforeseen challenges of the future.

Article 3.2 now reads:

. . . The other six (6) Commissioners shall be at-large Commissioners (“**At-Large Commissioners**”) intended to represent racial & ethnic constituencies . . .

The proposed amendment would change the article as follows:

. . . The other six (6) Commissioners shall be at-large Commissioners (“**At-Large Commissioners**”) intended to represent racial, ethnic, and sexually alternative constituencies and to assist the Synod in meeting new challenges . . .

Is there any discussion of the proposed amendment . . . As there is no further discussion, I request a motion and a second.

NOMINATIONS

The Coordinating Team recommends that the Assembly elect/nominate the following persons to serve the Synod beginning in 2024.

Diversity Representation

1. Committee on Representation:
Molly Casteel, Class of 2029.
2. Commissioners at Large:
Danita Nelson, Class of 2026; and
Sharon Curry, Class of 2026.

Committee Leadership

1. Permanent Judicial Commission:
Indian Nations, Diana Smith, Class of 2029;
Tres Rios, Bill Rose, Class of 2029;
Pines, to be announced, Class of 2029;
Arkansas, Karen Akin , Class of 2029
and
South Louisiana, David Watson, Class of 2029.
2. Standing Committees:
Connecting Moderator, David Watson;
Connecting Vice-Moderator, Polly Williams;
Empowering Moderator, Isabel Rivera-Velez;
Equipping Moderator, to be announced;
Grants and Scholarships Moderator, Polly Williams; and
Personnel Moderator, David Watson.

I urge the committees to elect vice-moderators as quickly as possible. If your committee has a quorum present, perhaps you could have a meeting while you're here to elect your vice-moderator. The Synod is having a leadership retreat at Mo Ranch next month. It would be great if the vice-moderators could attend.

Financial Leadership

1. Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Foundation:
The Synod nominates board members, and they are elected by the sitting members.
Grace, Gerry Tyer, Class of 2026;
New Covenant, Brent Hampton, Class of 2026; and
Pines, Shannon Robertson, Class of 2026.
2. Trustees of the Synod of the Sun:

Oklahoma, to be announced.

Synod Leadership for 2024

1. Vice Moderator, Sharon Curry
2. Moderator, Ben Davidson

Covenant Partners Leadership

Some of our covenant partners require that the Synod approve their leadership. The Presbyterian Foundation of Louisiana and Lyon College have submitted the names of persons willing to serve as trustees subject to election by the Synod. Please take a moment to review them.

I request a motion and a second electing the proposed trustees of the Presbyterian Foundation of Louisiana.

I request a motion and a second electing the proposed trustees of Lyon College.

