

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

Saturday, November 9, 2019

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Piqua, Ohio

Approved at February 8, 2020 stated presbytery meeting

The meeting was convened with prayer at 9:03 a.m. on Saturday, November 9, 2019, by Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, Moderator, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Piqua, 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	P	Haddox, Clifford		Merrin, Steven	
Avotri, Solomon		Haddox, Emily	P	Miller, Herbie	P
Bain, Marciana		Hamilton, Susan		Murphy, Kevin	P
Baker, Jeri	P	Helling, Michael	E	Neely, John	E
Baker, Richard		Hernandez, David		Nile, Laura	P
Bartel, Lawrence	E	Hess, Lisa	P	Pelaez-Diaz, Francisco	
Beres, Benjamin		Hinds, Kathryn Blocher	E	Ramsey, Thomas	
Birdsong, Nancy	E	Hodgkins, Nancy	E	Rupnik, Frank	P
Bova, Lynette	P	Ingram, Steven	E	Schenck, Angela	P
Brakemeyer, Randall		Isaacs, Michael	E	Shin, Kelley Wehmeyer	E
Brown, Beau		Kukuk, Terry	P	Soards, Marion	
Burslem, Kathleen	P	Lawler, Kevin		Sparks-Franklin, Sarah	
Cassedy, Karen	E	Lawrence, Ronald		Tidwell, Melissa	P
Circelli, Diana	P	Lee, Sang Un		Van Bulck, Marcel	P
Dardaganian, Brad		Lewis, John		Weaver, Denise	
Dennis, Ted	P	Linville, Deborah		Worthen, Merritt	
Dozeman, Thomas		Maguire, Brian	P	Young, Darryll	
Duiker, Amy	P	Martin, Christopher		Ziegler, Diane	P

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	P	Graham, James		Righter, Richard L.	
Creager, Ronald		Hinds, Joe. M III		Schechter, Richard	
Davis-Dudding, Kay		Hookey, Joseph R.		Sheldon, Jocelyn J.	
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 P
 Wall, Evan
 Walthour, William

Warren, Patrick
 Williams, Russell D.
 Yanney, William

Zuercher, John

ROLL OF CHURCHES (RULING ELDERS PRESENT)

BELLBROOK

1 –Aldrich, Ray P

BELLE CENTER

1 –

BELLEFONTAINE

1 –

BLUE BALL

1 –

BRADFORD

1 –Buker, Mike (CRE) P

2 –

CLIFTON

1 –

COLLINSVILLE

1 – Gabbard, M. (CRE)

2 -

COVINGTON

1 – Schultz, Judy P

DAYTON: BATH

1 –

DAYTON: CENTRAL

1 –

DAYTON: COLLEGE HILL

1 –

DAYTON: CORINTH

1 –

DAYTON: FAIRMONT

1 – Rhubart, Danielle P

DAYTON: IMMANUEL KOREAN

1 –

DAYTON: MEMORIAL

1 -

DAYTON: SOUTHMINSTER

1 – Lawson, George P

2 – Fyffe, Dorothy P

DAYTON: SUGAR CREEK

1

DAYTON: TRINITY

1 – Blackmon, M.J. P

2 – Coleman, Gail P

DAYTON: WESTMINSTER

1 – Knechel, Bob P

2 –

3 –

EATON: FIRST

1 –

FAIRBORN: FIRST

1 – Gadd, Ken P

FARMERSVILLE: SLIFERS

1 – Gray, Jennifer P

HAMILTON: THE P. C.

1 – Eyer, Greg P

2 – Baer, Mary P

HAMILTON: WESTWOOD

1 -

HUBER HEIGHTS: FAITH

1 – Brown, Paul P

HUNTSVILLE

1 –

JAMESTOWN

1 –

MIDDLETOWN: FIRST

1 –

MIDDLETOWN: ST. LUKE

1 -

MONROE

1 –

NEW CARLISLE: HONEY CREEK

1 – Cotterman, Amy P

NEW PARIS

1 –

OXFORD

1 – Cross, Danny P

PIQUA: GOOD SHEPHERD

1 – Kerns, Sandra P

PIQUA: WESTMINSTER

1 –Trevino, Julian P

REILY

1 –

RUSHSYLVANIA

1 -

SEVEN MILE

1 –

SIDNEY: FIRST

1 –

SPRINGBORO: COVENANT

1 –

SPRINGFIELD: COVENANT

1 – Hawley, Missy P

SPRINGFIELD: NORTHMINSTER

1 –Blumenschein, M. P

2-

TROY: FIRST

1 – Mauntler, John P

2 – Collier, Stephanie P

URBANA: FIRST

1 –

WEST LIBERTY

1 -

WILMINGTON

1 – Gillette, James P

2 --

XENIA: MEMORIAL UNITED

1 – Townsley, M. P

XENIA: WESTMINSTER

1 –

YELLOW SPRINGS: FIRST

1 –

RULING ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY

Courtney, Donna (LC) P

Hamilton, Kim (LC)

