

**MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY**

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

First Presbyterian Church of Eaton, Eaton, Ohio

**Approved at November 9, 2019 stated presbytery meeting**

The meeting was convened with prayer at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2019, by Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, Moderator, at the First Presbyterian Church of Eaton, Eaton, Ohio.

## LEGEND:

P – Present    E – Excused    Blank – Absent    *Italics* – attendance recorded in more than one category

**OFFICERS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY**

<i>Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, Moderator</i>	P
<i>Ruling Elder Alice McCollum, Vice Moderator</i>	P
<i>Ruling Elder Don Niece, Leadership Council Chair</i>	P
<i>Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk</i>	P
<i>Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer, Recording Clerk</i>	P

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ON ACTIVE ROLL**

Adams, Garth		Garrigan, Carmen		McCormick, Dwight	P
Allen, Todd		Haddox, Clifford		Merrin, Steven	
Avotri, Solomon		Haddox, Emily		Miller, Herbie	P
Bain, Marciana		Hamilton, Susan	P	Murphy, Kevin	
Baker, Jeri	P	Helling, Michael	E	Neely, John	P
Baker, Richard		Hernandez, David		Pelaez-Diaz, Francisco	
Bartel, Lawrence	P	Hess, Lisa	E	Ramsey, Thomas	
Beres, Benjamin	E	Hinds, Kathryn Blocher	E	Rupnik, Frank	P
Birdsong, Nancy	P	Hodgkins, Nancy	P	Schenck, Angela	P
Bova, Lynette	P	Ingram, Steven	P	Shin, Kelley Wehmeyer	P
Brakemeyer, Randall	P	Isaacs, Michael	P	Soards, Marion	
Brown, Beau		Kukuk, Terry	P	Sparks-Franklin, Sarah	
Burslem, Kathleen		Lawler, Kevin		Tidwell, Melissa	E
Cassedy, Karen	P	Lawrence, Ronald		Van Bulck, Marcel	P
Circelli, Diana	P	Lee, Sang Un	P	Weaver, Denise	E
Dardaganian, Brad	P	Lewis, John	P	Worthen, Merritt	P
Dennis, Ted	P	Linville, Deborah		Young, Darryll	P
Dozeman, Thomas		Maguire, Brian	P	Ziegler, Diane	P
Duiker, Amy	P	Martin, Christopher			

**TEMPORARY MINISTER MEMBERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS**

Gockel, Stan    P  
Williamson, Julia    P  
Whitt, Joe

**HONORABLY RETIRED MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT (Excused unless attendance indicated)**

Amidon, C. Forrest		Gerhart, Andrew	P	Niece, Linda	P
Barr, Judith Dunlap	P	Girbert, David A.		Nowak, Jacqueline	
Brown, Edward		Godfrey, Norman		Philips, William	
Conn, Arbuth		Graham, James	P	Righter, Richard L.	
Creager, Ronald		Hinds, Joe. M III		Schechter, Richard	
Davis-Dudding, Kay		Hookey, Joseph R.		Sheldon, Jocelyn J.	P
Edmonds, Cheryl		Horrigan, Kevin		Smith, Robert B., Jr.	
Edmonds, Hart		Howard, Kenneth		Sparks, W. Franklin	
Edwards, Robert L.		Kester, Gordon L.		Stewart, Donald M.	
Evans, Michael		Kim, Soo Kwang		Swaim, Gerald G.	
Fleming, David L.		McConnel, George H.		Thompson, Glenn E.	
Foubert, David		McNulty, Edward		Thornton, Jesse	
Fulton, Robert		Meyers, JoAnne			

