

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 26-28, 2009

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.

Synod votes to keep per capita at same level in 2010

Synod of Lakes and Prairies commissioners decided this week to forego an increase in its per capita in 2010. Synod per capita currently stands at \$4.80.

The vote came at the spring meeting of the synod at Mount Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington, Minn., April 26-28.

It marks the first time since 1999 that there has been no year-over-year increase in per capita.

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

Presbyteries and General Assembly also have per capita apportionments and synod's apportionment is the smallest of the three.

Background information provided by the synod's Program Coordination Committee, which requested the action from synod commissioners, noted, "Paying the per capita assessment is a commitment of the presbytery."

Synod approves \$213,000 in 2010 campus ministry funding

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies approved \$213,000 in grants to collegiate ministries across the synod in 2010.

The amount covers the first year of a two-year grant cycle. The second year total is \$200,000.

In April 2008 the synod voted to terminate its current practice of funding post secondary education ministries at the close of 2011, the final year of this grant cycle. Beginning in 2012, the synod will consider making one-time grants to post secondary education ministries if funds are available.

A portion of the funds for the grants comes from the synod's Westminster Fund, but more than 50 percent of the funding comes from the synod's operating budget.

The grants are distributed among 19 campus ministries, some of which include ministries on multiple campuses.

Find synod info online

You can find the Synod of Lakes and Prairies online at www.lakesandprairies.org.

Synod approves CPSS, CPMS

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies approved 2010 Comprehensive Presbytery Mission and Staff Support for the 16 presbyteries that make up the synod.

Comprehensive Presbytery Staff Support is equal among all presbyteries with staff at \$40,000 each.

Comprehensive Presbytery Mission Support appportionments approved for 2010 are \$72,250 for Dakota Presbytery, \$20,000 for Homestead Presbytery and \$14,000 for South Dakota Presbytery.

Synod approves grant for Iowa Hispanic ministry

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Finance Committee approved a Mission Program Grant that will total \$70,000 over five years to the Presbytery of North Central Iowa for its New Presbyterian Hispanic Congregation.

The grant amount during the first year, 2010, will be \$20,000. The grant includes tentative approval in subsequent years, subject to annual reporting requirements and satisfactory progress, for \$18,000 in 2011, \$15,000 in 2012, \$10,000 in 2013 and \$7,000 in 2014.

The synod also recommended that the Mission Program Grants Committee of the General Assembly approve a total grant to this project of \$100,000, including \$30,000 in 2010.

Task force to look at number of synod meetings per year

At the 2008 spring meeting of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies a motion came forward to refer the "topic of possibly reducing the number of meetings of the synod to twice per year" to the synod's Steering Committee.

This spring the Steering Committee brought a motion to the synod to refer discussion of the possibility of fewer meetings to the Administrative Review Task force on the Future of the Synod, which was created by the synod in January. The motion passed.

The synod currently meets three times a year.

The task force is studying the history of synods and their changing role in the church's ministry and mission, reviewing proposals in recent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) history to dissolve or remove synods from the denomination's organizational structure, examining the changing role and need of the synod to serve as a governing body, and considering the synod's role as a supportive resource to presbyteries and other parts of the denomination.

Plans are in process for 2nd collegiate ministries conference

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies' Ecclesiastical Relations Committee reported that plans are in the works for the synod's second annual collegiate ministries conference this fall.

Based on that committee's recommendation, synod commissioners voted to instruct Duane Sweep, synod associate for communications, and Elona Street-Stewart, synod associate for racial ethnic ministries, to seek appropriate funding for the event.

JoAnn Simser, chair of the ERC and commissioner from the Presbytery of Twin Cities Area, said the first conference, conducted in November 2008 on the campus of the University of Dubuque, proved to be successful. Collegiate ministries personnel and several college chaplains participated in that event, and used the opportunity to establish productive relationships.

Jan Martin presents GAC report

Jan Martin, a member of Crossroads Presbyterian Church, Mequon, Wis., in the Presbytery of Milwaukee, made her first report to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies April 26 after being elected to the General Assembly Council in June 2008.

She noted, "Like many churches, presbyteries, businesses and non-profit agencies, PC (USA) is feeling the pull of the economic downturn and the need to stay focused on our good work."

Martin explained that much of her first year of the six-year term has been an orientation to the work of the council.

She called on synod commissioners to contact her with concerns and suggestions. She can be contacted at 2601 W. Cedar Lane, Milwaukee, WI 53217. She can also be reached by email at janequity@aol.com and by telephone at 414.351.6506.