

Synod Stated Meeting
Presbyterian Mission Center | Irving, TX
February 24-February 25, 2025

Welcome & Introductions –Synod Moderator Sharon Curry called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. CT, opening the meeting with prayer.

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Princeton Abaraoha spoke of the Native American tribes that inhabited the land that is now Irving, Texas, offering a prayer of reconciliation and forgiveness.

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 Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Mitch Miller. 19 of 26 Commissioners were present (*Attachment A*).

Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors – Corresponding Members and Visitors were also acknowledged and seated. Polly Williams moved and Carlos Baladez seconded that the Corresponding Members and visitors be seated and given privileges of the floor. Motion carried (*Attachment A*).

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

Approval of Minutes – Moderator Curry presented the minutes from the previous Synod Assembly on November 5-6, 2024, for approval. With two grammatical errors offered, and without any further additions or corrections, approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting were moved by Ron Fike and seconded by Ben Davidson. Motion carried (*Attachment C*).

Commissioner Orientation and Committee Meetings – Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Mitch Miller led the participants of the Assembly in a Commissioner Orientation. Following the presentation, the Assembly went into Committee Meetings.

Big Faith Resources – A presentation was made by Rev. Dr. Michelle Junkin, Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Director of Big Faith Resources at Westminster Presbyterian Church, OKC. Big Faith develops innovative resources that equip churches for an ever-changing neurodiverse landscape. They offer free sensory-friendly materials, training workshops, and shared traveling equipment, needed for inclusive worship experiences.

Signing of Covenant Agreement and Covenant Partner Reports –

Introduced by Scott Campbell, the Rev. Kristen Harris, Mission Co-Worker for NOROC, presented the mission and ministry of this ministry to Romania orphans and Ukrainian refugees. Kristen offered an overview of NOROC's 27-year history, highlighting its evolution from

enrichment programming for Romanian children to educational assistance and therapy services, including their response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. She emphasized the importance of trained staff and the organization's adaptation to serve teenagers. Kristen also expressed gratitude for Presbyterian support and highlighted the partnership between Romanian Orthodox Christians and Presbyterian Christians globally.

Polly Williams moved and Jerry Boles seconded that Synod of the Sun and NOROC enter into a Covenant Agreement. Motion passed (*Attachment D*).

Laura Fleming from Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) discussed the organization's mission and various programs aimed at supporting children and families in need, particularly those in the foster care system. She shared a heartwarming story of Jace and Jordan, two siblings who were adopted by their foster parents, and mentioned other programs such as the single parent family program in Waxahachie and the expansion of the family resource center in Meia. Laura expressed gratitude for the long-standing partnership between PCHAS and the attendees.

Ben Davidson moved and Ed Wolf seconded that the Synod and PCHAS continue their Covenant Agreement. Motion passed (*Attachment E*).

Bill Rutherford of Presbyterian Pan American School spoke to the Assembly. PPAS in Kingsville, Texas, founded in 1911, is a private charter secondary boarding school with an international student body facing challenges but experiencing success. The school currently has 53 students, with plans to increase enrollment, and relies on various funding sources to provide tuition assistance to 85% of its students. The school is preparing to compete in a statewide academic competition hosted by the Texas Association of Private Parochial Schools, where they hope to secure the top spot after placing third and second in previous years. The Assembly looks forward to renewing their relationship with Pan American School at the Fall Assembly.

Approval of 2025 Budget – Coordinating Team Moderator Ben Davidson and Treasurer Bill Wiles outlined the changes from the Preliminary Budget approved at the Fall 2024 Assembly. Bill took the Assembly through the budget with a new format. Bill discussed the budget categories for their organization, including unrestricted funds, donor restricted funds, and Synod designated funds, and the financial situation of the organization. He also introduced the financial coaching program offered by the Presbyterian Foundation and offered to provide further support and guidance. Lastly, he discussed the Senate's budget for 2025, emphasizing the importance of investing in people and programs, and the need for increased investment. Carlos Baladez moved and Ben Davidson seconded that the budget be approved. Motion passed (*Attachment F*).

Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Report – Synod Leader Mitch Miller reported to the Assembly. Mitch pointed the Assembly to his report for information. Questions regarding the Synod Leader’s Discretionary Fund were raised and will be investigated (*Attachment G*).

Commissions/Entities

Synod Partnership for Disaster Response – Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Response, reported on SPDR. Kathy told the Assembly about the sheer number of disasters that have occurred within the bounds of the Synod, numbering 1 in 3 that have happened in 2024. She talked about the funds raised from grants and donations, detailing the work that has been completed.

Richard Williams reported that the initial group that created SPDR as a pilot program and affirmed that SPDR will move to a more permanent program. The group also dreamed about how the program will grow in the next five years.

A motion was made to enter an Addendum to the Covenant Agreement of the Synod of the Sun SPDR to extend the term an additional five years commencing on January 1, 2026. Molly Casteel moved and Princeton Abaraoha seconded. Motion carried (*Attachment H*).

Communication Services Plan – Thomas Riggs, Communication and Administration Coordinator, reported on the CSP Program. Thomas reported on the history of the program, growing from its inception with Mission Presbytery as the first partner in 2018 to now having 26 partners across the PC(USA). The program generates between 8 to 12 newsletters a week, 120+ social media posts a week, and produces a new website about once a month. The projected income from the program for 2025 is just under \$80k (*Attachment I*).

Empowering Committee Report – Committee Moderator Carlos Baladez invited Leah McFadden reported on behalf of the Committee, highlighting the work of Synod Youth Workshop. A video was presented and Emma Rigler, a youth who attended and now an adult who volunteers, told of her own SYW experience.

After leading the Assembly in “Yes, I’m a Pixel”, Carlos reported on the work HMMN, encouraging the Assembly to listen to the Synod podcast. He also told the community that the education program created by HMMN will be translated and used locally for other immigrant communities.

Empowering Committee is working to collaborate with our Border Ministries to see how we can work more efficiently and joyfully in empowering each other (*Attachment J*).

Connecting Committee + Grants and Scholarship Commission Reports – Committee and Commission Moderator Polly Williams reported to the Assembly. Polly requested for help in managing the Connecting Committee and Grants and Scholarships, which had faced challenges

in 2024. She emphasized the need for assistance in addressing these issues and encouraged the team to reach out to her for any questions or concerns. Polly also mentioned the importance of learning how to navigate the Grants and Scholarships page on the Synod website and the need for collaboration to achieve their goals in 2025 (*Attachments K & L*).

With the Assembly's business concluded in closing worship, led by Vice Moderator Ronald Fike, Todd Freeman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Molly Casteel. Motion carried.

Synod of the Sun

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SYNOD OF THE SUN

Commissioners Present

Princeton	Abaraoha	Grace Presbytery	Commissioner
Lisa	Almon	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Carlos	Baladez	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Jerry	Boles	Palo Duro Presbytery	Commissioner
Martha	Bumpas	Tres Rios Presbytery	Commissioner
Molly	Casteel	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Commissioner
Stacy	Clopton	Palo Duro Presbytery	Commissioner
Sharon	Curry	Grace Presbytery	Commissioner
Ben	Davidson	Palo Duro Presbytery	Commissioner
Ronald	Fike	Cimarron Presbytery	Commissioner
Todd	Freeman	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Commissioner
Leah	McFadden	Presbytery of New Covenant	Commissioner
Danita	Nelson	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Janet	Ruark	Indian Nations Presbytery	Commissioner
Diana	Smith	Indian Nations Presbytery	Commissioner
Sandra	Watson	Presbytery of the Pines	Commissioner
Polly	Williams	Grace Presbytery	Commissioner
Ed	Wolf	Presbytery of New Covenant	Commissioner

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Corresponding Members Present

Laurie	Barker	Tres Rios Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Tim	Blodgett	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Blake	Brinegar	Presbytery of Arkansas	Corresponding Member
Scott	Campbell	Palo Duro Presbytery	Corresponding Member
B.Gordon	Edwards	Cimarron Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Tracy	Evans	Indian Nations Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Julia	Farrell	Presbytery of the Pines	Corresponding Member
Sharon	Fortin	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Corresponding Member
Lynn	Hargrove	Presbytery of New Covenant	Corresponding Member
Christopher	Lee	Grace Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Kay	Long	Tres Rios Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Rev. Leigh	McCaslin	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Laurie	Palmer	Mission Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Jim	Poinsett	Presbytery of Arkansas	Corresponding Member
Charles	Smith	Indian Nations Presbytery	Corresponding Member
David	Stipp-Bethune	Presbytery of the Pines	Corresponding Member
Kyle	Walker	Grace Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Richard	Williams	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Corresponding Member

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Requesting Excused Absence

Maggie Alsup	Arkansas	Commissioner
Wynona Bryant-Williams	Arkansas	Commissioner
Dzandria Chiphe	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Commissioner
Allan Cross	Tres Rios Presbytery	Commissioner
Jim Freeman	Presbytery of the Pines	Commissioner
Janet Ruark	Indian Nations Presbytery	Commissioner
Kathy Thomas	Cimarron	Commissioner
David Watson	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Commissioner

