

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.

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

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.

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.

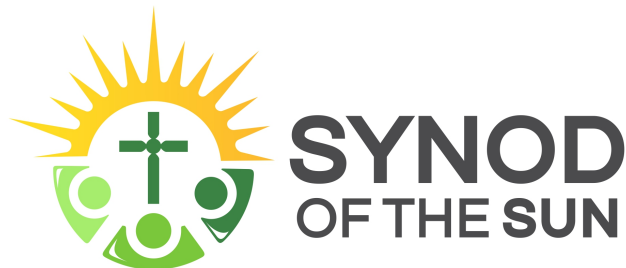
Installation of 2025 Moderator – In the space of worship, Commissioner Sharon Curry was installed as the 2025 Moderator of Synod of the Sun by the Rev. Alonzo Johnson, the Coordinator for the Self-Development of People program.

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.

Synod of the Sun

2024 Fall Assembly | November 5th & 6th
Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church, NOLA

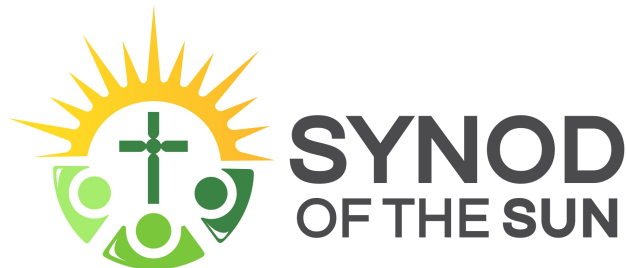


Commissioners Present

Lisa Almon	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Maggie Alsup	Presbytery of Arkansas	Commissioner
Carlos Baladez	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Molly Casteel	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Commissioner
Stacy Clopton	Palo Duro Presbytery	Commissioner
Allen Cross	Tres Rios Presbytery	Commissioner
Sharon Curry	Grace Presbytery	Commissioner
Ben Davidson	Palo Duro Presbytery	Commissioner
Ron Fike	Cimarron Presbytery	Commissioner
Todd Freeman	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Commissioner
Jim Freeman	Presbytery of the Pines	Commissioner
Leah McFadden	Presbytery of New Covenant	Commissioner
Danita Nelson	Mission Presbytery	Commissioner
Isabel S. Rivera-Velez	Presbytery of New Covenant	Commissioner
Kristy Rodgers	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Commissioner
Bill Rose	Tres Rios Presbytery	Commissioner
Seth Saathoff	Presbytery of New Covenant	Commissioner
David Watson	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Commissioner

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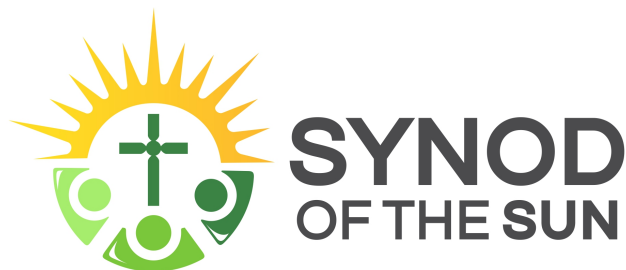


Corresponding Members Present

Laurie Barker	Tres Rios Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Tim Blodgett	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Gordon Edwards	Cimarron 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
Leigh McCaslin	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Charles Smith	Indian Nations Presbytery	Corresponding Member
David Stipp-Bethune	Presbytery of the Pines	Corresponding Member
Richard Williams	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Corresponding Member

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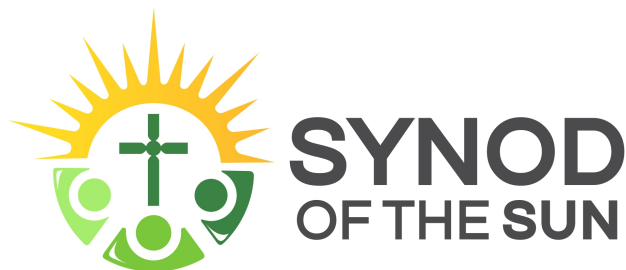


Requesting Excused Absence

Princeton Abaraoha	Grace Presbytery	Commissioner
Wynona Bryant-Williams	Arkansas	Commissioner
Dzandria Chiphe	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Commissioner
Carol Davis	Presbytery of New Covenant	Commissioner
Bok Soon Egbert	Presbytery of South Louisiana	Commissioner
Janet Ruark	Indian Nations Presbytery	Commissioner
Diana Smith	Indian Nations Presbytery	Commissioner
Kathy Thomas	Cimarron	Commissioner
Polly Williams	Grace Presbytery	Commissioner
Sandra Watson	Pines	Commissioner
Tracy Evans	Indian Nations Presbytery	Corresponding Member
Sallie Watson	Mission Presbytery	Corresponding Member

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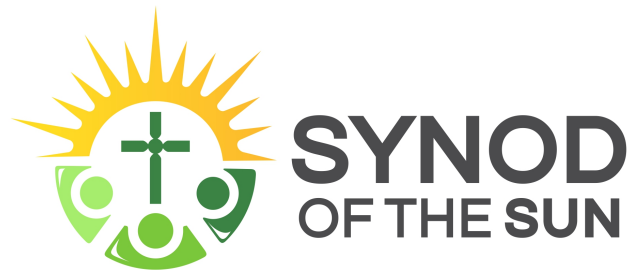


Other Persons Present

Joel Gill	Presbytery of Arkansas	Fernclyff Camp
Minwoo Kim	Cimarron Presbytery	COR Member
Bill Wiles	Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery	Staff
Mitch Miller	Indian Nations Presbytery	Staff
Thomas Riggs	Synod of the Sun	Staff
Tony Larson	General Assembly	PC(USA) Co-Moderator
Alonzo Johnson		Workshop Presenter
Margaret Mwale		Workshop Presenter
Ellen Shelby		Workshop Presenter
Rick Young		Texas Presbyterian Foundation

