

**Synod Called Meeting
ZOOM Conference Call
October 3, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

First Name	Last Name	Presbytery		Status
Margaret	Alsup	Arkansas	Moderator, Equipping Committee	Commissioner – FTE
Arita	Battiest	Eastern Oklahoma	Vice-Moderator, Connecting Committee	Commissioner At Large - FRE
A. William	Benner	Grace	Connecting	Commissioner – MTE
Jerry	Boles	Tres Rios	Empowering	Commissioner – MTE
Wynona	Bryant-Williams	Arkansas	Moderator, Empowering Committee	Commissioner – FRE
Dzandria	Chiphe	South Louisiana	Connecting	Commissioner – MRE
Jeff	Cranton	Eastern Oklahoma	Moderator, Personnel Committee	Commissioner – MTE
Sharon	Curry	Grace	Connecting; Moderator, Grants and Scholarshnips	Commissioner – FRE
Ben	Davidson	Palo Duro	Empowering	Commissioner - MRE
Ron	Fike	Cimarron	Equipping	Commissioner - MTE
Shelley	Hernandez	New Covenant	Connecting	Commissioner – FRE
Stephen	Hill	New Covenant	Equipping	Commissioner – MTE
Mitch	Miller	Indian Nations	Coordinating Team Chair	Commissioner – MTE
Katharine	Nipp	Cimarron		Commissioner - FRE
Isabel	Rivera Velez	New Covenant	Empowering	Commissioner At-Large - FRE
Kristy	Rodgers	Eastern Oklahoma	Empowering; Synod Moderator	Commissioner – FRE

Bill	Rose	Tres Rios	Vice Moderator, Empowering Committee	Commissioner – MRE
Nancy	Ruff	Palo Duro	Connecting	Commissioner – FRE
Seth	Saathoff	Mission	Connecting: Synod Vice -Moderator	Commissioner – MTE
Marsha	Schendel	Mission	Connecting	Commissioner – FRE
Diana	Smith	Indian Nations		Commissioner - FRE
David	Stipp-Bethune	Pines	Equipping	Commissioner – MTE
David	Watson	South Louisiana	Moderator, Connecting Committee	Commissioner - MTE
Sandra	Watson	Pines	Equipping	Commissioner - FRE
CO-OPTED				
Timothy	Marquez	New Covenant	Committee on Representation	Moderator
CORRESPONDING MEMBERS				
Laurie	Barker	Tres Rios	Pastoral Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Tim	Blodgett	Eastern Oklahoma	Moderator, EP Forum & Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Blake	Brinegar	Arkansas	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Scott	Campbell	Palo Duro	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
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

Kay	Long	Tres Rios	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Matt	Miles	Tres Rios	Vision and Outreach Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Laurie	Palmer	Mission	Presbytery Stated Clerk	Corresponding Member
Charlie	Smith	Indian Nations	Interim Presbytery Pastor	Corresponding Member
Stewart	Smith	Arkansas	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member
Sallie	Watson	Mission	General Presbyter	Corresponding Member
STAFF				
Valerie	Young	Grace	Synod Leader & Stated Clerk	Synod Staff
Thomas	Riggs		Communication & Administration Coordinator	Synod Staff
Ernie	Higginbotham	Grace	Assistant Stated Clerk	Synod Staff
Kathy	Lee-Cornell	Grace	SPDR Director	Synod Staff
VISITORS				
Liz	Branch	Arkansas	Solar Under the Sun	Visitor
Gary	Holloman	Grace	Synod Youth Workshop	Visitor
Ezequiel	Herrera	Mission	Hispanic Mission Ministries	Visitor
Elizabeth	Brinegar	Arkansas	Network for Dismantling Racism	Visitor
Lisa	Perkins	Grace	Synod Youth Workshop	Visitor
EXCUSED ABSENCES				

Greg	Ables	Indian Nations		Commissioner – MRE
Boksoon	Egbert	South Louisiana	Equipping	Commissioner At-Large – FRE
Steve	Shive	Grace	Executive Presbyter	Corresponding Member