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Other Persons Present

Lemuel	Garcia-Arroyo	Mission Presbytery	Institution/Agency Representative
Michelle	Junkin	Indian Nations Presbytery	Institution/Agency Representative
Bill	Rutherford	Mission Presbytery	Institution/Agency Representative
Laura	Fleming	Other/None	Synod Network Representative
Kristen	Harris	Palo Duro Presbytery	Synod Network Representative
Gary	Holloman	Other/None	Synod Network Representative
Kathy	Lee-Cornell	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Synod Staff
Mitchell	Miller	Indian Nations Presbytery	Synod Staff
Thomas	Riggs	Other/None	Synod Staff
Tammy	Stepka	Grace Presbytery	Synod Staff
Bill	Wiles	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Synod Staff

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Proposed Agenda - Monday, February 24

Welcome, Introductions, Opening Prayer	Synod Moderator, Sharon Curry
Acknowledgement of Land & People	TBD
Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum	Sharon Curry
Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors	Sharon Curry
Adoption of Agenda	Sharon Curry
Approval of Fall Stated Assembly Minutes	Sharon Curry

Commissioner Orientation

Break

Committee Meetings

Big Faith Resources

Covenant Partnerships and Renewals

NOROC

PCHAS

Pan American School

Dinner

Evening Worship

Bill Wiles, Preaching

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Proposed Agenda - Tuesday, February 25th

Morning Prayers

Committees Meet

Approval of 2025 Budget

Bill Wiles, Synod Treasurer

REPORT: Stated Clerk

Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Mitch Miller

REPORT: SPDR

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

REPORT: CSP

Thomas Riggs, Communication and Administration Coordinator

REPORT: Committee on Representation

REPORT: Empowering Committee

Carlos Baladez, Committee Moderator

REPORT: Connecting Committee

Polly Williams, Committee Moderator

REPORT: Grants & Scholarship Committee

Polly Williams, Commission Moderator

REPORT: Coordinating Team

Ben Davidson, CT Moderator

Sharing at Tables

Closing Worship

Synod Vice Moderator Ronald Fike

Closing the Assembly

Synod Moderator, Sharon Curry

2024 Fall Stated Meeting Minutes

Synod Stated Meeting Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church | New Orleans, LA November 5-6, 2024

Welcome & Introductions –Synod Moderator Ben Davidson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. CT, opening the meeting with prayer.

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Loretta Credo, member of Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church, acknowledged the Native American peoples who lived on the land that is now called Metairie. Historical inhabitants of Metairie area included the Chitimacha Tribe, with Atakapa, Caddo, Choctaw, Homa and Natchez Tribes inhabiting Louisiana. Loretta also noted that PC(USA) leaders met with leaders of the Pointe au Chien Tribe on the day before the Meeting. Isabel S. Reivera-Velez, Commissioner, also mentioned the ancestral homelands of the Alabama Coushatta, Anadarko, Biloxi, Caddo, Chickasaw, Karankawa, Kichai, Muskogee, Shawnee, Tawakoni, and Tonkawa. We declare our respect for these children of God and our desire to honor them and the truth of their lives and history.

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 Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Mitch Miller. 17 of 28 Commissioners were present (*Attachment A*).

Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors – Corresponding Members and Visitors were also acknowledged and seated. Seth Saathoff 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, Stacy Clopton moved and Ron Fike seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried (*Attachment B*).

Approval of Minutes – Moderator Davidson presented the minutes from the previous Synod Assembly on February 27, 2024, for approval. Without any additions or corrections, approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting on October 2022 were moved by Seth Saathoff and seconded by David Watson. Motion carried (*Attachment C*).

Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Report – Synod Leader Mitch Miller reported to the Assembly. He reported that it has been a busy few months since our last meeting and he has visited quite a few of the Presbyteries since becoming the SL/SC. (*Attachment D*).

Synod Moderator Report – Moderator Ben Davidson reported to the Assembly, telling the stories of serving as Moderator for 2024. Ben highlighted that the Synod has been responding to its call during the transition to our new SL/SC, going with the strengths that we have.

2024 Fall Stated Meeting Minutes

Highlights of 2024:

Calling Mitch Miller as our Synod Leader/Stated Clerk

We committed to increase our support of SPDR.

We committed to increase support of the Hispanic Mission Ministries Network.

We committed to support our smaller congregations with lay leadership.

We committed to increase our support of the Synod Youth Workshop and the Grants and Scholarship Commission.

We are going to move forward with a Border Ministries Network.

Coordinating Team Report (*Attachment E*) – Coordinating Team Moderator Seth Saathoff reported on actions taken by the CT on behalf of the Synod. Conducting the business of the Synod between gatherings, the CT took action to onboard the new SL/SC, worked on the Synod finances with Bill Wiles, committed to the continuing support of the three Oklahoma presbyteries as they discern their future together, planned this Assembly, and served as the de facto Nominating Committee.

Personnel Committee Report – Committee Moderator David Watson reported to the Assembly. Personnel is moving forward to the hiring of a part-time Administrative Assistant and providing help for SPDR. A group has been put together to interview the candidates and will move forward.

Committee on Representation Report (*Attachment F*) – Committee Moderator Minwoo Kim reported on behalf of the committee. The focus of the committee has been on communication. Communication between the Korean and Hispanic congregations and the Synod, with the suggestion that the Synod be more proactive in providing translation for Synod functions. Minwoo reported that the committee has only four of the needed six people and are seeking additional members.

Empowering Committee Report – Committee Moderator River-Velez reported on behalf of the Committee. Isabel reported that Empowering supports the Network for Dismantling Racism, the Hispanic Missions Ministry Network, Synod Youth Workshop, and is working to the creation of a Border Ministries Network.

Commissioner Leah McFaddin reported on Synod Youth Workshop (*Attachment G*), highlighting an increasing attendance and scholarships presented.

Commissioner Carlos Baladez and Lisa Almon reported on the work of the Hispanic Missions Ministry Network, highlighting the HMMN Leadership Workshops taking place throughout the Synod and via streaming.

Commissioner Kristy Rodgers reported on the Network for Dismantling Racism, mentioning that the Network continuing with its mission under new challenges. This includes a partnership with

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Rev. Jermaine Ross Allen with the PCUSA's newly created Center for Repair of Historical Harms to gather our stories and historical harms and share them broadly.

Connecting Committee Report – Committee Moderator David Watson reported to the Assembly. David reported that the work of the Committee centers around the Covenant Partners, including Austin College, who will renew their Covenant Agreement with the Synod at this Assembly.

Equipping Committee Report (*Attachment H*) – Committee Moderator Kristy Rodgers reported on behalf of the Committee. Focusing on creating Elder Training and Suicide Prevention Training, the Committee is looking forward to contributing to our upcoming Synod School.

Commissions/Entities

Grants and Scholarship Commission Report (*Attachment I*) – Commission member Lisa Almon reported on behalf of the Commission. Lisa reported that the Commission gave out over \$92k in 2024. She also reported that there are a number of openings in the committee.

Synod Partnership for Disaster Response (*Attachment J*) – In the absence of Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Response, Moderator Davidson reported on SPDR. Ben talked about the amazing work of SPDR and how well it is received throughout the Synod and the Assembly watched a presentation about the Liaison Program. SL/SC Miller reported on the great need for disaster preparation and recovery, with 1/3 of all disasters in the US in 2023 occurred in the Synod of the Sun. Mitch reminded the Assembly that we are in the final year of the three-year program and that it is important that this program continue on beyond that initial commitment.

Oklahoma Tri-Presbyteries Report – Corresponding member Tim Blodgett, General Presbyter of Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, reported on the work of the Oklahoma Presbyteries Task Force. This group has been about the work of discerning and designing a plan to create a new Oklahoma presbytery. In many ways, the three presbyteries have already begun living in ministry together in programs in ministry.

Nominations – Moderator Davidson introduced Commissioner Ron Fike from Cimarron Presbytery to be the Vice-Moderator of the Synod in 2025. By unanimous vote, Ron was elected Vice-Moderator.

TPF Update on Funds Investment – Rick Young, President of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation spoke about the mission and ministry of TPF, the dangers of “not asking” and about the gift of legacy gifts. Celebrating their 50th year, TPF offered to each presbytery to pay for one of the meals at a Presbytery meeting.

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Presentation of the 2025 Preliminary Budget (*Attachment K*) – Treasurer Bill Wiles presented for consideration the 2025 Budget. Bill opened with the idea of bringing a Joe Park from Horizons Stewardship to the Synod to talk about how we maximize giving. Bill took the Assembly through the budget with a new format.

On behalf of the Coordinating Team, Moderator Davidson moved the approval of the budget. The budget was approved.

Signing of Covenant Agreement (*Attachment L*) – Connecting Committee Moderator David Watson and Austin College Senior Associate Vice President Suzanne Crouch presented the renewal of a Covenant Agreement with Austin College. After signing the agreement, Suzanne spoke of how Austin College continues the Covenant made at a child's Baptism. Thanks to a generous gift, Suzanne reported that Presbyterian students can attend Austin College tuition-free.

Installation of 2025 Moderator – In the space of worship, Commissioner Sharon Curry was installed as the 2025 Moderator of Synod of the Sun by the Rev. Alonzo Johnson, the Coordinator for the Self-Development of People program.