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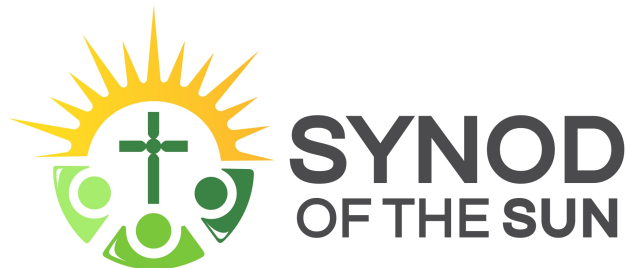


Proposed Agenda - Tuesday, November 5th

Welcome, Introductions, Opening Prayer	Moderator, Ben Davidson
Acknowledgement of Land & People	Isabel S. Rivera-Velez
Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum	Ben Davidson
Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors	Ben Davidson
Adoption of Agenda	Ben Davidson
Approval of Spring Stated Assembly Minutes	Ben Davidson
Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Report	Synod Leader/Stated Clerk, Rev. Mitch Miller
Synod Moderator Report	Ben Davidson
Coordinating Team Report	CT Moderator, Rev. Seth Saathoff
Personnel Committee Report	David Watson
Committee on Representation	Minwoo Kim
Empowering Committee	Isabel S. Rivera-Velez
Connecting Committee	David Watson
Equipping Committee	Kristy Rodgers
BREAK	
Dinner	
Gathering Around the Table	
Opening Worship & Installation	GA Co-Moderator Tony Larson, preaching

Synod of the Sun

2024 Fall Assembly | November 5th & 6th
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Proposed Agenda - Wednesday, November 6th

Morning Prayers	Mitch Miller
Call to Order	Ben Davidson
Grants and Scholarship Commission Report	Lisa Almon
SPDR Report	Ben Davidson
Oklahoma Tri-Presbyteries Report	Tim Blodgett
BREAK	
Nominations	Ben Davidson
TPF Update	Rick Young
Approval of 2025 Budget	Bill Wiles
Signing of Covenant Agreements	David Watson
Installation of 2025 Moderator	
2025 Vision and Initiatives	Sharon Curry
Lunch	
Workshops	
Closing the Assembly	
Closing Prayer	Rev. Seth Saathoff

Synod Stated Meeting
Presbyterian Mission Center | Irving, TX
February 27, 2024

Welcome & Introductions –Synod Moderator Ben Davidson called the meeting to order at 1:00PM CT, opening the meeting with prayer.

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Vice Moderator Sharon Curry 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 (*Attachment A*) – 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 the Bridge Interim Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Steve Shive. 21 of 28 Commissioners were present.

Seating of Corresponding Members & Visitors (*Attachment A*) – 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 (*Attachment B*) – With the meeting agenda presented, Polly Williams moved and Seth Saathoff seconded that the agenda be adopted. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes (*Attachment C*) – Moderator Davidson presented the minutes from the Fall 2023 Synod Assembly, for approval. Without any additions or corrections, approval of the minutes for the Stated Meeting were moved by Seth Saathoff and seconded by David Watson. Motion carried.

Introductions – Synod Leader Steve Shive invited each participant to introduce themselves. A total of 56 participants attended this Assembly.

Worship – A contemplative worship experience was led by the Rev. Christopher Lee, Executive Presbyter of Grace Presbytery in the chapel of the Presbyterian Mission Center.

Synod Focus – Moderator Davidson outlined his vision for the 2024 year. Reading from two passages of the Gospels, Ben spoke of the great need in the world and the missions of the Synod that meet those needs. Ben encouraged the missions, ministries, and program to seek where the Spirit is leading us, taking bold steps.

Celebration of Solar Under the Sun (*Attachment D*) – Celebrating the transition of Solar Under the Sun from being a Network of the Synod to being a Covenant Partner. Steve Shive told the

story of Solar and gave thanks for this continuing ministry. Inviting board members forward, these friends talked about the mission and ministry and future of Solar Under the Sun.

Nominations – Moderator Davidson presented a list of names submitted by the Pan American School for their Board of Directors and Evergreen Life Services submitted a name to serve as their Synod Liaison:

Pan American School – Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo, Diana Freeman, Elizabeth Sinnet
David Watson moved and Sharon Curry seconded that these names be approved by Assembly.
Motion carried.

Evergreen Life Services – Jim Freeman
Polly Williams moved and Sharon Curry seconded that Jim Freeman be approved by Assembly.
Motion carried.

Approval of 2024 Budget (*Attachment E*) – Coordinating Team Moderator Seth Saathoff and Treasurer Bill Wiles outlined the changes from the Preliminary Budget approved at the Fall 2023 Assembly. Bill also described the job of a Treasurer as not a gate-keeper, but as a partner in bringing resources together for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Bill reported our pros and cons for 2024:

Our Pros: The synod is financially sound, we have sufficient resources to do ministry, and we have an enthusiastic leadership.

Our Cons: We have a drop in giving from the Presbyteries and we have lots of places where we could be using our funds.

The Coordinating Team moved the acceptance of the 2024 budget. The motion passed.

Overtures to General Assembly (*Attachment F*) – Moderator Davidson presented the first Overture from Palo Duro Presbytery to GA to amend the Book of Order G-2.1002. Executive Presbyter Scott Campbell spoke to the concurrence. Sharon Curry moved and Seth Saathoff seconded that Synod of the Sun concur with this Overture. The motion passed.

Moderator Davidson presented the second Overture (*Attachment G*) to provide the list of counties of the geographic areas of each presbytery. Sharon Curry moved and Polly Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Election of the new Synod Leader/Stated Clerk (*Attachment H*) – Rev. Jeff Cranton, Moderator of the Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search Committee, presented his report. The Committee nominated the Rev. Michell Miller for this position. The terms of call were discussed. Questions from the Assembly were asked.