Wade, Robert  
Wall, Evan  
Walthour, William

Warren, Patrick  
Williams, Russell D.  
Yanney, William

Zuercher, John

**ROLL OF CHURCHES (RULING ELDERS PRESENT)**

BELLBROOK 1 – Aldrich, Ray P	DAYTON: SUGAR CREEK 1 – Mundhenk, Terry P	OXFORD 1 – Cross, Danny P
BELLE CENTER 1 –	DAYTON: TRINITY 1 – Blackmon, M.J. P	PIQUA: GOOD SHEPHERD 1 – Kerns, Sandra P
BELLEFONTAINE 1 –	2 –	PIQUA: WESTMINSTER 1 – McColloch, C. P
BLUE BALL 1 –	DAYTON: WESTMINSTER 1 – Lachman, Amy P	REILY 1 –
BRADFORD 1 – Buker, Mike (CRE) P	2 – Saunders, Gene P	RUSHSYLVANIA 1 –
2 –	EATON: FIRST 1 – Medearis, Emily P	SEVEN MILE 1 –
CLIFTON 1 –	FAIRBORN: FIRST 1 – Gadd, Ken P	SIDNEY: FIRST 1 – Apple, John P
COLLINSVILLE 1 – Gabbard, M. (CRE)	FARMERSVILLE: SLIFERS 1 – Gray, Jennifer P	SPRINGBORO: COVENANT 1 –
2 -	HAMILTON: THE P. C. 1 – Eyler, Greg P	SPRINGFIELD: COVENANT 1 –
COVINGTON 1 –	2 – Baer, Mary P	SPRINGFIELD: NORTHMINSTER 1 – Stout, Sharon P
DAYTON: BATH 1 –	HAMILTON: WESTWOOD 1 -	2- Harrison, Diana P
DAYTON: CENTRAL 1 – Settles, Pat P	HUBER HEIGHTS: FAITH 1 – Skare, Mary P	TROY: FIRST 1 – Mauntler, John P
DAYTON: COLLEGE HILL 1 – Townsel, Pat P	HUNTSVILLE 1 –	2 – Collier, Stephanie P
DAYTON: CORINTH 1 –	JAMESTOWN 1 –	URBANA: FIRST 1 –
DAYTON: FAIRMONT 1 – Adam, Jeffery P	MIDDLETOWN: FIRST 1 –	WEST LIBERTY 1 -
2 –	MIDDLETOWN: ST. LUKE 1 -	WILMINGTON 1 – Gillette, James P
DAYTON: IMMANUEL KOREAN 1 –	MONROE 1 –	2 --Wallace, Mike P
DAYTON: MEMORIAL 1 -	NEW CARLISLE: HONEY CREEK 1 – Perkins, Marilyn P	XENIA: MEMORIAL UNITED 1 – Strickland, K. P
DAYTON: SOUTHMINSTER 1 – Kuker, Ron P	NEW PARIS 1 –	XENIA: WESTMINSTER 1 – Luttrell, Susan P
2 – Leatherbury, J. P		YELLOW SPRINGS: FIRST 1 –

**RULING ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY**

Courtney, Donna (LC) P	<i>McCollum, Alice (ViceMod) P</i>	Welborn, Diane (LC)
<i>Collins, Gidget (LC) P</i>	Niece, Don (LC) P	<i>Hollar, Larry (SC) P</i>
Hamilton, Kim (LC) P	<i>Saunders, Bruce (Mod) P</i>	<i>Morgan, Marge (COM) P</i>
Mauntler, John (LC)	Shoemaker, Matt (LC)	

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND THOSE GRANTED VOICE** (not otherwise registered): Seated by presbytery rule: Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer (Recording Clerk), Ruling Elder Cheryl Collins (former Moderator). Seated by presbytery vote: Ministers of the Word and Sacrament Douglas Portz (Pittsburgh) and Urla Eversley (Charlotte) from the Board of Pensions, and Candidate Laura Nile (Seattle), serving the Dayton: Southminster Church pending her ordination in Seattle on Oct. 27.

**INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES** (not otherwise registered): None

**STAFF MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY** (not otherwise registered): Tom Oxley

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*Gathering of God's People***WELCOMING MUSIC**

Linda Daily, organist

**CONVENING PRAYER**

Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders,

Moderator

**OPENING HYMN***"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"***SPEAKING TOGETHER THE PRESBYTERY COVENANT**

- To remind ourselves of what binds us together as a presbytery, the entire body spoke words from our Presbytery Covenant, including the mission statement.

**HOSPITALITY REPORT**

- Pastor Ted Dennis of the First Presbyterian Church of Eaton welcomed presbyters and encouraged churches that have not hosted presbytery for a while to volunteer to do so, as Eaton did. The presbytery in turn expressed deep gratitude for Eaton's gracious hosting. The Hunger Offering taken at registration today supports the Bistro at Eagles Point, a pay-it-forward restaurant staffed by volunteers and providing free meals for those who cannot afford to pay. Those who can afford to pay are asked to give the amount they would have tipped at a for-profit restaurant to cover the costs of meals for guests who cannot pay. The "Mission at Every Meeting" initiative, under which presbyters bring tangible goods to support the host church's mission, today helps The Common Good of Preble County Food Pantry with canned vegetables for people in need in Preble County.
- **Guests and first time Ruling Elders** were welcomed. Joan Otto and Bill Patterson with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's assessment team were given a warm welcome with thanks for PDA's tremendous assistance, which the presbytery requested, in recent months in response to tornadoes and gun violence in the Miami Valley.
- **New pastors in our midst** – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Amy Duiker, transitional pastor at Dayton: Sugar Creek and formerly of Baltimore Presbytery, was introduced. Candidate Laura Nile, who will be ordained in her home presbytery in Seattle on Oct. 27, was also introduced. Laura has begun work as associate pastor at Dayton: Southminster, performing duties that do not require ordination.
- **Memorial – (Appendix A)** A memorial remembrance and tribute, with prayer, were offered for Honorably Retired Minister of the Word and Sacrament Terry Phleger, who died August 10. Marge Morgan read a fine tribute to Terry by Minister of the Word and Sacrament David Fleming, Honorably Retired, who could not be present today. Terry served this presbytery long and well, and the many who knew her will miss her caring spirit.
- Following passing of the peace, the presbytery sang "*Blest Be the Tie that Binds*" in welcome to all those newly in our midst, as well as in memory of Terry Phleger.

