



Synod Meeting Summary

October 6-7, 2025

Website
lakesandprairies.org

A Stated Meeting of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies was held October 6 and 7, 2024, via Zoom.

Jeff Dickinson, Ruling Elder (RE) from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, and **Lisa Johnson**, Teaching Elder (TE) from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, Moderator and Vice-Moderator, respectively, were both re-elected to serve another term in their respective positions. Jeff moderated this meeting with the assistance of former Moderator, Scott Prouty (TE), from MN Valleys.

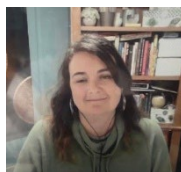
Two new policies were adopted by the Synod. The Synod established a process for the election of members at large commissioners per G-3.0401 and elected Carolyn Grice (TE), Missouri River Valley, as the first “at large” member. Also a new Statement and Policy on Restorative Actions was adopted.

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies acknowledges the racial injustices endured by Afro-Americans and people Indigenous to US lands, along with the economic repercussions resulting from their lack of reparations. Recognizing its predominantly white historical composition, the Synod also acknowledges that it has been sheltered from the economic consequences of those injustices.

As a response to the existing inequalities and to advocate for national Reparations, the Synod pledges to allocate a proportional amount of wealth it receives from future undesignated bequests and property transfers for surrender to Restorative Actions trusts or organizations that benefit Afro American and Indigenous communities. Surrenders will be proportionate to prevailing rates by which average white household wealth in the US exceed parity levels of wealth across white, Afro American, and Indigenous households (currently estimated to represent 15% of average white household wealth).

Update on Board of Pension overture to General Assembly: The overture was amended and passed by the General Assembly with 92% supporting the overture. The General Assembly discussion can be found here <https://youtu.be/MF3WsTN8P5E>. The Steering Committee has approved a task force to address the cost of medical benefits in small membership churches particularly those under 150 members and respond to the consequences of the changes in the medical plan from the Board of Pensions. If you are interested in serving on this task force, please let Synod Moderator [Jeff Dickinson](#) know.

Members of the Restorative Actions Team provided educational information about the Wealth Gap in the United States and some of the history of Reparations around the world. Commissioners discussed the the role of the Church in race relationships and Biblical understandings that impact their own understandings. restorativeactions.org.



Pictured are: Milissa Carter, Sarah Moore-Nokes and Jim Koon



René Myers - rene.myers@pcusa.org shared an update on the special offerings and other programs which the Unifying Budget of the General Assembly supports. She also talked about the changes to the special offerings which will occur in 2026 when the denomination will move from four annual offerings to three. Rene reminded us that as our Ministry Engagement Advisor she can tell you about the various ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and Office of the General Assembly, and direct you to resources to help your committee, church or presbytery.



Sandra Duverge - sandra.duverge@pcusa.org, Associate, Financial Aid for Service. With the board of Pensions the Financial Aid for Service office have partnered with PeopleJoy to provide personal student loan coaches to church leaders, volunteers, church staff and those serving on sessions. Visit the [Student Loan Assistance](#) website page for information and to apply.

Informational Flyers:

[Public Service Loan Forgiveness 2024 Webinars](#) [Path to Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#)
[Student Loan Forgiveness Common Misconceptions](#)

Committee Highlights

Communications Committee

There will be a Synod Sunday in February 2025 for which a short video and bulletin insert will be shared with all congregations. There is planning for a March Face-to-Face event to give Pastor Nominating Committees and candidates an opportunity to meet online to see if there is a potential match.

Finance Committee

The Treasurer reported that in 2024 the Synod projects that it will provide services and support to presbyteries, churches, camps, and regional and national missions estimated at a rate of \$1.28 per dollar received in per capita and shard mission receipts. Per Capita for the Synod for 2025 will remain the same at \$5.50. The Assembly approved the 2025 budget.

Personnel Committee

The committee is working on clarifying personnel policies.

Committee on Racial Equity Ministries

CREM is receiving applications for the Racial Equity Student Scholarships and will award these soon. They are also working with the Strategic Service and Witness Committee on a Synod Anti-Racism Policy.

Strategic Service and Witness Committee

In addition to continuing support of tribal colleges and institutional partners, the committee has supported activities with the Minnesota Council of Churches and other Matthews 25 initiatives. Their other priorities include supporting camps and conference centers as well as indigenous educational institutions.

Transforming Communities/Vital Leadership Committee

The TCVL committee announced its sponsorship of a Sankofa Pilgrimage: Learning from the Past to Create a Better Future to Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama October 16-20, 2024. In addition to supporting Synod School, the Leadership Summit and the Art of Transitional Leadership classes, the committee will be developing cohorts to provide support and fellowship for pastoral leaders in 2025.

In addition to these six standing committees, reports were received from staff members, the Committee on Representation, the Committee on Self-Development of People, the Synod School Committee, the Restorative Actions Team, the Presbyterian Women, and the Synod Nominating Committee.

Commissioners completing a term were recognized. We had a moment of silence in memory of Marcy Campbell (TE) from the Presbytery of Des Moines.



The meeting ended with worship. Rev. Phillip Romine, a member of the Restorative Actions Team, gave the sermon.

Synod Meetings for 2025

April 27-29, Mount Olivet Retreat and Conference Center
September 28-29, Zoom.