The Search Committee moved that Mitch Miller become our new Synod Leader/Stated Clerk. With great thanksgiving, the motion carried.

With gratitude, Jeff Cranton moved that the Search Committee be dismissed. The motion carried.

Announcements and Closing Prayer –

With the Assembly's business concluded, the Assembly gave thanks for the ministry and mission of Steve Shive in his time with us. With closing prayer by the Moderator, the Assembly goes forth doing the ministry and mission given to us by Jesus Christ.

Synod Leader and Stated Clerk Report:

November, 2024 Synod Assembly

Thank you to Commissioner coming to the end of Service:

Elder Bill Rose, Tres Rios Presbytery Commissioner

Recognition of Retiring Presbytery Executives:

Rev. Sally Watson – Mission Presbytery

Rev. Stewart Smith – Arkansas Presbytery

Welcome to New Presbytery Executives:

Rev. Julia Farrell - Pines Presbytery

Rev. Jim Poinsette – Arkansas Presbytery (Transitional)

Special Thank You to Rev. Steve Shive for his service as transitional Synod Leader and Stated Clerk until May of this year. We cannot thank him enough for his steady leadership during this time of Transition.

Speaking of transition, we welcome new Treasurer, Bill Wiles to the staff. He has been invaluable as we are in the midst of changing banks and modifying our financial processes.

The search for a part-time Administrative Assistant continues on with the hope that that person will be on board soon. The Administrative Assistant will be the hub for the staff, operating out of the new Synod Office, which will be in the Presbyterian Mission Center in Irving. This is possible only by the gracious (pun intended, yet wholly truthful) invitation of Grace Presbytery to share their space with our future Administrative Assistant and their invitation to hold meetings in their office.

The new Administrative Assistant and the hospitality of Grace Presbytery will allow the rest of the staff to continue to work remotely with greater efficiency.

We are (as of the writing of this report) excitedly expectant with Kathy Lee-Cornell who is currently on maternity leave. Kathy's dedication as Director of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery has continued to pay benefits not only to the Synod's recovery efforts but just as importantly to the task of preparing for disasters both natural and those of human origin. As we prepare to enter the last year of our four-year pilot project, let us be mindful of a couple of important statistics:

Over the past 3 years, with Kathy's help we have procured nearly half a million dollars in recovery grants for work within our synod. The Synod of the Sun is only synod, I would remind you, that gets no season off from potential disasters. It is interesting to note as well, that in 1981 there was just 1 natural disaster that was considered a "billion dollar disaster" (that is adjusted for inflation). In 2023, there were 23 "billion dollar disasters" and 1 in 3 occurred within the bounds of the Synod of the Sun.

We are grateful for her work, happy for her well-deserved leave, and very much looking forward to her return to this ever-increasingly important task to which she is called. Please take the time to read her report and make note of all that she has been doing to serve our Synod in difficult times.

As thank you's go, I do not think we could ever over-state what we owe as a synod to the work of our Communications and Administration Coordinator, Thomas Riggs. What he has done to keep the work of Synod going during this time of transition could never be fully calculated, but deserves to be noted and given proper gratitude. Though he has an uphill battle before him when it comes to training the new synod leader, his patience thus far is greater than should be expected. In addition to his work through the transition, his leadership continues to expand the CSS (please note the report) and helps to maintain our synod's reputation for excellence and action.

Due to the timing of our transition, the review of 2023 presbytery minutes by the stated clerks will be postponed to 2025 when we will gather to review both 2023 and 2024 minutes.

Synod Leadership Retreat will be held January 5-7, 2025 at MO Ranch

Synod Leader Activities since the beginning of my work:

- Attended the meeting of the General Assembly in Salt Lake City
- Hosted a dinner for synod commissioners and representatives
- Served as workshop and small group leader at Trinity Youth Conference
- Attended presbytery meetings in Eastern Oklahoma, Grace, Mission, Tres Rios, Palo Duro and Southern Louisiana Presbyteries
- Attended the EP Forum gatherings in Arkansas and Louisiana
- Attended the SPDR board meeting and training event at Fern Cliff Camp, AR
- Attended the PSUSA Mid-Council Orientation and Training Event in Louisville, KY
- Represented the SOTS at the Pan-American School Open House in Kingsville, TX
- Represented the SOTS at the Annual SCRAPCE (Association of Partners in Christian Education) Annual Event in Austin, TX

- Represented the SOTS at the University of Arkansas Campus Ministry Anniversary Celebration in Fayetteville, AR
- Represented the SOTS at the Open House of new PCHAS facility in Mexia, TX
- Attended the Oklahoma Pastors Retreat in Wewoka, OK
- The first five people to ask for a prize at the Assembly will receive one
- Preached five times in three states
- Volunteered at a PCHAS event

Upcoming Dates:

November	10-13	Synod Leaders Gathering (Tuscon, AZ)
	14	PCHAS Luncheon (Dallas, TX)
	16	New Covenant Presbytery (TBD, TX)
	17	Preaching at Faith Pres. (Baytown, TX)
December	1	Preaching at First Pres. (Mineral Wells, TX)
January	5-7	SOTS Leadership Retreat ant MO Ranch
TBD		SOTS Vision Team gathering
		El Paso Border Ministry Orientation

2025 promises to be a busy and exciting year in the life of the Synod as the new staff finally settles into their roles and the transition time draws to a close. A few Goals I have for the coming year is to be present for at least one meeting in each presbytery (preferably more) and to preach in churches when possible; create a synod-wide gathering for training, education, fellowship, and worship; and an examination of our understanding of covenant partnerships and our role in those partnerships, with an eye to strengthening them and expanding with new partnerships.

I welcome your questions, suggestions and input.

