

Informal Summary of Major Actions
Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley
Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 3:00 pm starting time
at Presbyterian Church of Wilmington, Wilmington, OH

Documents for this meeting are at http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pmv_presby_docs.htm. Page numbers below from pp. 1 to 57 are in the May advance packet; pp. 58 and higher are in the supplemental packet.

Our Moderator, Teaching Elder Kelley Shin, presided at this May 2019 meeting. Kelley gave thanks in her report for the support of Vice Moderator Bruce Saunders and many others as she recovered from breast cancer surgery, and expressed gratitude for the chance both to serve as Moderator at installation services and meetings over the past year and to work with presbytery staff.

Consent Agenda—The presbytery approved a Consent Agenda with most of the day's business (pp. 12-13):

1. **From the Stated Clerk:** Approved Feb. 9, 2019 stated meeting minutes, and minutes of the Administrative Commissions to install Teaching Elders Frank Rupnik at Troy: First, Marc van Bulck at Oxford, and Steve Merrin at Bellefontaine: First United. Also received the 2018 presbytery statistical report (pp. 14-31).
2. **From the Leadership Council:** Approved a revision to the structure of the presbytery's Committee on Representation and Diversity, with the goal that the committee perform the tasks required under the Book of Order's G-3.0103 to ensure inclusiveness and openness in participation in presbytery activities (pp. 32-35); and approved asking Leadership Council to prepare and implement a plan to redress the imbalance requiring three additional Ruling Elders to Teaching Elders for 2019-2020 (pp. 36-37).

From the Nominations Committee—

1. Approved a motion to elect as **presbytery officers** for 2019-2020: **Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders as Moderator, Ruling Elder Alice McCollum as Vice Moderator; and Ruling Elder Don Niece as Leadership Council chair** (pp. 66-68). Also elected members and chairs of presbytery committees and commissions and to Synod positions (pp. 68-69). Reminded presbyters that some slots remain to be filled and requested suggestions for nominees.

From Leadership Council—

1. **Welcomed 11 former presbytery moderators** who served during the last 40 years, and who today took part in the installation service for the new moderator and other officers. Former moderators present included David Fleming, David Hawley, Jackie Nowak, Nancy Peterson, Julie Preisser, Tom Milligan, Marge Morgan, John Mauntler, Larry Hollar, Brian Maguire and Gidget Collins (p. 62). Other former moderators who could not attend sent warm wishes to the presbytery. The installation service for officers included the exchange of gifts and thanks for the service of those leaving and entering office.
2. **Commissioned a delegation of the youth and the adult leaders who will attend the 2019 Youth Triennium** at Purdue University, July 16-20, 2019 (p. 45).
3. Heard encouraging words from **Jim Sexstone, the new executive director of Kirkmont Center, Inc.**, who is looking forward to new connections for the camp, to programs for adults as well as young people, and an exciting summer program (p. 70).
4. Initiated a new **Monthly Foundations Focus** for 2019-2020 in small groups by discussing God's Mission as described in F-1.01 of the Book of Order, and answering two questions. This type of focus will continue each month through April 2020 as we explore the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity section

of the Book of Order in churches, groups, personal devotion, and as a presbytery. The entire year-long focus is on pp. 71-78, and will soon be on the presbytery web site.

5. Heard from Ruling Elder Marvella Lambright, Synod Commissioner, on the **March 2019 Synod Retreat and Assembly**, and also received written reports on that important gathering from Commissioner Diane Ziegler and Young Adult Commissioner Emily Knoth (pp. 46-47). Also noted the appointment of and beginning of work by the Administrative Commission tasked to deal with disorder at the Synod (p. 7).
6. Urged congregations to **consider becoming Matthew 25 churches**, to claim our common identity to do mission and exemplify God's love, justice and mercy (p. 79).
7. Received a report of churches' **2019 payments for presbytery Connectional Support through April 2019**. Council expressed gratitude for this generous support and encouraged churches to continue full payments though the year to support the presbytery's covenantal mission (p. 80).
8. Heard from Ruling Elder Jim Gillette of host Wilmington's Church's designation of today's **Hunger Offering** for Sugartree Ministries food pantry that operates Our Father's Kitchen, serving meals to 100-200 families a week as well as providing groceries. The session also chose as the "**Mission At Every Meeting**" recipient the Clinton County Homeless Shelter. Presbyters brought home and personal products for that group's ministries of shelter, compassionate care, and support to people who are homeless and who need help (p. 3).

