



Join Us On A Journey

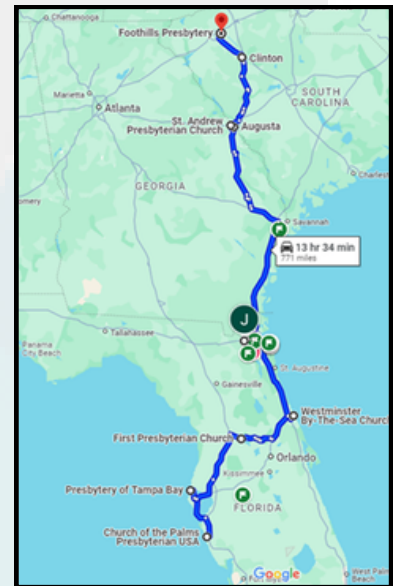
A Report to the 227th General Assembly

To appreciate the mission and ministry of the Synod of South Atlantic in 2026, it is important to understand that our current path began with a Visioning Task Force in 2023. Our report to the 226th General Assembly, found [here](#), represents the work midway through a process.

In late 2024, as the Visioning Task Force prepared to present their final report to the synod, our region was struck by Hurricane Helene. With 2/3 of the region impacted by this storm, the synod elected to postpone the October Assembly and instead, hold an online prayer service.

We were joined by Rev. Jim Kirk and others from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Rev. CeCe Armstrong, Co-moderator of the 226th General Assembly, and Rev. Byron Wade, General Presbyter for Presbytery of Western North Carolina, and about 100 others. We heard updates on recovery efforts, learned how we could assist, and prayed for all of those impacted.

At the re-scheduled Synod Assembly, the Visioning Task Force presented their final report that took shape after hundreds of hours of interviews, partner conversations, and town halls. Ultimately, the new vision, which included new priorities, structure, and manual of operations was approved and implementation began with the 2025 new year.



Implementation of our new structure and the launch into this new “Journey” was kicked-off at an in-person Journey event entitled “Setting Out Together”, based on Luke 24:13-35.

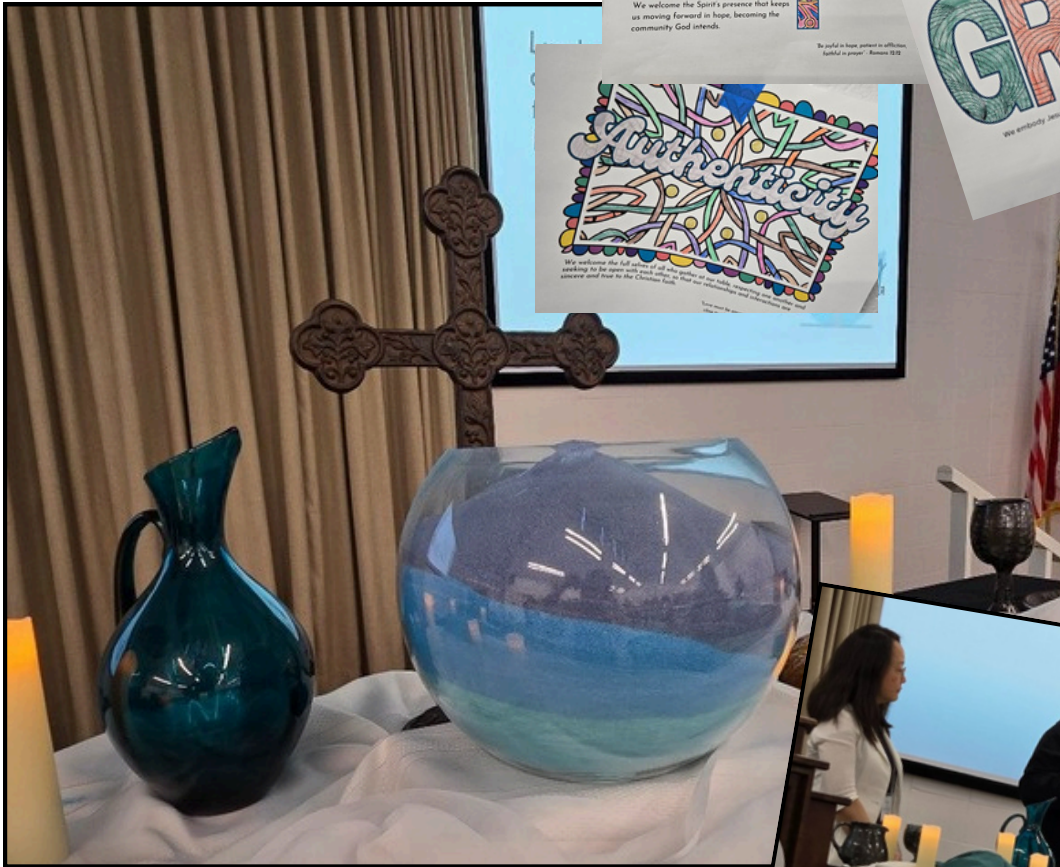
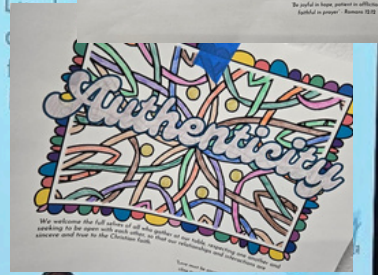
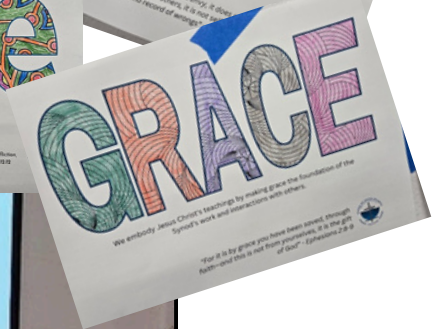
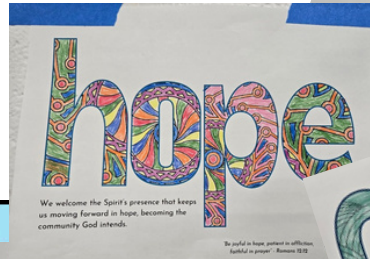