Your Servant in Christ,

Mitch

Coordinating Team Report

Fall 2024 Assembly

The Coordinating Team of the Synod of the Sun consists of the Coordinating Team moderator, the elected officers of the Synod, the moderators of the Synod's standing committees, the Executive Presbyter Forum representative, and the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery (SPDR) director.

The Coordinating Team is charged with carrying out the business of the Synod in the intervals between Synod Assemblies and does so with all the powers and authority of the Synod Assembly.

Some of the noteworthy action items taken by the Coordinating Team since the Spring 2024 assembly include:

- Some financial considerations concerning Mitch Miller's transition to the role of Synod Leader/Stated Clerk.
- In consultation with the Treasurer, made investment decisions with the Synod's reserve funds.
- Opened new banking accounts with Pegasus Bank.
- Contracted Ratcliff & Associates CPAs to perform a financial review.
- Reviewed and made changes to Synod's travel reimbursement policy.
- Approved a funding request from the three Oklahoma presbyteries to continue working with former Bridge Interim Stated Clerk Steve Shive towards the creation of a new unified presbytery for the entire state of Oklahoma. Steve has been involved in these discussions from the beginning and the presbyteries felt his continued involvement was of paramount importance.
- Planned the Fall Assembly.
- Developed a preliminary budget for the Synod of the Sun, to be adopted by the Assembly.
- The Coordinating Team also serves as the de facto nominating committee. This process is typically led by the Vice Moderator.

Thus concludes my report.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Saathoff

Moderator, Coordinating Team.

2024, Committee on Representation report
Rev. Minwoo Kim
(Moderator of the Committee on Representation)
Synod of the Sun
November 5th~ 6th, 2024

1. What do SCOR learn and discuss this year?
 - a. Continuous separation of BIPOC churches from Synod and its presbytery
 - b. Not interested vs. not communicating. Do we have the same or separate vision?
 - c. What is the middle ground of differences and mistrust?
2. What actions SCOR did this year?
 - a. Continue experiences with own racial activities
 - (1. Hispanic women's community + Youth event at Ferncliff
 - (2. Zoom meeting and meeting with the Korean community to discuss the importance and the existence of Synod for them
 - b. GA (General Assembly) attending and finding possibilities
(Committees discussed their experience of GA + finding what possibilities we can do at Synod level)
3. Event Summary
 - * Sushi Sale mission with Two Communities and Two Churches
 - During the flooding in Guymon, OK, two churches of different races and two presbyteries planned the mission for people.
 - It was an interesting beginning and planning (white churches and white towns sold Korean food to Korean church members for flooding victims), however, it was successfully ended with the presbytery and Synod help.



- After selling, both churches agree to donate the money to Guymon Community and Richmond Foundation for flood victims.
- Also, FPC of Guymon delivered leftover food to all Guymon community institutions that work for flood victims and their families.





Conclusion:

- Even though PC U.S.A. and Synod of the Sun have problems with different races and cultural differences, we may find a solution to work together.

- The way of being together is to cooperate with both White and BIPOC churches, not as Supporter and workers. Relationships between the group need to change to partner.
- Movement of change and providing for BIPOC churches are necessary.

Request:

Committee on Representation Budget 2025

<u>Budget Line Item</u>	<u>Budget Estimate</u>
66002- Representation	\$2,000
66002 -1 Translator and interpreter (Synod Assembly)	\$2,000

Currently, the Committee on Representation has a budget of \$1,000; however, after the Fall Committee meeting, the Committee requested motion 1. to have both Korean and Spanish interpreters and translators for better communication in the Committee meeting. Also, the Committee requested a motion that 2. the Synod of the Sun financial team create a budget line for Spanish and Korean language materials and translators during the Synod assembly.

Fall Meeting Synod of the Sun SCOR REPORT

Synod Committee	Synod Committee on Representation (SCOR)
SCOR Members	<i>Rev. Molly Casteel, Rev. Dr. Nancy Diaz, Rev. Tim Marquez, Rev. Minwoo Kim, Moderator</i>
SCOR Concerns	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Committee Membership Concern</i> 2. <i>Emerging LGBTQIA+ concerns - continuing lack of effort to reach out and connect with the LGBTQIA+ community within the Synod (no program and specific budget)</i> 3. <i>The need for our synod to continue to establish a strong support for our Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) concerns lack of effort to reach out and connect with the BIPOC community (no program and specific budget)</i> 4. <i>To advocate that the primary role of SCOR is to assist the larger Synod Assembly in doing the equity and inclusion work it has – not to do the work for the synod.</i> 5. <i>Open more opportunities to support the work of Equity, Inclusion and Representation</i> 6. <i>Supporting and Empowering (Bi-lingual ministries) in the Presbyteries and Synod to help with education, border and immigrant ministries</i> 7. <i>Explore ways to push for the translation and interpretation of SCOR work and ministry in the Spanish and Korean languages</i> 8. <i>To explore and strengthen our Ecumenical line of work towards Equity, Inclusion and Representation</i> 9. <i>Create a Bible Study and children’s curriculum explaining the gift and uniqueness within the PCUSA our passion for Equity, Inclusion and Representation</i>
SCOR ASSESSMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The need for continuing support coming from the Synod and Presbyteries to strongly advocate for Equity, Inclusion and Representation</i> • <i>Strengthening the initiatives for advocacy and establishing COR in the Presbytery level</i>
PREPARATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vision Casting</i> • <i>Innovation program that will support the Equity, Inclusion and Representation programs</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Language Initiatives</i>• <i>More Synod and Presbytery Training on Equity, Inclusion and Representation</i>
ACTION PLAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Recommendation for Synod Budget</i>• <i>Support and coordinate with the</i>• <i>Add new members to the SCOR</i>
RECCOMENDATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Motion to be shared by the SCOR Moderator on the Budget proposal</i>

Synod Youth Workshop

2024

Synod Youth Workshop (SYW) 2024 was a big success. Rev. Josh Robinson was the keynote speaker and the theme was “We Are Enough”. The total participation this year was 156, including staff. This is a significant increase from the last two years, when the total was 131. The racial/ethnic percent of attendees was 35%, also an increase from last year. For the first time, a Presbyterian church from Minnesota, on a mission trip in Tulsa, joined SYW for Service Projects Day and Thursday Keynote. There were 24 of them, 19 youth and 5 adults. This was a great addition and brought the number of participants serving the non-profit community in Tulsa to 181. Seven states were represented (Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas and Minnesota).