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK – Ruling Elder Larry Hollar****Preliminary Business**

- A quorum was declared and on motion/second, the presbytery approved forming the roll by signatures obtained during registration showing an attendance of thirty-three (33) ministers of the Word and Sacrament, two (2) minister member from other denominations, thirty (30) ruling elder commissioners (representing twenty-four (24) churches), and eight (8) ruling elder members of presbytery: seventy-three (73) voting members. Also present and not otherwise registered were five (5) corresponding members including two seated by presbytery rule and three by presbytery vote, eight (8) visitors. and one (1) presbytery staff member. Including duplicate categories, total registered attendance of eighty-seven (87). A motion to accept excuses from six ministers of the Word and Sacrament was adopted.
- On motion/second, the docket as distributed was adopted.

**Correspondence (May 14, 2019 to September 9, 2019) and other information matters:**

- **Correspondence** -- Delinquency reports received from Board of Pensions.

- **Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the Presbytery**

- **Former Members Roster**

- *D-5.0206b of the Book of Order says: “The designated stated clerk shall keep a current roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years...The stated clerk shall report the roster annually to the council.” Should the current PJC lack a quorum, the clerk will select by rotation a sufficient number of these former members to constitute a quorum.*

- **Class of 2020**

- Minister of the Word and Sacrament George (Sandy) McConnel—resigned before completion of term

- Ruling Elder Marge Morgan (Dayton: Sugar Creek)—resigned before completion of term

- **Class of 2018**

- Minister of the Word and Sacrament Brian Maguire—term interrupted by his assuming the office of presbytery moderator

- Minister of the Word and Sacrament Denise Weaver

- **Class of 2014**

- Ruling Elder James Dyer (Dayton: Westminster)

- **Approval of Synod Review of Presbytery Minutes for 2018**

- The Presbytery of the Miami Valley minutes for 2018 were reviewed on April 30, 2019, in Maumee, Ohio. On August 2, 2019, the Synod of the Covenant Assembly approved the review, which found this presbytery’s 2018 minutes approved with an exception related to the lack of full legal descriptions in church property sales. Comments were included in the May 2019 presbytery minutes.

- **Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches** – Members of this AC, approved in a special meeting on August 27, have been chosen and will be oriented September 11.

- **Presbytery Directories:** Updated directories were distributed to churches following today’s meeting, and will be supplied on request to the presbytery office.

- Minister of the Word and Sacrament membership changes since last stated meeting:

- a. Gains: **Herbie Miller** (by transfer from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ))

- b. Losses: **Steve Schumm** (by the ending of his interim associate pastor appointment at Dayton: Southminster); **Terry Phleger, HR** (to the Lord’s loving care in death)

- c. In transition: **Laura Nile** (Candidate from the Presbytery of Seattle, pending her ordination service on October 27 in Seattle)

**Treasurer’s Report Summaries**

- Year to Date Treasurer’s Report and Balance Sheet through August 2019 distributed. YTD Receipts for General: \$248,394; YTD Disbursements for General: \$210,799; Difference: \$37,595. YTD Pass-Through Income and Expense: \$136,462. Total Liabilities and Fund Balance: \$1,537,138.

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, PART I** – Ruling Elder Don Niece, chair

**Consent Agenda:** The Consent Agenda below was presented. No items were requested to be pulled from the agenda, and by unanimous consent the following actions were approved:

**From the Stated Clerk:**

- **Presbytery Meeting Minutes** -- Approve the minutes of the stated meeting of May 14, 2019 and the special meetings of June 25, 2019 and August 27, 2019.

**From the Leadership Council and Presbytery Trustees:**

- **Approval of Independent Accountant’s Review Report regarding 2018 Presbytery of the Miami Valley Financial Review** – Approve the Independent Accountant’s Review Report relating to the presbytery’s financial statements as of December 31, 2018, in accordance with G-3.0113 of the *Book of Order*, which include the conclusion that the accountant was “not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.” (**Appendix B**).

**EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER’S REPORT** – Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk reminded presbytery that since its

last stated meeting in May our area has experienced 15 tornadoes, a mass shooting, and much more. While none of our church buildings were affected by the tornadoes, members of some of our churches lost their homes. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance came alongside our presbytery with response and assessment teams for both disasters and with financial help; two PDA team volunteers, Joan Otto and Bill Patterson, brought greetings at this presbytery meeting. Many of our presbytery's churches and church members have provided generous resources of time, funding and energy. Church World Service promptly sent clean up buckets, blankets, and hygiene kits that were distributed to affected churches. We also received warm messages from Cincinnati and Santa Barbara presbyteries, and prayer flags from New Hempstead Presbyterian Church in New City, NY for those affected by gun violence. Two of our churches hosted listening sessions after the shootings. The presbytery continues to connect to local efforts as the tornado clean-up goes on and as the longer-term psychological and resource challenges of these events continue. Thanks were expressed to all who have helped, and presbyters were urged to contact the presbytery office for information on ways to support ongoing efforts.

