

Informal Summary of Major Actions
Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley
February 10, 2018

at Xenia: Memorial United Presbyterian Church, Xenia, OH

Documents for this meeting are at http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pmv_presby_docs.htm. Page numbers below from pp. 1 to 43 are in the February advance packet; pp. 44 and higher in the supplemental packet.

Moderator **Gidget Collins** presided at the February 2018 meeting.

Consent Agenda--

1. Approved November 11, 2017 stated meeting and January 16, 2018 special meeting minutes, and minutes of the Administrative Commission to install Teaching Elder Todd Allen as pastor at Piqua: Westminster Presbyterian Church on January 14, 2018 (pp. 8-21). Also approved serving the Lord's Supper at Presbyterian Youth Connection events this year.

From Leadership Council—

1. Approved an experiment to **move the starting times of the May and September 2018 stated presbytery meetings to 3:00 p.m.** rather than 4:00 p.m. as the Bylaws require, and then assess the experiment and potentially other ways to enhance attendance at the entire Tuesday stated meetings (p. 22). Presbyters were encouraged to plan to stay for the entire meetings, regardless of length.
2. Approved the summary letter of the presbytery's **2016 financial review**, and thanked presbytery staff Joyce Routzohn and Martha Keil for their work in achieving the favorable review results (p. 23).
3. Received a report from the **Executive Presbyter Search Committee** (p. 44), addressing questions raised at the Jan. 16 special meeting about its process.
4. Continued the **Monthly Scripture Focus** with small group conversations on the February passage and questions, and encouraged continued use of the monthly theme in committees, sessions, Networks, groups and churches <http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pdf/council/Scripture-Focus-2017-18.pdf>. Chair Kelley Shin invited evaluations of the year-long focus and creative ideas for next steps.
5. Heard a report from the Network Support and Grants Committee summarizing **the exciting ministries of our presbytery's Networks**.
6. Received a final summary of **churches' 2017 financial payments** for Presbytery Connectional Support and Synod and General Assembly per capita (pp. 29-34). Teaching Elder Ken Locke thanked churches for their strong efforts to meet their assessed amounts, and offered perspectives on church financial support, including a willingness to hear from churches about the challenges they face in providing that covenantal support.
7. Noted the **departure covenant** for former Executive Presbyter Dennis Piermont, as an example of everyone working together to helpfully clarify boundaries after ministries end (pp. 25-28).

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry—

1. Expressed joy at certifying Candidate **Anne Fyffe** as ready to be ordained pending a call. Noted CPM's increasing role in overseeing the preparation process for Certified Christian Educators and the committee's plan to engage churches more fully in discerning people who are hearing a call to ministry (pp. 35).

From the Committee on Ministry—

1. Approved granting the status of **Honorably Retired** to Teaching Elder **Raymond Stewart**, effective January 15, and celebrated Ray's faithful work as a pastor and COM member and chair (p. 35).
2. Welcomed Teaching Elders **Jeri Baker and Beau Brown (he was excused to enjoy caring for his children today)**. They are now serving as pastors at Monroe and Urbana respectively (p. 5). Beau will be installed Sunday, Feb. 18 at 4:00 p.m.; Jeri on Saturday, April 14, at 11:00 a.m. Nancy Birdsong's installation at Southminster will be Sunday, Feb. 25, at 4:00 p.m.
3. Updated plans for **Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training** for all Teaching Elders and other presbytery leaders, occurring five times in 2018, some around upcoming stated presbytery meetings (pp. 39-41).
4. Provided survey results on a **church staff salaries survey** to help churches of varying sizes assess salaries and hours for a variety of staff positions they may consider (pp. 45-46, 50-52).
5. Urged churches to send key people to the **Board of Pensions' Benefits Connections** events (pp. 42-43) and take part in a Feb. 21 One Great Hour of Sharing webinar (see presbytery web site soon for details).

Other matters—

- The Moderator made the **introduction of eight first-time Ruling Elders** more welcoming and intentional, encouraging others to greet them as we passed the peace early in the meeting.
- Learned from Moderator **Gidget Collins** of the surprising ways the Spirit enters her days, offering opportunities to show the love of God in unexpected moments and places.
- Heard a reminder from the Stated Clerk about the **March 3 annual minutes review and training** for clerks of session, and the **223rd General Assembly overview session** with Tom Hay of the GA staff on April 19. He also expressed thanks for good work in churches' preparing annual statistical reports.
- Experienced the Word proclaimed by Teaching Elder **Emily Haddox**, preaching on 2 Kings 5:1-17, on the theme "You still have to wash."
- Shared the Lord's Table, led by Teaching Elders **Jacqueline Nowak and Steven Ingram**.
- Heard the **Word expressed through music** from pianist Jennifer Conn, and the Memorial Bell Choir and the Memorial Chancel Choir.
- Enjoyed fellowship at a delicious, warming lunch provided by the wonderful people at the **Xenia: Memorial United Presbyterian Church**. Thank you, Memorial friends, for hosting us so lovingly!

UPCOMING STATED PRESBYTERY MEETINGS—

Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at **3:00 p.m. (note new time)**, at Huber Heights: Faith United

Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at **3:00 p.m. (note new time)**, at Oxford

Saturday, November 10, 2018, at 9:00 a.m., at Dayton: Central

Prepared by Stated Clerk Larry Hollar, February 12, 2018

(Formal and official minutes of this February meeting will be reviewed and approved at the May 2018 stated presbytery meeting.)