	Monday, October 3, 2022
6:00pm	Welcome & Introductions – Kristy Rodgers, Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Instructions for Zoom Meeting – Valerie Young</i>
	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Opening Hymn</i> · <i>Call to Worship & Opening Prayer</i>
	Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Roll Call & Declaring a Quorum</i> · <i>Seating of Corresponding Members and visitors</i> · <i>Adoption of Agenda</i> · <i>Approval of Minutes – January 2022 Called Meeting; March 2022 Meeting</i>
	Worship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Acknowledgement of Land & People</i> · <i>Confession & Assurance of Pardon</i> · <i>Passing of the Peace</i>
	Synod Leader & Stated Clerk Report – Valerie Young <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>SCOOP</i> · <i>GA Minutes Reading</i> · <i>Presbytery Minutes Reading</i>
	Personnel Committee Report – Rev. Jeff Cranton, Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <i>Synod Leader/SC contract renewal</i> · <i>Honorarium Policy</i> · <i>Credit Card Policy</i>
	Committee on Representation Report – COR Moderator, Rev. Timothy Marquez
	Coordinating Team Report – Rev. Mitch Miller <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions for Affirmation Financials – Moderator, Kristy Rodgers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 2021 Financial Review · 2022 Financial Reports – SOS, SPDR · 2023 Preliminary Budget Nominations – Vice Moderator, Rev. Seth Saathoff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Chair, Coordinating Team
	Scripture & Sermon – Kristy Rodgers

	<p>Grants & Scholarship Report – Sharon Curry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Awards Report · M.Div. SELB Scholarship · Volunteers in Mission
	<p>Connecting Committee – Rev. David Watson</p>
	<p>Equipping Committee – Rev. Margaret Alsup</p>
	<p>Empowering Committee – Dr. Wynona Bryant Williams</p> <p>Networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Solar Under the Sun – Liz Branch · Synod Youth Workshop – Gary Holloman · Hispanic Mission Ministries – Rev. Ezequiel Herrera · Network for Dismantling Racism – Rev. Elizabeth Brinegar
	<p>Synod Partnership for Disaster Response – Rev. Kathy Lee- Cornell, Director</p>
	<p>Worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Communion Hymn · Communion & Installation of the 2023 Moderator · Closing Hymn · Charge & Benediction

Welcome & Introductions – With our meeting framed in worship, Synod Moderator Kristy Rodgers called the meeting to order. Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Valerie Young led a short tutorial on navigating Zoom

Opening Hymn & Call to Worship – Moderator Rodgers invited the assembly to worship with an Opening Hymn. She then Called the Assembly to Worship with the words of Isaiah 2:3 and prayer.

Call to Order – Moderator Rodgers called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. CDT.

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 Stated Clerk Valerie Young with 22 of 25 Commissioners present.

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

Adoption of the Agenda – With the meeting agenda presented, Commissioner Sharon Curry moved and Vice Moderator Saathoff seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – Moderator Rodgers presented the minutes from two previous Synod Assemblies for approval. Approval of the minutes for the Called Meeting in January 2022 was moved by Commissioner Jeff Cranton and seconded by Commissioner Jerry Boles (*Attachment A*). Motion carried. Approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting in March 2022 were moved by Commissioner Steve Hill and seconded by Commissioner Dzandria Chiphe (*Attachment B*). Motion carried.

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Vice Moderator Saathoff told the history of the Native American tribal lands of San Antonio, highlighting the Tāp Pīlam Coahuiltecan Nation.

Confession & Assurance of Pardon – Having acknowledged the land and the tribes from whom it was taken and being reminded of the sin of racism and of human nature, Vice Moderator Saathoff led the assembly in confession and pronounced an assurance of pardon.

Passing of the Peace – Experiencing the peace of Christ in our lives, Vice Moderator Saathoff invited the assembly to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Synod Leader & Stated Clerk Report – (*Attachment C*) - Valerie Young reported on a letter from the Cimarron Presbytery Council inviting the Synod into discernment with them about their future viability as a presbytery. A special committee (The Special Committee on Oklahoma Presbyteries – SCOOP) has been formed with the following charge to enter into discernment

with Cimarron Presbytery regarding future viability, join with the Oklahoma Presbytery Network and individual Presbyteries in Oklahoma, in discernment and conversation regarding presbytery boundaries.

The 2021 Presbytery minutes reading has been completed, as mandated by the Book of Order (*Attachment D*). Valerie noted that there is cause for concern regarding possible irregularities and/or delinquencies of the Presbytery of the Pines.