Iglesia Latina in Houston received financial assistance from several sources including Synod of the Sun. This was a huge help in increasing the number of participants and making the conference more ethnically diverse. This congregation had 15 youth and 2 adult participants. They are extremely grateful, as is the Leadership Team of Synod Youth Workshop, for the generosity and collaboration to insure their ability to participate. They are already planning to return in 2025. One of their youth participants will be serving on the 2025 Planning Team.

The success of the conference was seen in all the many pictures, comments and positive evaluations. Another mark of success is the number of Youth Planning Team applications and Small Group Leader applications received for next year’s conference.

2025

Plans are quickly progressing for SYW 2025. The dates are July 14 - 19 at the University of Tulsa.

Rev. Alexandra Pappas is the Keynote Speaker. Alex served as Associate Pastor at FPC Shreveport and recently moved to Georgetown, Texas, where she is Head of Staff at FPC Georgetown. She grew up attending SYW and has also served as a Small Group Leader. Alex will soon be working with youth Planning Team members to develop the theme for 2025.

Nine youth will serve on Planning Team. They represent congregations in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

The SYW Leadership Team is working on scholarship requests in an effort to increase participation with an emphasis on ethnic and geographical diversity. As always, the goal is to provide a safe place for youth to discuss their lives, grow spiritually and feel God's love and acceptance.

Equipping Report to the Synod of the Sun 110524

Many thanks to the members of the Equipping Team: Maggie Alsup, Bok Soon Egbert, Ron Fike, Jim Freeman, Todd Freeman, Minwoo Kim, Danita Nelson, Janet Ruark, Diana Smith, Sandra Watson, and staff member Thomas Riggs for their work this year!

Communication Services Plan: This is basically a small business under the stewardship of Thomas Riggs, with the help of Lindsay Freeman-McCarthy, designed to provide reasonably priced communications services (basic website design, newsletters, etc.) to Presbyteries and other entities. (See accompanying report for details)

The team is currently working to identify, curate, and share resources for Elder training and Suicide Prevention. Both issues have been identified by the Presbyteries as needs with which the Synod can help.

For Elder training, the goal is to have information and links to resources readily available on the Synod website for folks in three categories, depending on level of need: Beginner, Competent, or Advanced (for example).

For Suicide Prevention, we have been learning about various programs available and will seek to provide information and links, also on the Synod website.

Specific training may also be provided through Synod School workshops. ----Synod School is being adopted to provide educational opportunities to Presbyteries through group gatherings over a period of three days. The plan is to do one Synod school/year to start, with classes limited to 50 participants each. Workshop topics will be determined by a Synod school planning team consisting of representatives from all four states/multiple Presbyteries.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rodgers
Equipping Team Convener

The Synod of the Covenant

Service for Victims
in Milton

Ministry of South
Carolina and prayer
for ET. This
is 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



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.



the Reverend Miss
Polly Warren Williams

403 Clark Lane; Waxahachie, Texas 75165
214-740-0122 [*pollywarren@me.com*](mailto:pollywarren@me.com)

Year End Report 2024

TOTAL AWARDED IN 2024: \$93,357.00

TO: the Synod of the Sun

FROM: Polly Warren Williams, Chair, **Grants and Scholarships Commission**

Date: November 2024



A quote from Thomas Merton, “We are warmed by the fire, not by the smoke of the fire. We are carried over the sea by a ship, not by the wake of a ship. So, too, what we are is to be sought in the invisible of our own being, not in our outward reflection in our own acts.” – No Man is an Island

Reflecting on 2024, chairing the Grants and Scholarship Commission, I’d define “smoke” as challenges: our leadership transitions including a loss of institutional memory intersecting my steep learning curve, so for our commission, the year was not smooth sailing.

I am so **thankful** for colleagues Josh Kerr and Lisa Almon.

We persisted!! and made rewarding and tough decisions together. **I am also grateful for Tom Riggs, Carol Waters, Bill Wiles, Sharon Curry, Ben Davidson and Mitch Miller** who were involved with working with us. All invested hours and encouragement and made possible a very generous year!!

For this report, this quote of Merton’s pulled me to the, “because” behind the Mission of the Synod of the Sun echoing for me where he speaks, “of our own being”. Here is our “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.”

With those I named, numerous lives were impacted, and generous grants and scholarship awards were offered. See the next page for breakdown detail by presbytery and fund.

Thank you, my colleagues, for the opportunity to learn, to grow, to serve and to get to know you. You are the answer to my prayer that I’m not convinced I’d quite yet named or prayed. I love you! Polly

I celebrate the opportunity to work across those boundaries. I look forward to working with each and all presbyteries in 2025! The total and the breakdowns below are parts of an ongoing conversation doublechecking accuracy, reviewing donor intent and any synod restrictions with available funds. I make a further commitment to y'all: sharing and celebrating with gratitude and praise the impact we have made, are making and will make.

As y'all gather in New Orleans, Steffani Turner, James Thomas and I are the Glendale PC, Dallas; Grace Presby trio: one third of a justice pilgrimage led by fellow LPTS alum Mary Gene Boteler and husband Rick Nutt through Sciotto Presbytery. In partnership with First, Terrell, we have been awarded \$1,000.00 to make the trip possible, affordable and to take y'all with us in our hearts and in spirit and prayer. Thank you.



