

**SPECIAL MEETING
 THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
 HELD BY CONFERENCE PHONE CALL
 June 28, 2017**

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Synod of the Covenant, Article IV, C. 3, Moderator Timothy Chon with the concurrence of Ruling Elder and Vice-Moderator Johanna Jozwiak, Presbytery of Lake Huron; Ruling Elder Gillian Holzhauser-Graber, Presbytery of Maumee Valley; Teaching Elder Aaron Meadows, Presbytery of Eastminster; Teaching Elder David Myers, Lake Huron Presbytery; Teaching Elder Anthony Patrick, Presbytery of Lake Michigan; and Ruling Elder Ginny Shanda, Presbytery of Scioto Valley: has called for a Special Synod Assembly by conference phone call for June 28, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect an Administrative Commission to assume jurisdiction of the Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Mackinac.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Timothy Chon on June 28, 2017 at 11:03 a.m.

The meeting was held by Conference phone call.

Moderator Timothy Chon opened the meeting with prayer at 11:03 a.m.

The roll was formed as following:

THE SYNOD ASSEMBLY ROLL

Moderator –Minister of Word and Sacrament Timothy Chon - Present

Vice-Moderator –Ruling Elder Johanna Jozwiak- Present

Commissioners

	Present	Absent	Excused
<u>Presbytery of Cincinnati</u>			
Minister of Word and Sacrament– Deborah Uchtman	x		
Ruling Elder – Becky Lindsay	x		
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant			
<u>Presbytery of Detroit</u>			
Minister of Word and Sacrament – George Portice		x	
Ruling Elder – Stanley Edwards		x	
Young Adult Commissioner – Michael Barconey		x	

Presbytery of Eastminster

Minister of Word and Sacrament – Aaron Meadows	x	
Ruling Elder – Jennifer Arnold		x
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant		

Presbytery of Lake Huron

Minister of Word and Sacrament – David Myers	x	
Ruling Elder - Johanna Jozwiak	x	
Young Adult Commissioner – Alex Wagner		x

Presbytery of Lake Michigan

Minister of Word and Sacrament – Anthony Patrick	x	
Ruling Elder – Sonja Fryer		x
Young Adult Commissioner – Amber Maupin-Clark		x

Presbytery of Mackinac

Minister of Word and Sacrament - Patricia Megregian	x	
Ruling Elder - Richard Wissell	x	
Young Adult Commissioner – Heather Kane		x

Presbytery of Maumee Valley

Minister of Word and Sacrament - David Tilly	x	
Ruling Elder – Gillian Holzhauser-Graber		x
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant		

Presbytery of Miami Valley

Minister of Word and Sacrament – Ronald Lawrence		x
Ruling Elder – Marvella Lambright		x
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant		

Presbytery of Muskingum Valley

Minister of Word and Sacrament - Andries J. Coetzee	x	
Ruling Elder - John M. Estill	x	
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant		

Presbytery of Scioto Valley

Minister of Word and Sacrament – Leland Platt	x	
Ruling Elder – Ginny Shanda	x	
Young Adult Commissioner - vacant		

Presbytery of Western Reserve

Minister of Word and Sacrament – Rick Stein			x
Ruling Elder – Susan Vlcek		x	
Young Adult Commissioner – Kamryn Wilson		x	

Moderators of Designated Synod Organizations

Moderator of the Presbyterian Women - Ruling Elder Pat McBride	x	
Moderator of the Asian Caucus - Vacant		
Moderator of the Black Caucus - Ruling Elder Gail Coleman		x
Moderator of the Hispanic/Latino Caucus- Ruling Elder Jose Jones	x	
Moderator of the Native American Consulting Com. - Ruling Elder Artence Walton		x
Moderator of the Middle Eastern Caucus- Ruling Elder Nahida Gordon		x

Voting Synod Staff

Synod Executive – Minister of Word and Sacrament Raafat Zaki - Present
Synod Stated Clerk and Treasurer – Minister of Word and Sacrament David Bartley

Other Synod Staff

Office Manager– Melanie Shoop – not on the call
MUSA Coordinator – Eileen Best – not on the call
Welcome Refugee Network Coordinator – Kathy Angie – not on the call

Registered Participants

Steve Asher, Presbytery of Mackinac and Moderator of the Coordinating Council for the Presbytery of Mackinac; Ted McCulloch, Presbytery of Lake Huron; Bill Myers, Presbytery of Mackinac; Jessica Paulsen, Presbytery of Mackinac; and Dan Saperstein, Presbytery of Lake Huron.

