

Synod Assembly Takes Action on Requests from Pittsburgh Presbytery

During its recent Assembly, the Synod of the Trinity worshiped and prayed together, acted on important business, shared information and reports, and had times of fellowship and celebration. Our own Ruling Elder Lenore Williams, a member of East Liberty Presbyterian Church and the co-chair of our Executive Committee, joined the Assembly to help lead worship on Monday morning.

The Synod took up two requests from Pittsburgh Presbytery with positive votes on both. The Assembly endorsed the Driving Pennsylvania Forward campaign (<https://drivingpafoward.org>) that Pittsburgh Presbytery endorsed at its December 2021 meeting and adopted the document “Citizens’ Right to Vote: A Call to Action,” available [here](#), which was approved by Pittsburgh Presbytery at its May 2022 meeting.

In other business, the Assembly endorsed a plan for a task force to explore the concept of Restorative Justice in the Synod and approved the 2024 Synod portion of *per capita* to remain at \$2.40 for the fifth consecutive year.

The Assembly installed its new Executive, Rev. Forrest Claassen, celebrated the ministry of its retiring Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Wayne Yost, who will end his service at year end, and elected a new Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson.

The portion of the program devoted to “getting to know our presbyteries” included eleven in-person and recorded video presentations enabled presbyteries and congregations to share some unique ministries and best practices that can easily be shared in other parts of the region. Among the presentations were two from Pittsburgh Presbytery:

Aspinwall Presbyterian Church’s “Stand for Good” lemonade stand project which provides equipment for members and others to operate a lemonade stand after worship to raise funds for approved causes and provide a fellowship opportunity for the congregation and community.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh’s partnership with local agencies to have “senior interns” at the church who provide programs for the community.

Giving opportunities for those in attendance were the collection of funds for natural disaster relief through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance during the worship service and the collection of requested items, gift cards, or monetary donations for Goodies for Our Troops throughout the Assembly.