2023 Budget Worksheet

Account Name		2022 Final Budget	2023 Prelim Budget Approved	2023 Final Budget	2024 Prelim Budget	NOTES/QUESTIONS
Income						
Budgeted Revenue						
40001	PY Rollover/Retained earnings	20,146.91	0.00			
41000	Presbyteries	113,641.53	120,000.00	126,724.64	120,000.00	
42100	Contributions	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
42105.00	Special Gifts			113,658.90	0.00	Gift from Mission Presb
42110	SOSPF Endowment	280,100.00	280,100.00	289,000.00	280,000.00	
42200	Investment income					
42210	PLIP Interest earned	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	4,000.00	
42230	TPF Interest earned	20,000.00	20,000.00	25,000.00	25,000.00	
	Total 42200 - Investment income	21,500.00	21,500.00	26,500.00	29,000.00	
43000	Services Income					
43100	Communication Services Program	45,000.00	45,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	
	Total 43000 - Services Income	45,000.00	45,000.00	65,000.00	65,000.00	
	Total Budgeted Revenue	482,388.44	468,600.00	622,883.54	496,000.00	
Restricted Income						
44310	Regional PDA Position - gifts from Presbyteries					
	Total Restricted income	0.00				
Board designated income						
46230	Pbty giving for use next year					
	Total Board designated income	0.00				
Expense						
Budgeted Expense						
61000	Connecting					
61080	Presbyterian Women	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
61100	Covenant relationships travel	4,000.00	2,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	
61110	Lyon College	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61120	Austin College	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61130	University of Ozarks	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61140	Schreiner University	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61150	Trinity University	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61160	Tulsa University	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61170	Pan American School	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61180	Austin Seminary	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61190	Pby. Children's Homes & Service	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61200	Evergreen Pby. Ministries	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61210	Vera Lloyd Home & Family	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61220	Goodland academy	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61230	Mo Ranch	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61240	Pres History Society of SW	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61250	TPF	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	
61260	Multi-Cultural Youth Conf.	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	
61300	National Conf Sponsorships	-		0.00	0.00	
61302.00	Connecting Initiatives	5,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00	
61310	Critical Needs Fund	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
61330	National Event Hospitality	5,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
	Total Connecting Expenditures	22,400.00	11,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	
Equipping						
61030	COM Event			0.00	10,000.00	
61035.00	Development Courses	12,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
61070	EP Forum	3,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	18,000.00	
61280	Clerk Forum	2,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
61290	Mission Convocation/Leadership event	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
62000	Communication	0.00		0.00	0.00	
62030	CSP Operations (PT)	0	0	0	0	
62060	Communications Initiatives	5,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	
	Total Equipping Expenditures	22,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	45,000.00	
Empowering Expenditures						
61050	Network Nurture	7,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	Value
	Commissioned Pastors Network	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Oklahoma Presbytery Network (OPN)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Hispanic Mission Ministries Network (HMMN)	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
	Faithful Action on Climate Change Network	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	IMAGINE event	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
	Synod Partnership for Disaster Response	8,000.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
	Network for Dismantling Racism	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
61020	Solar Under the Sun					
	SUS Insurance		150.00	150.00	150.00	1,150.00
	SUS Bookkeeping	6,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	9,000.00
	SUS Audit	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	10,000.00
61270	Synod Youth Workshop	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00	1,150.00
	SYW Insurance		150.00	150.00	150.00	Cost split
	SYW Bookkeeping	2,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	Cost split
	SYW CLC licensing	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00	\$350.00

2023 Budget Worksheet

Account Name		2022 Final Budget	2023 Prelim Budget Approved	2023 Final Budget	2024 Prelim Budget	NOTES/QUESTIONS
	SYW Child Protection Training		0.00	0.00	0.00	
	SYW Audit		500.00	500.00	500.00	Cost split
	Total Empowering Expenditures	44,300.00	31,600.00	34,100.00	34,100.00	
	Representation					
64090	Committee on Representation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
	Total Representation Expenditures	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
	Coordinating Team					
61340	Moderator Expenses	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
62040	Computer Hardware	2,500.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
62050	Online Operations (Zoom/DB, et.)	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
62055	Online Processing Fees	1,000.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	
	Synod Leader Discretionary Fund		10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
64000	Meeting and Book of Order Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
64010	Stated Meeting, Fall	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
64020	Stated Meeting, Spring	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	
64030	(Mid-Year) Committee Gathering	13,500.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	
64050	Administrative Commission	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
64100	Other Committee Expenses	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
64200	Emergency COVID19 & Disaster response	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
66000	Office Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
66010	Office rent	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
66020	Telephone	4,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
66030	Postage	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
66040	Copiers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
66050	Supplies	3,500.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	
66060	File Retention/Storage	3,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
66070	Bookkeeping services	18,000.00	18,000.00	18,000.00	20,000.00	
66071	Audit Fees	10,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	5,000.00	Cost split with Networks
66090	Insurance	5,500.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	Cost split with Networks
66100	Bank charges	1,000.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
66105	Aplos fees	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
66110	Miscellaneous Charges	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
66120	Contingency expense	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
66130.00	Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search Team			10,000.00	16,000.00	
	Total Coordinating Team	84,500.00	92,250.00	102,250.00	121,250.00	
	Personnel					
65000	Synod Leader/SC Salary & House	102,262.54	105,000.00	100,000.00	103,000.00	3% COLA
	403(b) contribution		6,000.00			
65020	Synod Leader/SC BOP	28,450.94	31,500.00	39,000.00	40,170.00	
65030	Synod Leader/SC FICA share	7,823.08	8,200.00	6,200.00	6,200.00	
65040	Synod Leader/SC Prof Expenses	1,500.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
65050	Synod Leader/SC Prof Development	1,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
65110	Comm. & Admin Coordinator Salary	55,000.00	55,000.00	59,785.00	61,579.00	
65120	Comm. & Admin Coordinator BOP	16,944.38	18,100.00	18,100.00	18,100.00	3% Cola
65130	Comm. & Admin Coordinator FICA Share	4,207.50	4,208.00	4,208.00	4,500.00	
65140	Comm. & Admin Coordinator Prof Dev	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
65150.00	Administrative Assistant			0.00	25,000.00	Possible New Position
65150.00	Administrative Assistant Travel			0.00	2,500.00	
65220	Temp Staff & Other Staff expense	20,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	
65410	Personnel Committee	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
65510	Synod Leader/SC Travel	24,500.00	24,500.00	24,500.00	24,500.00	
65520	Comm. & Admin Coordinator Travel	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
	Total Personnel Expense	268,188.44	278,008.00	276,793.00	310,549.00	
	Grants & Scholarships					
61040	Mission Grants	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	
	Total Grants & Scholarships	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	
	Permanent Judicial Commission					
64040	Perm Jud Commission	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
	Total Permanent Judicial Commission	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	
	Total Budgeted Expense	484,388.44	477,858.00	496,143.00	571,899.00	
	Total Expense	484,388.44	477,858.00	496,143.00	571,899.00	
	Net Income (Loss)	-2,000.00	-9,258.00	126,740.54	-75,899.00	This is deficit.



