

**Informal Summary of Major Actions**  
**Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley**  
**Saturday, November 14, 2020, 9:00 am starting time**  
**Via Zoom**

*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 November advance packet; pp. 52 and higher are in the supplemental packet.*

**Our Moderator, Ruling Elder Alice McCollum**, presided at this meeting, our sixth meeting done completely by electronic means. The following summarizes actions and information from the meeting, not necessarily in the order in which they occurred.

**Election of New Stated Clerk**—The presbytery examined Minister of the Word and Sacrament Lynette H. (Lynn) Bova on her Statement of Call, and then elected her to a three-year term as Stated Clerk and approved her terms of call by a vote of 73-0. The presbytery thanked the Search Committee for their work and dismissed them after completing their tasks. Later, the presbytery installed Rev. Bova as Stated Clerk and thanked the outgoing Clerk, Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, for his five years of service in that position (*pp. 33-36; 59-61; 45; 63*).

**Approval of 2021 presbytery budget**—Leadership Council and the Trustees presented the proposed 2021 presbytery budget and after opportunity for discussion, presbytery approved the budget by a vote of 72-0. The budget included terms of call for Executive Presbyter and Minister of the Word and Sacrament Terry Kukuk and for MWS Lynn Bova. The budget will require churches to plan to provide \$40 per active member (as of year-end 2019) for Presbytery Connectional Support in 2021 (*pp. 37; 39-44*).

**Worship and Music**—Executive Presbyter Rev. Terry Kukuk offered a meditation and led presbytery in worship, reminding us to accept the gift of peace that Christ gave to his disciples and provides today even in the midst of fear, anxiety and fatigue that many of us now experience. Later in the meeting, Minister of the Word and Sacrament Cliff Haddox shared a recording of a virtual choir singing apart together on Zoom, in a beautiful setting of “Blessed Assurance.”

**Presbytery heard an important report from MWS Chip Hardwick, interim executive of the Synod of the Covenant**, concerning the Synod’s scholarship programs and an offer of weekly Advent sermon/worship materials provided by executives of the 11 presbyteries of the Synod. (*p. 57*)

**From the Nominations Committee— Presbytery elected committee members and representatives to the Synod of the Covenant:** MWSs Anna Owens and Marc van Bulck and RE John Mauntler were elected to the Committee on Ministry; MWS Tom Ramsey to Trustees; and MWS Diane Ziegler, RE Mary Jean Blackmon, and Emily Knoth to serve as Synod commissioners. The vote on the nominations was 74-0 (*p. 58*).

**Consent Agenda**—The presbytery approved a Consent Agenda (*pp. 7-32; 55-56*) with much of today’s business:

1. **From the Stated Clerk:** Approved presbytery meeting minutes for the September 8 and October 27, 2020 meetings (*pp. 9-26*); meeting minutes from the Administrative Commissions for Dayton: Memorial (*pp. 27-30*); for the New Paris Church (*p. 31*); and for the installation of MWS Anna Owens as associate pastor at the Dayton: Westminster Church (*pp. 55-56*).

2. From the Committee on Ministry: Approved the status of retired and the designation of Honorably Retired as prescribed in the Book of Order to MWS Darryll Young and MWS Deborah Linville (**p. 8**); specified the term of three years for the Commissioned Ruling Elder commission of RE Gidget Collins with the Seven Mile Church (**p. 8**); and agreed to temporarily waive term limits for Dayton: Trinity and Dayton: Central officers at their request (**pp. 8, 32**).

#### **From Leadership Council—**

1. Voted to **hold the February 2021 stated presbytery meeting by Zoom** rather than at Dayton: Trinity, at the request of the Trinity session (**p. 56**).
2. Introduced plans, working with the Committee on Ministry, to **recognize a wider range of ministers** in the presbytery's prayer life (**p. 49**).
3. During the meeting, broke into small groups for about 20 minutes using the Breakout Room feature of Zoom to encourage **conversations and prayers about unity and healing** (**pp. 37-38**). This was a good opportunity for more personal conversations than are possible in the plenary meeting with more than 80 attendees.
4. Council presented **financial reports and church giving records**, and expressed gratitude to churches for support to accomplish the presbytery's mission. Council reminded churches that 2020 payments for Connectional Support and per capita must arrive by December 31, 2020 (**pp. 56, 67-74**.)
5. Encouraged presbyters to **sign up to receive Constant Contact notices** with presbytery news, prayer requests, announcement, and more. Go to [www.miamipresbytery.org](http://www.miamipresbytery.org) and click on the "Join Our Mailing List!" link (**p. 56**).
6. **Council invited presbyters to direct their offering for this meeting** to Bread for the World or Bread for the World Institute, both of which encourage effective, faith-based advocacy and analysis on global and U.S. hunger (**p. 38**). Outgoing Stated Clerk Larry Hollar spent more than 27 years on Bread's staff between 1985 and 2015.