#### **LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, PART II – Ruling Elder Don Niece, chair**

*A Time for Officer Training: "Not Your Ordinary Schleps"*

Council provided an extended time during this meeting for officer training—today called "Not Your

Ordinary Schleps" and focused on the meaning of Ordered Ministry—as a response to requests for more training at presbytery meetings and access to more resources to prepare church officers. Led by Minister of the Word and Sacrament Kelley Shin, today's training used a video and written material from Theocademy, a ministry of the Synod of Mid-America.

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

#### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

#### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Steven Ingram, chair**

*(legend: MWS= Minister of the Word and Sacrament; RE= Ruling Elder)*

The number of commissioners to General Assembly that our presbytery may elect has been reduced from four to two, because our active membership has fallen below 8,000. The Committee nominated the following names to serve as Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, and alternates for those positions; and as chairs and members of Presbytery committees. Additional nominees from the floor were solicited, and none appearing, nominations were declared closed and, by voice vote, the presbytery elected the following people:

- **Commissioners to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, in Baltimore, Maryland, June 20-27, 2020**  
MWS Michael Isaacs  
RE Bruce Saunders (Wilmington)
- **Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
Anne Paquette (Dayton: Westminster)
- **Alternate Commissioners to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
RE Bridget Hawkins (Bellevue: First United)  
MWS Sarah Sparks-Franklin
- **Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegates to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
Caroline Eader (Bellevue: First United)  
Abigail Schultz (Dayton: Sugar Creek)
- **Leadership Council**  
Class of 2021  
MWS John Lewis
- **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

Class of 2020  
MWS Kevin Murphy  
Class of 2021  
MWS Richard Baker

- **Nominations Committee**  
Class of 2021  
RE Greg Eyler (Hamilton: TPC)
- **Representation and Diversity Committee**  
2019-2020 Chair  
MWS Brad Dardaganian
- **Permanent Judicial Commission**  
Class of 2022  
RE Josephine Laury (Dayton: College Hill Community)

The committee noted with gratitude those who agree to serve on committees and those whose terms have ended, and advised presbyters that additional nominations are being sought.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**—Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders spoke in his report about attending the August Synod of the Covenant Assembly, where each of the 11 presbytery moderators in the Synod reported on their presbytery activities.

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, PART III** – Ruling Elder Don Niece, chair

**For Action:**

- **The presbytery welcomed Rev. Dr. Douglas Portz from the Board of Pensions (BoP)** for a Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations presentation on Sept. 9; for an hour-long pre-presbytery meeting discussion today; and for an important update on BoP programs during the stated meeting. Rev. Urla Eversley, a new BoP staff member, joined Doug as part of her training.
- **Training Taskforce for Investigations of Sexual Misconduct** -- Responding to a request from the Sexual Misconduct Response Taskforce, presbytery on motion voted to enthusiastically endorse the Moderator's formation of a Training Taskforce to prepare appropriate individuals to serve on Investigating Committees for potential future sexual misconduct disciplinary cases, to ensure fair and speedy investigations (**Appendix C**).
- **Report from the Third Thirty Network** — Janet Miller (Dayton: Bath) provided an energetic report on the presbytery's Third Thirty Network. The network focuses on educating, inspiring and empowering people who are age 60 and above and those who care for and love them.
- **Becoming a Matthew 25 Presbytery** -- Presbytery voted to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery and to encourage PMV churches (at least 20%) to join the movement, to claim our common identity to do mission and exemplify God's love, justice and mercy. The Matthew 25 initiative focuses on building church vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. The vote occurred after a presentation in favor of the motion by Minister of the Word and Sacrament Darryll Young and following the reconsideration of an earlier vote to allow for a more extended discussion of the implications of the decision (**Appendix D**).
- **Budget Guidance for Churches for 2020** -- Presbytery Trustees' chair Minister of the Word and Sacrament Andy Gerhart provided budget guidance to churches in preparing their 2020 budgets. Based on the current draft presbytery budget, Trustees anticipate that Presbytery Connectional Support payments expected from churches for 2020 will be \$40 per active church member, based on 2018 year-end memberships that churches reported. The final presbytery budget will be approved at the November stated meeting. Andy requested feedback by email on the proposed payment. Council chair Don Niece reminded presbyters of the many ways presbytery supports churches' missions. General Assembly per capita for 2020

is \$8.95 per active member; Synod per capita for 2020 is \$3.25 per active member (**Appendix E**).