Synod of the Sun, PC(USA)
 Budget: Year to Date
 for the period of 01/01/2023 to 10/16/2023

Account Number	Account Name	Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
Income				
41000	Presbyteries	\$0.00	\$105,603.90	\$-105,603.90
42100	Contributions	\$40.13	\$1,666.70	\$-1,626.57
42110	SOSPF Endowment	\$0.00	\$240,833.30	\$-240,833.30
42200	Investment income	\$1,526.56	\$22,083.30	\$-20,556.74
43000	Services Income	\$54,842.00	\$54,166.70	\$675.30
44130	David Robinson Income	\$637.72	\$0.00	\$637.72
44170	Peacemaking	\$1,010.07	\$0.00	\$1,010.07
44189	National Missions in TX Income	\$204.00	\$0.00	\$204.00
44220	Child & Youth Schroeder	\$344.46	\$0.00	\$344.46
44240	Viola Williams Memorial	\$7.53	\$0.00	\$7.53
46150	Future Church	\$174.00	\$0.00	\$174.00
46230	Pbty giving for use	\$60,137.09	\$0.00	\$60,137.09
46950	Network for Dismantling Racism Income	\$1,012.00	\$0.00	\$1,012.00
49100	Pass through income	\$544.35	\$0.00	\$544.35
Total Income		\$120,479.91	\$424,353.90	\$-303,873.99
Expense				
61000	Connecting Expenditures	\$448.41	\$14,999.60	\$-14,551.19
62001	Equipping	\$28,939.76	\$18,333.30	\$10,606.46
63000	Empowering Expenditures	\$12,697.09	\$28,416.60	\$-15,719.51
64001	Coordinating Team	\$61,096.36	\$76,875.00	\$-15,778.64
65000	Personnel Expense	\$159,665.65	\$230,660.80	\$-70,995.15
66001	Grants & Scholarships	\$15,000.00	\$33,333.30	\$-18,333.30
66002	Representation	\$0.00	\$833.30	\$-833.30
66003	Permanent Judicial Commission	\$0.00	\$1,666.70	\$-1,666.70
71100	Hispanic Am Expense	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
71130	David Robinson Expense	\$3,273.53	\$0.00	\$3,273.53
71140	Seminary Scholarship	\$1,082.81	\$0.00	\$1,082.81
71170	Peacemaking	\$10,487.62	\$0.00	\$10,487.62
71188	Church Extension & Development Expense	\$17,327.28	\$0.00	\$17,327.28
71200	Old Age Concerns	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
71220	Child & Youth Schroeder	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
71300	Munson & Kerr scholarship expense	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
71910	SOSPF Scholarship expense	\$30,500.00	\$0.00	\$30,500.00
74140	Translation Fund	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$750.00
74150	Future Church	\$20,639.00	\$0.00	\$20,639.00
74160	Racial Ethnic Ministries	\$5,972.72	\$0.00	\$5,972.72
74300	International Mission Trips expense	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
74950	Network for Dismantling Racism Expense	\$9,262.59	\$0.00	\$9,262.59

Account Number	Account Name	Actual	YTD Budget	Difference
74955	ESL Seminary Scholarship expense	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
90100	Suspense / Ask my Accountant	\$-416,120.35	\$0.00	\$-416,120.35
91100	Pass Through expense	\$916.96	\$0.00	\$916.96
Total Expense		\$-3,560.57	\$405,118.60	\$-408,679.17
Total		\$124,040.48	\$19,235.30	\$104,805.18