The Stated Clerk declares that a quorum is present. (The Synod of the Covenant Bylaws Article IV, D, 5 specify that at quorum for a meeting of the Synod Assembly shall consist of ten commissioners made up of five Ruling Elders and five Teaching Elders. These commissioners shall represent a minimum of four Presbyteries.)

Rick Stein on motion was excused.

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF MACKINAC (Attachment Special Meeting - A)

A motion was made and seconded for the Synod Assembly of the Synod of the Covenant approves an Administrative Commission to become the Coordinating Council of the Presbytery

of Mackinac. The present members of the Coordinating Council will have voice but not vote. Members of the Administrative Commission who will become the Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Mackinac will be: Ruling Elder Ruth Azar, Presbytery of Detroit; Teaching Elder Margie Osborn, Presbytery of Lake Michigan; Teaching Elder Jim Pollard, The Presbytery of Lake Michigan; Teaching Elder Dan Saperstein, The Presbytery of Lake Huron; and Ruling Elder Andy Thorburn, The Presbytery of Lake Michigan. It will be staffed by Synod Stated Clerk David Bartley and Synod Executive Raafat Zaki. The Administrative Commission of the Synod of the Covenant to become the Coordinating Council of The Presbytery of Mackinac will remain in place until the November 2018 Synod Assembly Meeting. At that point in time, by Synod Assembly action, the Administrative Commission of the Synod of the Covenant for the Coordinating Council for The Presbytery of Mackinac will either be dissolved with thanks or will be continued until the next November Synod Assembly. If the later happens, the need to continues the Administrative Commission of the Synod of the Covenant for the Coordinating Council for The Presbytery of Mackinac will reviewed as needed at each of the subsequent Stated Synod Assembly Meetings of the Synod of the Covenant.

Kay Morrill, Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Mackinac submitted by email to all the Synod Commissioners a response. **(Attachment Special Meeting – B)**

There was some discussion that included Jessica Paulsen, Moderator of the Presbytery of Mackinac and Richard Wissell Synod Commissioner and Vice-Moderator of The Presbytery of Mackinac.

A substitute motion was made and seconded that the Synod of the Covenant establish an Administrative Commission with the following charge:

1. To inquire into allegations of disorder in the Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Mackinac, and to settle the difficulties therein, to include:
 - a) Investigating allegations of disorder in the Council and Presbytery, providing all parties fair notice and opportunity to be heard on the matters at issue;
 - b) Exercising administrative review over any irregularities in the work of the Coordinating Council or the Presbytery that may be discovered in the course of the investigation;
 - c) Recommending to the Coordinating Council, the Presbytery, and/or the Synod changes and steps that may be necessary toward furthering the peace, purity, and unity of the Church, and to ensure the health and functionality of the Coordinating Council and Presbytery;
 - d) Assisting the Coordinating Council in discerning future directions for the Presbytery that will assist and support “the witness of congregations to the sovereign of God in the

world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness” (G-3.0301).

2. To make determination and recommendation to the Synod whether to assume full or partial original jurisdiction of Presbytery, if after a thorough investigation, it concludes that the Presbytery or its Coordinating Council is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs.

Synod Executive Raafat Zaki reported on his visit with the Coordinating Council of the Presbytery of Mackinac. Raafat Zaki did outline some concerns and proposed an alternative action by Synod Assembly in the form of a substitute motion.

There was an amendment to the substitute motion to change “Administrative Commission” to “Investigative Commission”. The amendment was defeated.

On motion make the substitute motion the main motion, the motion passed.

The motion to approve the motion was taken by roll call voted. The vote was 18 to 0. The motion was approved.

There was a motion to approve the Administrative Commission of Ruling Elder Ruth Azar, The Presbytery of Detroit; Teaching Elder Margie Osborn, The Presbytery of Lake Michigan; Teaching Elder Jim Pollard, The Presbytery of Lake Michigan; Teaching Elder Dan Saperstein, The Presbytery of Lake Huron; and Ruling Elder Andy Thorburn, The Presbytery of Lake Michigan. It will be staffed by Synod Stated Clerk David Bartley and Synod Executive Raafat Zaki. Nominations were asked for from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor. The motion passed.

There was a motion to adjourn and close with a prayer.

Timothy Chon closed the meeting with prayer at 12:05 p.m.

David Bartley
Stated Clerk
Synod of the Covenant