



**OUR MISSION:** The Synod of the Sun of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) serves Christ by connecting, equipping, and empowering Presbyterians for Christ's mission within and beyond the Synod's bounds.

**BECAUSE:** We believe when we work together across boundaries, we make visible the Good News and find wholeness as the Body of Christ. In our common calling, we impact lives together



We are a network of Presbyterians from 11 Presbyteries, approximately 700+ congregations, in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Over 150,000 members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)





## Boundaries Training

It's our experience that pastors, church staff, and other leaders who transgress boundaries by-and-large are not predators. In fact, not even close. Most people in ministry who violate boundaries are individuals who know and follow the rules most of the time but whose judgment may be impaired due to an unusually stressful time in their lives.

With that in mind, Not-Your-Average Boundaries Training, offered by Synod of the Sun through LeaderWise, is tailored to focus on strategies to foster mental health, emotional resiliency, and well-being. The program teaches a 3-step strategy to help stop the participant in their tracks before they commit a boundary violation; and participants leave with their own personal prevention plan.

This training is lively and interactive, full of reflection and conversation—and even laughter. Attendees have given us feedback that our boundaries training was a great experience, AND caused them to re-evaluate some of their own practices.

Participants **MUST** take part in ALL five hours of training in order to receive the certificate of completion.

### **ON THE WEB**

**Boundaries Training** - [synodsun.org/boundaries-training](https://synodsun.org/boundaries-training)



# Covenant Partners

## **Austin College**

Covenant Renewed - 2014

## **Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary**

Covenant Renewed - 2014

## **Evergreen Life Services**

Covenant Renewed - 2021

## **Goodland Academy**

Covenant Renewed - 2012

## **Lyon College**

Covenant Renewed - 2018

## **Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services**

Covenant Renewed - 2018

## **Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest**

Covenant Created - 2021

## **Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly**

Covenant Renewed - 2012

## **Presbyterian Pan American School**

Covenant Renewed - 2014

## **Schreiner University**

Covenant Renewed - 2021

## **Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Foundation**

Covenant Renewed - 2021

## **Texas Presbyterian Foundation**

Covenant Renewed - 2021

## **Trinity University**

Covenant Renewed - 2019

## **University of the Ozarks**

Covenant Renewed - 2016

## **Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home and Family Services**

Covenant Renewed - 2010

## **ON THE WEB**

**Covenant Partners** - [synodsun.org/covenant-partners](https://synodsun.org/covenant-partners)

## **CONTACT US**

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<https://tinyurl.com/SynodOfTheSun>

# Synod Staff



## SYNOD LEADER/STATED CLERK

**Valerie Young, Ruling Elder** has served the synod in various roles since 2004. Currently, in addition to serving as Stated Clerk, Valerie's primary responsibility is to connect presbyteries and presbyterians in mission and ministry; equip leaders to more fully do their work, and to empower mission, ministry, and their leaders to live out their call to the glory of God.



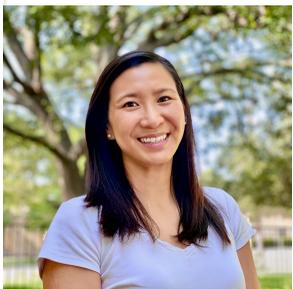
## ASSISTANT STATED CLERK

**Ernest Higginbotham, Ruling Elder** serves and consults with the Stated Clerk and Synod Coordinating Team in planning, administrative review, and management of the judicial process. He is an attorney with UNT Dallas College of Law having worked previously with Strasburger & Price, Nortel Networks and UnitedLex.



## DIRECTOR PARTNERSHIP FOR DISASTER RESPONSE

**Kathy Lee-Cornell, Teaching Elder** is also a licensed social worker who has served congregations and nonprofit ministries across Texas. Kathy has previously chaired the Advisory Committee for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and served as the site coordinator for the Young Adult Volunteer Program in the Presbytery of South Louisiana. Kathy is married to another PC(USA) pastor, and together they are raising two sons and an elderly dog.



A church website is an important tool to help churches be known to the local community and beyond, as well as communicate to the church family. Too often, the options for small churches to have a professionally created and maintained website are few and expensive.

## The Congregational Communication Services Plan (CCSP)

from Synod of the Sun helps small congregations have an affordable, simple, functional website to help visitors know more about their congregation and enable members to share the story of your church with your community. This partnership creates websites that can be updated locally and maintained by the CCSP staff.

