

General Assembly Approves Administrative Commission for Synod of the Covenant

On Wednesday night, June 20, 2018, the PC (U.S.A.) General Assembly meeting in St. Louis overwhelmingly approved creating an Administrative Commission to help deal with disorder in the Synod of the Covenant.

This action was a result of an Overture from the Presbytery of Cincinnati in which the Presbytery of the Miami Valley and three other presbyteries in our Synod concurred. The authority given to the new Administrative Commission is to look into the reasons for the discord between the Synod and its presbyteries and help find ways to resolve them. The Commission may engage mediation resources if needed, and may also take original jurisdiction of the Synod if warranted.

The final vote of the General Assembly was 514-6 in favor of setting up the Commission.

Our presbytery's Overture Advocate, Marvella Lambright of Dayton: College Hill Community Church, along with other Advocates testified on Monday before the Assembly's Mid Councils Committee that initially considered the request for the Commission. The committee voted 53-0 to send the request to the Assembly floor, and decided to craft its own proposal for the Commission's responsibilities rather than simply agreeing with either the Cincinnati Overture or the Synod's Overture opposing the creation of a Commission. In the end what the Assembly approved is a clear recognition of the concerns our presbytery and others brought, and the Commission is well-structured to assist in the time ahead.

This is an important step, but only the first one. Much work remains to be done to make our Synod a healthier council with better communication and processes, and to foster an atmosphere of respect, healing and reconciliation. We ask for your prayers and support as this necessary journey continues.

More details on the General Assembly action are at pc-biz.org, under Item 05-03 in the Mid Councils Committee list of actions, <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000007/business>. For background on the underlying issues at the Synod, see the minutes of our presbytery's March special meeting, at http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pdf/pmv_minutes/2018/PMV-Meeting-Minutes-Special-03-27-18.pdf.