Following her installation, Sharon shared her vision for the Synod in 2025, redefining the many roles that we have, take a good look at our structures and discern where God is taking us to next. Sharon extended an invitation for the members of the Assembly to decide in what manner they would like to serve in the coming year. Sharon wants to restart our Commissioned Pastors Network and rebuild the Grants and Scholarship Commission.

With the Assembly's business concluded in prayer, the meeting was adjourned.

Covenant Between the Synod of the Sun and NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children)

DRAFT: For Discussion and Revision

Preamble The Synod of the Sun and NOROC enter into this covenant as partners in mission, united by our shared faith in Christ and a mutual commitment to serve vulnerable children and communities. This covenant builds on a history of collaboration between the Synod and NOROC, which began with NOROC's founding in 1997 at First Central Presbyterian Church in Abilene, Texas by a dynamic missions-oriented couple, Dr. Fred and Carolyn White. By their leadership, their church made NOROC its mission, and in short order, Palo Duro Presbytery made it their validated mission, too. In 2022, Palo Duro Presbytery unanimously voted to call, ordain, and install the Reverend Kristen Harris to NOROC as the Mission Co-Worker; they also committed to fund the position. Over the years, individuals and churches across the Synod have generously supported NOROC's work through prayers, donations, volunteer service, and leadership participation.

This covenant affirms and formalizes the partnership, outlining mutual commitments to strengthen NOROC's mission of providing spiritual, emotional, physical, and educational support to at-risk children in Tulcea County, Romania, and beyond.

Shared Mission and Vision

The Synod of the Sun and NOROC recognize our shared call to care for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40) and to walk alongside the most vulnerable in God's world. Together, we seek to respond to Christ's call to serve:

- Children raised in Tulcea County's group homes, many of whom have been orphaned or removed from their families due to neglect, abuse, or abandonment.
- Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) impacted by war, including those who have sought shelter in Tulcea County and those served through aid distributions in Romania and Ukraine.
- Churches, communities, and individuals in the Synod of the Sun, encouraging them to live into their calling as mission partners through prayer, presence, and partnership with NOROC.

Mutual Commitments

NOROC's Commitments

NOROC commits to:

- 1 Continue providing Christ-centered care and support to vulnerable children in Tulcea County and Ukraine.

- 2 Maintain transparency by sharing a yearly financial report.
- 3 Provide regular updates to the Synod through newsletters, social media, and in-person reports.
- 4 Offer opportunities for mission engagement, including service-learning trips to Romania and visits from the NOROC mission co-worker.
- 5 Invite Synod leaders to witness and participate in NOROC's work in Romania, deepening the partnership through shared experiences and learning.

Synod of the Sun's Commitments

The Synod of the Sun commits to:

- 1 Promote NOROC's mission across its congregations and networks, encouraging individuals and churches to become mission partners.
- 2 Share NOROC's stories, campaigns, and needs through Synod communications, including newsletters, social media, and events.
- 3 Facilitate connections with individuals and churches that may be interested in mission engagement or service-learning trips.

Options for Additional Commitments

Board Membership

The Synod of the Sun leaders have an open invitation to attend any meeting of NOROC's Board of Directors, fostering communication, collaboration, and mutual understanding between the two organizations.

Financial Commitment

The Synod of the Sun will consider exploring opportunities to contribute to NOROC's financial resources as needs and opportunities are identified.

Opportunities for Engagement

NOROC's mission co-worker or another voting member of NOROC's Board of Directors will attend and participate in at least one Synod gathering each year to share updates, stories, and opportunities for mission engagement. The Synod will extend invitations to NOROC leadership for relevant gatherings, fostering deeper connections and mutual learning.

Duration and Review

This covenant will remain in effect for five years and will be reviewed at its conclusion to celebrate progress and discern the future of the partnership.

Signatures

This covenant is entered into by:

For the Synod of the Sun:

Name: Rev. Kristen Harris

Rev. Dr. Scott Campbell

Title: Rev. Kristen Harris

Rev. Dr. Scott Campbell

Date: 2-24-2025

Dr.

For NOROC:

Name: Rev. Mitchell J. Galt

Title: Synod of the Sun Leader and Stated Clerk

Date: 2/24/2025

**A Covenant Partnership Between
The Synod of the Sun, The Synod of Mid America, their Member Presbyteries,
and Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS)**

The Synod of the Sun and the Synod of Mid America are mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (USA) with historic ties to PCHAS predecessor agencies which date to 1903 in Texas and 1914 in Missouri. On January 1, 2018, PCHAS of Texas & Louisiana and PCHAS of Missouri merged. As one agency serving approximately 4,500 children and families in need each year throughout Texas, Missouri and Louisiana, on November 28, 2018 PCHAS established a unique three-way Covenant Partnership with the Synod of the Sun and the Synod of Mid America. It now seeks to renew this covenant and extend its term to 2030.

The Synod of the Sun and its member presbyteries serve Christ by connecting, equipping, and empowering Presbyterians for Christ's mission within and beyond the Synod's bounds of Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas. Providing leadership development, grants and scholarships, and communication services because *“we believe when we work together across boundaries, we (the Synod of the Sun) makes visible the Good News and finds wholeness as the Body of Christ. In our common calling, we impact lives together.”*

The Synod of Mid-America works to support and resource its presbyteries so they can better serve their congregations, while also engaging in mission and ministry that is more expansive than one presbytery can accomplish on its own. The Synod of Mid America includes presbyteries and congregations in Kansas and Missouri.

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) is a faith-based Christian organization with a focused mission: to provide Christ-centered care and support to children and families in need. PCHAS' philosophy of care is to be family centered, strength focused, and goal driven. The organization attempts to faithfully live out the words of James 1:27, “to look after orphans in their distress.” It currently offers 12 residential and community-based programs in 35 locations throughout Texas, Missouri and Louisiana, and is committed to two over-arching goals: helping children obtain stable, permanent housing and helping families achieve self-sufficiency.

The Synod of the Sun, the Synod of Mid America, and their presbyteries listed below join Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services in this unique Covenant Partnership and agree to mutually support one another's ministries. The Synod of the Sun, the Synod of Mid America, and their member presbyteries (in whose bounds PCHAS operates one or more of its programs), agrees by signing this covenant partnership renewal to pray for, advocate on behalf of, and support PCHAS and its mission.

The Synods and their presbyteries affirm the mission of Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services agree to lift up PCHAS' transformative ministries to their own mission giving committees and their member congregations. The Synods and their presbyteries will provide opportunities for PCHAS to share its ministries at Synod and Presbytery gatherings and through its print and electronic communications.

By signing this covenant partnership renewal, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) agrees to maintain a visible presence in the life of the Synod of the Sun, the Synod of Mid America, and their member presbyteries listed below where PCHAS operates one or more of its programs. PCHAS will address the urgent needs of children and families who have experienced trauma and will invite synods, presbyteries and congregations to remain vital partners in ministry through hands-on volunteer service, prayer and giving opportunities.

PCHAS remains committed to serving like Jesus by accepting their clients as they are, by focusing on each client's future rather than their past, and on each client's strengths rather than their challenges. PCHAS believes when it does this well, children and families find hope and know the love of God.

This Covenant Partnership renewed by this agreement in 2025 is not a legal partnership and the synods and presbyteries agree that PCHAS may establish and maintain mission partnerships with other agencies and denominations. The synods, their presbyteries where PCHAS has program locations, and PCHAS agree to renew this 2025 covenant partnership in 2030.

Date: _____ By: _____
Rev. Mitch Miller, Synod Leader and Stated Clerk
Synod of the Sun | synodleader@synodsun.org
6100 Colwell Blvd., Suite 200, Irving, TX 75039

Date: _____ By: _____
Rev. Dr. Deborah Boucher-Payne, Synod Executive
Synod of Mid America | synodexec@synodma.org
3501 Campbell St. #302, Kansas City, MO 64109

Date: _____ By: _____
David Thompson, President | david.thompson@pchas.org
Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS)
5920 W. William Cannon Drive, Bldg. 3 – Suite 100 Austin, TX 78749

Synod of the Sun Presbyteries (with PCHAS Program locations)

Date: _____ By: _____
Christopher Lee, Executive Presbyter
Grace Presbytery
6100 Colwell Blvd., Suite 100, Irving, TX 75039

Date: _____ By: _____
Name Needed, Interim General Presbyter
Mission Presbytery
7201 Broadway #303, San Antonio, TX 78209

Date: _____ By: _____
Lynn Hargrove, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk
for Administrative Process
New Covenant Presbytery
4803 San Felipe St., Houston, TX, 77056

Date: _____ By: _____
Rev. Dr. George Wortham, H.R. Interim General Presbyter
and Stated Clerk
Pines Presbytery
210 N. Bonner Street, Ruston LA 71270

Date: _____ By: _____
Rev. Dr. Scott Campbell, Executive Presbyter
Palo Duro Presbytery
PO Box 16267, Lubbock, TX 79490

Date: _____ By: _____
Richard Williams, Interim General Presbyter
South Louisiana Presbytery
12909 Old Hammond Highway, Baton Rouge LA 70816

Date: _____ By: _____
Matt Miles, Vision and Outreach Presbyter
Tres Rios Presbytery
1201 Wall, Midland, TX 79701