TOTAL AWARDED IN 2024: \$96,357.00

BY PRESBYTERY:

Cimarron Presbytery	\$ 2,500.00
Eastern Oklahoma	\$ 10,000.00
Grace Presbytery	\$ 33,975.00
Indian Nations	We love you. Help us help you in 2025.
Mission Presbytery	\$ 11,900.00
New Covenant Presbytery	\$ 2,782.00
Palo Duro Presbytery	\$ 1,500.00
Presbytery of Arkansas	\$ 8,200.00
Presbytery of the Pines	\$ 2,500.00
Presbytery of South Louisiana	\$ 18,000.00
Tres Rios	\$ 5,000.00

BY FUND:

31270	Cross Cultural Internships	\$ 5,000.00
31300	International Mission Trips	\$ 3,200.00
33100	MAPPA Hispanic Latino Fund	\$ 3,400.00
33140	Seminary Scholarship Fund	\$ 20,500.00
33160	Educational Programs	\$ 600.00
33189	YAV aka National Mission in TX	\$ 10,000.00
33200	Old Age Concerns	\$ 12,500.00
33210	Higher Education	\$ 12,900.00
33900	SOSPF Scholarship Fund	\$ 9,000.00
61040	Mission Grants	\$ 19,257.00

WHAT'S NEXT: RECRUITMENT!!

Please prayerfully consider serving. Representation from Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas are needed as is a representative familiar with Hispanic ministries and the intention behind their funds and the exciting ways we seek to support so many ministries.

We have four seats open: two full three- year terms. Two incomplete terms: (1) with one year remaining and (1) with two years remaining. Please let Polly or Sharon Curry know of your interest.

Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery

Synod of the Sun Assembly

November 2024 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; and Mitch Miller (2024), Synod Leader and Stated Clerk, Synod of the Sun.

The LG met in-person in September to approve the 2025 SPDR Budget Proposal as well as to receive a presentation of SPDR Cash Flow Projections through 2028 presented by Synod Treasurer, Bill Wiles. Richard Williams and Bill Wiles will work together to oversee investments of excess SPDR cash in a series of CDs in consultation with Texas Presbyterian Foundation. The LG will meet again on February 17-18, 2025 to develop a proposal for transitioning SPDR from its pilot phase to a sustained program among its current Covenant Partners.

SPDR Director's Report

In 2024, the Synod of the Sun has experienced the following disaster events:

- Arctic Blast: Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
- Wildfires: Palo Duro Presbytery
- Tornadoes: Arkansas, Eastern Oklahoma, Grace, Indian Nations, and South Louisiana Presbyteries
- Severe Weather & Flooding: Arkansas, Cimarron, Grace, and New Covenant Presbyteries
- Hurricane Beryl: New Covenant and Pines Presbyteries
- Hurricane Francine: South Louisiana Presbytery
- Cyber Attack: Grace Presbytery
- Earthquake: Tres Rios Presbytery
- Church Fires: Indian Nations and Mission Presbyteries

In response to these events, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has disbursed **\$106,382.86** in financial grants across 7 presbyteries and has deployed **7 National Response Teams** to support presbytery and congregational leaders as they reach out to impacted communities. The Synod of the Sun has disbursed an additional **\$16,520** in disaster grants this year. A total of **\$122,902.86** has been received across the Synod.

In July, SPDR provided an online Hurricane Preparedness Webinar & Tabletop Exercise Event with participation from 8 presbyteries. In September, the SPDR Liaisons Network met for the first in-person retreat and training event at Ferncliff. Video reports, monthly blogs, and podcast episodes have been developed and shared to provide SPDR communication, stories, and education across the Synod.

Kathy will be on parental leave from November 1, 2024 to February 7, 2025. The SPDR Liaisons Network is monitoring potential events and is prepared to activate if/when necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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

10.29.24

Synod of the Sun

Proposed 2025 Budgets

William M. (Bill) Wiles, Treasurer

Synod of the Sun

Notes to the 2025 Proposed Budgets

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

1. This is a proposed budget. We will know more accurately about our budgeted incomes after the first of the year. The revised 2025 budget will be presented at the Spring Assembly.
2. 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).
 - b. The proposed 2025 uses of the Synod-designated reserve funds (5).
 - c. The projected 2025 funds available to the Grants and Scholarship Commission (pages 6-7).
3. 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.
 - b. We are increasing resources targeted at supporting and encouraging Hispanic ministries and their congregations.
 - c. We are placing more emphasis on providing resources to presbyteries and churches across the Synod as they deal with the requirements for increased training in the areas of identifying unacceptable employee behaviors.
 - d. We are providing more resources for the work of the Synod Youth Workshops.
 - e. We are providing more support for the work of the Synod Partnership for Disaster Recovery.
 - f. We are continuing 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.
4. 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.
5. 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
Proposed 2025 Budget Packet

What is included in this financial packet:

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

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

Unrestricted Incomes	9.30.24 Actual	2024 Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget	
40001 Previous year roll-over funds	50,000	60,000	60,000	
Presbytery Contributions (even years)	95,714	89,000	90,000	
42110 Unrestricted Mission Support (SOSFD)	184,725	208,000	221,700	
42110 Administration Support (SOSFD)	66,150	91,000	80,550	
42100 Contributions	47	1,000	500	
42150 Special Contributions--Mission Presbytery	23,490	0	0	
42210 PILP Interest Earned	1,818	4,000	3,500	
Other Interest	19	25,000	15,000	
43100 Communication Services	65,583	65,000	74,500	
Total Revenues	<u>487,546</u>	<u>543,000</u>	<u>545,750</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	19,264	41,000	26,000	5%
64001 Coordinating Team	86,658	121,250	99,450	18%
65000 Personnel	234,512	331,549	363,000	67%
66001 Grants and Scholarships (#61040)	9,257	25,000	25,000	5%
66002 Representation	0	1,000	2,000	0%
66003 Permanent Judicial Commission	0	2,000	1,000	0%
Total Expenses	<u>360,947</u>	<u>584,799</u>	<u>554,350</u>	102%
Excess of Income over Expenses	<u>126,599</u>	<u>(41,799)</u>	(8,600)	-2%
95500 Equipment Purchases			<u>(11,000)</u>	
Budgeted Deficit			<u>(19,600)</u>	

