

# Synod of Lakes and Prairies meeting summary



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Spring Meeting - Synod of Lakes and Prairies - Mount Olivet Retreat Center - Farmington, Minnesota - April 27-29, 2008

The Synod Meeting Summary is published shortly after each meeting of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies. Comments regarding the publication or requests for copies should be addressed to [dsweep@lakesandprairies.org](mailto:dsweep@lakesandprairies.org).

## Synod's Program Coordination Committee urges NMPF consultations

After reviewing the report of its task force "charged with exploring ways to address and consult with presbyteries regarding the anticipated elimination of National Mission partnership Funds," the synod's Program Coordination Committee asked the synod to proceed with presbytery consultations addressing the implications of the loss of the funds.

In making its request, the committee suggested that the synod follow a task force recommendation staffing of the consultations with presbytery councils. The task force recommendation stated, "The synod team for each such consultation will include Phil Brown [synod executive] and/or Diana Barber [associate executive for leadership development] plus the synod commissioners from each of the participating presbyteries."

The committee suggested that the "whole report" of the task force should be "the subject of the consultations and that a report be brought to the January meeting of the committee."

## Synod's looks at future modifications to its funding of higher-ed ministries

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies voted to terminate its current practice of funding post secondary education ministries at the close of 2011, while agreeing to fund the next cycle, 2010-2011, at reduced amounts.

Beginning in 2012, the synod will consider making one-time grants to post secondary education ministries if funds are available.

Providing background information to support the action, the synod's Ecclesiastical Relations Committee noted, "Funds are less available and when ERC received applications for funding for 2008-2009 we made a commitment to site visits of those ministries. The visits will provide an opportunity to connect with these programs and let them know, as we look toward the next funding cycle, there will be limited financial resources."

The synod also voted in favor of the committee's recommendation that applicants in 2010-2011 must have been funded in the 2008-2009 cycle.

### Find synod information online

You can find the Synod of Lakes and Prairies online at [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org) and find the synod's MySpace page at [www.myspace.com/synodoflakesandprairies](http://www.myspace.com/synodoflakesandprairies).

## Synod approves small per capita increase

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies approved an 11-percent increase in its per capita apportionment for 2009, going up to \$4.80.

The per capita assessment is calculated based on the funds necessary for the synod to do its essential ecclesiastical work, and the total church membership within the synod.

The Program Coordination Committee, which recommended the increase, noted, "With the decrease in membership and based on the budget requests ... and using the same percentages for those items not funded 100 percent by per capita, we can justify an increase in per capita."

## Synod dedicates quilt that serves as wall hanging in synod office

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies dedicated a quilt that now decorates what had been open wall space in the synod offices. The dedication service took place during the opening worship services of the synod meeting Sunday evening.

The quilt was created by Lucy Barber, executive presbyter in the Presbytery of Winnebago, and Diana Barber, associate executive for leadership development in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.

Barber said the two of them designed and completed the piecing during a two-day retreat at Mt. Olivet Conference & Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn., "where so many synod events have occurred." It is also the location of synod meetings.

Speaking earlier about the quilt, Barber said, "In selecting colors and patterns, we were imagining the visual changes that happen as you move from the fields and woods of the eastern parts of the synod to the western plains as well as the 'lakes and prairies' of our name. But others may well see something else in the changing colors."

For the fabric, Barber said, "Some of the fabric used was purchased specifically for this quilt to provide some continuity within the design and other pieces were chosen from our personal fabric collections, many of which have appeared in other designs and activities at synod events."

Technically, the quilt was machine pieced, hand tied and the border was hand quilted in a design that mirrors the wheat of the logo which is appliquéd onto the surface of the quilt.

## Hudson addresses MGB trends

The Rev. Jill Hudson, middle governing body relations coordinator for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), addressed five trends she has observed through her position with the church.

Addressing the synod during its education period Monday evening, Hudson said, "There are a lot of exciting things happening." Speaking of middle governing bodies, she said five predominant trends include: shape, form and staff; innovations; emphasis on spirituality; emphasis on mission; and re-sourcing congregations.

Slides from Hudson's presentation have been provided to synod commissioners and presbytery offices.



*Barber (at podium) spoke of the quilt during the dedication service. Holding quilt are Bob Bouton (left), commissioner from the Presbytery of East Iowa, and Ward Sessing, synod moderator.*

## Synod receives audit report

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies received the "Report on Audit of Financial Statements" submitted by Bauman Associates Ltd. The report states, "In our opinion, except for the effects of not consolidating the affiliated entities discussed ... the financial statements ... present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position" of the synod.