

CALL TO THE SPECIAL MEETING

The Synod of Lincoln Trails of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convened a Special Meeting via Zoom, an online/conference call meeting service, on Wednesday, June 14, 2017. The purpose of the Special Meeting was to consider Amendment 2017-01 to the Synod's Standing Rules, and an enabling motion that would implement the provisions of the Amendment.

At the 104th Stated Meeting convened on March 24-25, 2017, the Synod adopted a motion to convene a special meeting in June 2017 for consideration of the amendment after it had been presented on First Reading. This motion also authorized the Synod Office to select the date, time, and location for the special meeting.

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) by the Stated Clerk, Ruling Elder Blake Wood, with prayer. Stated Clerk Wood informed all meeting participants that the Synod Moderator and Synod Vice Moderator were unable to attend, and the chair was currently vacant.

A motion to authorize the Stated Clerk to assume the chair for the Special Meeting was seconded and adopted.

In accordance with the Standing Rules of the Synod, a quorum for the Synod shall be eight commissioners, at least four of whom shall be ruling elders, and at least four of whom shall be teaching elders, representing at least three presbyteries. The following were present for the special meeting:

Presbytery	Commissioner	Class	Status
Presbytery of Chicago	Ruling Elder David Myles	2018	Present
	The Reverend Laura Reason	2018	Present
Presbytery of Great Rivers	Ruling Elder Alexis Maloof	2017	Present
	The Reverend Maura C. McGrath Nagle	2017	Present
	The Reverend Lonna Chang-Ren Lee	2019	Present
Presbytery of Ohio Valley	The Reverend David Lee	2017	Present
	Ruling Elder Jayne Williams	2017	Present
	The Reverend Andrew Kort	2018	Present
Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois	Ruling Elder Loren Prest	2018	Present
	The Reverend Ann Schwartz	2019	Present
Presbytery of Wabash Valley	The Reverend Kevin Bowers	2017	Present
	Commissioned Ruling Elder Donna Enersen	2017	Present
	Commissioned Ruling Elder Jeffrey Brown	2019	Present
Presbytery of Whitewater Valley	Ruling Elder Beth Bedwell	2017	Present
	The Reverend John Koppitch	2018	Present
	Ruling Elder Lynne Tobin	2019	Present
	The Reverend Richard Smith	2019	Present

Ex-Officio Ministry or Staff	Role	Status
The Reverend Sara Dingman	Transitional Synod Executive	Present
Ruling Elder Blake Wood	Stated Clerk	Present

SUMMARY OF THE ROLL

Commissioners
Present: 17

Ex-officio Ministry & Staff
Present: 2

Total Attendance: 19

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

The Stated Clerk reported that a quorum was established for the Special Meeting.

A motion to approve the Proposed Docket was seconded and adopted.

As the Synod proceeded to the next items of business, Stated Clerk Wood reiterated that the Synod would first consider Amendment 2017-01, and then the enabling motion.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON MISSION COORDINATION & ADMINISTRATION REPORT

The standing committee moderator, Ruling Elder Beth Bedwell, reported the following:

1. Amendment 2017-01 to the Standing Rules

At the 104th Stated Meeting in March 2017, Amendment 2017-01 was presented to the Synod on First Reading. This amendment proposes the establishment of a Synod Council, which is intended to aid the Synod in carrying out its mission and to support the partnership with its presbyteries. The discussion was helpful in providing direction to the Council Proposal Team in writing the next draft.

The Council Proposal Team is composed of Ruling Elder Beth Bedwell, the Reverend Susan McGhee, the Reverend Dr. John Rickard, the Reverend John Koppitch, Transitional Synod Executive Sara Dingman, and Stated Clerk Blake Wood.

