

# Assembly Connect

## Presbytery of Chicago Presbytery Assembly | May 21, 2019

Chicago Presbytery commissioners assembled for fellowship, worship, and work on the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

Before we convened as an assembly, we had the opportunity to participate in one of five enrichment workshops, focused on Youth Ministry for the PC(USA) Pentecost Special Offering:

- *Do This One Thing (and Millennials/Gen Z-ers Will Fill the Pews)*, led by Rich Havard, Executive Director and Pastor of the Inclusive Collective
- *Outreach to Youth Experiencing Homelessness*, led by Brooke Thomas and Michelle Thomas, Youth Outreach Professionals at The Night Ministry
- *Urban Youth Mission at Fourth Presbyterian*, led by Katie Patterson, Director of Urban Youth Mission at Chicago Fourth
- *Youth Eco Ambassadors*, led by Karen Williams, Outreach Coordinator at Faith in Place
- *PCUSA's Young Adult Volunteers*, led by Quantisha Mason, YAV Alumna (2013-2014, Korea) and Richard Williams, YAV Program Coordinator (1999-2001, Philippines and Nashville)

Before the meeting began, we shared a reception celebrating the ordination anniversaries of Minister members of the presbytery. Our presbytery currently has 46 pastors who have been ordained for 50 years or longer.

Rev. Sara Dingman, Executive for the Synod of Lincoln Trails, brought greetings and announced a \$75,000 Synod grant for into two leadership development programs for pastors and ruling elders (keep an eye on the Synod's [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates):

- 12 people will be selected to receive scholarships to NEXT Church's [Certificate in Community Organizing and Congregational Leadership](#) program.
- 50 people will receive group and individual coaching over a period of 6 months.

Other items of business approved included:

- We approved the 2019 Changes in Terms of Call for pastors and associate pastors.
- The Presbytery Assembly Moderator and the Commission on Ministry Moderator now have the authority to approve the membership of Administrative Commissions for Ordination and Installation.
- The effective start date for all presbytery commission/committee/work group moderators and members is now January 1 of each year.

Upon the recommendation of the Presbytery Coordinating Commission:

- We established the Salary Supplement for Qualified Congregations program. Congregations who meet a set of predetermined criteria can qualify to receive up to 50% of their pastor's effective salary and

Board of Pensions dues for up to three years. The application for participation in this program is forthcoming – stay tuned!

- The Presbytery of Chicago is now a [Matthew 25 Presbytery](#), committing ourselves to dismantling systemic poverty, dismantling structural racism, and building vital congregations.

Upon the recommendation of the Constitutional Procedures Work Group, the Presbytery:

- Voted “no” on Proposed [Amendment 18-C](#) to the Book of Order, which has already been defeated across the whole PCUSA.
- Approved a new procedure for reviewing church Session minutes and records. Every two years (odd-numbered years for regions 1, 3, 5, and 7; even-numbered years for 2, 4, 6, and 8), Clerks of Session will bring their minutes and review sheet to one of four meetings across the presbytery for peer review. 2019 meetings are tentatively set for the following dates and locations (all Saturdays, from 10:00 to 11:30 AM):
  - ⇒ June 8, 2019: Winnetka Church, Winnetka
  - ⇒ August 10, 2019: Carter-Westminster Church, Skokie
  - ⇒ September 28, 2019: Western Springs Church, Western Springs
  - ⇒ October 12, 2019: Sixth Grace Church, Chicago

Executive Presbyter Sue Krummel led us in three celebrations:

- 12 congregations have grown in membership this past year.
- 104 of our pastors are celebrating milestone ordination anniversaries this year. Sue invited Rev. Daniel Alvarez, who’s celebrating 72 years of ordained ministry, to share some of his wisdom and insight with the assembly.
- 19 inquirers and candidates for ministry are under the care of Chicago Presbytery.

As part of the Nominating Committee’s report:

- We elected new members of the Presbytery Coordinating Commission, Mission Committee, Constitutional Procedures Work Group, and Ecumenical and Interreligious Work Group. A few positions are still vacant - contact the Nominating Committee.
- The Nominating Committee is currently accepting applications for commissioners (4 Ruling Elders, 4 Ministers) to the 224th General Assembly, which will take place June 20-27, 2020 in Baltimore, Maryland. If you’re interested in applying, please email [contactus@chicagopresbytery.org](mailto:contactus@chicagopresbytery.org).

Rev. Joe Morrow, Minister for Evangelism at Chicago Fourth and current Chair of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, shared reflections on Acts 2:1-13 in a sermon entitled “Preaching to the Choir?”.

As part of the Commission on Anti-Racism and Equity’s report:

- Co-Moderators Deborah Paton and Ariel Gloor shared testimonies of their experiences with institutional racism and challenged the assembly to dismantle perspectives and structures that perpetuate inequity.
- Chicago Presbytery will be facilitating another round of anti-racism training soon; stay tuned for details.

As part of the Mission Committee’s Report:

- Co-Moderators Lisa Dagher and Jeff Lehn announced that the committee is putting finishing touches on a common application for mission funding. This will significantly streamline the process at both congregational and presbytery levels; regardless of the kind of funding your congregation is seeking, you’ll only have to fill out one form. (Until this form is finalized, though, please continue to use the old forms.)

- Our attention was drawn to a variety of current funding opportunities:
  - ⇒ \$100,000 is available for *Genesis Grants* (one-time events, initiatives, or workshops), *Incubator Grants* (new mission opportunities over the course of 1-3 years), and *Sustaining Grants* (ongoing productive initiatives past their initial startup period).
  - ⇒ \$30,000 is available to address issues of hunger.
  - ⇒ \$10,000 is available for charitable and religious works.
  - ⇒ \$26,000 is available for peacemaking activities.
  - ⇒ \$97,000 is available for camping and retreat funding.
- The Mission Committee has put certain stipulations on their grant funding:
  - ⇒ Applications must be made by Sessions of congregations.
  - ⇒ Funds are not available for capital improvements.
  - ⇒ Sessions are not allowed to serve as “pass-through” entities for mission grants.
  - ⇒ The Mission Committee understands itself to be a steward of God’s resources; all requests they receive will be considered accordingly.
- Mission funding applications will be due quarterly; the next deadline is July 1.

As part of the Commission on Ministry’s Report:

- We approved the Life Together/Safe Boundaries Policy, a standard of ethical conduct that all members, employees, and volunteers of Chicago Presbytery will be asked to reaffirm yearly. This also includes a revision to our Boundary Training policy: instead of the previous 3- or 5-year rotation, Minister members and presbytery leaders will now be required to undergo annual training. (This year’s training event will take place immediately before our next Presbytery Assembly on Tuesday, September 17.)
- We considered a motion that would establish guidelines (as part of the “minimum standards for Terms of Call for temporary and installed pastoral relationships between churches and Ministers of Word and Sacrament”) for the pastoral work week: full-time would be set at 40 hours, and half-time would be set at 20. After much thoughtful and fruitful discussion on the topic, we referred it back to the Commission on Ministry for further wordsmithing.

As we brought the assembly to a close, we listened as Stated Clerk Ken Hockenberry read the Roll Call of the Saints (our 2018 necrology report) and shared in the sacrament of communion.

Our next Presbytery Assembly will be held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Boundary Training will take place before the Stated Meeting. See you then!

Ken Hockenberry, Stated Clerk  
 Jodi Craiglow, Recording Clerk  
 Dennis Cobb, Communications Specialist