

**Informal Summary of Major Actions**  
**Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley**  
**September 11, 2018, 3:00 pm starting time**  
at Oxford Presbyterian Church, Oxford, OH

*Documents for this meeting are at [http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pmv\\_presby\\_docs.htm](http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pmv_presby_docs.htm). Page numbers below from pp. 1 to 51 are in the September advance packet; pp. 52 and higher are in the September supplemental packet.*

Our Moderator, Teaching Elder **Kelley Shin**, presided at the September 2018 meeting.

**Consent Agenda--**

1. Approved May 8, 2018 stated meeting minutes, and minutes of the Administrative Commission to install Teaching Elder Ted Dennis at Eaton: First on May 6; approved the summary letter of the presbytery's 2017 financial audit; approved a mortgage payment extension for Peoples Baptist Church; agreed to a temporary waiver of session term limits for the Bellbrook church (pp. 10-26).

**From the Committee on Nominations—**

1. Approved a motion to elect Ruling Elder **Kathleen Seewer** as **Recording Clerk**; Kathleen was then installed to take office immediately. A slate of Leadership Council, committee, and Permanent Judicial Commission members were also elected. (p. 27).

**From Leadership Council—**

1. Received written reports from this presbytery's **Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to the 223rd General Assembly--** Ruling Elder Commissioners Cyndi Adams and Cynthia Nowka; Teaching Elder Commissioners Kelley Shin and Ken Locke; and YAAD Courtney Hemmelgarn (pp. 30-35). Also heard oral reports on their GA experiences from Kelley Shin, Cyndi Adams, and Ken Locke.
2. Heard Council's plan to **move forward on two initiatives** commended to us by General Assembly: urging each congregation to develop a Family Leave Policy, and responding to the drug crisis (p. 36).
3. Updated the presbytery on the **situation with the Synod of the Covenant**, including General Assembly action on an Overture to create a GA Administrative Commission to deal with disorder at the synod, and the results of the August 3 Synod Assembly (pp. 37-39; 54-56).
4. Continued the **Monthly Hymn Focus** for 2018-2019 by singing "Will You Come and Follow Me," and engaging small group conversations on questions related to music, worship and faith. Council encourages continued use of the monthly hymn theme in committees, sessions, Networks, groups and churches: <http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pdf/council/Hymn-Focus-2018-19.pdf>. (p. 4)
5. Noted that **budget guidance for churches** on projected 2019 Presbytery Connectional Support payments is coming very soon (p. 28). Thanked churches for 2018 Connectional Support (p. 57).

**From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry—**

1. Informed the presbytery of continuing action on committee priorities (p. 45).

**From the Committee on Ministry—**

1. Approved granting the status of **Honorably Retired** to Teaching Elder **Michael Evans**, effective September 11, and celebrated Mike's work as a pastor in our midst (p. 41).

2. Approved the **2019 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation**, calling for a 2.5% increase in the minimum effective salary for pastors and changes in other benefits and reimbursements for 2019 (pp. 46-50).
3. **Welcomed three new pastors**—Rev. Stan Gockel (interim at Springfield: Covenant); Teaching Elder Frank Rupnik (pastor at Troy: First); and Rev. Julia Williamson (interim at Huber Heights: Faith). Observed a **memorial and prayer** for Teaching Elder Nehemías García, Honorably Retired, who died Aug. 8 (p. 5-6).
4. Learned of **exciting new Board of Pensions programs** from our regional representative, **Rev. Dr. Doug Portz**, who also offered a pre-presbytery meeting discussion with updates on Board programs (p. 51).
5. Heard an update from Ruling Elder Alice McConnel on the status of **Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training** for all Teaching Elders and other presbytery leaders. A final training for the year is planned on Tuesday, October 9, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, at Springfield: Northminster Church.

#### **Other matters—The presbytery...**

- Introduced and welcomed **first-time Ruling Elders**, passed the peace, and spoke together a portion of **the Presbytery Covenant**.
- Heard a report from **Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk** reflecting on her “balcony view” perspective, seeking the big picture on the presbytery’s covenantal work.
- Concluded polling on the **preferred start time for Tuesday presbytery meetings**, which overwhelmingly favored beginning those meetings at 3:00 p.m. rather than the former time of 4:00 p.m.
- Received word from the **Stated Clerk** about several things: the process for voting at future meetings on General Assembly proposals to amend the Book of Order; redressing the imbalance between Ruling and Teaching Elder slots has been resolved with five churches agreeing to an extra Ruling Elder slot until next May; an Investigating Committee is now underway in the presbytery; the season for church data-gathering is now upon us; the Young Adult Volunteer program application time has begun; new presbytery directories were distributed. (pp. 7-9; 52-53)
- Experienced the Word well proclaimed by Teaching Elder **Sarah Sparks-Franklin**, preaching on Acts 9:10-19, 26-28, and on the evocative theme “The Call Protectors.”
- Shared the Lord’s Table, led by Teaching Elder **Michael Isaacs**.
- Heard the **Word expressed through beautiful music** from organist Lynn Jacobs and soloist Kent Peterson, both from the Oxford church staff.
- Enjoyed fellowship at a delicious outdoor dinner (despite threatening skies) provided by the energetic and committed people at the **Oxford Presbyterian Church**. What a blessing to be hosted so warmly and to hear of the exciting new things happening at Oxford. Thank you all!

#### **UPCOMING STATED PRESBYTERY MEETINGS—**

Saturday, November 10, 2018, at 9:00 a.m., at Dayton: Central  
 Saturday, February 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., at Dayton: Southminster  
 Tuesday, May 14, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., at Wilmington  
 Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., at Eaton: First

Prepared by Stated Clerk Larry Hollar, September 14, 2018

*(Formal and official minutes of this September meeting will be reviewed and approved at the November 2018 stated presbytery meeting.)*