**For Information:**

- **Redressing of Imbalance of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders** —At the May stated meeting the Stated Clerk announced an imbalance of three slots in the number of authorized Ruling Elder and Minister of the Word and Sacrament voting members of presbytery. Presbytery authorized Leadership Council to redress this imbalance by choosing churches to invite to have additional Ruling Elder voting slots between this September meeting and the May 2020 stated meeting. By Council action the following three churches will each have one additional Ruling Elder slot for that time period (the new temporary number of Ruling Elder slots is indicated after the church name): Dayton: Trinity (2); Wilmington (2); and Springfield: Northminster (2). (LC, June 13; August 8)
- **“Equipping Us for Ministry” for September** —While the presbytery has allotted time at each recent presbytery meeting for discussions about the current Foundations focus and other prior initiatives, the docket for today’s meeting did not allow that conversation. Churches were encouraged to continue to use the Foundations focus in all meetings and other gatherings.
- **Representation and Diversity Committee** – The presbytery approved a new structure for this committee in May 2019. The committee consists of six designated members from presbytery committees and Leadership Council, and three at-large members elected over a period of time beginning this year. The designated members chosen by their committees for year-long terms are:
  - MWS Brad Dardaganian, Committee on Preparation for Ministry
  - MWS Joseph Hookey, Staff Support Committee
  - RE James Pelfrey (Dayton: Corinth), Network Support and Grants Committee
  - MWS Melissa Tidwell, Committee on Ministry
  - RE Pat Townsel (Dayton: College Hill), Nominations Committee
  - RE Diane Welborn (Dayton: Westminster), Leadership Council
 The committee held its organizing meeting on August 10, 2019, and is planning activities beginning this fall.
- **Planning for Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann’s visit** – General Assembly Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann has agreed to come to our presbytery in February 2020, and a small LC group was designated to follow through with her on detailed plans for that time among us.
- **Administrative Commission for the Synod of the Covenant** – The AC has agreed to receive documents from our presbytery related to difficulties at the Synod that the 223rd General Assembly tasked the AC to look into.
- **Staff Matters** –
  - The Staff Support Committee has recommended that presbytery staff salaries for 2020 be increased by the same percentage as what presbytery approves for the increase in minimum pastor compensation at this September meeting.
  - The presbytery’s long-time bookkeeper, Joyce Routzohn, has decided to leave her position to allow more time to enjoy her own routine. Joyce’s careful attention to detail and commitment to the presbytery’s financial well-being have made her a valued member of staff for 20 years. Her wry humor and stories of her many travels around the world have kept us amused and fascinated. We will all truly miss Joyce’s wisdom and gentle spirit.
- **Connectional Support payments** – Thanks were extended to congregations for their contributions to presbytery 2019 Connectional Support through August and encouraged to continue to invest in our shared life as a covenant community.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Michael Isaacs, chair

**For Information:** The committee had no action items to present. The chair noted the committee's continuing oversight of inquirers and candidates for ministry, Commissioned Ruling Elder and Certified Christian Educator programs; the conclusion of the process of transferring Rev. Herbie Miller to the PCUSA; the committee's work on a CPM Manual; and the election of an alternate ordination exam reader.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY** – Ruling Elder Marge Morgan, chair

**For Action:** On motion and following discussion, presbytery approved the **2020 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation**, reflecting a 1.5% (one and one-half percent) increase in minimum Effective Salary for pastors and Continuing Education reimbursements (**Appendix F**).

**For Information:** On motion, the Committee completed the following actions on behalf of the presbytery on the dates indicated at the end of each action:

- **Dayton: Sugar Creek**-- The Committee on Ministry:
  - Took note of the mutual discernment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament (MWS) Bradley Dardaganian and the session of the Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church that it is in the best interests of both parties to dissolve the call of Rev. Dardaganian to serve as pastor of that church;
  - Took note of the resulting action of the Sugar Creek session to call a congregational meeting, scheduled to occur on Sunday, June 2, for the purpose of the congregation's acting on the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship and to make recommendations to the presbytery;
  - Pending the congregation's favorable vote to request the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, and under delegated authority under Sec. 1.06(7) of the COM Policy and Practice, the COM dissolved the pastoral relationship effective on June 2, 2019, and noted the intended implementation of a Dissolution Agreement agreed to between Rev. Dardaganian and the Sugar Creek church on that date;
  - Authorized the Stated Clerk to transfer Rev. Dardaganian to the member-at-large roll of the presbytery, effective at the close of the congregational meeting on June 2; and
  - Appointed MWS Sandy McConnel as Moderator of the Sugar Creek session, effective at the close of the congregational meeting on June 2. (COM, May 28)
- **Yellow Springs: First**-- Approved the extended pulpit supply agreement among the church and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament Marciana Bain and Kathleen Burslem through December 31, 2019, under which the ministers agree to share responsibility for leading worship and preaching on specified weeks (\$150 per Sunday service plus commuting mileage); the ministers share responsibility for other church events (payment to be negotiated as needed); and Rev. Bain agrees to provide pastoral care services in cooperation with the Deacons (\$24 per hour plus mileage for visitations outside Yellow Springs). (COM, May 28)
- **Dayton: Southminster**—The Committee noted the decision of the Dayton: Southminster church congregation on Sunday, May 26, to call Candidate Laura Nile as their Associate Pastor and approve the terms of call. The COM had previously found this an appropriate match and, on examination and by delegated authority, COM had approved Laura for membership in the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, pending her examination and approval for ordination. Her request is that the examination and approval would occur in the Presbytery of Seattle, where she has been under care. She plans to begin work at Southminster in August, if the way be clear following her approval for ordination. The service of ordination would be in the Seattle area at a later date. COM:
  - Approved the following slightly revised terms of call for Laura Nile as reflected in the approved and signed call papers: Effective Salary \$55,000 (including cash salary and housing allowance); full Board of Pensions dues; SECA up to 50% \$3,410; Travel reimbursement (auto at IRS rate) \$1,000; Professional Expense reimbursement \$1,250; Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,202; Moving expenses \$10,000; Vacation 5 weeks (including 5 Sundays); Continuing Education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). Terms comply with 2019 presbytery requirements; and
  - Consented to the Candidate's request that the Presbytery of Seattle conduct the examination and vote on whether to approve her for ordination, and if approved to subsequently hold a service of ordination. (COM, May 28)



