



Synod of the Pacific - Take Home Piece

124th Stated Assembly

Zoom Video Conference

May 4-6, 2022

The following notes are for commissioners' own use and for reporting to presbyteries. They are not official minutes.

1. The assembly began on Wednesday evening with a Vespers service led by the Moderator, Kaye Whitney. [Kaye and about a quarter of the commissioners were together at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center and reported that it was grand to enjoy in-person fellowship. Worship, plenaries, and committee meetings were conducted on Zoom.] Worship included the 2021 Necrology report, a longer-than-usual list this year. Synod received an offering of \$3750 designated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the benefit of Ukrainian Refugees.
2. During staff reports on Thursday, Synod Executive, Nancy Martin Vincent (MWS, SFR), highlighted the Hilda V. Thompson grant fund, which can be used for mental health needs, especially in these days of COVID. Nancy reported on staffing changes in San Joaquin and Boise presbyteries, along with ongoing conversations of a task force developing long term strategy with Eastern Oregon, Boise, and Kendall presbyteries. Also, Nancy reported that plans are on track for the Synod office to move at the end of 2022.
3. Synod Director of Business Services, Brian Burns, thanked staff for their ongoing work, ensuring that the services provided by the Synod have continued to flourish throughout the pandemic. Brian reported that the Synod had a 'clean' audit for 2021 and that budgets for 2023 will be presented by the Mission Finance Committee later in the meeting.
4. Synod Stated Clerk, Katherine J. Runyeon (MWS, SFR), presented a series of "Understanding Per Capita" videos that highlight "connectionalism" throughout the denomination. All can be found here: <https://percapitaunification.org/interpretive-videos>. Before recess on Thursday, Kathy led participants, using a prayer she had been invited to write for a national gathering of mid council leaders. The Stated Clerk's report on Friday included a variety of articles and PCUSA news – all available on the Google drive for this meeting.
5. Guest speaker, Jim Rissler, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program (PILP), provided an extensive and helpful presentation of PILP's ministries and programs. He reported where PILP and Synod have collaborated to provide joint loans and indicated openness to working together on other projects.
6. During committee reports on Friday, the 2023 budgets were approved with few changes from the current year. The Synod per capita apportionment remains at \$5.22.
7. Interim Committee on Representation Chair, Jeffrey Joe (RE, KEN), offered both visual and written expressions of diversity of his own: several paintings and a poem he wrote titled, "A Hope's Chance".
8. Appreciation was expressed to chairs and commissioners who finish their terms when we convene in October – with an invitation for commissioners to talk with presbyteries about being re-elected!
9. Synod next meets on October 5-7, 2022, by Zoom - with the possibility of an in-person option, if safe. 2023 meetings are scheduled for May 3-5 and October 4-6.