

Informal Summary of Major Actions
Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley
Saturday, February 9, 2019, 9:00 am starting time
at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton (Centerville), OH

Documents for this meeting are at http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pmv_presby_docs.htm. Page numbers below from pp. 1 to 50 are in the February advance packet; pp. 51 and higher are in the supplemental packet.

Our **Vice Moderator, Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders**, presided at this February 2019 meeting. We prayed for our Moderator, Teaching Elder Kelley Shin, who recently underwent surgery and is recovering.

Consent Agenda—The presbytery approved an extensive Consent Agenda with most of the day’s business:

1. From the Stated Clerk: Approved Nov. 10, 2018 stated meeting minutes, and minutes of the Administrative Commission to ordain Candidate Anne Fyffe on Nov. 18, 2018 (pp. 12, 18-28).
2. From the Leadership Council: Approved the Lord’s Supper at 2019 presbytery youth events; voted yes on eight of the 10 proposed Book of Order amendments sent from the 223rd General Assembly (see more below on the other two amendments in the Leadership Council report), and approved the voting process for the remaining amendments; approved a Bylaws amendment for Tuesday stated meeting start times; approved a process to temporarily waive balance requirements on presbytery committees; approved minor changes to the Staff Support staff family leave policies; and approved clarifying Network Support & Grants Committee authority to allocate presbytery funds (pp. 13-17).
3. From the Committee on Ministry: Approved creation of a committee Vice Chair position (p. 17).

From the Nominations Committee—

1. Approved a motion to elect members to presbytery committees and commissions and to Synod positions (p. 29). Reminded presbyters that class of 2019 committee terms end in May and requested suggestions for nominees.

From Leadership Council—

1. In 10 small groups, presbyters and guests **reflected on the presbytery’s mission** by filling out a checklist of ways their churches have benefited from the presbytery’s support, and then discussing four questions about the presbytery’s life: A. How many boxes did you check on the checklist? B. How does being part of our presbytery connect you and your church to the body of Christ? C. What types of support the presbytery offers are most important to you? D. Is there additional support you would like to see the presbytery offer? (p. 30). The checklist is now on the presbytery web site Clerk’s Corner at the top, for session use: http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pmv_clerks_corner.htm.
2. Presbytery by ballot and appointed teller count **voted in the negative on the two remaining proposed Book of Order amendments** sent to presbyteries from the 223rd General Assembly for presbytery votes (for other amendment votes, see Consent Agenda above). Presbytery voted no on Amendment 18-B.1 by a 15-57 margin; and no on Amendment 18-C by a 35-37 margin (pp. 10, 30). Those votes have now been reported to the Office of the General Assembly.
3. Continued the **Monthly Hymn Focus** for 2018-2019 by singing “I Come with Joy” and engaging small group conversations on questions related to our experiences of the Lord’s Supper. (p. 30)
4. Received a final summary of churches’ **2018 payments for presbytery Connectional Support and for General Assembly and Synod per capita**. Council expressed gratitude for this generous support, but noted that church payments fell a total of more than \$50,000 below 2018 budgeted amounts for these three payment categories, requiring unexpected presbytery reserve drawdowns. (pp. 30-34).

5. Received information on **Network Support & Grants Committee 2019 allocations** to Networks (p. 35).
6. Urged presbyters to attend the Aug. 1-3, 2019 **Big Tent** event in Baltimore, MD, for worship, Bible study, learning, networking, and service opportunities (p. 36).
7. Heard of host Southminster Church's plans to designate today's **Hunger Offering** for Food2Go, which provides food on weekends for Centerville children in need, and to continue the "**Mission At Every Meeting**" initiative under which presbyters bring items for the host church's outreach ministries, in this case aiding Brigid's Path, which provides in-patient care for drug-exposed newborns (p. 3).

From the Committee on Ministry—

1. **Welcomed two new pastors**—Said hello to and prayed for Teaching Elder Marc van Bulck (associate pastor for family and campus ministries at Oxford) and Teaching Elder Steve Merrin (pastor at Bellefontaine) (pp. 6-7).
2. **Remembering Teaching Elder Ray Stewart**—Marge Morgan offered a memorial remembrance and tribute, with prayer, for Teaching Elder Ray Stewart, former COM chair and very faithful presbyter, who died Nov. 17, 2018 (p. 7).
3. **Information and Installation Service**—With no action items, COM presented information items and encouraged all presbyters to attend the **installation service for Teaching Elder Frank Rupnik as pastor at Troy: First** on Sunday, February 24, at 4:00 p.m.

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry—

1. Presbytery approved by the required 3/4 vote by show of hands a **new CPM policy for transferring a minister membership from another denomination that is not in full communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA)** (pp. 42-43). The committee also presented information items (p. 44).

Other matters—The presbytery...

- Welcomed **first-time Ruling Elders**, passed the peace, and spoke a portion of **the Presbytery Covenant**.
- Welcomed and seated **Synod executive Raafat Zaki** as a corresponding member, and approved eight excuses from Teaching Elders for today's meeting.
- Heard a report from **Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk** reflecting on the many ways our work today and every day shows how we connect with others within our presbytery and synod in covenantal relationship and in love.
- Heard a report from the **Vice Moderator** on his earlier-than-expected embarking on Moderator duties and earlier receiving helpful General Assembly training and experience in his role. He also lifted up Kelley Shin's **written Moderator's Report** to presbytery (p. 52).
- Received information from the **Stated Clerk** about several things: **a process explanation and an oral outline of the two amendments to the Book of Order** that Council brought for a vote; deep gratitude to clerks of session and others for good work on the **statistical and other annual reporting** now underway; notice of the conclusion of **Disciplinary Case 2018-01** with no charges filed; the final report on the **2017 Session Records Review** (p. 11); and thanks for presbytery support for the Clerk's recent **travel to Bogotá, Colombia** for discussions on the presbytery's Colombia partnership, including prayers for peace and justice in Venezuela (pp. 8-9; 51-52).
- Experienced the Word proclaimed by Teaching Elder **Brad Dardaganian**, preaching on 1 Corinthians 2:6-13, and on the theme "*What No Eye Has Seen.*"
- Shared the Lord's Table, led by **Teaching Elders Sue Hamilton and Karen Cassedy**.
- Heard the **Word expressed through beautiful music** from organist Jim Pera, guitarist Art Nitsch and flutist Karen Nitsch, and members of the Southminster Sanctuary Choir, directed by Ruth Mappes.

- Enjoyed fellowship at a delicious lunch provided by the friendly and well-organized people at **Southminster Presbyterian Church**. We all felt warmly greeted and well-cared for all day. Thank you, Southminster!

UPCOMING STATED PRESBYTERY MEETINGS—

Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., at Wilmington

Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., at Eaton: First

Saturday, November 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., at Piqua: Westminster

Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., at Springfield: Covenant

Prepared by Stated Clerk Larry Hollar, February 15, 2019

(Formal and official minutes of this February meeting will be reviewed and approved at the May 2019 stated presbytery meeting.)