Synod of Mid America Presbyteries (with PCHAS Program locations)

Date: _____ By: _____
Rev. Dale Jackson, General Presbyter for Vision and Leadership
Heartland Presbytery
3210 Michigan Ave. Suite 200, Kansas City, MO 64109

Date: _____ By: _____
Malinda Spencer, Executive Presbyter
John Calvin Presbytery
12 South Main St., Webb City, MO 64870

Date: _____ By: _____
Rev. Ryan Landino, Presbytery Leader
Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery
1001 Craig Road, Suite 170, St. Louis, MO 63146

Date: _____ By: _____
Barbara Chalfant, Transitional General Presbyter
Missouri Union Presbytery
3236 Emerald Lane, Suite #500, Jefferson City, MO 65109

2.16.24

Synod of the Sun

2025 Budget Packet

*William M. (Bill) Wiles
Treasurer, Synod of the Sun*

Attachment F

Synod of the Sun

Notes to the 2025 Budgets

Below are some general notes to assist you in wading through the 2025 budgets for the Synod of the Sun:

1. This is a new budget format. There are three major sections to the budget:
 - a. The unrestricted funds or operating budgets (pages 1 through 4).
The current 2025 uses of the Synod-designated reserve funds (5).
 - b. The projected 2025 funds available to the Grants and Scholarship Commission (pages 6-7).
2. There are several new and expanded areas of mission and ministry focus in the 2025 budget. Please look specifically at the yellow highlights on page 2.
 - a. Our Synod Leader, Rev. Mitch Miller, is working on a re-launch of the Synod School to provide a forum for learning, sharing best practices, and building personal relationships across the four states of our Synod.
 1. Budget support: \$12,500
 - b. The Synod leadership team is focusing on some specific areas of mission and ministry for this year:
 - i. Increasing resources targeted at supporting and encouraging Hispanic ministries and their congregations.
 1. Budget support: \$23,000
 - ii. We are identifying and securing resources for us by the presbyteries and churches across the Synod as they deal with the requirements for increased training in the areas of identifying unacceptable employee behaviors.
 1. Budget support: \$3,000 plus services from the Insurance Board
 - c. We are providing more resources for the work of the Synod Youth Workshops including the purchase of new AV equipment which will save them money previously used for equipment rental. A big budget item is \$15,000 to be use for scholarships for those attending the Tulsa youth event.
 1. Budget support: \$25,000
 - d. We are providing more support for the work of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery.
 1. Budget support: \$23,000
 - e. We are committing to providing a \$100 scholarship for our Synod youth to attend Triennium. Ten such scholarships will be available for each presbytery:
 1. Budget support: \$11,000

- f. Stewardship Kaleidoscope will be hosted within our boundaries this year (New Orleans). We have committed to being a sponsor and to pay for two representatives to attend the event.
 - 1. Budget support: \$1,350
 - g. We are providing funds in 2025 for Hispanic and Korean translation resources for Synod-related meetings:
 - 1. Budget support: \$2,000
 - h. We are restarting our support of three children's homes within our boundaries as set forth in the Albert Crisp endowment funds:
 - 1. Budget support: \$12,000
 - i. We continue to emphasize grants and scholarships for camps and conferences as faith building opportunities for our youth. We continue to underwrite the costs of preparation for ministry including support for our commissioned pastors and lay leaders. The larger amounts of our 2024 support for mission and ministry across the Synod are shown on pages 8 and 9.
 - 1. Budget support: \$180,000+
3. In order to fund these new and expanded mission and ministry efforts, each of our committees and commissions have worked hard to focus their efforts in specific areas rather than the more shot-gun approach budgeted in previous years. Your committees and commissions are staffed by people who are committed to spreading the Gospel across our Synod.
4. Lastly, this budget begins a process of looking at our cash reserve and investment funds as sources to augment our annual budgets. We need to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us investing them wisely and allowing them to grow in value. But we also need to make sure that these funds are used for their primary purpose...proclaiming and witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your Synod leadership team seeks to walk a responsible balance between these two goals.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Coordinating Team
William M. (Bill) Wiles, Treasurer

SYNOD OF THE SUN
2025 Budget Packet

What is included in this financial packet:

Operating Budgets.....	1
Detailed Expense Schedules.....	2-4
Use of Synod-Designated Funds.....	5
Grants & Scholarships Commission:	
Grants Funds.....	6
Scholarship Funds	7
Grants, Scholarships, Support 2024.....	8-9

Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. 2025 Budgets

Use of Unrestricted Incomes

Unrestricted Incomes		12.31.24 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	
40001	Previous year roll-over funds	60,000	60,000	60,000	
	Presbytery Contributions (even years)	75,431	89,000	80,000	
42110	Unrestricted Mission Support (SOSFD)	246,314	208,000	221,700	
42110	Administration Support (SOSFD)	88,200	91,000	80,550	
42100	Contributions	0	1,000	500	
42150	Special Contributions--Mission Presbytery	23,554	0	0	
42210	PILP Interest Earned	2,459	4,000	3,500	
44000	Other Income	716	25,000	15,000	
43100	Communication Services	66,466	65,000	74,500	
Total Revenues		<u>563,140</u>	<u>543,000</u>	<u>535,750</u>	100%
Unrestricted Expenses (See Detailed Expense Schedule)					
61000	Connecting Expenditures	0	18,000	9,500	2%
62001	Equipping	11,256	45,000	28,400	5%
63000	Empowering	21,906	41,000	26,000	5%
64001	Coordinating Team	138,471	121,250	107,750	20%
65000	Personnel	324,104	331,549	363,000	68%
66001	Grants and Scholarships (#61040)	14,257	25,000	25,000	5%
66002	Representation		1,000	2,000	0%
66003	Permanent Judicial Commission	0	2,000	1,000	0%
Total Expenses		<u>509,994</u>	<u>584,799</u>	<u>562,650</u>	105%
Excess of Income over Expenses		<u>53,146</u>	<u>(41,799)</u>	(26,900)	-5%
95500	Equipment Purchases			<u>(11,000)</u>	
Budgeted Deficit				<u>(37,900)</u>	

Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.
Budgets for 2025
Detailed Expense Schedule

		12.31.24	2024	Proposed
		Actual	Budget	2025
		Budget		
Administration & Operations				
Connecting Expenditures				
61080	Presbyterian Women	0	500	500
61100	Covenant Relationship Travel	0	4,000	2,000
61110	Lyon College	0	100	100
61120	Austin College	0	100	100
61130	University of Ozarks	0	100	100
61140	Schreiner University	0	100	100
61150	Trinity University	0	100	100
61160	Tulsa University	0	100	100
61170	PanAmerican School	0	100	100
61180	Austin Seminary	0	100	100
61190	Presby Children's Home & Service	0	100	100
61200	Evergreen Presby. Ministries	0	100	100
61210	Vera Loyd Home & Family	0	100	100
61220	Goodland Academy	0	100	100
61230	Mo Ranch	0	100	100
61240	Presby. Historical Society of SW	0	100	100
61250	Texas Presbyterian Foundation	0	100	100
61260	Multi-Cultural Youth Conf.	0	3,500	3,500
61302	Connecting Initiatives	0	5,000	1,000
61310	Critical Needs Fund	0	2,000	0
61330	National Event Hospitality	0	1,500	1,000
	Totals	0	18,000	9,500
Equipping Expenditures				
61030	COM Event	0	10,000	0 1
61035	Development Courses	0	10,000	0 1
61060	Sexual Misconduct Training Resources			3,000
61270	Synod School			12,500
61280	Clerk Forum	0	3,000	0 1
61070	EP Forum	9,713	18,000	10,000
62030	CSP Operations (clearing account)	1,459	0	0
62060	Synod Marketing Materials	84	4,000	2,400
64160	Racial Ethnic Ministries	0	0	500
	Totals	11,256	45,000	28,400
				1 Included under Synod School
Empowering Expenditures				
61020	Solar Under the Sun	1,343	0	0
61050	Network Nurture	6,122	5,000	5,000
61100	Hispanic Mission Ministries Network	6,000	3,000	3,000
	Raising Tomorrow's Leaders Today	0	0	10,000
	(Additional funding in G&S Section)			
XXX	IMAGINE Event	2,642	27,000	0 1
	Synod Partnership for Disaster: Support	2,299	2,500	3,000
	(Additional funding in Reserve Section)			
61270	Synod Youth Workshop	3,500	3,500	5,000
	(Additional funding in Reserves and Equipment Purchase Sections)			
	Totals	21,906	41,000	26,000
				1 Rolled into Synod School

Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.
Budgets for 2025
Detailed Expense Schedule

