

# SoMA 2017 Missional Priorities

**WHEREAS** the Synod Assembly understands itself to be the trustees of the SoMA's mission, and  
**WHEREAS** the Synod stakeholders consistently communicate a desire to see the SoMA focus more of its finances and operations in support of presbyteries and their leaders, and  
**WHEREAS**, the Synod of Mid-America (SoMA) understands each of its Missional Priorities (Standing Rules, "Missional Priorities") to be equally important as it supports its presbyteries and shepherds the life and mission of the church throughout the region, and  
**WHEREAS** the Synod Assembly recognizes its responsibility to provide the Executive with fiscal and operational guidance,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Missional Priorities be ranked as follows during 2017:

1. That the following persons or groups receive access to continuing education and support specific to their needs at a cost comparable to other continuing education offerings, and that they be given assistance and support in educating the church on matters of Presbyterian theology and polity:
  - a. Teaching Elders serving within the first 5 years of congregational ministry
  - b. Ruling Elders commissioned to particular service
  - c. Presbytery Moderators
  - d. Ruling Elders
2. That the whole church receive the benefits of the continuing education and support offered to the SoMA's teaching elders, ruling elders commissioned to particular service, Presbytery Moderators, and ruling elders through various educational offerings at a cost comparable to other offerings.
3. That women and men of color be extended opportunities to obtain executive leadership experience and credentials through employment and education at no financial cost to them.
4. That presbytery executive leadership (Executive/General Presbyters or their equivalent) be provided with an ongoing space of community support and vocational creativity with their peers at no cost to them or their presbyteries.
5. That presbytery Stated Clerks be provided with a space of community support with their peers at no cost to them or their presbyteries.
6. That cross presbytery initiatives be encouraged and supported financially, promotionally, and/or through participation in planning and implementation.
7. That partnerships with the other synods of the PC(USA) be strengthened due to the SoMA's leadership and initiative.
8. That persons and groups identified as the intended beneficiaries of SoMA designated funds are afforded access to said funds according to a timely and clear process.
9. That covenanted mission partners be supported financially and/or through board participation.