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

Administration & Operations	9.30.24	2024	Proposed
Connecting Expenditures	Actual	Budget	2025
Administration & Operations	Actual	Budget	Budget
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	5,000	5,000	5,000
61100 Hispanic Mission Ministries Network	6,000	3,000	3,000
Raising Tomorrow's Leaders Today (Additional funding in G&S Section)	0	0	10,000
XXX IMAGINE Event	0	27,000	0 1
Synod Partnership for Disaster: Support (Additional funding in Reserve Section)	3,421	2,500	3,000
61270 Synod Youth Workshop (Additional funding in Reserves and Equipment Purchase Sections)	3,500	3,500	5,000
Totals	19,264	41,000	26,000
			1 Rolled into Synod School

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

		9.30.24	2024	Proposed 2025
		Actual	Budget	Budget
Coordinating Team				
61340	Moderator Expenses	0	2,000	1,000
62040	Computer Hardware	900	2,000	0
62050	Online Operations	7,436	5,000	5,000
62055	Online Processing Fees	220	250	250
62057	Synod Leader Discretionary Fund		10,000	10,000
64010	Stated Meeting, Fall	950	25,000	20,000
64020	Stated Meeting, Spring	5,001	0	8,000
64030	Leadership Gathering	6,196	0	8,000
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	805	1,000	1,000
66040	Copiers	88		0
66050	Supplies	425	3,000	1,000
66060	File Retention/Storage	5,810	5,000	1,000
66070	Bookkeeping Services	38,797	20,000	25,000
66071	Audit Fees		5,000	8,000
66090	Insurance	5,981	5,000	6,000
66100	Bank Charges	503	500	200
66105	APLOS Fees	1,825	1,500	2,000
66110	Miscellaneous Charges		1,000	0
66120	Contingency		1,000	1,000
65420	Synod Leader/Stated Clerk Search	11,721	16,000	0
	Totals	<u>86,658</u>	<u>121,250</u>	<u>99,450</u>
Personnel Expenditures				
65010	Synod Leader/SC Salary & House	96,417	103,000	103,000
65020	Synod Leader/SC BOP	25,052	40,170	40,170
65030	Synod Leader/SC FICA Share	5,900	6,200	6,200
65040	Synod Leader/SC Prof Expenses	0	1,500	1,500
65050	Synod Leader/SC Prof Development	0	2,500	2,500
65510	Synod Leader/SC Travel	12,615	24,500	24,500
	Synod Leader Totals	<u>139,984</u>	<u>177,870</u>	<u>177,870</u>
65110	Comm & Admin Coordinator Salary	47,955	61,579	61,579
65120	Comm & Admin Coordinator BOP	15,635	18,100	18,100
65130	Comm & Admin Coord. Payroll Taxes	3,429	4,500	4,500
65140	Comm & Admin Coordinator Prof Dev.	2,808	1,500	1,500
65520	Comm & Admin Coordinator Travel	1,358	2,500	2,500
	Comm & Admin Totals	<u>71,185</u>	<u>88,179</u>	<u>88,179</u>
65170	Treasurer Salary	9,000	18,000	18,000
65180	Treasurer Payroll Taxes	688	0	0
	Treasurer Prof Expenses	1,020	2,000	2,000
	Treasurer Travel	646	1,000	1,000
	Totals	<u>11,354</u>	<u>21,000</u>	<u>21,000</u>
	Administrative Assistant	0	27,500	27,500
65220	CSP Contract Services	11,989	15,000	15,000
65410	Personnel Committee	0	2,000	1,000
	Salary Adjustment Allowance			32,451
	Personnel Totals	<u>234,512</u>	<u>331,549</u>	<u>363,000</u>

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

		9.30.24	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		
	Tres Rios Presbytery	5,000		
	Totals	<u>9,257</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. Proposed Budgets 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	634,591	23,500	50,767	708,858			708,858
Ministry Reserves #54201	59,225	2,200	4,738	66,163			66,163
Year-End Reserves #54495	55,088	2,000	4,407	61,495			61,495
Disaster Assistance #54825	24,556		1,964	26,520			26,520
Regional PDA #55716	128,637		10,291	138,928	(20,000)	Quarterly Pledge	118,928
	<u>1,002,097</u>	<u>27,700</u>	<u>72,168</u>	<u>1,101,965</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>		<u>1,081,965</u>
Cash Balances Held for Use							
10100 Gatewood Funds	75,000				(15,000)	SYW Scholarships	60,000
31140 Translation Fund	29,906				(2,000)	Korean/Hispanic Services	27,906
31150 Future Church	5,559						5,559
31160 Racial Ethnic Ministries	0						0
31180 Special Meetings	17,507						17,507
31190 Synod Leadership Travel	5,512						5,512
31220 COR Network	471						471
31222 Commissioned Pastors Network	15,121						15,121
31250 Promotional Swag	2,274						2,274
31260 Network Reserves	30,121						30,121
31280 Presby. Leader Formation	14,234						14,234
32130 Opioid Crisis	500						500
32140 Network for Dismantling Racism	0						0
	<u>196,205</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(17,000)</u>		<u>179,205</u>
Totals	<u>1,198,302</u>	<u>27,700</u>	<u>72,168</u>	<u>1,101,965</u>	<u>(37,000)</u>		<u>1,261,170</u>