		12.31.24	2024	Proposed 2025
<u>Coordinating Team</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
61340	Moderator Expenses	0	2,000	1,000
62040	Computer Hardware & Subscriptions	1,006	2,000	500
62050	Online Operations	8,102	5,000	5,000
62055	Online Processing Fees	437	250	250
62057	Synod Leader Discretionary Fund		10,000	10,000
64010	Stated Meeting, Fall	21,888	25,000	22,000
64020	Stated Meeting, Spring	5,001	0	7,000
64030	Leadership Gathering	10,556	0	10,000
64045	General Assembly (accrual)	6,502		3,000
64050	Administrative Commission		5,000	1,000
64100	Other Committee Expenses		10,000	1,000
66000	Office Expenses			0
66010	Office Rent		0	0
66020	Telephone		3,000	0
66030	Postage	917	1,000	1,000
66040	Copiers	88		0
66050	Supplies	870	3,000	1,000
66060	File Retention/Storage	5,810	5,000	1,000
66070	Bookkeeping Services	51,367	20,000	25,000
66071	Audit Fees	500	5,000	8,000
66090	Insurance	6,687	5,000	7,000
66100	Bank Charges	821	500	1,000
66105	APLOS Fees	1,825	1,500	2,000
66110	Miscellaneous Charges	75	1,000	0
66120	Contingency		1,000	1,000
65420	Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search	16,019	16,000	0
	Totals	<u>138,471</u>	<u>121,250</u>	<u>107,750</u>
Personnel Expenditures				
65010	Synod Leader/SC Salary & House	122,167	103,000	103,000
65020	Synod Leader/SC BOP	39,205	40,170	40,170
65030	Synod Leader/SC FICA Share	7,893	6,200	6,200
65040	Synod Leader/SC Prof Expenses	150	1,500	1,500
65050	Synod Leader/SC Prof Development	43	2,500	2,500
65510	Synod Leader/SC Travel	30,264	24,500	24,500
	Synod Leader Totals	<u>199,722</u>	<u>177,870</u>	<u>177,870</u>
65110	Comm & Admin Coordinator Salary	63,947	61,579	61,579
65120	Comm & Admin Coordinator BOP	20,805	18,100	18,100
65130	Comm & Admin Coord. Payroll Taxes	4,570	4,500	4,500
65140	Comm & Admin Coordinator Prof Dev.	1,500	1,500	1,500
65520	Comm & Admin Coordinator Travel	2,161	2,500	2,500
	Comm & Admin Totals	<u>92,983</u>	<u>88,179</u>	<u>88,179</u>
65170	Treasurer Salary	13,500	18,000	18,000
65180	Treasurer Payroll Taxes	1,033	0	0
	Treasurer Prof Expenses	1,666	2,000	2,000
	Treasurer Travel	0	1,000	1,000
	Totals	<u>16,199</u>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>
	Administrative Assistant	0	27,500	27,500
65220	CSP Contract Services	15,200	15,000	15,000
65410	Personnel Committee	0	2,000	1,000
	Salary Adjustment Allowance			32,451
	Personnel Totals	<u>324,104</u>	<u>331,549</u>	<u>363,000</u>

Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.
Budgets for 2025
Detailed Expense Schedule

		12.31.24	2024	Proposed
		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2025</u>
		<u>Budget</u>		
Grants and Scholarships				
61040	New Covenant Presbytery	2,182		
	Grace Presbytery	2,075		
	Kin-dom Community	5,000		
	Tres Rios Presbytery	5,000		
	Totals	<u>14,257</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
 New Equipment Purchases				
95500	Coordinating Team: Computer Hardware			2,000
95500	Equipping: DSLR Digital Camera			1,000
95500	Synod Youth Workshop: AV Equipment			5,000
95500	Personnel: Equipment for new hire			3,000
	Totals			<u>11,000</u>

1 SYW provides \$4,000 match

Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. Budgets for 2025 Use of Synod Designated Funds

TPF Investment Funds Available for Use	Projected Balance @ 1.1.2025	Projected 2025 Income	Projected 2025 8% Gains	Projected Total Funds Available	2025 Projected Distribution	Description of Use	Projected Balance @ 12.31.2025
PILP Certificate of Deposit	100,000	Income budget		100,000			100,000
Gatewood Account #51392	645,645	23,500	51,652	720,797	(11,000)	Triennium scholarships	708,447
Ministry Reserves #54201	60,257	2,200	4,821	67,278	(1,350)	Stewardship Kaleidoscope	67,278
Year-End Reserves #54495	56,048	2,000	4,484	62,532			62,532
Disaster Assistance #54825	14,385		1,151	15,536			15,536
Regional PDA #55716	143,389		11,471	154,860	(20,000)	Quarterly Pledge	134,860
	<u>1,019,724</u>	<u>27,700</u>	<u>73,578</u>	<u>1,121,002</u>	<u>(32,350)</u>		<u>1,088,652</u>
Cash Balances Held for Use							
10100 Gatewood Funds	175,661				(15,000)	SYW Scholarships	160,661
33100 Ministry Reserves	5,489						5,489
33110 Year-End Reserves	5,106						5,106
33120 Disaster Assistance	357						357
31140 Translation Fund	29,726				(2,000)	Korean/Hispanic Services	27,726
31150 Future Church	0						0
31160 Racial Ethnic Ministries	0						0
31180 Special Meetings	17,862						17,862
31190 Synod Leadership Travel	5,512						5,512
31220 COR Network	471						471
31222 Commissioned Pastors Network	15,121						15,121
31250 Promotional Swag	1,957						1,957
31260 Network Reserves	30,121						30,121
31280 Presby. Leader Formation	14,234						14,234
31300 International Mission trips	800						800
32130 Opioid Crisis	500						500
32140 Network for Dismantling Racism	0						0
32155 ESL Scholarship Fund	25,000						25,000
	<u>327,917</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(17,000)</u>		<u>310,917</u>
Totals	<u>1,347,641</u>	<u>27,700</u>	<u>73,578</u>	<u>1,121,002</u>	<u>(49,350)</u>		<u>1,399,569</u>

Synod of the Sun 2025 Budgets Synod Reserves Delegated to Grants & Scholarships Commission

		Projected Balance	Projected 2025 Incomes	Available Funds 2025	Projected 2025 Awards	Projected Balance @12.31.2025
		@1.1.2025				
Funds For Grants						
Synod Designated Cash Reserves						
31270	Gross Cultural Intern	0		0		0
Donor Restricted Cash Reserves						
33130	David Robinson Fund	1,744	890	2,634		2,634
33188	Church Extension/DevImp	19,881	7,900	27,781		27,781
31160	Racial Ethnic Ministries	0	0	0		0
33210	Higher Education	66,583	19,200	85,783		85,783
33170	Peacemaking	1,593	280	1,873		1,873
33187	Aid for Pastors	9,117	3,500	12,617		12,617
33189	National Missions in Texas	26,610	7,900	34,510		34,510
33200	Old Age Concerns	129,920	23,500	153,420		153,420
	Totals	<u>255,448</u>	<u>63,170</u>	<u>313,881</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>318,618</u>

Donor Restricted Invested Funds (TPF)

Albert Crisp Endowment #51737	107,260	14,000	121,260	(5,000)	1	116,260
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Synod Budget Funds to Grants & Scholarships

61040	Mission Grant Funds	25,000	25,000	50,000		25,000
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Synod of the Sun 2025 Budgets Synod Reserves Delegated to Grants & Scholarships Commission

	Projected Balance	Projected 2025	Projected Incomes	Available Funds	Projected 2025	Projected Awards	Projected Balance
	@1.1.2025			2025			@12.31.2025
Donor Restricted Cash Reserves							
33140 Seminary Course Scholarships	9,758		670	10,428			10,428
22900 Seminary Student Scholarships	13,000	16,600		29,600			29,600
33150 Young Adult Volunteers	44,905	5,200		50,105			50,105
33160 Educational Programs	365	525		890			890
31300 International Mission Trips	5,800	0		5,800			5,800
33220 Schroeder Child & Youth Scholarships	0	2,400		2,400			2,400
Schroeder Child & Youth Scholarships	0	486		486			486
Totals	73,828	25,881		99,709	0		99,709

Donor Restricted Invested Funds (TPF)							
Hispanic American Ministry MAPPA Fund #50900	80,121	7,000		87,121			87,121
Hispanic American Ministry MACC Fund #50901	41,626	4,000		45,626	(10,000)	2	35,626
Munson Kerr Scholarship #55474	1,408,942	120,000		1,528,942			1,528,942
Albert Crisp Scholarship #51736	128,793	8,000		136,793	(7,000)	1	129,793
Totals	1,659,482	139,000		1,798,482	(17,000)		1,781,482

1 Donor restrictions in the Albert Crisp Funds require distributions be made only to these recipients and in these percentages:
 Presbyterian Children and Adult Services 50%
 Goodland Academy 25%
 Vera Loyd Homes 25%

2 Funds for Raising Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Endowment Pass-Thru Funds from Presbyterian Foundation							
Estha Nowlin Scholarship Funds			320				320
William & Ethel Hankins Fund #4			30				30
William & Ethel Hankins Fund #5			30				30
Viola Williams Memorial Fund			10				10
Totals			390				390

