



Maggie Gillespie says that in her ordination vows, she accepted a responsibility to serve the church beyond the bounds of the particular congregation. She has served previously at the presbytery and synod levels, and says, "I believe firmly that the Holy Spirit is active in all our corporate proceedings when we faithfully engage in discernment together."

Her particular call to serve as vice moderator comes from her love for and commitment to the Presbyterian form of government, her desire to be an active colleague in ministry, and her gifts for discernment.

Maggie feels that a major issue for our denomination is how to better understand and live into the shape of things to come, in the face of voices that say the church is dying. "While I am certain that the church is not dying, I am not sure what the church will look like in the future," she says. Maggie has found it meaningful to lead the session of the church she serves—**Faith Presbyterian Church** in Huber Heights—in more clearly discerning and articulating its own purpose, work that's been done through retreats, focus groups, and a sermon series, among other tools.

Maggie has served on this presbytery's Leadership Council, on an Administrative Commission, on the Stated Clerk search committee, and most recently as chair of the Transition Visioning Team. In her prior presbytery and synod in Pennsylvania, she was active in worship and nurture and a campus ministry task force. Maggie also served five years (two as moderator) on the denomination-wide committee that manages the ordination examinations for candidates for ministry.



Quick Response

Scan this image using your mobile phone's Quick Response (QR) reader to be directed to the PMV website to access the links in this newsletter.

Meet our new Moderator and Vice Moderator

At its May 9 meeting, Presbytery of the Miami Valley elected and installed Ruling Elder Cheryl "Gidget" Collins as Moderator and Teaching Elder Maggie Gillespie as Vice Moderator of presbytery for 2017-18.



Gidget Collins is a patriotic American who grew up military and married military which gave her many opportunities to meet new people in different places and cultures. Throughout many military assignments she and her husband **Bob** taught Sunday School. Gidget has also volunteered as a tutor with elementary school children for decades, served on many OWC boards, participated in numerous Red Cross functions, and was involved in various activities such as being a Girl Scout Leader, Special Olympics coach, Thumbody Program coordinator, and cheerleading coach.

Gidget has served as the Clerk of Session at **Bath Presbyterian Church**, Dayton, since 2007 and says it has felt like a call. After many military moves there is a sense of belonging as a member of the Bath Church family. Her work as clerk and at Presbytery level feeds her soul. Gidget served six years on the Network Support Committee, including one year as chair. She also serves on Leadership Council, is liaison to the Kirkmont Center Board, has served on several Administrative Commissions to ordain or install pastors, served on the search committee to find our Stated Clerk, and served as Commissioner to the 222nd General Assembly last June.

Gidget graduated Magna Cum Laude from Wright State University in 2002 with a degree in psychology. Her education in that subject comes in handy with her six grandchildren who keep her busy, fulfilled, and truly blessed.

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Presbytery-wide Monthly Scripture Focus



As part of our covenant together we are asking all committees, sessions, Networks, PW groups, bible study groups, and all churches in the Presbytery to participate in a scripture focus each month between now and next April. The scripture themes are based on the Gospel of John's "I Am" verses and on the "O Antiphons" names of Christ.

There is flexibility in how this is used. It is adaptable and can be melded to suit each group. This is us going to a spiritual place together as a gathered group, and as a Presbytery. Scriptures follow a thematic approach that goes along with the seasons of our Presbyterian calendar, and will be an opportunity for us all to move forward in the coming time of transition. In times of change, Jesus holds us together.

- ▶ Get the Monthly Scripture Focus for 2017-18 at <http://tinyurl.com/ScriptureFocus>

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE Annual meeting expands team's knowledge of disaster ministries and response



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The annual meeting of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) was recently held in Atlanta, GA. Members of the volunteer National Response Team (NRT) and National Volunteer Team gathered to expand the team's knowledge of disaster ministries and response.

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE PDA members receive training throughout the year in areas such as natural and human-caused disasters, emotional and spiritual care, church damage, post-disaster volunteer work force housing, long-term community rebuilding, and refugee and immigration in disaster response.

PDA enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. The organization gratefully receives support through your One Great Hour of Sharing donations.

PDA is made up of 102 clergy and lay members representing 34 states and

Puerto Rico. In 2016, national volunteers spent approximately 2,377 days in 62 presbyteries in response to church damage, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, storms, human caused disasters and in the refugee ministry.

Local NRT member is available to speak at PMV churches



Sally Dyer, a member of **Westminster Presbyterian Church**, Dayton, has been part of the National Response Team of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance since 2011. She is available to visit churches in our presbytery to speak about PDA and what it does, as well as to share information about disaster preparation for churches. For more information, email Sally Dyer at

sbdyer@gmail.com or call her at 937-623-7953.

Synod of the Covenant Grants and Scholarships



Scholarships for Racial Ethnic College Students:

For college, university and seminary students who are minority persons, members of a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation within the bounds of the Synod of the Covenant, and in good academic standing. Scholarships are for one year, may apply for a second year, demonstrated financial need. **Apply by September 1.**

New Covenant Grants: One-time grants in amounts up to \$10,000 are available to congregations, institutions and organizations within the bounds of the synod that have formal established ties to the synod. Projects must fit within the three mission priorities of the synod: Church Transformation and Development, Multicultural and Justice Ministries, Ministries in Higher Education. **Apply by October 1.**

Program Grants for Racial Ethnic Congregations: For racial ethnic and multicultural Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations within the bounds of the Synod of the Covenant. Grants are for one year, may apply for a second year, demonstrated financial need. Ordinarily, grants do not exceed \$3000. **Apply by October 1.**

Peacemaking Scholarships: Available to assist those attending specific peacemaking events or trainings that would help further the cause of peacemaking or justice within the Synod of the Covenant. The scholarship is for up to \$500.

- ▶ Learn more and apply at <http://synodofthecovenant.org/filing-cabinet>.