During April, the Council Proposal Team met to go over the questions Synod commissioners had asked and suggestions offered about the amendment. An updated draft of the proposal was written and submitted to the Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration (MCA). On May 18, MCA convened via Zoom and recommended that the Synod approve the amendment. In addition, MCA recommended approval of an enabling motion to implement the amendment's provisions. The enabling motion was drafted by the Council Proposal Team to ensure that terms for at-large members of the Synod Council would be appropriately staggered after the Council is up and running.

The updated proposal ensures that the Council is included in the list of entities—such as committees and other groups—that are overseen by the Synod. The Council will have these responsibilities:

- Proposing to the Synod a vision for its life and work together
- Be a mechanism for communication and coordination among Synod committees and other entities
- Recommend for approval the annual Synod Budget
- Direct the planning and arrangements of Synod meetings
- Act on behalf of the Synod between stated meetings.

The Council will have these members:

- Synod Moderator
- Synod Vice Moderator
- Synod Executive
- Stated Clerk
- Moderator of the Standing Committee on Leadership Development, or his or her designee
- Moderator of the Standing Committee on MCA, or his or her designee

- Up to six at-large members who are ruling elder members of churches or teaching elder members of presbyteries in the Synod.

The terms of office for the at-large members shall be two years, once renewable. The terms will be staggered so that the terms of three at-large members expire one year and the terms of three at-large members expire the following year.

The Council will elect a Moderator and Vice Moderator from among the at-large members.

The last part of the proposal provides that the Committee on Representation will nominate the at-large members of the Council. Those members will be elected by the Synod.

A motion to approve Amendment 2017-01 to the Standing Rules was adopted.

(Please see the Appendix for the full text of Amendment 2017-01.)

2. Enabling Motion for Implementation of Amendment 2017-01

As the Council Proposal Team was working on the new draft of the amendment, it was discussed how to make sure that the terms of the first at-large members didn't all expire at the same time. In order to accomplish this, the team agreed that an enabling motion was needed for implementation of the amendment. The motion provides that the first two classes of at-large members will begin serving their terms in 2018. One class will serve a three-year term and the other class will serve a two-year term. This will allow for each class to then be elected in different years after that. After the first cycle, each class will serve terms of two years.

A motion to undertake the following was adopted:

Upon approval of Amendment 2017-01 to the Standing Rules, the Synod shall elect at-large members to the Synod Council in the following classes:

1. **Up to three at-large members to serve a term commencing January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2019;**
2. **Up to three at-large members to serve a term commencing January 1, 2018 and ending December 31, 2020;**
3. **Beginning January 1, 2021 all at-large members of the Synod Council shall serve a term of two years.**

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was seconded and adopted. The Special Meeting was closed with prayer and the Synod adjourned at 3:55 P.M. EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Wood
Stated Clerk

APPENDIX**SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS**

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

AMENDMENT 2017-01

to

STANDING RULES

The Standing Rules are amended by inserting a new Article VII and making the following changes:

IV. Duties and Responsibilities of the Synod**A. Coordinating Functions**

The Synod is responsible for mission and program coordination and it will:

1. Oversee the work of the Synod Council, Committees including priorities, goals, strategies and programs, to enable the Synod to fulfill its mission.
2. Receive and act upon recommendations received from the Synod Council, Board of Directors, Committees, Task Forces, Mission Networks, Synod Executive and Stated Clerk.
3. Facilitate Synod-wide planning, budgeting and evaluating, in the context of Church-wide partnership.
4. Maintain and coordinate a continuing review of the various Presbyteries, the Synod Council, Committees, Agencies, and other Synod Units.
5. Insure dissemination of information about the Synod throughout its constituency and with society at large.
6. Adopt an annual budget of income and expenditures, including the allocation of general mission, per capita apportionment, capital and other funds. All unexpended budget items shall be terminated at the end of each fiscal year, and any operating surplus be placed in Synod Reserves.
7. Approve formation of Task Forces and mission networks.

B. Consultation/Negotiation

1. Consultations concerning mission priorities, program, budgeting, and the establishment of administrative staff positions (G-3.0110), as well as other consultations or negotiations "to give meaning to the interdependent nature of Presbyterian polity," may take place during any Synod meeting. ~~shall be done during a recess at any Synod meeting.~~
2. The Standing Committee on Mission Development Coordination and Administration shall be responsible for planning the Consultation/Negotiations.
3. Participants are:
 - a) Commissioners from each Presbytery, who are the team representing that Presbytery.
 - b) The Synod's team, selected by the Synod committee with responsibility for the subject matter of the Consultation/Negotiation, according to guidelines set for the meeting by the Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration.
 - c) The General Assembly team, selected by the General Assembly Mission Council.

- d) Resource persons as authorized by the sending governing bodies.
4. Written consensus agreements reached by the consultation/negotiation process must be ratified by at least five of the Presbyteries, the Synod, and the General Assembly or its Council (if the GA participates in a particular consultation/negotiation) before those agreements are official. Exemptions may be requested by appeal to the next meeting of the Synod if a Presbytery does not ratify the agreements.
5. When a Presbytery establishes administrative staff positions, it is appropriate that the presbytery consult with the Synod, ordinarily through the Synod's Personnel Committee (cf. (G-3.0110).

C. Finances of Synod

To provide for administrative expenses of Synod, the Presbyteries shall pay a per capita apportionment in January as determined by Synod upon recommendation of the Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration and based upon the number of active members reported in the latest statistical report to the General Assembly.

D. Minutes and Other Printing

1. Prior to each meeting of the Synod, the Stated Clerk shall provide each Commissioner with reports, information, and materials that pertain to the meeting, including the names of Commissioners.
2. As soon as possible after Synod, the minutes and related papers shall be prepared by the Stated Clerk and electronically posted on the Synod's website to be available to the Commissioners, Presbytery Staff, the Office of the General Assembly, and to others as shall be determined by the Synod.
3. In addition to the proceedings of the meeting, an annual bound copy of the minutes of the Synod meetings for the calendar year shall include the names of the Officers of Synod, the names of members of the Synod and its Committees, and the Standing Rules of the Synod. The Stated Clerk will aim to design the minutes as a useful reference work for anyone who seeks information about the Synod.

V. THE OFFICERS OF SYNOD

- A. The Officers of Synod shall be a Moderator, a Vice-Moderator, and a Stated Clerk.
- B. The Moderator shall be elected at the final stated meeting of each year, for a term of one year beginning at the next annual meeting, in the following manner:
 1. The Nominating Committee shall place the name of the Vice-Moderator in nomination for the office of Moderator.
 2. Nominations may be offered from the floor. Any Commissioner is eligible for the office. If such nominations are made, the maker of a nomination shall distribute to Commissioners a brief biographical sketch, in lieu of a nomination speech.
 3. The Synod may vote to provide opportunity for all nominees for Moderator to be questioned by the Synod.
 4. If there is more than one nominee, the Moderator shall be elected by ballot, a majority of all votes cast being required for election.
 5. In the event that the Vice-Moderator cannot be nominated for Moderator, the Nominating Committee shall place in nomination one or more names of constitutionally qualified persons.

The nominations shall be accompanied by brief biographical sketches and forwarded in advance to all Commissioners by the Stated Clerk.

- C. The Vice Moderator shall be elected at the final stated meeting of each year, for a term of one year beginning at the next annual meeting, in the following manner:
1. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a candidate for Vice-Moderator from among the commissioners.
 2. When it places one or more candidates in nomination, the Nominating Committee will provide the Synod with written biographical information about them.
 3. Nominations may be made from the floor. Any Commissioner is eligible for the office. If such nominations are made, the maker of a nomination shall distribute to Commissioners a brief biographical sketch, in lieu of a nomination speech.
 4. If there is more than one nominee, the Vice-Moderator shall be elected by ballot, a majority of all votes cast being required for election.
- D. At the final stated meeting in years divisible by two, the Stated Clerk shall be elected by Synod to a term of two years, renewable, to begin January 1st of the next year. When a vacancy occurs, it shall be filled in the same manner as staff vacancies, under the guidance of the Personnel Committee.
- E. All terms of office begin at the Annual Meeting of the Synod, except for the Stated Clerk.

VI. THE SYNOD STAFF

The Synod shall employ administrative staff in accordance with the provisions of the Form of Government.

- A. The Synod may elect a Synod Executive. This person shall be responsible for the coordination of all staff services within the Synod
- B. The Synod Executive shall be called and employed by the Synod and accountable to it as provided in the personnel policies, and in the Synod's provision for periodic reviews of its personnel. The Synod Executive shall be responsible for implementing equal employment opportunity policies within the Synod.
- C. Other administrative staff positions may be established as authorized by the Synod in consultation with the Presbyteries and the General Assembly.

VII. SYNOD COUNCIL

The Synod shall have a Synod Council to support its Statement of Mission and its Purpose.

A. Membership

1. The Synod Council shall consist of no more than 12 members, which shall be the following:
 - a. the Synod Moderator;
 - b. the Synod Vice Moderator;
 - c. the Synod Executive;
 - d. the Stated Clerk;
 - e. the moderator of the Standing Committee on Leadership Development, or his or her designee;
 - f. the moderator of the Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration, or his or her designee;

- g. up to six at-large members who are ruling elder members of churches or teaching elder members of presbyteries in the Synod.
 - 1) The at-large members shall ordinarily be from presbyteries not otherwise represented on the Synod Council (excluding the Synod Executive and Stated Clerk). Emphasis shall be placed on having members representing the diversity of congregations, constituencies, institutions, partnerships, and presbyteries in the Synod.
 - 2) The terms of office for the at-large members shall be two years, once renewable. The terms shall be staggered so that the terms of three at-large members expire one year and the terms of three at-large members expire the following year.
2. The Synod Council shall elect from among the at-large members a Moderator and Vice Moderator to terms of two years.

B. Duties and Responsibilities

1. The Synod Council will propose to the Synod a vision for its life and work together.
2. The Synod Council will provide a mechanism for conversation and coordination among and between other committees in the implementation of the Synod vision.
3. The Synod Council will recommend for approval the annual Synod Budget of income and expenditures, including the allocation of general mission, per capita apportionment, capital and other funds. The Synod Budget will be submitted for consideration by the last stated meeting of each year.
4. The Synod Council will direct the planning and arrangements of Synod Meetings.
5. The Synod Council will act on behalf of the Synod between stated meetings in matters of mission and program coordination provided in Article IV, Section A:
 - a. Oversee the work of Committees including priorities, goals, strategies, and programs, to enable the Synod to fulfill its mission.
 - b. Receive and act upon recommendations received from the Board of Directors, Committees, Task Forces, Mission Networks, Synod Executive, and Stated Clerk.
 - c. Facilitate Synod-wide planning, budgeting and evaluating, in the context of Church-wide partnership.
 - d. Maintain and coordinate a continuing review of the various Presbyteries, Committees, Agencies, and other Synod Units.
 - e. Insure dissemination of information about the Synod throughout its constituency and with society at large.
 - f. Approve formation of Task Forces and mission networks.
6. The Synod Council will not have duties and responsibilities in regard to the following:
 - a. the annual election of Synod Officers;
 - b. the election of Synod Staff; and
 - c. suspending or making changes to the Standing Rules.

<u>VII. VIII. COMMITTEES OF THE SYNOD</u>
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There shall be two kinds of Synod Committees: Ecclesiastical and Standing.

A. Ecclesiastical Committees

Committees specifically described in the Book of Order and deemed necessary for the Synod to function as a council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). With the exception of the Nominating Committee, members of these committees need not be commissioners to the Synod.

The Ecclesiastical Committees are Committee on Representation and the Permanent Judicial Commission.

B. Standing Committees

Committees, peopled by commissioners and representatives from the Committee on Representation are charged with the responsibility to enable the Synod to carry-out its roles as a deliberative and policy-making body and to implement programs in response to concerns and initiatives of the Synod or its presbyteries.

The Standing Committees are the Standing Committee on Leadership Development, the Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration, the Standing Committee on Personnel, and the Board of Directors.

C. Committee Members

1. At the Annual Meeting, the newly installed Moderator shall appoint Commissioners to the Standing Committees to serve for a term of one year, renewable. Every Commissioner shall serve on one of the Standing Committees. At the Annual Meeting, the Moderator also shall appoint the Moderators of these committees for a one-year term of office.
2. Each of the Standing Committees and the Board of Directors shall include commissioners and/or members from at least four of the eight presbyteries in the Synod.
3. Except as otherwise required by the Standing Rules, the Standing Committees shall determine how to organize to fulfill their responsibilities.

D. Subcommittees and Task Forces

Each of the Ecclesiastical and Standing Committees may form task forces to accomplish their duties and responsibilities by a majority vote of the committee members present at a regular or special meeting of the Synod. In so far as possible, any such task forces will reflect the diversity of the Synod. When the church's mission under the Word imperatively demands, the Moderator, in consultation with the Vice Moderator, the Stated Clerk and the Executive, may appoint persons to an administrative review task force (G-3.0108), with this action reported to the Synod at its next stated meeting.

E. Meetings

1. Each committee will determine when and where its regular meetings will be held. Standing Committees will normally meet on the same dates and locations as Synod meetings.
2. Committee moderators may call special committee meetings, including meeting by conference call, provided notice is given to the committee members at least seven days in advance of the special meeting.
3. When the imperative of the Word urgently demands, committees may poll members by telephone or e-mail provided the results are recorded in the minutes. If requested by at least two committee members, the committee moderator shall call a special meeting to discuss and vote on the matter.

F. Committee on Representation

The Committee on Representation will serve as an advocate for ethnic persons, women, different age groups and persons with disabilities, and as a resource to the Synod in these areas.

1. Membership

- a. The Committee on Representation shall consist of six members, including both ruling elders and teaching elders, elected by the Synod for terms of three years once renewable and staggered so that one third of the terms expire each year. Terms begin at the Annual Meeting of the Synod. Both current commissioners and “members-at-large” may be considered for election to the Committee on Representation. Care shall be taken to assure that its members include persons chosen from the racial ethnic groups within the bounds of the Synod; they should be persons with a passion for and commitment to principles of diversity and inclusion in Synod leadership.
- b. One of the members of the Committee on Representation shall be elected by the Synod as the Moderator of the Committee on Representation for a term of one year.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

- a. The Committee on Representation (COR) shall be the committee responsible for overseeing and implementing the Synod’s process for nominating persons to serve in positions requiring election by the council (G-3.0111).
 1. The COR shall present to the Synod nominations for Moderator and Vice-Moderator as specified above, members at-large of the Synod Council, members-at-large-of the Board of Directors, members at-large of the Standing Committee on Personnel, ~~and for~~ members of certain boards related to the Synod by covenant, and ~~for~~ members of the Permanent Judicial Commission.
 2. The COR shall suggest nominees to the General Assembly Nominating Committee and also shall encourage Presbyteries and Sessions to suggest nominees.
 3. Insofar as possible, the COR shall present all of its nominations to the Synod for election at the final stated meeting. Any vacancies that occur during the year may be filled at any Synod meeting, following nomination by the COR.
- b. The Committee on Representation shall advise the Synod with respect to its membership and to that of its committees, boards, agencies, and other units, in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness in the decision-making of the church.
- c. The Committee on Representation shall advise the Synod on the employment of personnel in accord with the principles of participation and representation and in conformity with the church-wide plan for equal employment opportunity.
- d. The Committee on Representation shall assign two of its members to each Standing Committee in the capacity of ex-officio members. It shall be the responsibility of these members so assigned to assure the principles and practices of participation and representation in the functions of the Standing Committees.
- e. The Committee on Representation shall present an annual written report to the Synod.

