

REPORT OF SYNOD COMMISSIONER – C. DAVID MORGAN
To Muskingum Valley Presbytery – November 27, 2012

At the Synod Assembly held November 2-3, 2012, the following actions were taken and the year's work of the Synod was celebrated.

Synod Assembly installs new officers!

Rev. Russ Brandt, of Mackinac Presbytery, and Ruling Elder Artence Walton, of the Presbytery of Miami Valley were installed as Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Synod Assembly during the worship service at Swan Creek Retirement Village]

The Synod Assembly established a budget for 2013 for a total of \$761,335.

This included the addition of a Middle Eastern Caucus under CECA, and the leadership of Dr. Nahida Gordon as its Moderator.

The Per Capita for 2013 was approved at \$3.25 per member. This is the same rate since 2011.

The Synod Assembly voted to change the Bylaws to assign the task of nominating to the Committee on Representation and Inclusiveness.

On recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee the Assembly voted to move the designation of a restricted fund that had fulfilled the reason for the designation to the New Covenant Grants for 2013 thereby increasing funds available for next year from \$45,000 to \$65,515.51.

The Synod also awarded 10 New Covenant Grants totaling \$45,000. There were 25 applications requesting a sum of \$206,339.57. The following are the ministry projects and the amounts awarded listed by their presbyteries:

Eastminster

Mahoning Valley Service Learning Project \$5,000

Lake Michigan

Jackson Personal Care Ministry \$5,000

1st Presbyterian Three Rivers Centreville Community Assistance \$4,000

Companions in Transitions: Pastoral Care for Those Journeying Into and Out From Higher Education \$2,075

Mackinac

1st Presbyterian Church of Iron County Worship \$4,000

Maumee Valley

Community Worship Center Foundational Skills and Children's Literacy Project \$4,000

Scioto Valley

The Abundance Project \$8,750

Downtowners Campus Ministry Disciples \$3,175

Oromia Evangelical Presbyterian Fellowship New Covenant \$5,000

Western Reserve

The Phoenix Project-Freak Flash Youth Program \$4,000

All three mission priorities of the Synod, Church Development and Transformation; Multicultural, Racial Ethnic and Justice; and Ministries in Higher Education were supported in the projects that received funding.

Staff Update

The Synod celebrated the retirement of Karen Nottelmann as coordinator of the Mission to the USA Program. Ruling Elder Karen Nottleman grew up in Calvary Presbyterian Church of Canton, Ohio. The Assembly also approved a new job description for Tammy Scheuermann as the Synod's Program Coordinator and Bookkeeper.

The Synod elected Rev. David Bartley, Transitional Stated Clerk, as Acting Synod Treasurer until the next Assembly, and made minor modifications and reposted the position of Transitional Synod Treasurer and extended the application deadline to February 13, 2013.

The Synod heard reports from the following:

Multicultural Youth Conference ... June 18 through June 22, 2013 at Kirkmont Center, Zanesfield, OH. Limited to 80 youth. Registration forms and medical forms online at \$125/youth and \$200/family until April 22, 2013. Scholarships are available upon request.

Mobile Health Fair ... 2012 results 46 Fairs, 20032 participants screened, more than 276 volunteers participated, 203 medical referrals, 332 dental referrals, 233 vision referrals. 126 HIV tests, 689 glucose tests performed. For 2013, there are only a few dates available for sites. We are currently accepting applications for team positions. These are found on the website: www.synodofthecovenant.org under Mobile Health Fair listed with documents.

The Irv Moxley Black Theology and Pastoral Care Conference ... Convened on October 28 with 16 participants including key note speakers, The Rev. Dr. Warren L. Dennis of New Brunswick Seminary, The Rev. Dr. Marsha Snulligan Haney, teacher, preacher and writer and The Rev. Dr. Debra Mumford of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Disaster Readiness Training was held for 2 days in September. Over 30 people attended from 9 presbyteries.

COM/CPM training took place last spring. The event was facilitated by David Lee Jones. There were 25 participants representing 11 presbyteries for the event.

New Covenant Agreements were signed with Ohio Presbyterian Retirement Services (OPRS) and The Coalition for Appalachian Ministry (CAM). Anne Johnson of OPRS and Frank Hare of CAM were there for these important covenants.

The Synod Assembly worshiped and celebrated the Lord's Supper at Swan Creek Retirement Village. Worship was held in their new chapel.

As this marks the conclusion of my six years of service as MVP's Minister Commissioner to the Synod of the Covenant, I thank the Presbytery for the opportunity you have given to me to serve you and the larger church in this role. I have also served these six years as a member of Synod's Board of Trustees/Budget and Finance Committee and on Synod's Permanent Judicial Commission.

While serving as your Commissioner, one of the joys and challenges has been to be able to see a "bigger picture" of the PCUSA in this time of transition and change. The following chart illustrates with bare bones statistics some of the realities that change has brought to our Synod since the 1983 reunion of the PCUS and UPCUSA. As the The Middle Governing Bodies Task Force/Commission has had to wrestle with the implications for the whole of the PCUSA, so our Synod and its presbyteries must do as well. Regardless of what decisions may or may not come for synods in our denomination, we must as the eleven presbyteries in this part of the world ask ourselves how we best serve the mission of our local congregations. Is it time for a realignment and/or reduction in the presbyteries in this region? Are there ways in which Presbytery staff can be shared so as to better serve our churches? Are there opportunities to share staff and personnel to reduce the per member costs of administration and support services in our 11 presbyteries? These are but a few of the questions we must wrestle with as live into our future.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as MVP's Minister Commissioner to the Synod the Covenant.

*Respectfully submitted,
C. David Morgan*

MEMBERSHIP AND NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT IN 1983 AND 2011

Presbytery	1983 membership	# churches	2011 membership	# churches
Cincinnati	27,196	87	14,133	82
Detroit	56,173	98	27,811	84
Eastminster	24,343	59	8,444	53
Lake Huron	19,999	50	9,343	50
Lake Michigan	27,275	69	15,422	70
Mackinac	7,076	38	5,913	41
Maumee Valley	22,100	86	8,926	71
Miami Valley	25,290	69	12,275	61
Muskingum Valley	24,640	103	9,804	89
Scioto Valley	36,004	109	19,865	110
Western Reserve	23,658	60	10,154	47
Total	293,754	836	142,090	758