McCollum, Alice (ViceMod) P

Niece, Don (LC) P

Saunders, Bruce (Mod) P

Shoemaker, Matt (LC)

Welborn, Diane (LC)

Hollar, Larry (SC) P

Morgan, Marge (COM) P

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND THOSE GRANTED VOICE (not otherwise registered): Seated by presbytery rule: Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer (Recording Clerk). Seated by presbytery vote: Ministers of the Word and Sacrament Raafat Zaki (Lake Michigan), Synod Executive of the Synod of the Covenant; Jonathan Reinink (Mid-Kentucky) from the Presbyterian Mission Agency staff; and Erin Kobs (Minnesota Valleys).

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
organist

David Broerman,

CONVENING PRAYER
Moderator

Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders,

OPENING HYMN

"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

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

- **Welcome and Service Opportunities**--Pastor Todd Allen of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Piqua welcomed presbyters and the presbytery in turn expressed deep gratitude for Westminster's gracious hosting. The Hunger Offering taken at registration today supports Westminster's God's Table Ministry, which began 38 years ago in the church basement and today provides a nutritious, hot lunch to anyone on the third Saturday of the month, staffed by church volunteers. Last month 92 meals were served. The "Mission at Every Meeting" initiative, under which presbyters bring tangible goods to support the host church's mission, today helps The Greene Street United Methodist Church Food Pantry, which requested specific food items. Begun modestly in 1992, the program now serves over 200 individuals a month with perishable and non-perishable food items. The past year has seen a 40% rise in the number of families served.
- **Guests and first-time Ruling Elders** were welcomed.
- **New pastors in our midst** – Presbytery again welcomed now Minister of the Word and Sacrament Laura Nile, newly ordained in the Presbytery of Seattle and to be installed as associate pastor at Dayton: Southminster Church on November 24. Committee on Ministry chair Marge Morgan also noted that Minister of the Word and Sacrament Erin Kobs, a member of Minnesota Valleys Presbytery, is working in our bounds.
- **Memorial – (Appendix A)** Honorably Retired Minister of the Word and Sacrament Robert Wade was invited and offered a memorial remembrance and tribute, with prayer, for Honorably Retired Minister of the Word and Sacrament Richard Schechter, who died September 27 in Monroe, Ohio. Bob also noted the passing in our area on Oct. 21 of Honorably Retired Minister of the Word and Sacrament Robert J. Shearer, a member of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery who had previously served the Eaton church and more recently worshiped at Dayton: Southminster.
- 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 those now in God's loving care in death.

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 twenty-five (25) ministers of the Word and Sacrament, two (2) minister member from other denominations, twenty-four (24) ruling elder commissioners (representing twenty (20) churches), and seven (7) ruling elder members of presbytery: fifty-eight (58) voting members. Also present and not otherwise registered were four (4) corresponding members, including one seated by presbytery rule and three by presbytery vote, five (5) visitors, and one (1) presbytery staff member. Including duplicate categories, total registered attendance of sixty-eight (68). A motion to accept excuses from ten ministers of the Word and Sacrament was adopted.
- On motion/second, the docket as distributed in the supplemental packet was adopted.

Correspondence (September 10, 2019 to November 8, 2019) and other information matters:

- **Correspondence** -- Delinquency reports received from Board of Pensions; summary of Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program loans and mortgage grants to churches; Letter of

- Gratitude from Kirkmont Center, Inc. Executive Director Jim Sexstone for presbytery financial support; a message from former presbytery bookkeeper Joyce Routzohn with appreciation for cards and good wishes as she left the staff in late October 2019.
- **2018 Session Record Review** – The Clerk advised presbytery on the status of review of 2018 session records (**Appendix B**).
 - **Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches** – Members of this AC, approved in a special meeting on August 27, were oriented September 11 and their minutes are in the Consent Agenda.
 - **Gratitude**—The Clerk expressed thanks to the presbytery for paying a portion of his expenses to attend the Mid Council Leaders Gathering in Baltimore in October.
 - **Key dates** – The Clerk mentioned key upcoming dates for the annual statistics reports and 2019 minutes review. He urged presbyters to attend a November 12 Equit and Matthew 25 event sponsored by the Representation and Diversity Committee featuring Molly Casteel from the Louisville OGA staff.
 - The Clerk showed a provocative video on stewardship from Inlighten Films.
 - Minister of the Word and Sacrament membership changes since last stated meeting:
 - a. Gains: **Laura Nile** (by transfer from Presbytery of Seattle following her ordination).
 - b. Losses: **Richard Schechter, HR** (to the Lord's loving care in death)
 - c. In transition: **None**

Treasurer's Report Summaries

- Year to Date Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet through October 2019 distributed. YTD Receipts for General: \$277,618; YTD Disbursements for General: \$270,323; Difference: \$7,295. YTD Pass-Through Income and Expense: \$155,059. Total Liabilities and Fund Balance: \$1,516,432.

