

SoMA 2018 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 2018:

1. That Ruling Elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament receive access to practical and theological continuing education at a cost comparable to other offerings.
2. That women and men of color be extended opportunities to obtain executive leadership experience or education at no financial cost to them.
3. That presbyteries and their elected leadership be resourced and directly supported through (but not limited to) advise, funding, training and equipping, consultation, mediation, process support, and leadership gatherings.
4. That cross presbytery initiatives be encouraged and supported financially, promotionally, and/or through participation in planning and implementation.
5. 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.