Valerie moved that the Synod Assembly direct her, as Stated Clerk, to notify the Presbytery of the Pines Stated Clerk and Council that under G.3.01.08b that the Presbytery of the Pines is required to provide the items of exception placed in a corrected set of Minutes no later than December 31, 2022. Vice Moderator Saathoff seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed.

Valerie recognized three Commissioners who are rolling off at the end of the year. Shelly Hernandez, Rev. Mitch Miller, and Rev. David Stipp-Bethune. The Assembly thanked them for their service as Committee Chairs, Synod Moderators, and Coordinating Team Chairs.

Valerie noted that the Synod of the Sun continues to be a model in the PC(USA) in our deeply held relationships with the presbyteries and the networks we nurture and support. She also unveiled our new Synod logo that will appear more frequently over the coming months.

Synod Moderator Report – Moderator Kristy Rodgers reported on the continuing work of dismantling racism and moving to reconciliation. She spoke of the privilege of participating in the life of the wider church in new, eye-opening ways.

Personnel Committee Report – (*Attachment E*) - Committee Moderator Jeff Cranton reported that they continue to work on policy and procedures and the employee handbook.

On behalf of the committee, Jeff moved the adoption of a new Credit Card Policy (*Attachment F*). The motion carried.

On behalf of the committee, Jeff moved the adoption of a new Honorarium Policy (*Attachment G*). The motion carried.

Jeff also reported that the committee hired Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell as the new Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery (*Attachment H*).

On behalf of the committee, Jeff moved the adoption of a Contract Renewal for the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk (*Attachment I*). The motion carried.

On behalf of the committee, Jeff moved the approval of Ernie Higginbotham as the Assistant Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Sun. Commissioner Mitch Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Jeff also reported that Employee Reviews are in process and they expect good feedback.

Committee on Representation Report – (*Attachment J*) - The Committee on Representation submitted their report without verbal presentation. Commissioner Jeff Cranton moved that the Assembly receive this report, Commissioner Steve Hill seconded. Motion carried.

Coordinating Team Report – Coordinating Team Chair Mitch Miller reported on three actions taken by the CT on behalf of the Synod which are in the report (*Attachment K*).

Moderator Rodgers presented the 2021 Financial Review. On behalf of the CT, she moved that the report be accepted by the Assembly (*Attachment L*). Motion carried.

Moderator Rodgers presented the 2022 Financial Report (*Attachment M*). On behalf of the CT, she moved that the report be accepted by the Assembly. Motion carried.

Moderator Rodgers presented the 2023 Preliminary Budget (*Attachment N*). Two options on the budget were presented, depending on the outcome of the Contract Renewal of the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk. Kristy asked the Assembly to look at the budget figures based on the approval of the contract renewal. On behalf of the CT, she moved that the preliminary budget be accepted by the Assembly. Motion carried.

Vice Moderator Seth Saathoff presented a slate of nominations from the Coordinating Team (*Attachment O*). Vacancies for the Class of 2025 and unexpired terms were presented. One nomination that came in after the report was submitted. Bridget Venture of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery has been nominated to serve on the Presbyterian Pan American School. Motion carried.

Scripture and Sermon – Synod Moderator Kristy Rodgers preached from the Second chapter of Ephesians.

Grants and Scholarship Report – Grants and Scholarship Commission Moderator Sharon Curry reported that the Commission distributed grants and scholarships throughout the Synod (*Attachments P & Q*). There are still funds that are available via the various funds.

Moderator Curry presented on behalf of the Commission a motion to approve the criteria and purpose of the M.Div SELB Scholarship fund for persons to attend Non-PC(USA) seminaries because of language barriers. Motion carried.

Moderator Curry presented on behalf of the Commission a motion to approve changes to the Volunteers in Mission Fund. This is a fund provided support to participants in the Volunteers in Mission program, which no longer exists. The fund would now provide assistance for participants in the Young Adult Volunteer program who are members of churches, presbyteries, or institutions in covenant relationship with the Synod; those serving at Young Adult Volunteer

sites within the Synod; and YAV sites within the Synod based on funds availability. Motion carried.