Synod of the Sun
Grants, Scholarships, and Support 2024

71100 Hispanic American	Scholarship	Adrian Rodriguez	5,000.00
71140 Seminary Scholarships	Scholarship	Caitlin Culp	4,500.00
		Miriam Ross	5,500.00
		Zachary Rivers	5,000.00
		Sarah Rutherford	4,000.00
		Kate McGee	1,500.00
71160 Educational Programs	Scholarship to attend PW	Shelley Wren Smith	300.00
		Mary Ann Thomas	300.00
71189 Volunteers in Mission	Grant	YAV diversity	10,000.00
		Enterprise rent car	811.03
71200 Old Age Concerns	Grant	PW church-wide gathering	5,000.00
		Waxahachie CARE services	5,000.00
71210 Reserve for Higher ED	Grant	Winter College Min at John Knox Ranch	5,000.00
		John Knox Ranch travel expenses	1,000.00
		UCM at JKR	1,900.00
		Hispanic Campus Ministries @ JKR	5,000.00
		Winter College Min at John Knox Ranch	5,000.00
71910 SOSPF	Scholarship	Amanda McDonald	6,500.00
		Dubuque Seminary	
		Benny Thompson Dubuque Seminary	2,500.00
73010 SPDR Support	Contribution	SPDR Quarterly	11,488.00
74100 OK Tri-presbytery planning	Support		1,564.74
	Grant	Raising Tomorrow's Leaders Today	5,000.00
74130 Disaster Assistance	Support	Emergency Aid Palo Duro Presbytery Wild fires	15,000.00
74140 Translation Fund	Support	Translation svcs. Synod/SPDR	180.00
74150 Future Church	Support	Boundary Training	6,440.00
		Safe Gatherings	1,943.00
74240 Promotional Swag	Support	Branded clothing	132.60
74260 Cross cultural intern	Grant	Presbytery of South Louisiana	5,000.00

74270	Presbytery Leadership Formation	Support	Coaching for new EPs in Synod	3,000.00
74290	Mission Network Grants	Grant	Cimarron Presbytery	2,500.00
74300	International Mission Trips	Grant	University of Ozarks	1,700.00
		Grant	FPC San Anselmo	1,500.00
			Presbytery of Scioto Valley	5,000.00
74950	Network for Dismantling Racism	Support	Website maintenance	212.60
61040	Grants & Scholarships	Grant	New Covenant Pres.	2,182.00
			Grace Presbytery	2,075.00
			Tres Rios Presbytery	5,000.00
			Kin-dom Community	5,000.00
	Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery			
		Support	Budget Support	15,317.00
		Support	Budget Support	2,299.00
	Hispanic Ministry Network	Grant	Hispanic ministry	6,000.00
			Austin College event	5,000.00
	Synod Youth Workshop	Support	Budget Support	<u>3,500.00</u>
			Total	<u><u>180,844.97</u></u>

SYNOD LEADERSHIP EVENTS:

Spring and Fall Assemblies	26,889
Leadership Meetings	10,556
EP Forum	9,713
Total	<u><u>47,158</u></u>

Synod Leader and Stated Clerk Report: February, 2025 Synod Assembly

We welcome our new Administrative Assistant, Tammy Stepka to the staff. She is quickly proving to be invaluable as we finally find ourselves fully staffed and I trust can really begin to move forward with our plans to strength the mission and ministry of the Synod of the Sun in 2025 and beyond.

Again, we are thankful to our sisters and brothers in Grace Presbytery for their willingness to provide the Synod office space in the Presbyterian Mission Center in Irving.

We are excited to welcome back Kathy Lee-Cornell from maternity leave. Kathy's return to the Directorship of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery comes as we enter the last year of our four-year pilot project. The importance of this will be expanded upon later.

The Stated Clerks will be meeting immediately following this Assembly to review presbytery minutes for both 2023 and 2024.

In early January (5th through the 7th) we held the annual Synod Leadership Retreat at MO Ranch. At this gathering we examined the work of the synod, and upon realization that, frankly, we do **a great many things**, we felt it was necessary to set some priorities for 2025. What follows are the top ten priorities we have set for our work.

At the top of that list is to ensure the continuation of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery (SPDR). This means pledging our continued support for Kathy and her work and to begin seeking the funding we will need to move on into the future.

Second, as we will discuss at the Assembly, we will strive to make sure that our committees are fully staffed and working at optimum levels. I am asking two things of our commissioners: 1) look at the descriptions of the committees and their responsibilities and discern which one best suit your gifts, experience, and interest. We will do our best to place you where you can best serve the needs of the synod. 2) Look around at the people in your presbyteries that might have the gifts, experience, expertise, and interest that we might invite to serve on our committees as co-opted members, thereby strengthening our work and expanding our reach of knowledge and information in the presbyteries.

Third, it is no secret that the church needs more and new leadership. Our goal is to identify the leaders already among us, lift them up and encourage them to step forward. We want to make a concerted effort to identify those people with the gifts and talents to lead us in divine worship, and begin their process of discernment, encouragement, and training. Whether it is as simple as reading Scripture, sharing their gifts of music, or perhaps even preaching and pastoring, we are convinced that the worship leaders, commissioned pastors, and future called ministers of Word and Sacrament are already among us, hiding in our pews, and only need the encouragement of those whose eyes are open to seeing what they do not, cannot, or will not.

Storytelling has always been at the heart of human society and especially important for the transfer of faith and tradition. To that end, we have set as our fourth priority to be better at telling our stories. We need to share our stories of how the work of the Church, be it through programs, grants, worship, or the people who, through their personal expressions of their faith, have impacted our lives or the lives of our congregations. Sharing these stories is an important way for more people to be affected and our successful ministries might continue and expand their impact and funding.

Next on our list, (number 5) is to focus on giving and fundraising to support the work of the synod. We will work on creating a task force this Spring to begin the work of encouraging and developing more sources of income.

Sixth on the list, is to place greater focus on our support of immigrant fellowships and ministry. We cannot overlook the needs of these communities as they grow and thrive, even in this difficult and challenging time of political uncertainty. These communities are, we believe, an un-tapped resource of talent and Spiritual enrichment that are as crucial to the current state of the Church as they will be in the future.

Next, (number 7) we return to the on-going struggle of how best to strengthen, expand, support, and protect our ministries along the border. Nearly two thirds of which fall within the geographical boundaries of our synod. We hope to find ways to create opportunities for our existing ministries to cooperate more fully and seek ways to combine our efforts with the synods to our west.

Eight on our list of priorities is to create and encourage more events for gathering and training. Creating community, and fostering opportunities for fellowship, learning and mutual support has always been an important aspect of our advancement of society. This is even more so throughout the history of the Church. From the gathering of Jesus' first disciples up to this day, the need is undeniable.

Ninth on our list is the continued and enhanced support of youth and young adult ministries. Let us not fall into the trap of seeing them as only the future of the church, they are very much the key to an effective present. As you look up this list, one cannot miss how this goal intersects with so many of the goals above.

Finally last, but not least, is the continuation and expansion of our Communication Services Program. Elsewhere in the packet you will find information about the CSP and the incredible work of our communication director, Thomas Riggs.

These are certainly not all that we will be doing, and there are many other important tasks, both required by our charge as a synod and those we have always found the need to do. But with so much on our plate and so many challenges facing the Church, we felt it necessary to give some guidance and focus on our efforts and that of the synod staff in the coming year.

Some of the Synod Leader's Activities since the last assembly:

- Attended presbytery meetings in Cimarron, Grace, New Covenant, and Southern Louisiana Presbyteries
- Attended the online EP Forum gatherings
- Represented the SOTS and participated in the inauguration of the new president of the Pan-American School in Kingsville, TX
- Led the Synod Leadership Retreat at Mo Ranch
- Represented the SOTS at the Spring meeting of the Solar Under the Sun Board
- Attended and led a part of the Indian Nations Presbytery Commissioned Preacher training event
- The first five people to ask me what and Elbedritsch is at the Assembly will receive aa gift
- Met with representatives of five of our Covenant Partners regarding our Partnership Covenants
- Driven nearly 4000 miles and flew another 1500 miles.

Upcoming Dates:

February	17-18 SPDR Leadership Team Gathering (New Orleans, LA) 21 Arkansas Presbytery meeting (Lyon College) 22 Indian Nations Presbytery Meeting (Midwest City, OK) 23 EP Forum Gathering (Irving, TX) 24-25 Synod Assembly (Irving, TX) 26-26 Presbytery Clerks Gathering (Irving, TX)
March	1 Grace Presbytery Meeting (Longview, TX) 6-7 Tres Rios Presbytery Meeting (Seminole, TX) 7-8 Mission Presbytery Meeting (Kerrville, TX) 22 New Covenant Presbytery (Houston, TX)
April	12-16 Synod Executive Gathering (Jacksonville, FL) 25-26 Palo Duro Presbytery Meeting
May	1-4 Solar School (Ft. Worth, TX) 17 Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery Meeting 31 Grace Presbytery Meeting
June	7 Indian Nations Presbytery 16-18 EP Forum gathering in OKC 20-21 Mission Presbytery Meeting
July	10-22 NOROC Summer Service-Learning Trip (Tulcea, Romainia)

2025 has already been a busy and exciting year. I maintain my stated goals be present for at least one meeting in each presbytery (preferably more), continue to preach when invited, and strengthen our covenant partnerships.

I welcome your questions, suggestions, input, encouragement, and prayers.

Your Servant in Christ,

Mitch Miller

Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery

Synod of the Sun Assembly

February 2025 Report



The SPDR Leadership Group (LG) consists of Julia Farrell, Presbytery of the Pines (2025), Jim Kirk (2022), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; Matt Miles (2022), Tres Rios Presbytery; Cheryl Pennington (2024), Indian Nations Presbytery; Richard Williams (2022), Presbytery of South Louisiana; Mitch Miller (2024), Synod Leader and Stated Clerk, Synod of the Sun; and Bill Wiles (2024), Treasurer, Synod of the Sun.