#### **From the Committee on Ministry—**

1. **We noted new ministry statuses for two colleagues**: Minister of the Word and Sacrament Susan Brasier, who was ordained at our October 27 meeting; and MWS Anna Owens, installed at Dayton: Westminster on November 8. **Presbytery also remembered with sadness but with assurance of the resurrection of two ministry colleagues who died recently: MWS Robert Edwards, HR**, who served as Presbytery Executive for nearly 28 years (1966-1994) and was pastor of two churches in the presbytery (**p. 54**); **and MWS Richard Righter, HR**, former pastor of the Congregation for Reconciliation and a long-time advocate for peace and justice. MWS Ed McNulty, HR offered a remembrance of Bob Edwards' leadership in support of the presbytery's partnership with the church in Ghana. Dick Righter having just died the morning of the meeting, Stated Clerk Larry Hollar offered a prayer of gratitude for his life and faithful work. A memorial for Rev. Righter will appear in the February 2021 meeting packet.
2. **Information--COM** presented numerous information items (**pp. 46-50**).

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

1. The committee continued monthly reporting on contacts with Inquirers, Candidates and Educators, and has initiated contacts with potential enrollees in the Commissioned Ruling Elder and MWS ordination processes. In October the Committee began discussions about the changing shape of ministry, and elected RE Marge Mauntler and MWS Kevin Murphy to serve as ordination examination readers for the 2021 cycle. (**p. 51**).

### **From the Moderator—**

Moderator Alice McCollum thanked presbyters for their support as she has carried out every meeting thus far in her term via Zoom. Despite all the change in our world, God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit remain constant and abiding presences in all parts of our lives.

### **From Stated Clerk Larry Hollar—**

1. The Clerk spoke a **Land Acknowledgment** at the beginning of the meeting to reflect the reality that the land on which we stand in our area and throughout Ohio was once inhabited by indigenous people, the names of whose tribes were noted. He expressed gratitude for God's creation.
2. Presented a pastoral letter of concern for our presbytery regarding the uncertain results of the national election and about COVID-19 **from Rev. Gloria Ulloa, executive secretary of the Presbytery of the North Coast in the Presbyterian Church of Colombia**. That presbytery is the strong partner council of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley (*pp. 65-66*).
3. Presented the **final summary of the 2019 Session Records Review**, noting that churches that did not participate in the March 2020 review and training session and were not able to be part of a make-up review session due to restrictions on gathering required by COVID-19 will not be penalized as out of compliance. Those 2019 records will be reviewed whenever clerks of session are next able to gather for the annual review (*pp. 62, 64*).
4. Results of the **Synod review of presbytery meeting minutes**, held in August, have not yet been released (*p. 62*).
5. **Seated as corresponding members** for this meeting by vote of presbytery were Rev. Kent Organ and Rev. Vicky Curtiss, minister members of the Presbytery of Chicago and long-time colleagues of Rev. Robert Edwards, who was memorialized today. Three minister excuses were also approved.
6. **Approximately 85 people attended the actual Zoom presbytery meeting, and others viewed the livestream on the presbytery's YouTube channel**. This included a number of people living distant from Dayton who normally would not get the chance to participate.

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

**Note: These meetings may become virtual gatherings depending on the situation at the time**

Saturday, February 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m., by Zoom

Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 3:00 p.m., at Huntsville

Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 3:00 p.m., at the Presbyterian Church of Hamilton

Saturday, November 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m., at Huber Heights: Faith

Prepared by Larry Hollar, November 22, 2020

*(Formal and official minutes of this November meeting will be reviewed and approved at the February 2021 stated presbytery meeting.)*