- **Dayton: Westminster** – Approved the request of the church to grant the status of Pastor Emeritus to Honorably Retired Minister of the Word and Sacrament George (Sandy) McConnel, as the church acknowledges the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consolidation of First Presbyterian and Third Street Presbyterian, reuniting following the 1830s split between old school and new school churches. (COM, May 28)
- **Blue Ball**--Approved the part-time (15 hours per week) Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Edward McNulty, effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, at the following terms, and appointed him moderator of the session: Total Effective Salary \$12,000; Travel reimbursement (including Auto at IRS rate) for actual miles submitted; Vacation—4 weeks (including 4 Sundays); Continuing Education Time—2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). These terms do not meet 2019 presbytery requirements for effective salary or continuing education reimbursement. (COM, June 25)
- **Huber Heights: Faith**--
  - Approved the action of the session of the Huber Heights: Faith Presbyterian Church, to renew the interim pastor appointment of Rev. Julia Hinshaw Williamson, for an altered weekly commitment of 30 hours per week instead of full-time (40 hours), for the period from July 8, 2019 through July 7, 2020, at the following terms: Effective Salary \$41,083.54; Deferred Income \$6,918.75; SECA up to 50%; Travel reimbursement (auto at IRS rate) \$1,500; Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,202; Professional Expense reimbursement \$600; Vacation 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays); Continuing education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). Terms comply with 2019 presbytery requirements; and
  - Continued her appointment as moderator of the session and her authorization to administer the Sacraments. (COM, June 25)
- **Wilmington**--Approved the part-time (10 hours per week) Temporary Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament James Graham, effective July 14, 2019 through December 25, 2019, at the following terms: Worship leadership (preaching, administering Sacraments) \$100 per week; pastoral care duties without compensation; mileage reimbursement for worship leadership and pastoral care duties at IRS rate. No time for vacation, continuing education, or other expense reimbursement provided. (COM, June 25)
- **Authorizing Ruling Elders to Administer the Lord's Supper**—Following successful completion of the presbytery's Lord's Supper training on June 8, 2019, which was provided pursuant to the authority of Sec. 1.06(19) of the COM Policy and Practice and G-3.0301b and W-3.0410 of the *Book of Order*, the following ruling elders are now authorized to administer the Lord's Supper in the event of the absence of pastors according to the following rules (COM, June 25):
  - This authorization is limited to the Lord's Supper served at or in conjunction with worship for the ruling elder's home congregation only, as listed below with their names, or home communion for that same congregation in the absence of a pastor;
  - This authorization expires one year from the date of the Committee on Ministry's approval (i.e., on June 25, 2020);
  - The COM will invite each ruling elder to submit an annual report detailing how many times they have administered the Lord's Supper and how their understanding of the Lord's Supper has grown; and
  - The COM at its discretion may annually renew any ruling elder's authorization to administer the Lord's Supper, for increments not to exceed one year.
  - Ruling elders authorized to administer the Lord's Supper according to these terms as of this date are:
    - David Wantz, The Presbyterian Church of Wilmington
    - James Gillette, The Presbyterian Church of Wilmington
    - Alex Bowers, Springboro: Covenant
    - Sandra Kerns, Piqua: Good Shepherd
    - Danette Shuler, Seven Mile
    - Linda Oliver, New Carlisle: Honey Creek
    - Jay Peterson, New Carlisle: Honey Creek
    - Amy Cotterman, New Carlisle: Honey Creek
    - Marilyn Perkins, New Carlisle: Honey Creek
    - Taylor Ball, New Carlisle: Honey Creek
    - Cindi Cook, New Carlisle: Honey Creek
    - Rosemary Smith, Dayton: Trinity
    - Mary Jean Blackmon, Dayton: Trinity