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** -- Approved the minutes of the stated meeting of September 10, 2019.
- **Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches** – Approved the minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches of September 21, 2019; September 25, 2019; October 1, 2019; October 2, 2019; October 26, 2019; and October 27, 2019 (**Appendix C**).

From the Leadership Council and Presbytery Trustees:

- **Detailed Legal Descriptions** -- Approved the inclusion, in the appropriate place in the official minutes of the January 2018 special presbytery meeting, of Detailed Legal Descriptions of the property (Southminster Cell Phone Tower transaction and Middletown Manse sale) for transactions that the presbytery approved at that January 2018 meeting, to rectify exceptions previously noted in the review of those 2018 minutes (**Appendix D**).

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT – Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk noted the challenges of this year, with tornadoes over Memorial Day and a mass shooting downtown in the Oregon District. The generous response from churches and individuals has been heartening. She and the Stated Clerk attended the Mid Council Leaders Gathering and is grateful for that time of connections and learning, especially the confirmation that the challenges we face as a presbytery are not unique. We need ways to develop more spiritual leaders, and be better connected through our communications resources. Terry noted that quarterly reports are issued to churches with updates on their financial contributions, and ways that the presbytery uses Connectional Support funds to assist churches. Among the resources the presbytery provides is Committee on Ministry liaisons to each church. Leadership Council is continually looking for ways to equip churches, and PMV staff can help. Our presbytery is now a Matthew 25 mid council, and is exploring ways to follow through on that commitment.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONFESSION OF FAITH**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, PART II – Ruling Elder Don Niece, chair***November Foundations Focus*

Presbyters in small groups took time to explore the November Focus from the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, which relates to Openness to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit, and especially to
Unity in Diversity.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE—Ruling Elder Greg, Eyley, Committee member

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

The Committee nominated the following names to serve as 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:

- **Presbytery Trustees**

- Class of 2022

- RE Brian Sharp (Dayton: Westminster)

MODERATOR'S REPORT—Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders spoke in his report about attending the 200th anniversary of the Farmersville: Slifers church, a vibrant small rural church; and of the ways the presbytery walks alongside churches, with the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches. Bruce said he looked forward to serving as a General Assembly commissioner in June.

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

- **Approval of 2020 Presbytery Budget and Terms of Call for Executive Presbyter –** On behalf of the Presbytery Trustees and the Leadership Council, Minister of the Word and Sacrament Andy Gerhart presented and moved the approval of the 2020 Presbytery Budget (**Appendix E**) and the Budget Explanatory Comments (**Appendix F**). Approval of the budget would mean the following payments from each congregation to the presbytery in 2020:

- \$40.00 per active member (as of end of year 2018) for Presbytery Connectional Support;
 - \$8.95 per active member for General Assembly Per Capita;
 - \$3.25 per active member for Synod Per Capita

The budget includes a new line item for financial support to the presbytery from ministers of the Word and Sacrament. Spirited discussion ensued about that matter and about other aspects of the budget, as the presbytery seeks to align the budget more fully with its evolving mission. At the conclusion of the discussion, the vote occurred on the motion to approve the 2020 Presbytery of the Miami Valley Budget (Appendix D), and the motion was adopted.

By adoption of the 2020 budget, the presbytery approved the following terms of call for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Terry Kukuk as Executive Presbyter for 2020:

Cash Salary	\$52,209.98
Housing Allowance	\$18,000.00
SECA Allowance	\$5,830.06
BoP Pension/Disability	\$9,145.20
BoP Medical Expenses	\$19,052.50
Supplemental Medical	\$6,000.00
Professional Expenses Reimbursement	\$9,000.00
Continuing Education Reimbursement	\$3,000.00

- **Report on Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Purdue University, July 16-20, 2019 –** The Stated Clerk showed a video of this past summer's Youth Triennium prepared by participants in the Triennium from this presbytery. Minister of the Word and Sacrament

Nancy Hodgkins, who helped organize and register the presbytery's 20-person delegation, joined attendees and the Presbytery Youth Connection Network in thanking the presbytery for its support.