**The Synod of the Sun Blog** features articles from a diverse set of authors who write about mission, ministry, and visions of the Synod of the Sun. Be inspired to find your own voice to share your story.



## ON THE WEB

**Communications Services Plan** - [synodsun.org/csp](https://synodsun.org/csp)

**Congregational CSP** - [synodsun.org/congregational-csp](https://synodsun.org/congregational-csp)

**Sunspots Podcast** - [synodsun.org/sunspots](https://synodsun.org/sunspots)

**Sunspots Podcast on YouTube** - <https://tinyurl.com/SynodOfTheSun>

**Synod of the Sun Blog** - [synodsun.org/blog-1](https://synodsun.org/blog-1)



**The Communication Services Plan**, offered by Synod of the Sun, is a cost-effective way for mid-councils and event programs to use web, social media, and mass e-mail applications to tell their exceptional story of feeding the seeds of ministry and mission.

When mid-councils engage the community across multiple platforms in a cost-effective manner, they are in a unique position to nurture and care for their constituents by relating not only relevant information, but also by the simple act of care and tending, via different electronic platforms, thus providing an additional component of pastoral care.



**The Sunspots Podcast** explores the many ways that the Holy Spirit is working in the people, places, ministries and missions on the surface of the Sun - that is, the Synod of the Sun.

We've featured conversations with presbyters, camp directors, theologians, mission instigators and more!

Sunspots can be found on most popular podcast platforms, including Apple podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, Amazon Music, and more. Podcasts are also posted on our YouTube channel.

## DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS, SOLAR UNDER THE SUN

**Elizabeth Brinegar, Teaching Elder** was born and raised in Arkansas. She graduated from Lyon College with a BA in English Literature and earned her Master of Divinity from Columbia Theological Seminary. She has worked as a youth director, solo pastor, non-profit administrator, and college chaplain. She currently lives in Searcy, Arkansas and is the part-time pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville. As half of a clergy couple, she and her husband Blake spend time split between their two churches. She enjoys spending time with her dog and cat, reading, baking, and singing in the church choir.



## COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION COORDINATOR

**Thomas Riggs** is a 30+ year veteran of church work in the Lutheran, Episcopal and Presbyterian churches, primarily in Youth Ministry and Communications. Tom has served at Camp Gilmont, Mo Ranch, JHaMS, and various other Presbyterian youth events. In addition to his administrative functions for the Synod office, Tom coordinates the Synod's Communication Services Plan (CSP).



## COMMUNICATIONS CONTRACTOR

**Lindsay Freeman, Ruling Elder and Deacon** is a 12th generation Presbyterian and daughter to two Presbyterian ministers. After moving to the Netherlands, she once again became active again in the life of the church when coming on board with the Synod. Lindsay assists with CSP, building websites, mass e-mails, and creating beautiful social media.



## ON THE WEB

**Synod Staff** - [synodsun.org/synod-staff](https://synodsun.org/synod-staff)

**Synod Leadership** - [synodsun.org/synod-leadership](https://synodsun.org/synod-leadership)

**Synod Events Calendar** - [synodsun.org/calendar](https://synodsun.org/calendar)



**Since 2014, the Synod of the Sun Grants and Scholarships Commission has given away over \$1 million to fund seminary, undergraduate and continuing education, start community projects, send youth to Triennium, add structures and handicap features to buildings, fund mission trips and buy handbells... and so much more.**

**What is your church's next community outreach? Where do you want to go to learn more? How can we partner with you to make mission and ministry possible?**

If your church or organization has a ministry idea, program, or other function that needs financial assistance to move it forward, apply for one of the **Synod of the Sun Mission Grants**.

Any Presbyterian organization within the synod may apply for Mission Grants. Priority will be given to applications from partnerships with two or more congregations, presbyteries, institutions related to the synod by covenant, multicultural endeavors (or committees of these organizations). The synod becomes a member of this partnership when the grant is approved.



The Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery (SPDR) is a four-year pilot initiative that seeks to connect the ongoing needs of the Covenant Partners to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against disaster events

In a world that is experiencing an increased number of natural disasters due to climate change, this partnership will provide each presbytery with a resource for preparation, response, recovery, and even mitigation.

