

Synod Commissioner Report for August 3, 2018 Regular Meeting

The Synod Assembly was convened on Friday, August 3, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church Maumee, 200 East Broadway, Maumee, Ohio 43537, at 10:00am by Moderator Johanna Jozwiak. The meeting was opened in prayer and lighting the Christ candle. A quorum was present.

Presentations were given by the various Presbyteries within the Synod including some written reports. The presentations were updating the state of the various presbyteries. It was an opportunity to witness where new ideas and growth were seen even in the changing landscape of the church's role in society. The diversity and originality of the various presbyteries and their mission to do God's work in the world was encouraging.

Reports on the Action of the General Assembly

Three Middle East overtures approved by the Synod: 1. A response to the Syrian Crisis, 2. Human Rights for all citizens of Israel, 3. Opposition to Congregational and State Anti (BDS) Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions legislation were all approved as amended.

Three Social Justice Issues supported by the Synod of the Covenant dealing with appropriate boundaries for religious liberty, celebrating the full dignity and humanity of people of all gender identities, and celebrating the gifts of people of diverse sexual orientation and gender identities were approved as amended.

Proposed changes to the Book of Order were reported by David Bartley, the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Covenant. The Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Covenant presented a report to the Mid Council Committee.

The Synod Executive, Rev. Raafat Zaki reported that the Synod of the Covenant has been supporting the start of the Presbyterian Peace Network for Korea until such time that they can be independent.

The Synod of the Covenant had participants in the General Assembly march "Freedom to be Free – No Cash Bail." The full General Assembly raised \$47,200 in support of this mission effort. An Immigration rally was co-sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Office of Immigration in the Office of the General Assembly and held during the GA.

The Mid-Councils Committee considered 05-03 the Overture from the Presbytery of Cincinnati *On Establishing an Administrative Commission to Address Issues in the Synod of the Covenant*. The Committee approved an alternate resolution for an Administrative Commission of seven persons who may declare original jurisdiction with full authority to enforce the findings and recommendations of the commission. The Administrative Commission should be in place by the end of the calendar year 2018.

The Report of the Administrative Commission for the Presbytery of Mackinac was presented and accepted as amended.

Two more commissioners have resigned, Ronald Lawrence; the Ruling Elder Commissioner from the Presbytery of Miami Valley and Debra Bergmann; the Ruling Elder Commissioner from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

Treasurer's Report indicated that the receipts and expenditures were as expected for this time of year.

Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness made a motion for Diane Ziegler to be a member of the Grants and Scholarships Committee for the Class of 2019. The motion was passed.

Self Development of People Committee made a plea for members. Any nominations should be sent to the Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness.

Leadership Committee made a motion to approve the new Covenant Relationship with the College of Wooster. The motion passed.

Peace making and Justice Committee

Synod Executive, Rev. Raafat Zaki reported that the Mobile Health Fair has been staffed by six young adults this summer who have served more than 1,000 people. The Mission to the U.S.A. program will have mission partners here in October and November. This year the focus is on Christian-Muslim Relations. Next year the focus will be on Africa.

The next regular meeting of the Synod Assembly will be held on November 2-3, 2018 at Christ Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio.

The Synod Assembly meeting was adjourned and closed in prayer by Rev. Aaron Meadows.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Deborah Uchtman, TE Commissioner for the Presbytery of Cincinnati

Rebecca Lindsay, RE Commissioner for the Presbytery of Cincinnati