From the Committee on Ministry—

1. **Remembering Teaching Elders Edwin Kingsbury and Barbara Battin**—Marge Morgan and Brian Maguire offered memorial remembrances and tributes, with prayer, for two dear departed colleagues: Ed Kingsbury, who died March 7, and Barbara Battin, who died May 6 (pp. 60-61).
2. **Information**--With no action items, COM presented numerous information items (pp. 49-55), as well as announcing a training session on June 8 for Ruling Elders in churches without pastoral leadership to preside at communion (p. 56), and an invitation for pastors and sessions to take part in the Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations program on Sept. 9 and 11 (p. 57).

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry—

1. Noted the committee's continuing **oversight of inquirers and candidates** for ministry, Commissioned Ruling Elder and Certified Christian Educator programs. Also recounted progress in the process of considering Rev. Herbie Miller's request for transfer to the PCUSA (p. 64).

Other matters—The presbytery...

- Welcomed **first-time Ruling Elders**, passed the peace, and spoke a portion of **the Presbytery Covenant**.
- Welcomed and seated **Teaching Elder David Hawley of the Presbytery of Cincinnati and a former PMV moderator** as a corresponding member, and approved eight Teaching Elder excuses for today's meeting.
- Heard a report from **Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk**, inviting presbyters to name the places where we see God's presence, to go to where God is already at work and where we sense life, and to believe in hope, not fear.
- Prayed and expressed gratitude for the life and witness of Ruling Elders from our churches who died in 2018, during the annual **Necrology Report**, this year accompanied by Russian choral music (pp. 10-11).
- Received from the Stated Clerk the **annual presbytery statistical and other reporting** now completed and sent to General Assembly (pp. 9, 31). The Clerk is grateful for churches' cooperation in preparing those statistical reports. One practical implication is that due to active membership decline **our presbytery will only have one Teaching Elder and one Ruling Elder commissioner slot to fill for the 2020 General Assembly in Baltimore**, rather than two of each as we had at the 2018 and prior GAs. Our

presbytery will also elect a Young Adult Advisory Delegate for the 2020 GA. The Clerk also thanked clerks of session for taking part in the **2018 Session Records Review** and training and follow-up gatherings (p. 65). The Clerk also noted the **presbytery's 2018 minutes** were approved at the Synod review with an exception (p. 6).

- Reviewed the current nationwide voting results on **proposed Book of Order amendments**, with nine of the 10 amendments gaining enough presbyteries' approval to now be set to become part of the Book of Order in June 2019. Amendment 18-C was disapproved by a wide margin. (pp. 6-7, 48).
- Experienced the Word proclaimed by Teaching Elder and outgoing moderator **Kelley Shin**, preaching on 1 Kings 17:1-24, and on the theme "*Wadis and Widows.*"
- Shared the Lord's Table, led by **Teaching Elder Jeri Baker**.
- Heard the **Word expressed through beautiful music** from organist Craig Jaynes and saxophonist Rick Johnston, with Craig accompanying on piano.
- Enjoyed fellowship at a delicious dinner provided by the amiable and efficiently-organized people at the **Presbyterian Church of Wilmington**. We all felt warmly welcomed and well-cared for all day. Thank you, Wilmington, for such able hosting!

UPCOMING STATED PRESBYTERY MEETINGS—

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
Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 3:00 p.m., place TBD
Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 3:00 p.m., place TBD
Saturday, November 14, 2020, 9:00 a.m., at Huber Heights: Faith

Prepared by Stated Clerk Larry Hollar, May 24, 2019

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