The LG met in-person in February to develop a Transition Plan for SPDR as the pilot phase of the partnership concludes on December 31, 2025. The following motions were approved by the LG:

- Approved September 2024 meeting minutes.
- Reaffirm placing \$175,000 with New Covenant Trust Company for short term investment.
- Request current Covenant Partners (11 presbyteries, the Synod of the Sun, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) continue at their current funding level of SPDR for the next five years (2026-2030).
- Request that the Synod match the additional giving by presbyteries (up to \$20,000/year) from Synod reserves for the next five years.
- Seek additional funding from other interested parties to match the additional giving by presbyteries and the Synod.
- Request that the Synod explore engaging a grant writer to support Synod programming.

Motion to Synod Assembly: The Synod of the Sun will match the additional giving by presbyteries above their current funding level up to \$20,000 per year from Synod reserves for the next five years.

SPDR Director's Report

Thank you to the Synod for your prayers and support as our family welcomed our daughter, Mila Fay, into our lives! The SPDR Liaisons Network stepped in during my time on parental leave. We now have a SPDR Liaison representing each of our 11 presbyteries: Nancy Bergeron (Pines), Mike Burnett (Tres Rios), Jim Ellor (Grace), Joe Gambill (Palo Duro), Rebecca Lovingood (South LA), Sandra Murray (Mission), Kathy Thomas (Cimarron, Eastern Oklahoma & Indian Nations), Charley Shurtz (New Covenant), and Ray Stephens (Arkansas). This group meets quarterly to share presbytery/congregational needs and to coordinate, collaborate, and connect resources around disaster preparedness and response.

In 2025, the SPDR Program goals include:

- 1.) Transitioning from a pilot to sustained disaster ministry program of the Synod.
- 2.) Tell the story of SPDR's impact and opportunities for ministry more broadly.
- 3.) Enhance the reach and depth of cultural/contextual disaster resources.
- 4.) Increase volunteerism and leadership within presbyteries.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Attachment H

The Synod of the Covenant

Service for Victims
in Milton

Ministry of South
Carolina and prayer
for ET. This
for
and



View More News &
Events Here



Seeking Full-Time Associate
Executive for Racial Justice

The Synod is excited to open our search for a full-time Associate Executive for Racial Justice.



The Communication Services Plan of the Synod of the Sun

A ministry to and for the
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Search...

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Three Covenant Communities

Committees Resources/COM Calendar News



Search...

WE ARE MISSION PRESBYTERY. SERVING CHRIST IN THE WORLD

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

FIESTA
FREEZER POPS

Attachment I

The Communication Services Plan of the Synod of the Sun

A ministry to and for the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Synod of the Sun

Presbytery of Arkansas

Mission Presbytery

Pines Presbytery

Presbytery of South Louisiana

Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery

Indian Nations Presbytery

New Covenant Presbytery

Presbyteries

Twin Cities Presbytery

Presbytery of Boise

Presbytery of Northern Kansas

Presbytery of Southern Kansas

Missouri Union Presbytery

Grand Canyon Presbytery

de Cristo Presbytery

Lackawanna Presbytery

Lehigh Presbytery

(Lackawanna and Leigh soon to merge)

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Northeast Georgia Presbytery

Presbytery of Wabash Valley

Trinity Presbytery

Synods

Synod of the Covenant

Synod of South Atlantic

Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Synod of the Southwest

Presbyterian Programs

Spirit of Stewardship Conference

(Synod of Mid-America)

Assoc. of Mid Council Leaders

Presbyterian Leadership Formation Program

Borderlands YAV Program

Projected Income 2024

\$71,902

Projected Income 2025

\$78,584

Notes:

We have 26 partners from four time zones.

We have added 14 new partners in 2023-24.

We generate between 8 and 12 newsletters or flyers every week.

02/14/2025

Empowerment Committee Report to the Synod of the Sun
Spring Assembly

It is with immense gladness and that we welcome former and newly added members to our Empowerment Committee. God has called us and we have responded with a joyful and a resounding, “YES!”

The Empowering Committee is continuing the work begun in 2024. We are grateful for the leadership of Rev. Isabel Rivera-Velez in 2024. The Moderator for 2025 is Carlos Baladez and Vice-Moderator is Leah McFadden. Our first meeting will be held on February 22.

The Empowering Committee will be focused on supporting our networks. Based on the goals outlined by the Synod of the Sun Leadership Team, the Empowering Committee will be particularly involved with Immigration Ministry, Border Issues, Youth, and Young Adult Ministries. Hispanic Ministries Mission Network (HMMN) of the Synod of the Sun / Red de Ministerios Hispanos del Sinodo del Sol “*Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders Today,*” and Synod Youth Workshop had very successful initiatives in 2024 (see attached reports) and we are excited to continue and expand this great work. The committee will continue working to develop a Border Ministry network. This effort was put on hold until after the presidential election to get a better idea of the needs in 2025.

We look forward, with God’s grace, to see what other opportunities our Good Lord opens for us in 2025.

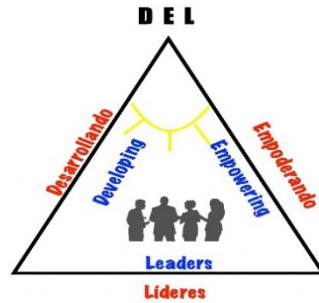
Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Carlos Baladez, Ph.D. - Moderator Empowering Committee

HISPANIC MINISTRIES MISSION NETWORK (HMMN) of the SYNOD OF THE SUN /
RED DE MINISTERIOS HISPANOS del SINODO DEL SOL

Attachment J



To our esteemed colleagues and siblings in Christ, greetings!

God is on the move and we are privileged to be riding the crest of grace!

It is with great joy that HMMN reports the following updates regarding our God-given vision of “Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders Today.”

As previously reported, we launched this vision on September 7, 2024 with our first workshop hosted by First Presbyterian Church in New Braunfels, TX. We held three workshops in 2024 and scheduled three more for 2025. In 2024, “Developing the Leader within You,” was held in September, “Worship Leadership, Session Leadership, and Outreach Leadership,” in October, and “Leadership in the Pulpit: How to Write and Deliver a Sermon,” in November. At the end of each workshop, participants were encouraged to put their learning into practice. At the November workshop, the attendees were encouraged to write a sermon, ask their respective leadership to give them an opportunity to deliver their sermon, and report back in January to share their experience with the rest of the group. To our great delight, three Elders crafted a sermon and delivered it. The reports were inspirational and heartwarming. In one particular case, the pastor was out sick and one of the elders was out of town. The reminding Session members were going to cancel a Christmas Eve service because “there was no one to fill the pulpit.” One of our workshop attendees spoke up and said, “Why then have we been going to these workshops? Now is our opportunity to rise up to the occasion,” and they did! It was reported that they had a WONDERFUL worship service. All glory, honor, and praise to our Loving God!

We took December off to celebrate the holiday season. We resumed our workshops in January with “Growing Young Disciples - Gen Alpha (2010-2024),” followed by one in February. This workshop was focused on “Prayer and Discipleship, New Elder and Deacon Training, and How to get church members more involved in community outreach, and Presbyterian youth camps and conferences.”

Our last workshop will be held at the annual HMMN gathering at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary where the topics will cover “IT and Social Platforms,” and “Music and Song in Worship.”

In addition to First Presbyterian Church in New Braunfels, other host churches have been Memorial Presbyterian Church, San Marcos, TX, and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in San Antonio, TX. We are indebted to these churches and are grateful for them “catching” the vision. Each church provided a delicious meal for all the participants to enjoy.

We are also indebted to our presenters, Jose and Gracie Munoz, Estela Sifuentes, Lisa Almon, Bernabe Martinez, and Carlos Baladez. We also give thanks for our sound/video engineers; Westley Morris, Miles Wortham, Christina Buruato. We also give thanks to our planning team for “fleshing out,” the logistics and the needs of each workshop.

Our workshops have been attended by members from nine different churches and four different presbyteries with in our Synod; Mission, Grace, New Covenant, and Arkansas.

Thus far, adding up all five workshop, we have had a total of 106 in-person attendees and 29 participants on Zoom, of whom 51 have been different people. We even had a two pastors join us on Zoom; one a Methodist pastor from Chicago and the other, a Presbyterian pastor from Mazatlán, Mexico. This outreach has been made possible by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Mission Presbytery, Synod of the Sun, and HMMN’s Face Book page announcing our workshops and posting our fliers on their respective websites and newsletters inviting one and all to come. These fliers announced our workshops in Spanish and in English. Attendees have included youth and adults, bilingual attendees and Spanish and English only speaking guests.

Thus far, participants have planted a total of \$839.00 into this vision. Of these funds, 90% has been reinvested directly into HMMN and of the tithe, 3% has been sown back into Mission Presbytery and the other 7% into the Synod of the Sun to be used to fund other dreams in other parts of God’s Vineyard.