- Alice McCollum, Dayton: Trinity
  - Ann Hagen, Sidney: First
- Letters announcing COM's authorization and its parameters were sent to these ruling elders on July 16. (Reported to COM, July 30)
- **Validated Ministry/Member-at-Large reports and requests:** On June 17 the Stated Clerk finished the annual task of emailing and mailing report requests to 11 active minister members in validated ministries outside the church, and nine active minister members in member-at-large status. September 1 is the date for reply. COM will review those reports at its September and October meetings. Under a new provision of the Book of Order, (G-3.0306, fourth paragraph), approval of validated ministry activities outside this presbytery's bounds now requires the consent of the other presbytery as well. Similarly, our COM should review validated ministries occurring in our bounds by members of other presbyteries. Should we learn of any such activities, the COM subcommittee responsible for validated ministry reports will review the situation and make recommendations to the committee. (COM, June 25)
- **Urbana: First—**
  - Authorized the session of the Urbana: First Church, under G-2.0902, to call a congregational meeting for July 7, 2019, for the purpose of voting on whether to consent to the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the church and Minister of the Word and Sacrament Beau Brown, at his request, to be effective as of July 7, 2019; and making recommendations to the presbytery;
  - Pending the congregation's favorable vote, the presbytery dissolves the pastoral relationship effective on July 7, 2019, or such other date as the congregation agrees to, pursuant to COM delegated authority in Sec. 1.06(7) of the COM Policy and Practice;
  - Authorized the Stated Clerk to transfer Minister of the Word and Sacrament Beau Brown to the member-at-large roll as of July 7;
  - Directed that a COM exit interview be conducted with Rev. Brown ideally face-to-face prior to his departure from the area, or in another appropriate way if an interview before departure is not possible; and
  - Authorized the COM chair to appoint a moderator for the July 7 congregational meeting, and appoint a moderator for the Urbana session, effective July 7, 2019. (COM, June 25)
- **Rev. Deborah Linville—**
  - Acknowledged receipt of Rev. Linville's written responses to the COM's exit interview questions;
  - Authorized the Stated Clerk to dismiss the Rev. Deborah Linville to the Whitewater Valley Presbytery, should that presbytery request her transfer. (COM, June 25)
- **Representation and Diversity Committee designee—**Approved Minister of the Word and Sacrament Melissa Tidwell as the committee's designee to serve on the Representation and Diversity Committee. (COM, June 25)
- **Overture to General Assembly Exploration—**Authorized a small group to begin exploration of a possible Overture to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly related to honorable retirement. A subsequent conversation with OGA staff confirmed the feasibility of continuing that effort (COM, June 25; Aug. 27)
- **Pulpit Supply List—**Took note of the following changes to the PMV pulpit supply list: Add Minister of the Word and Sacrament Brad Dardaganian to the list. (COM, June 25); Add Rev. Steve Schumm, if he responds positively to the offer to add him. (COM, Aug. 27)
- **Laura Nile--** In view of the completed action of the Presbytery of Seattle on July 16 to examine and subsequently vote to approve Candidate Laura Nile for ordination,
  - Pursuant to Section 1.10 of the COM Policy and Practice, authorized Candidate for Ordination Laura Nile, prior to the service of ordination to occur on October 27 in Seattle, to begin service at the Dayton: Southminster church in the responsibilities of the Associate Pastor position to which she will be ordained, provided that she may not perform any duties of the position that under the Book of Order require her ordination, including administering the Sacraments, prior to becoming a Minister of the Word and Sacrament on October 27;
  - Authorized the Stated Clerk to request the transfer of membership of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Laura Nile from the Presbytery of Seattle upon the completion of her service of ordination in Seattle on October 27, 2019, to enable her to be installed in the position of Associate Pastor at the Dayton: Southminster church. (COM, July 30)
- **2020 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation—** Approved the 2020 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation which provides for a one and one-half per cent (1.5%) increase