Our Journey Statement:

*The Synod of South Atlantic, PC(U.S.A.) **embodies** the grace and love of Jesus Christ, **cultivates** authentic community within and across presbyteries, and **inspires** impactful ministry, developing leaders so that the Church becomes united in faith hope, love, witness, and service.*

Journey

SETTING OUT TOGETHER
Luke 24:13-35



Embody

Investing in and Developing Leaders:

Each year, a new cohort is developed that includes first-year synod commissioners. The cohort takes part in formative education not necessarily specific to PCUSA. The type of education and development that encourages self-awareness, empathy, and builds capacity for deeper service.



Participants learn to:

- Cultivate embodied leadership presence through somatic awareness and spiritual grounding
- Practice humble inquiry and curiosity as tools for transformation
- Develop emotional literacy and confidence in navigating strong emotions and conflict
- Explore their personal power dynamics and leadership edges
- Engage in reflective practices that support growth in real-time leadership challenges



Left: 2025 ELF Cohort



Right: 2026 ELF Cohort

Cohort members cultivate authentic community and come away with valuable education, helpful in contexts well beyond the synod, and better equipped for their congregations and presbyteries.

The 2026 Cohort is facilitated by Loaves & Fishes Coach Training, with Rev. Laurie Ferguson, Ph.D., PCC and Rev. Chip Low, PCC, ACTC.

Enrollees commit to attending an opening in-person retreat, followed by six (6) monthly zoom sessions.

All course costs, accommodations, travel, etc. are paid by the Synod of South Atlantic and presbyteries.



Cultivate

Building Relationships through Networks

Cultivating the formation and growth of Synod Networks, which are open, collaborative groups, centered on a shared interest, purpose, mission, or ministry, that build relationships and connections across the Synod.

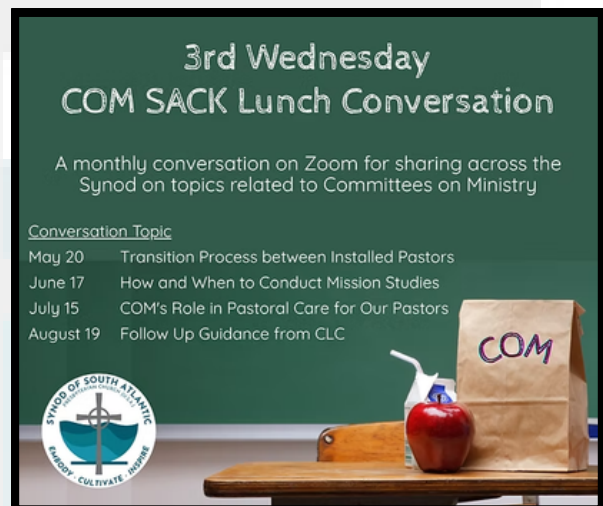
New seedling networks include:

- Transitional Ministry Cooperative
- Committee on Ministry Network



1st Wednesday
SACK Lunch Conversation
(South Atlantic Community Knowledge)
A monthly Zoom for sharing across the Synod!



Conversation Topic
May 6 - Retired Church Professionals
June 3 - Earthcare
July 1 - Youth Ministry
August 5 - Grant Writing



3rd Wednesday
COM SACK Lunch Conversation

A monthly conversation on Zoom for sharing across the Synod on topics related to Committees on Ministry

Conversation Topic
May 20 Transition Process between Installed Pastors
June 17 How and When to Conduct Mission Studies
July 15 COM's Role in Pastoral Care for Our Pastors
August 19 Follow Up Guidance from CLC



Ongoing networks include:

- African American Ministries
- Korean Ministries
- Hispanic/Latinx Ministries

The work of the Cultivate Committee includes the intentional invitation to our Ministry Partners with whom we share a covenant. These partners are invited in to share their ministries and gifts with the synod as we work to build even deeper relationships across the region.



Inspire

Supporting Impactful Ministry



Using the synod's resources to develop and support impactful ministry through the expansion of our grants & scholarships offerings.

In 2025 the Inspire Committee awarded over \$31,000 in theological and higher education scholarships and over \$43,000 in grants to congregations.

In 2025 the synod received over \$688,000 in grant requests. Recognizing that the needs of our congregations is great, the synod is committed to making funds available whenever possible.

We have added a grant category in 2026 for Youth & Young Adult projects/programs.



Melina Presbyterian Church, Gable, SC
Youth Empowerment Program,
New Harmony Presbytery

Providing safe, structured, and meaningful opportunities for young people to grow spiritually, academically, and socially. Fostering mentorship, leadership, and service to inspire youth to develop strong moral character and life skills that will carry them into adulthood.



First Presbyterian Church, Milton, FL
Elmira's Place
Presbytery of Florida

Transformation of a fellowship hall dedicated to bringing Christ's healing to people, communities, and environments through art, nature, prayer and support. A place where healing ministries are housed, workshops, classes, events, and groups gather for deeper friendships, healthier minds and bodies, inclusion and belonging, for those searching for support.