One more item to report. The Rev. Princeton Abaraoha, representing the African immigrant community for the Synod of the Sun, reached out to HMMN, expressing that his community also has the same needs as those identified by HMMN. He communicated to us that there are nine different African countries, with nine different languages, in need of our workshops. We have agreed to provide him with our PowerPoint slides, free of charge, which are in Spanish and in English, to be used for these congregations. He, along with respective representative, will translate the slides into their own languages and use them here in the USA and also back in their native countries to “Develop Tomorrow’s Leaders Today.” God is GOOD!

With grateful hearts, we continue to seek God’s holy and perfect will as we plan out the rest of 2025 and beyond!

To God be all the glory, honor, and praise!

Respective Submitted on behalf of HMMN,

Carlos Baladez, Ph.D.

HMMN Officers

Lisa Almon, Co-Moderator, Miguel Carlin, Secretary. Ruth Román-Meza, Historian, Bernabé Martínez, Treasurer

Synod Youth Workshop Report

Spring Assembly 2025

The Planning Team and Staff are hard at work planning Synod Youth Workshop 2025. The theme is “Let Light Lead” and we are excited to hear God’s word for us around this theme. Registration is now open. The conference will be held at the University of Tulsa July 14 - 19.

Rev. Alex Pappas is our keynote speaker. She recently served as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Shreveport, Louisiana and is now serving as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Georgetown, Texas. Alex grew up in Grace Presbytery, attending SYW. She has also served as an adult Small Group Leader. She brings a unique perspective as a former youth participant and we are confident that God will speak through her the words our youth need to hear.

Nine youth are serving on Planning Team and will be very involved in leading the conference. They represent congregations in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri. Planning Team and Staff will meet for the second planning meeting March 8 - 9.

The Leadership Team is grateful for the \$15,000 awarded by Synod of the Sun for scholarships. Everyone is working to promote the conference and get the word out that scholarships are available. It is our hope that this money will be used to better include participants from all areas of our synod and that anyone who wants to attend will be able to.

Respectfully submitted,

Leah McFadden

SYW Leadership Team

Vice-Moderator Empowering Committee

Let Light Lead

SYNOD '25



Small
Groups



Worship

Synod Youth Workshop

JULY 14 - 19, 2025

WHERE: UNIVERSITY OF TULSA

COST: \$395 YOUTH & ADULTS

WHO: RISING 9TH GRADERS
THROUGH GRADUATING
SENIORS



Service
Projects



Keynote
Speaker

Rev. Alex
Pappas

www.synodyouthworkshop.com



Synod of the Sun - Connections Committee

AGENDA and MINUTES

Called Meeting Monday, January 6, 2025 2:00 P.M. Nickolas Place, Mo Ranch

- I. Welcome and Opening Prayer Moderator Polly Williams

The meeting opened at 10am. Polly agreed to serve as clerk. Also attending Vice Moderator Princeton Abaraoha.

- II. Per the request of Rich Dunsworth, President of the University of Ozarks, thanks was given for the witness of Rev. Dr. Gary Dill formerly representing Synod of the Sun to the Board of Trustees for the University of Ozarks per the covenant relationship.
Rev Andrew Odom was nominated and appointed as the liaison between the Synod of the Sun and University of the Ozarks' as Synod of the Sun's representative to the Board of trustees.
Princeton made the motion, Polly offered a second. Both Polly and Princeton voted, "yes." The motion carried unanimously.
- III. Approved the wording for a new covenant partnership with NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children) through the First Presbyterian Church of Abilene, Palo Duro Presbytery. Princeton made the motion, Polly offered a second. Both Polly and Princeton voted, "yes". The motion carried unanimously.
- IV. Called meetings were set for 2025: monthly: Monday, February 10, 2025 via zoom at 2pm central, Monday, March 10, 2025 via zoom at 2pm central; Monday, April 7, 2025 via zoom at 2pm central; Monday, May 12, 2025 via zoom at 2pm central; Monday, June 9, 2025 via zoom at 2pm central; Monday, July 7, 2025 via zoom at 2pm central; Monday, August 11, 2025 via zoom at 2pm central; Monday, September 8, 2025 via zoom at 2pm central; Monday, October 13, 2025, via zoom at 2pm central; Monday, November 10, 2025 via zoom at 2pm; and Monday, December 8, 2025 via zoom at 2pm.
- V. Motion to adjourn carried.

Submitted with prayer and praise, Polly Williams, Vice Moderator, Connections Committee, Synod of the Sun

Synod of the Sun - Connections Committee

AGENDA and MINUTES

Stated Meeting Monday, February 10, 2025 2:00 P.M. Nickolas Place, Mo Ranch

- I. Welcome and Opening Prayer - Moderator Polly Williams, also present Vice Moderator Princeton Abaraoha.
- II. Reported a conversation with Stated Leader Mitch Miller hoping to get going on the goal of each covenant being a five year term concluding in year's ending in, "0" or "5".

Proposed covenants are prepared for consideration with current covenant partners the Presbyterian Pan American School, the Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest and Lyons College. Being in touch with each covenant partner as well as a few new and proposed covenant partners was discussed.
- III. Princeton closed with prayer. Submitted with prayer and praise, Moderator Polly Williams

Notes – Synod of the Sun Spring Assembly 2025

“WHY, LORD, have I never won the lottery?”

“It would help me help you if you bought a ticket.”

There's no, “luck” to it. And we almost always know we are NOT God ☺. Providential past generosity and prayerfully discerning peers of yours who do our best to honor donor or Synod restrictions putting the synod's funds to work while considering future stewardship as best we can describe the Grants and Scholarship Commission (G&S) of Synod of the Sun(SoS) of 2025 at work.

We are: Polly Williams, Moderator/Chair; Lynn Hargrove, Vice Moderator/Vice Chair;

Todd Freeman, Commissioner from Oklahoma with voice and vote;

Lisa Almon representing HMMN, Hispanic Ministries and concerns as EX Officio with voice, no vote and a beautiful institutional memory serving this commission; and Mitch Miller and Bill Wiles as staff advisors.

We met Tues., Jan. 28th to consider 4th quarter 2024 requests and SoS Presbyterian Foundation aka MDiv scholarships.

By Presbytery, awards to date:

Grace Presbytery: COMMUNITY BREAKFAST AND SACK LUNCH of First PC, Garland \$5,000.00

MIRANDA DOLIVE, MA Studies at Austin Seminary \$1,946.25

This experienced Inquirer under care, whose witness and service to First, Longview has been invaluable received this award as 75% of one of her classes at Dubuque.

Mission Presbytery COLTON HEDRICK an inquirer under care, highly recommended \$3,000.00

by Rev. Dr. Joshua S. Robinson of Hope PC in Austin where Colton voluntarily attends Session and serves in the areas of CE, Worship, Music and Mission

Presbytery of Arkansas: HONDURAS FAMILY MISSION TRIP a powerful repeat mission trip \$1,500.00

to Honduras wherein the teens involved drag their parents, I mean, are joined with their parent(s) for building churches and homes.

The developing adult and youth leadership and transformative experiences are a powerful witness.

OZARK BORDER ENCOUNTER Offer an alternate Spring Break: \$5,000.00

a transformational immersion wk at the US/Mexico Border that enhances learning through education, service and group reflection amongst a diverse group of students from various backgrounds, political and religious ideologies who are committed to building community and finding commonalities.

Presbytery of South Louisiana: PROGRAM OF HOPE Providing lodging, meals, necessities \$5,000.00

and as needed funds toward transportation, for homeless seniors, families and others.

TOTAL AWARDED TO DATE: \$20,446.25

NOTE: TRIENNIUM AWARDS available: on a recommendation from G&S, at the Coordinating Team meeting in February, ten (\$100 per participant) grants were made available for each presbytery.

The deadline for the receipt of Triennium assistance applications is Tuesday, April 8, 2025 when all first quarter requests 2025 (due by March 31, 2024) will be considered. On February 8th, available funds for Triennium awards, not requested will be awarded and re-allotted to those presbyteries submitting early applications. We also meet

(i) Tuesday, July 22, 2025 @ 2:30pm central via zoom: for 2nd Quarter 2025 requests; and

(ii) Tuesday, October 21, 2025 @ 2:30pm central via zoom; for 3rd Quarter 2025 requests.

Submitted with prayer and praise in Christ's name,

The Rev. Miss Polly Warren Williams

Moderator, Grants and Scholarship 2025, Synod of the Sun

pollywarren@icloud.com

214/740-0122



PW Moderator Report of Synod of the Sun Events

Presbyterian Women of Synod of the Sun are busily preparing for our up-coming PW Synod Gathering.

Please share the following information with the women of our Synod and plan to attend this exciting Event. Our Planning Team has been working diligently securing Speakers, Presenters, Plenary Programs, Worship Services, Tours, and delicious food!

It is going to be an interesting and delightful PW Synod Gathering!

Please visit our SOSPWCONNECT website for more information including Registration and Scholarship Forms which will be added to our website in the coming weeks.

PW 2025 SYNOD GATHERING – July 24 – 26, 2025 “Our Joy Is in Christ”

**First United Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas
695 East Calvin Street, Fayetteville, Arkansas**

Grace and Peace,

Sandra Hayes

Moderator of Presbyterian Women of Synod of the Sun