Connecting Committee Report - (*Attachment R*) – Committee Moderator David Watson presented on behalf of the committee. Synod Sunday was expanded to Synod September this year. The committee pledged \$3000 to the Association of Partners in Christian Education, allowing for some representatives at the Annual Meeting. The committee is re-coordinating with Covenant partners, working towards more personal interaction.

The committee is working towards a project, scheduled for May, to provide tools self-care for church leaders in the aftermath in COVID.

Equipping Committee Report – (*Attachment S*) - Committee Moderator Margaret Alsup presented on behalf of the committee. Margaret highlighted the new Synod logo and an upcoming website redesign. The Committee initiated the work of Boundaries Training, to help those we serve within our bounds to be up-to-date on that training and to keep records in a central place.

Margaret invited Thomas Riggs, Director of Communication and Administration, to talk about the Communication Services Plan and the Small Congregation Website Plan (*Attachment T*). Thomas reported that we now have 20 clients across the country that use of CSP for website maintenance & redesign, mass e-mail services, and social media service. Thomas also reported that we have four CCSP clients who are in the process of getting new websites for their small congregations.

Empowering Committee Report – (*Attachment U*) - Committee Moderator Dr. Wynona Bryant Williams reported on behalf of the committee. The committee continues its work to support the Synod Networks. The committee has also been about the work of revising its policies and procedures. There has been an interest in Immigration and Border ministries and the committee invited persons who are engaged in that effort to speak more about those ministries. The committee has funded such projects and programs, including purchasing tents.

Wynona introduced each of the following networks to give a report to the Assembly:

Solar Under the Sun, Liz Branch – Liz reported on the work and ministry of Solar Under the Sun, who train volunteers to help people to install and maintain clean, sustainable energy in countries experiencing energy poverty (*Attachment V*).

On behalf of the committee, Wynona moved that the Assembly accept the financial reports of Solar Under the Sun (*Attachment W*). Motion carried.

Synod Youth Workshop, Gary Holloman and Lisa Perkins – Gary reported on the SYW program over the past few years, including inventive programming during COVID and the community partners that they have made in Tulsa. Lisa Perkins also reported on the revamped SYW website

and publicity materials (*Attachment X*).

On behalf of the committee, Wynona moved that the Assembly accept the financial reports of Synod Youth Workshop (*Attachment Y*). Motion carried.

Hispanic Mission Ministries Network, Rev. Ezequiel Herrera – Ezequiel reported that HMMN has been working on strengthening their relationship with the Synod and will soon host their first in-person annual conference since 2019 with leadership from around the PC(USA) (*Attachment Z*).

On behalf of the committee, Wynona moved that the Assembly accept the financial reports of the Hispanic Mission Ministries Network (*Attachment AA*). Motion carried.

Network for Dismantling Racism, Rev. Elizabeth Brinegar – Sharing the Network's Mission Statement, Elizabeth reported on the ongoing work of the N4DR and invited the Assembly to attend their regular meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Elizabeth directed the Assembly to N4DR.org website for a plethora of resources. She also reported that the Network is reviewing the work of General Assembly to see how it is applicable to the Synod and beyond (*Attachment BB*).

Synod Partnership for Disaster Response – Having reminded the Assembly of their earlier vote to approve the contract for a Director of the SPDR, Sallie Watson, a member of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Response Leadership Group, introduced the Rev. Kathy Lee-Cornell.

Kathy introduced herself to the group and reminded the Assembly that, in light of recent storms, we ourselves are vulnerable and that we need to be mindful and prayerful as we stand ready to support those who have been impacted Hurricanes Fiona and Ian. Our own calm skies remind us to be collaborative, communicative, and coordinated. Kathy reported that she will be about the business of speaking to as many groups and persons as possible to get a sense of how presbyteries and churches can be a resource (*Attachment CC*).

Following Kathy's comments, Sallie brought to the Assembly for approval the 2023 budget for SPDR (*Attachment DD*). Motion carried.

Sallie also brought a motion to accept the 2022 Financial Report of SPDR (*Attachment EE*). Motion carried.

Following Communion and the Installation of Seth Saathoff as the 2023 Moderator of Synod of the Sun, Moderator Kristy Rodgers gave a charge and benediction.

Jerry Boles moved that the Assembly be adjourned. Motion carried.