



The Synod of the Covenant

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**Synod of the
Covenant Assembly
Meeting
Consent Agenda and Clerk's
Report
May 3, 2022**

1. **To seat** as corresponding members the following executive presbyters, general presbyters, presbytery leaders and stated clerks in attendance at this meeting: Elder Lisa Allgood (Cincinnati), Rev. Erwin Goedicke (Cincinnati), Rev. Floretta Barbee-Watkins (Detroit), CRE Charon Barconey (Detroit), Rev. Marianne Grano (Detroit), Rev. Cathy Ulrich (Eastminster), Rev. Ted McCulloch (Lake Huron), Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence (Lake Michigan), Rev. Cal Bremer (Lake Michigan), Elder Kay Morrill (Mackinac), Rev. Matt Meinke (Maumee Valley), Rev. Dean McGormley (Maumee Valley), Rev. Terry Kukuk (Miami Valley), Rev. Lynn Bova (Miami Valley), Rev. Matt Skolnik (Muskingum Valley), CRE Tim Pollock (Muskingum Valley), Rev. Jeannie Harsh (Scioto Valley), Rev. Bill Gause (Scioto Valley), Rev. Sharon Core (Western Reserve), Elder Judy Mitchell (Western Reserve).
2. **To excuse** the following commissioners at their request: Jonathan Carlisle (TE-Scioto Valley).
3. **To seat** as corresponding members guest teaching elders and ruling elders from congregations within the Synod of the Covenant in attendance at this meeting.
4. **To approve** the Minutes of the Assembly of the Synod of the Covenant of February 1, 2022. (CA-1 in the Assembly Papers)
5. **To receive** the following 2021 Annual Report from the Synod of the Covenant Scholarship and Grants Team. (CA-2 in the Assembly Papers)
6. **To receive** the following information item: the Rev. Dr. Charles B. Hardwick, Interim Synod Executive, on behalf of the Synod of the Covenant Board of Trustees, will be working with presbytery leaders to identify ruling elders and teaching elders from member presbyteries that can serve on a Synod Investment Task Force and on a Synod Audit/Review Task Force. The term is one year, or until the Synod has adopted by-laws with respect to

these responsibilities, whichever comes first. (Members are eligible to continue to serve.) Both task forces will be under the leadership of the Synod of the Covenant Board of Trustees, and include the Interim Synod Executive as an ex officio member with voice but no vote.

7. **To receive** the following Report of the Governance Committee:

**Synod of the Covenant
Governance Committee Report
May 3, 2022**

The Governance Committee continues to meet regularly to work on Bylaws and Policies for the Synod of the Covenant. There are no actions to report to the Synod at this time.

Respectfully Submitted, Andy Thorburn

8. **To receive** the following Report of the Budget and Finance Committee/Trustees regarding actions taken on behalf of the Synod (CA-3 fuller report in the Assembly Papers):
1. A motion prevailed to approve the following people as signatories for the PILP Money Market Account: Frank L. Walburg, President (Muskingum Valley) and Martha R. Blenman, Treasurer (Detroit), until policy is made by the SOC
 2. A motion prevailed to give authority to the Treasurer, Martha R. Blenman (Detroit) to maintain the Chase accounts at or below \$250,000, transferring (or restoring to that limit) the balances through the PILP Money Market Mission Account.
 3. A motion prevailed to approve the Treasurer, Martha R. Blenman (Detroit) and Corporate President, Frank Walburg (Muskingum Valley) as points of contact to engage DeMarco & Associates (our CPA firm) to sort out federal, state, and local tax withholding issues, credit card distribution and accounting issues, bank reconciliations for Chase Bank, and underlying deficient issues discovered during this process.
 4. A motion prevailed to authorize the Treasurer to give DeMarco & Associates access to the Synod's Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) online account to review federal tax withholding payments.
 5. A motion prevailed to authorize the Corporate President, Frank Walburg (Muskingum Valley), to give DeMarco & Associates Powers of Attorney to review Synod's tax withholding payments to the federal government, and others as may be necessary.
 6. Approvals related to engagement letter with Skillman Group PLC. The approved

engagement letter is provided in the Assembly Papers and Frank Walburg, President, will provide verbal report about this item of business.