- in the minimum effective salary for 2020, and requested that the presbytery approve the Recommendation at the September 10, 2019 stated meeting. (COM, July 30)
- **2020 Presbytery Budget Item for COM**—Approved requesting that the Trustees include \$10,000 for COM Expenses in the 2020 presbytery budget to be considered and approved at the November 2019 stated presbytery meeting. (COM, July 30)
  - **Xenia: Westminster and Xenia: Memorial:** As requested by the sessions of both churches, and as a means for the presbytery to come alongside churches in a caring, covenantal way as they and their members seek to discern God's call to them for ministry in the future, the COM--
    - Requested that the presbytery Moderator call a special meeting of the presbytery for Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 3:00 pm at Dayton: Memorial Church, to authorize the presbytery Moderator to appoint an Administrative Commission (AC) composed of not fewer than five members (pursuant to Sec. 6.02 of the presbytery Bylaws, Sec. 5.05 of the PMV Policy and Practice, and G-3.0109b of the *Book of Order*) to collaborate with the sessions of the two Xenia churches as they consider a mutual joining. The AC would assist the churches by, among other things:
      - Determining the process that would best allow a proposed plan of union to be prepared between the two churches and taken to the congregations for a vote, and recommending what vote would constitute sufficient congregational support for the plan of union;
      - Providing for a presbytery vote to approve a plan of union that the congregations would jointly present;
      - Using empowering authority from the presbytery to carry out the approved plan, in consultation with the churches, to:
        - Dissolve, merge and create congregations as agreed to in the plan of union;
        - Allocate the assets of the two churches for joint ministry or disbursement in the best interests of both congregations;
        - Ensure that pastoral leadership needs are compassionately provided for, working with the Committee on Ministry;
      - Keeping appropriate records and reporting to the presbytery at each stated meeting;
      - Seeking to conclude its work expeditiously, ideally by December 31, 2019. (COM, July 30)
  - **Validated Ministries**—Approved on behalf of the presbytery for 2020 the validated ministry beyond the jurisdiction of the church, in accordance with G-2.0503a, for the following, and authorize these ministers of the Word and Sacrament to celebrate the Lord's Supper pursuant to Sec. 1.06(11) of the COM Policy and Practice (COM, July 30; Aug. 27):
    - **Lisa Hess**, Professor of Practical Theology, United Theological Seminary – Dayton, Ohio
    - **Thomas Dozeman**, Professor of Hebrew Bible, United Theological Seminary – Dayton, Ohio
    - **Christopher Martin**, Pastoral Care Resident, Navy Medical Center and San Diego VA – San Diego, California
    - **Steven Ingram**, Pastoral Counselor/Chaplain, Miami Valley Hospital
    - **Terry Kukuk**, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of the Miami Valley
    - **Marion L. Soards**, Professor of New Testament Studies, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
  - **Members-at-Large**—Approved on behalf of the presbytery for 2020 the status of members-at-large, in accordance with G-2.0503b, for the following (COM, July 30, Aug. 27):
    - **Kazy Hinds**
    - **Francisco Peláez-Díaz**
    - **Randall Brakemeyer**
  - **Rev. Deborah Linville**--Ratified the action of the Stated Clerk to forward materials to Rev. Debbie Linville requesting her Validated Ministry report based upon her advising us that she is serving as a Spiritual Care Coordinator for a hospice organization near Indianapolis, Indiana. Rev. Linville had previously been on our rolls as a member-at-large. She subsequently declined to accept the designation of the position as a validated ministry. (COM, July 30; Aug. 27)
  - **Moderators of Session**--Appointed the following to serve as moderators or co-moderators of sessions: Rev. Ben Beres at Urbana: First; RE Michael Seewer at Yellow Springs. (COM, July 30)

- **Dayton: Sugar Creek** -- Ratified the agreed-on contract terms for the part-time (32 hours a week) Transitional Pastor position at the Sugar Creek Church for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Amy Duiker, for the period August 26, 2019 to August 21, 2020, and appointed her moderator of the session: Effective Salary \$46,500 including housing allowance; full Board of Pensions dues; Continuing Education expenses \$1,500; Professional Expenses including auto @ IRS rates \$3,000; Vacation 4 weeks including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education 2 weeks including 2 Sundays. These terms comply with 2019-2020 compensation guidelines. (COM July 30 original approval; Aug. 27 ratification)
- **Bellbrook** -- At the request of the Bellbrook session, approved the extension for one additional year of the waiver of the limitation on Terms of Service for ruling elders on session (G-2.0404), which presbytery approved at the September 2018 stated meeting. This extension permits current Ruling Elders to remain on the session beyond their six-year terms to assist in mentoring and preparing new session members for effective service and to regularize classes. This one-year extension was authorized in the 2018 presbytery action. (COM, Aug. 27)
- **Huber Heights: Faith**—Following a discussion with representatives of the church, authorized the preparation of a Ministry Information Form for Huber Heights: Faith (COM, Aug. 27).
- **Executive Session** -- COM met in executive session to discuss the matter of the transfer of a Minister of Word and Sacrament into the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. No action was taken. (COM, Aug. 27)
- **Interim Pastors** – Approved forming a sub-group to review our policies regarding Interim Pastors succeeding to Pastor. (COM, Aug. 27)

*Hearing God’s Word Proclaimed*

**MUSIC** Linda Daily, organist

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE** Jeremiah 8:18—9:1; Lamentations 3:21-24

**SERMON** “Steadfast Love?”  
Minister of the Word and Sacrament Karen Cassedy

**HYMN OF PREPARATION** “Let Us Break Bread Together”

**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**  
Ministers of the Word and Sacrament Lawrence Bartel and Marcel van Bulck, Presiding

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*We Respond to God’s Generous Gift*

**CLOSING HYMN** “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

**TABLE BLESSING FOR DINNER, WHICH WE SHARE AS A COVENANT COMMUNITY**

**ADJOURNMENT WITH CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Bruce Saunders at 6:17 p.m.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley will be held on Saturday, November 9, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Piqua, Ohio 45356.

Attest:

Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk

**APPENDICES:**

- A. Memorial for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Terry Phleger, HR
- B. Independent Accountant's Review Report regarding 2018 Presbytery of the Miami Valley Financial Review
- C. Motion and Rationale for Training Taskforce for Investigations of Sexual Misconduct
- D. Motion and Rationale for Becoming a Matthew 25 Presbytery
- E. Budget Guidance for Churches for 2020
- F. 2020 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation