

SYNOD COMMISSIONERS' REPORT August 2019

The Synod of the Covenant held a Synod Assembly on August 2, 2019 at the First Presbyterian Church in Maumee, Ohio. The morning worship focused on Becoming a Matthew 25 Church. The words of Jesus in Matthew 25: 37-40. "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (NRSV Matthew 25: 37-40). The Synod Assembly voted in the afternoon to affirm the 222nd General Assembly (2016) call to become a Matthew 25 Church -- <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

The assembly received reports from all eleven presbyteries, mostly by presbytery moderators or vice moderators -- <http://synodofthecovenant.org/our-presbyteries/>

After conducting the last fair for the 2019 season, the Synod Mobile Health Fairs ministry team of college students joined the Assembly. They presented a brief report and talked with commissioners and guests. Synod Moderator presented members of the team with certificates of appreciation on behalf of the Synod -- <http://synodofthecovenant.org/synod-ministries/mobile-health-fair/>

The Mission to the USA program is finalizing the participation of five International Mission Partners starting in October. The Synod and participating congregations will host IMPs from four countries in Africa for the third of a three-year focus on Christian-Muslim relations -- <http://synodofthecovenant.org/synod-ministries/musa/>

The Synod Executive, TE Raafat Zaki, reported that the Peacemaking and Justice Committee has recently approved a \$5,000 grant from the Welcome All Refugees initiative towards rehabilitating a residence to house young adult asylum seekers on the request of a Presbyterian congregation in Michigan and in partnership with Samaritas. The previous Assembly in March approved a convening agreement with Samaritas -- <https://www.samaritas.org/>

The Synod Executive also reported on the new portal on the Synod website designed for giving. Gifts and donations can be made using a credit or debit card toward designated and undesignated giving to help fund the mission of the church through the Synod -- <https://synodofthecovenant.org/give/>

The Synod Assembly hosted two representatives for the 223rd General Assembly Special Committee on Per Capita Based Funding and National Church Sustainability. RE Timothy Ngare (Presbytery of Detroit) and TE Paul Helphenstine (Holston Presbytery) listened to suggestions for improving per capita giving.

The next Synod Stated Assembly is scheduled for November 1-2, 2019 at Christ Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio. The Assembly will open with a seminar featuring the International Mission Partners with the Mission to the USA program.

Respectfully submitted,

Clergy Commissioner Lois Aroian

Elder Commissioner Michael Stoll

