

# Synod Meeting Summary

October, 2023



**Synod**  
of Lakes &  
Prairies

[www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org)

## Opening Worship

Our worship for this meeting focused us on the amazing reality that our geography includes the Bdote (confluence of rivers) where the Dakota people believe the creation of humans occurred. We heard their stories and concerns about the sacred waters that run through the Synod.

## Budget

The 2024 Synod Budget was approved.

## 2024 Per Capita

The Synod amount will remain at **\$5.50**.

General Assembly amount will be **\$9.80**.

[Frequently asked questions about Per Capita.](#)

## Stewardship Kaleidoscope

The Transforming Communities/Vital Leaders Committee and the Communications Committee became sponsors of the recent Stewardship Kaleidoscope in Minneapolis. Our booth invited people to imagine the future of ministry with us as well as many conversations about what the Synod is and does. Not many Synods are as active as we are!

## Face to Face

In partnering with our presbyteries to help attract good pastoral leaders, the Communications Committee decided to offer a Virtual Face to Face event on November 2 for prospective candidates to meet Pastor Nominating Committees from the Synod. Over a dozen churches are participating.

## Synod School

512 people attended the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Synod School. There were special circumstances this year, namely RAGBRAI, which is short for Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa, that provided challenges and opportunities. Many came a day early to help others arriving in Storm Lake with thousands of bicyclers. Lakeside Presbyterian Church invited Synod Schoolers to join them for worship on Sunday. As ever, everyone rose to the occasion to make it a wonderful week. Keynote speaker, Jimmie Hawkins proclaimed Synod School as "the Wakanda of Iowa." Plans are underway for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, July 21-26, 2024.

## Presbyterian Women in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies

Sit & Sip, join other Presbyterian Women from the Synod for a monthly round table discussion on issues prominent in today's world. Sit & Sip events are held via Zoom on the last Saturday of each month. Register by contacting [Kathleen Keefer](#).

2023 Justice & Peace Discussion Group will meet via Zoom on November 13 at 6:30 pm. (Eastern) to discuss the 2017 movie Wind River. All are welcome, registration is required. [Click here to register.](#)

## Education time

Corey Schlosser-Hall, Presbyterian Mission Agency's Director of Rebuilding and Vision Implementation shared in our educational presentation. He talked about the importance of imagination and ecclesial innovation. He focused his time on the passage from Acts 16:13-14 saying this is a place of imagination, possibility, and innovation in the early church. He encouraged the Synod to think about Where the intersections and connections of relationships are and what the unique contribution of the Synod is to the world which God so loves.

## Restorative Actions

The Afro-American trusts have been approved by the IRS. The trustees will make the first distribution in 2023-2024. The task force is working on setting up the Indigenous trusts. The racial wealth gap is not going away. The task force has a [one page handout](#) about the racial wealth gap which can be used for educational purposes.

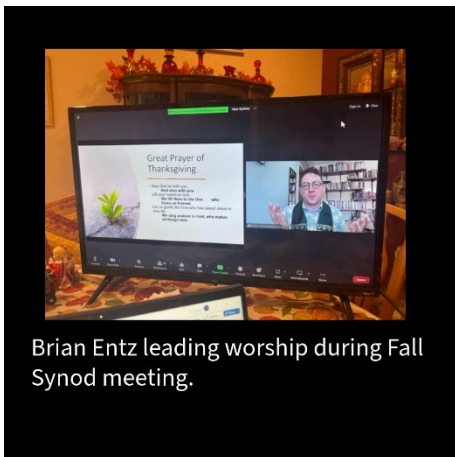
## Strategic Planning

The Synod continued its conversations about priorities for the future, thinking about intersections and connections with people we do not typically serve, as well as what our unique contribution to the world might be. Commissioners were encouraged to “think bigger” about what God’s hopes might be for our next steps.

## Moderator and Vice-Moderator Installed



Jeff Dickinson, Ruling Elder, Presbytery of Missouri River Valley and Lisa Johnson, Teaching Elder, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area were installed as Moderator and Vice-Moderator, respectively.



We thanked outgoing commissioners for their commitment and service to the Synod.

**Sue Medsker**, Central Nebraska Presbytery, Moderator 2022-2023.

**Donna Monteith**, Northern Plains Presbytery, member of the Personnel Committee.

**Janice Palmer**, South Dakota Presbytery, Moderator 2020-2021.

**Brian Entz**, Twin Cities Area Presbytery, Moderator 2021-2022.

**Sue Rutford**, Twin Cities Area Presbytery, Chair of Transforming Communities/Vital Leaders Committee

Commissioners completing their first term were also recognized and thanked.

**Dennis Peterson**, Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys

**Lisa Johnson**, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

**Alan Smith**, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

## Mark your calendars for the 2024 Synod Meetings

April 28-30, in person

October 6 & 7, virtual