Four year pilot initiative of THIRTEEN partners (PDA, Synod, 11 Presbyteries) connecting with presbyteries for the 4C's (Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration)

Proactive - preparing us to respond for ourselves and our communities  
 Relational - reaching beyond our walls into communities for preparation and response



## ON THE WEB

**Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery** - [synodsun.org/spdr](https://synodsun.org/spdr)

**Synod Youth Workshop** - For over 60 years, the Synod Youth Workshop has provided a place, space and time for God's work of creating new, life-time relationships. Participants in SYW experience God's presence through opportunities for worship, prayer, scripture exploration, and community service in small and large group gatherings. Small groups provide a 'safe place' to explore faith questions, while sharing fun and laughter beyond measure. Many participants throughout the years have described the conference as a life-changing event.



## ON THE WEB

**Synod Networks Page** - [synodsun.org/networks](http://synodsun.org/networks)

**Network for Dismantling Racism** - [n4dr.org](http://n4dr.org)

**Hispanic Mission Ministries Network** - [tinyurl.com/SoSHMMN](http://tinyurl.com/SoSHMMN)

**Commissioned Pastors Network** - [synodsun.org/commissioned-pastors](http://synodsun.org/commissioned-pastors)

**Solar Under the Sun** - [solarunderthesun.org](http://solarunderthesun.org)

**Oklahoma Presbyteries Network** - [synodsun.org/opn](http://synodsun.org/opn)

**Synod Youth Workshop** - [synodyouthworkshop.com](http://synodyouthworkshop.com)



Whether you want to further your education or participate in a mission experience, **Synod of the Sun Scholarships** may be a way to help fund your personal and spiritual growth. Any Presbyterian within the synod may apply for a Scholarship. Scholarships are for individuals within the Synod of the Sun who meet the criteria for assistance within the specified purposes of the funds.

The Synod of the Sun offers **scholarships for M.Div. students** attending PC(USA) seminaries through the Synod of the Sun Presbyterian Foundation and also offers **scholarships to selected undergraduate students** at Austin College and Trinity University through the Kerr-Munson Scholarship.



## ON THE WEB

**Grants and Scholarship Home Page** - [synodsun.org/grants](http://synodsun.org/grants)

**M.Div Scholarships** - [synodsun.org/scholarship-application](http://synodsun.org/scholarship-application)

**Kerr-Munson Undergraduate Scholarship** - [synodsun.org/kerr-munson](http://synodsun.org/kerr-munson)



# Synod Networks

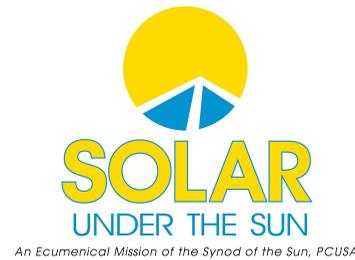
**Network for Dismantling Racism** - In light of the centennial commemoration of the Tulsa Race Massacre and God's ongoing call to love and justice, N4DR seeks to open our ears, eyes, minds, and hearts to the atrocities of systemic racial injustice and its consequences; to equip and engage for transformation throughout society.



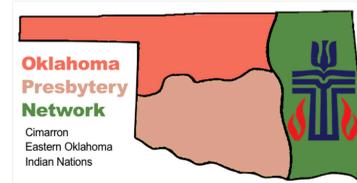
**Hispanic Mission Ministries Network** - La Red de Misión de Ministerios Hispánicos (HMMN) proporciona un punto céntrico para que pastores Hispánicos y líderes de iglesias se reúnan para apoyarse mutuamente, para aprendizaje continuo y desarrollo profesional, y para fortalecer a las congregaciones Hispánicas y a sus líderes. El propósito esencial es edificar líderes para congregaciones saludables que sirvan a la misión de la iglesia en el área del Sínodo del Sol.



**Commissioned Pastors Network** - The Commissioned Pastors Network is comprised of CP's in all the Synod Presbyteries. As educational and training needs are determined opportunities for training and/or networking will be developed and plans established to meet those identified needs. We help presbyteries serve the smaller churches that cannot justify or afford an ordained Teaching Elder, provide a higher quality of preaching and pastoral service to churches.



**Solar Under the Sun** - Believing that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the vision of the Solar Under the Sun is to illumine our fellow human beings with hope and life through solar energy. To do this, SUS trains volunteers to design and install solar power systems with communities that lack reliable electrical power.



**Oklahoma Presbyteries Network** - The three Oklahoma Presbyteries of Synod of the Sun have developed ways to strengthen their witness within the State together. Each presbytery has appointed persons to serve on the OPN Team that discusses way we can share resources, plan programs together and facilitate relationships among Oklahoma Presbyterians.

**(More on page 10)**