G. The Permanent Judicial Commission

The Synod shall have a Permanent Judicial Commission with the prerogatives, powers, duties and modes of procedure set forth in the Rules of Discipline.

1. Membership
 - a) There shall be eleven members of the Commission, consisting of nearly equal number of ruling and teaching elders, with each Presbytery represented. The members shall be placed as equally as possible in three classes whose terms expire at the Annual Meeting of the Synod in odd numbered years.
 - b) The term of office for each member shall be six years, and no member having served a full term may succeed himself or herself.
 - c) Nominations for membership to the Commission shall be made through the Synod Nominating Committee.
2. Duties and Responsibilities
 - a) The Permanent Judicial Commission shall meet as directed by the Synod or, if no direction is given, at such times and places as the Commission may determine.
 - b) The Commission, upon meeting, shall elect from its membership a Moderator, Vice Moderator, and a Recording Clerk.
 - c) A quorum shall be six members.

H. Standing Committee on Leadership Development

1. Membership
 - a) The moderator of Synod shall appoint to this committee approximately half of the Commissioner Members, but not fewer than nine (9). Commissioner members serve for one-year terms, beginning at the Annual Meeting and renewable for a maximum of six (6) years consecutively.
 - b) The Committee on Representation shall appoint two (2) members.
 - c) Staff of the presbyteries shall have voice at any committee meeting.
 - e) The Synod Executive shall be an ex-officio committee member, with voice but not vote.
2. Duties and Responsibilities
 - a) The Standing Committee on Leadership Development shall direct and implement the following Mission Priorities.
 - Youth Leadership Development
 - Training of Key Presbytery Leaders
 - Pastoral Support and Nurture
 - Synod Wide Leadership Events

I. Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration

1. Membership
 - a) The moderator of Synod shall appoint to this committee approximately half of the Commissioner Members, but not fewer than nine (9). Commissioner members serve for one-year terms, beginning at the Annual Meeting and renewable for a maximum of six (6) years consecutively.
 - b) The Committee on Representation shall appoint two (2) members.
 - c) Staff of the presbyteries shall have voice at any committee.

- e) The Synod Executive shall be an ex-officio committee member, with voice but not vote.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

- a) The Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration shall direct and implement the following Mission Priorities.

Mission Funds Development
Connectional Commitments
Communication

- b) The Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration shall direct the planning and arrangements of Synod Meetings.
- c) The Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration shall monitor Synod meeting attendance and participation.
- d) The Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration shall, with the assistance of the Board of Directors, develop, review, and if necessary, revise the Synod budget.
- e) The Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration shall provide oversight for the ecclesiastical functions of the Synod and ensure compliance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

J. Standing Committee on Personnel

1. Membership

- a) 4 commissioners, appointed by the Moderator, whose terms shall be one year.
- b) 4 members at large who are ruling elders or members of churches or teaching elder members of presbyteries in the Synod, whose terms shall be three years, once renewable. The Nominating Committee shall nominate the at-large members for election by the Synod. The terms of the at-large members shall be staggered so that one member's term expires each year and that two members terms expire on the third year of the cycle.
- c) The committee moderator shall be a ruling elder or teaching elder appointed by the Moderator for a one-year term. If the Personnel Committee moderator is not a commissioner, the moderator shall be given privilege of the floor at all Synod meetings.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

- a) The Standing Committee on Personnel shall design and manage all of the Synod's processes for employing and supervising staff.

K. The Board of Directors

The membership and duties and responsibilities of the Board of Directors are defined by the Corporation Bylaws