7. A motion prevailed to designate the Treasurer, currently Martha Blenman (Detroit), the Trustee President, currently Frank Walburg (Muskingum Valley), Trustee Vice-Chair, currently Ted Fines (Mackinac), and Trustee Clerk, currently Joe Salvato (Cincinnati), as signers on the Synod of the Covenant Accounts with the Presbyterian Foundation (New Covenant Funds and New Covenant Trust Fund), and the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, with two signers required.
8. A motion prevailed to authorize Marth Blenman (Detroit), Treasurer, to complete and sign the attached “Certification Regarding Beneficial Owners of Legal Entity Customers” for as the Control Person. (This action is required by the Patriot Act).
9. **To receive** the Report of the Stated Clerk for today as follows:

Report of the Stated Clerk

Fran Lane-Lawrence

February 1, 2022

1. **REVIEWS OF 2020 AND 2021 PRESBYTERY MINUTES:** Reviews of the 2020 and 2021 Presbytery Minutes are ongoing. A report will be presented at the October Synod Assembly.
2. **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS**

Synod of the Covenant

Report of the Administrative Commission to the Presbytery of Detroit

May 3, 2022

The Synod of the Covenant’s Administrative Commission for the Presbytery of Detroit (SOCDetroit AC) has been meeting since mid-February, 2022.

Members are Carmen Cox Harwell (TE, Western Reserve), Chair; Jeanne Gay (TE, Maumee Valley), Clerk; Andrew Pomerville (TE, Lake Huron); Betsy Rees (RE, Mackinac); and Robert Sullivan (RE, Cincinnati).

The Commission has been gathering and studying documentation and looks forward to interviewing presbytery members and staff in the next few weeks.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne Gay

3. **APPEAL PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN (PLM) V NORTH KENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (NKPC):** The Complaint and Request for Stay of Enforcement were filed by North Kent Presbyterian Church, Rockford, MI, with the

Synod of the Covenant Permanent Judicial Commission (SPJC) on October 12, 2020. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan provided an answer to the Session filings on November 11, 2020. On December 22, 2020, six members of the SPJC granted a stay of enforcement of the PLM's September action to create the AC. The SPJC rendered a Decision on October 30, 2021. The Presbytery of Lake Michigan filed an Appeal and a Request for a Stay of Enforcement with the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC) on November 24, 2021. The GAPJC granted a Stay of Enforcement to the Presbytery of Lake Michigan on November 30, 2021. The Hearing on the Appeal before the GAPJC was held on April 1, 2022. The GAPJC rendered its Decision in writing on April 3, 2022. A copy of the complete Decision of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission can be found in the Synod Papers for the Assembly Meeting of May 3, 2022 (A-9). The complete Decision of the GAPJC will be entered into the Minutes of May 3, 2022. A summary of the Decision is as follows:

Order

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of the Covenant is reversed, and this matter is concluded.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Clerk of the Session of North Kent Presbyterian Church report this Decision to the Session at the first meeting after receipt, that the Session enter the full Decision upon its minute, and that an excerpt from those minutes showing entry of the Decision be sent to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan report this Decision to the Presbytery at the first meeting after receipt, that the Presbytery of Lake Michigan enter the full Decision upon its minutes, and that an excerpt from those minutes showing entry of the Decision be sent to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Covenant report this Decision to the Synod of the Covenant at the first meeting after receipt, that the Synod of the Covenant enter the full Decision upon its minutes, and that an excerpt from those minutes showing entry of the Decision be sent to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly.

4. LEADERWISE TRAINING for 2022:

- *Journey Groups*, meet monthly March through November – meeting times to be set by each group, designed for Pastors/CREs in any ministry. The deadline for registration is February 15, 2022. The cost per participant is \$100; the remaining costs are paid by the Synod and Presbyteries.
- *Adaptive Leadership Workshops and Practicum*, August 1, September 1 October 6, November 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day. The deadline

for registration is July 23, 2022. The cost is fully paid by the Synod and the Presbyteries.

- *Not Just Sundays*, Coming September 2022. Registration deadline to be announced. The cost is fully paid by the Synod.

5. LEADERWISE BOUNDARY AND ETHICS TRAINING for 2022:

- *Introduction to Boundaries*, November 16-17, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Deadline for Registration is November 7 for November. Participants must be present for all 5 hours of training to receive credit. The cost is fully paid by the Synod and Presbyteries.

- *Healthy Church Boundaries*, October 4-5, 2022, from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. For teaching elders, ruling elders, and members of congregations. The deadline to register is September 23, 2022. The cost is fully paid by the Synod and Presbyteries.

6. MEETINGS OF THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY: The dates for Synod Assemblies in 2022 and 2023 are as follows:

- a. Friday – Saturday, October 21-22 Retreat and Annual Meeting – Maumee Bay Lodge
- b. Tuesday, January 31, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
- c. Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.
- d. Friday – Saturday, October 20-21, 2023 Retreat and Annual Meeting - TBD

Executive and General Presbyters, Stated Clerks and any other interested parties are welcome to attend.

THIS ENDS THE CONSENT AGENDA AND REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

**The Next Synod Assembly is scheduled
For October 21-22, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. at
Maumee Bay Lodge
1750 State Park Road #2
Oregon, Ohio 43616
(800) 282-7275**



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