

Please thank your congregation and Presbytery for their support and tell them how our work together furthers the gospel. I hope you will amplify my notes below based on your experience at the April Synod Assembly.

Yours in Christ,
Robert Shaw
Moderator, Synod of Lincoln Trails

Synopsis of the April 2007 Meeting of the Synod of Lincoln Trails

1. The Stated Clerk outlined complex situation within the Presbytery of Mid-West Hanmi. A task force was formed to assist the Presbytery. The Synod will keep the Presbytery of Mid-West Hanmi, their Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk Heahwan Rim, and its congregations in prayer. Commissioners will take turns praying with their congregation for this Presbytery each week.
2. Worship was woven throughout the meeting with Joan Richardson reminding the Synod to intentionally include a broad representation of the diversity of people.

Standing Committee on Leadership Development

1. 24 Hours for Energizing the Exhausted Leader are well appreciated, but lightly attended.
2. 42 teenagers attended Youth Fest 2007
3. Interim Training going well. Next session fully enrolled with a waiting list.
4. New Pastors Group #19 to meet in fall. Two groups (#9 & #15) continuing to meet at their own expense.
5. The Committee will consider applications for Biblical Literacy and Prophetic Action Grants at the next Synod assembly.
6. Approved combining the Balcom Fund with an existing Native American poverty fund administered by the Presbyterian Foundation. The existing fund is consistent with Mrs. Balcom's intent.

Standing Committee on Mission Coordination and Administration

1. Formed a Subcommittee to prepare a budget for 2007 including reviewing and setting per capita.
2. Received a report from the Subcommittee on Congregational Development. The Subcommittee approved a church transformation grant for consideration by the GA MDRC.
3. The moderator intends to visit each presbytery to talk about our mission together. He visited the Presbytery of Ohio Valley in March. Five more presbyteries are currently scheduled.
4. The July Synod meeting will highlight collaboration. The October meeting will highlight leadership development.
5. In 2008 the Synod will meet on: Saturday January 26th, Friday April 18th, Saturday July 19th, and Friday October 17th.
6. The Synod will assist Presbyteries and congregations with airing messages of hope on all NPR stations in Indiana and Illinois, 24 hours of every day from Labor Day until Advent.
7. Please ask your Presbytery to add their e-mail list to the distribution list for the Synod's biweekly newsletter.
8. The Synod will form a Self Development of People committee. This committee will help with grant applications within the Synod.

Please thank your congregation and your presbytery for contributing to Basic Mission Support. Their dollars support training events, New Church Development, and several other worthwhile programs. And thank them for paying the per capita assessment which funds our meetings and other essential ecclesiastical functions.

A narrative budget is available at: <http://www.lincolntrails.org/budget.asp>.