Synod of the Sun, PC(USA)
Income Statement
for the period of 01/01/2023 to 10/16/2023

Account Number	Account Name	Amount
Income		
42100	Contributions	\$40.13
42200	Investment income	\$1,526.56
43000	Services Income	\$54,842.00
44130	David Robinson Income	\$637.72
44170	Peacemaking	\$1,010.07
44189	National Missions in TX Income	\$204.00
44220	Child & Youth Schroeder	\$344.46
44240	Viola Williams Memorial	\$7.53
46150	Future Church	\$174.00
46230	Pbty giving for use	\$60,137.09
46950	Network for Dismantling Racism Income	\$1,012.00
49100	Pass through income	\$544.35
Total Income		\$120,479.91
Expense		
61000	Connecting Expenditures	\$448.41
62001	Equipping	\$28,939.76
63000	Empowering Expenditures	\$12,697.09
64001	Coordinating Team	\$61,096.36
65000	Personnel Expense	\$159,665.65
66001	Grants & Scholarships	\$15,000.00
71100	Hispanic Am Expense	\$3,000.00
71130	David Robinson Expense	\$3,273.53
71140	Seminary Scholarship	\$1,082.81
71170	Peacemaking	\$10,487.62
71188	Church Extension & Development Expense	\$17,327.28
71200	Old Age Concerns	\$5,000.00
71220	Child & Youth Schroeder	\$10,000.00
71300	Munson & Kerr scholarship expense	\$10,000.00
71910	SOSPF Scholarship expense	\$30,500.00
74140	Translation Fund	\$750.00
74150	Future Church	\$20,639.00
74160	Racial Ethnic Ministries	\$5,972.72
74300	International Mission Trips expense	\$1,500.00
74950	Network for Dismantling Racism Expense	\$9,262.59
74955	ESL Seminary Scholarship expense	\$5,000.00
90100	Suspense / Ask my Accountant	\$-416,120.35
91100	Pass Through expense	\$916.96
Total Expense		\$-3,560.57
Net Income (Loss)		\$124,040.48

Income

2023 Budgeted 2023 Actual YTD 2024 Proposed

Modified 09/08/2023

Retained Earnings	0.00		
Partner Commitments			
4210 Arkansas	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
4215 Cimarron	10,000.00	0.00	2,500.00
4220 Grace	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
4225 Eastern Oklahoma	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
4230 Indian Nations	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
4235 Mission	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
4240 New Covenant	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
4245 Palo Duro	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00
4250 Pines	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
4255 South Louisiana	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
4260 Tres Rios	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
4265 Synod	10,500.00	10,000.00	8,400.00
4270 PDA	98,000.00	98,000.00	84,000.00
Total Partner Commitments	168,500.00	153,000.00	144,900.00
4600 Other Income		500.00	
Total Income	168,500.00	153,500.00	144,900.00

Expense

Personnel

6000 Salary	65,000.00	43,333.36	68,250.00	*5% or Based on Synod Personnel
6001 Board of Pensions	14,000.00		26,617.00	39%
6010 FICA Share	5,000.00	2,950.40	5,700.00	
6030 Professional Development	1,500.00	1,449.16	2,500.00	
6050 Director Travel	29,000.00	5,328.92	29,000.00	
Total Personnel	114,500.00	53,061.84	132,067.00	

Operating

6110 Phone	1,560.00	421.65	1,560.00
6111 Internet	600.00	392.16	600.00
6130 Bank fees	250.00		250.00
6131 Online Processing Fees	0.00		0.00
6140 IT Subscriptions	500.00	212.13	1,750.00
6150 Office Supplies	500.00	768.42	500.00
6210 Equipment & Furniture	3,000.00	35.01	3,000.00
6310 Leadership Group	5,000.00		5,000.00
Total Operating	11,410.00	1,829.37	12,660.00
Total Expenses	125,910.00	54,891.21	144,727.00
TOTAL	42,590.00	98,608.79	173.00

*Steve will check Synod Policy for Computer

Investment in Future SPDR 42,590.00

Synod of the Sun

	2023 Budgeted	2023 Actual YTD	2024 Proposed
Empowering Expenditures			
61050 Network Nurture			
Synod Partnership for Disaster	\$2,500	1102.37	2,500.00