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

	Projected Balance @1.1.2025	Projected 2025 Incomes	Available Funds 2025	Projected 2025 Awards	Projected Balance @12.31.2025
Funds For Grants					
Synod Designated Cash Reserves					
31270 Gross Cultural Intern	0		0		0
Donor Restricted Cash Reserves					
33130 David Robinson Fund	1,737	900	2,637		2,637
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	0	1,593		1,593
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>255,441</u>	<u>62,900</u>	<u>313,881</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>318,341</u>

Donor Restricted Invested Funds (TPF)					
Albert Crisp Endowment #51737	107,260	14,000	121,260	(5,000)	116,260

Synod Budget Funds to Grants & Scholarships					
61040 Mission Grant Funds		25,000	25,000		25,000

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

		Projected Balance @1.1.2025	Projected 2025 Incomes	Available Funds 2025	Projected 2025 Awards	Projected Balance @12.31.2025
Funds For Scholarships						
Donor Restricted Cash Reserves						
33140	Seminary Course Scholarships	29,590	670	30,260		30,260
22900	Seminary Student Scholarships	0	17,300	17,300		17,300
33150	Young Adult Volunteers	51,786	5,240	57,026		57,026
33160	Educational Programs	365	525	890		890
31300	International Mission Trips	5,800	0	5,800		5,800
	Schroeder Child & Youth Scholarships	0	TPF 2,000	2,000		2,000
33220	Schroeder Child & Youth Scholarships	0	PF 486	486		486
	Totals	<u>87,541</u>	<u>26,221</u>	<u>113,762</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>113,762</u>

Donor Restricted Invested Funds (TPF)						
	Hispanic American Ministry	86,000	7,000	93,000		93,000
	MAPPA Fund # 50900					
	Hispanic American Ministry	43,175	3,500	46,675	(10,000) 2	36,675
	MACC Fund # 50901					
	Munson Kerr Scholarship #55474	1,459,500	117,000	1,576,500		1,576,500
	Albert Crisp Scholarship #51736	131,635	15,000	146,635	(7,000) 1	139,635
	Totals	<u>1,720,310</u>	<u>142,500</u>	<u>1,862,810</u>	<u>(17,000)</u>	<u>1,845,810</u>

- 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
William & Ethel Hankins Fund #4	30
William & Ethel Hankins Fund #5	30
Viola Williams Memorial Fund	10
Totals	<u>390</u>

A Joint Covenant Partnership Between The Synod of the Sun and Austin College

The Synod of the Sun is a mid-council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with historic ties to Austin College which dates to 1849. As an agency that serves congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas, Austin College now seeks to renew its covenant partnership with the Synod of the Sun. The Synod of the Sun serves Christ by connecting, equipping, and empowering Presbyterians for Christ's mission within and beyond the Synod's bounds of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Providing leadership development, grants and scholarships, and communications services 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.

Austin College is a private, residential, co-educational college and is dedicated to educating undergraduate students in liberal arts and science while also offering select pre-professional programs and a graduate teacher program. Founded by the Presbyterian Church in 1849, Austin College continues its relationship with the church and its commitment to a heritage that values personal growth, justice, community, and service. An Austin College education emphasizes academic excellence, intellectual and personal integrity, and participation in community life.

Mutual Understanding and Commitments

A. Mutual Understanding and Support

Both the Synod and Austin College will demonstrate mutual understanding and support for each other.

Continuing communication between the college and the Synod should be maintained and encouraged.

B. The Role of Austin College

In the spirit of collaboration, the College will advise the Synod of comprehensive campaigns, inviting its participation.

C. The Role of the Synod

As part of the formal approval of this Covenant, the Synod authorizes clergy representatives of Austin College to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in accordance with the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as part of the Religious Life Program of the college (see especially W-2.4012b).

The Synod will encourage the use of students, personnel, and facilities of Austin College to carry out the mission and work of the Synod.

The Synod will interpret and advocate the role and programs of Austin College through the Synod and General Assembly-related foundations and publications and will facilitate connections between Austin College and other Synod covenant partners.

The Synod shall continue to support Austin College, its faculty, students and administration with its prayers.

Formal Approval

This document contains all the terms of the covenant relationship between the Synod of the Sun and Austin College. By formal action, the trustees of Austin College and the Synod of the Sun adopt this covenant and pledge themselves to carry out its provisions.

The original covenant was approved by the Austin College Board of Trustees on November 11-12, 1982; by the General Council of the Synod of Red River and Sun, on November 20, 1982; and officially confirmed at the Meeting of the Synod of the Sun on June 28, 1983. The sixth revision was prepared by the Covenant Review Team, Austin College, Sherman, Texas, on February 23, 2018. This agreement shall be reviewed by Synod and Austin College in September 2028 and shall be renewed in 2029.

The Synod of the Sun and Austin College embrace this joint covenant partnership and agree to mutually support one another's ministries. By signing this covenant partnership, the Synod of the Sun agrees to pray for, advocate on behalf of, and support Austin College as it seeks to respond to the biblical admonition in Isaiah 51:1 "Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. "The Synod affirms the mission of Austin College and encourages each of its member congregations to pray, advocate, and support Austin College's ministry.

The Synod will provide opportunities for Austin College to share its ministry at Synod gatherings and through its print and electronic communications. By signing this covenant partnership, Austin College agrees to maintain a visible presence in the life of the Synod of the Sun, including their member presbyteries.

This agreement in 2024 is not a legal partnership and the Synod agrees that Austin College may establish and maintain mission partnerships with other agencies and denominations. The Synod and Austin College agree to renew this covenant partnership in 2028.

Synod of the Sun, PC(U.S.A.)

Date: _____ November 7, 2024 _____

By: _____

Rev. Mitch Miller, Synod Leader/Stated
Clerk

Austin College

Date: _____ May 17, 2024 _____

By: _____

Steven O'Day, President, Austin College