- **PC(USA) Special Offerings Presentation by Minister of the Word and Sacrament Jonathan Reinink from Presbyterian World Mission Agency staff** – Jonathan, who is church support associate for special offerings, addressed the presbytery, noting the themes of the Special Offerings campaign, outlined the purposes of each of the four Offerings, encouraged use of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, and provided awards to PMV congregations that take part in all four Offerings and have shown many years of support.
- **Synod of the Covenant Assembly, November 1-2, 2019** – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Commissioner to the Synod Diane Ziegler spoke about the recent Synod Assembly (**Appendix G**), and provided information on grants and scholarships that the Synod offers, encouraging congregations and individuals to apply for them and noting deadlines for applications.

For Information:

- **Your presbytery...in service to you!**—The Council chair noted a variety of ways the presbytery has carried out its mission in 2019, from taking an active role in tornado and mass shooting recovery, to support for pastors, to strengthening international faith connections, to creating a new Representation and Diversity Committee.
- **Planning for Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann's visit** – General Assembly Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann will speak and preach in our presbytery in February 2020. A Leadership Council team is making detailed plans for her time among us.
- **Staff Matters** –
 - The presbytery's long-time bookkeeper, Joyce Routzohn, completed her work at the end of October. We will all truly miss Joyce's wisdom and gentle spirit.
 - Council approved a motion from the Staff Support Committee to authorize presbytery staff to have access to certain categories of Board of Pensions dental, vision eyewear, and retirement savings plan benefits for 2020, at no cost to the presbytery. (LC, Oct. 10)
- **Gluten-free options** – Council began a conversation and new learning about ways to appropriately handle gluten-free communion elements, which should lead to helpful instructions for presbytery meetings and other settings.
- **Network Support and Grants Committee** -- Council voted to authorize Rev. Steve Schumm to remain as a non-voting committee member of the Network Support and Grants Committee and to remain as chair even though he is not currently a presbytery member since leaving his interim associate pastor position at Southminster. (LC, Sept. 12)
- **Connectional Support payments** – Thanks were extended to PMV congregations for their contributions to presbytery 2019 Connectional Support and per capita through October. Churches were encouraged to continue to invest in our shared life as a covenant community.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Emily Haddox, committee member

For Information: The committee had no action items to present. The committee works with inquirers/candidates for minister of the Word and Sacrament, ministers transferring from denominations without formal ecumenical relationships, candidates for commissioned ruling elder, and Christian educators seeking certification. They currently are working with at least one person in each of those categories.

The committee has prepared a new handbook for inquirers and candidates discerning a call to be a minister of the Word and Sacrament, and has approved an examination process for ruling elders seeking a commission, and will hopefully have the opportunity to use that process soon.

Presbyters were invited, if they know a ruling elder who might be called to serve in a pastoral role for a church, to contact committee chair Michael Isaacs know (michael@fpcmiddletown.com, (513) 280-3342). The committee is eager to engage new people for this ministry.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – Ruling Elder Marge Morgan, chair

For Action:

- 1. Overture to the 224th General Assembly** -- On motion and following discussion, presbytery approved the following requests from the Committee on Ministry:
 - Approved sending the following Overture and Rationale to the 224th General Assembly (2020) in Baltimore for consideration and passage; and
 - Approved making available from 2020 presbytery budget resources the funds necessary for an Overture Advocate to attend the General Assembly to testify and advocate for the Overture, such Advocate to be appointed by the Leadership Council and the appointment reported to the Office of the General Assembly.

**General Assembly Overture
(Version approved by COM on October 29, 2019)**

The Presbytery of the Miami Valley overtures the 224th General Assembly to amend G-2.0503 of the Book of Order by:

- 1. Striking the word “honorably” in the first sentence of G-2.0503, Categories of Membership;**
- 2. Striking the existing title and subsection language of G-2.0503c and inserting in lieu thereof the following:**

“c. Retired

Upon request of a member of presbytery, the presbytery may designate the member retired because of age, physical or mental disability, or other factors satisfactory to the presbytery.”

Rationale for this Overture: The only designation of retirement for ministers of the Word and Sacrament allowed in the current *Book of Order* is “Honorably Retired.” That designation may be perfectly fitting for many Presbyterian ministers as they retire from active pastoral roles. But presbyteries sometimes face situations in which a minister’s service has been marked by difficulties and challenges which do not rise to the level of formal disciplinary charges and censure, but which are hardly worthy of the label Honorable.

An example of such a situation might be when a pastor has acted inappropriately but no disciplinary charges are brought because of the belief that the damage to a particular church or harmed person would be more devastating than just letting a pastor leave. Victims are then revictimized when that pastor is granted the status of Honorably Retired. Another factor might be that church members or others mistrust or do not understand the processes to bring charges. A third example is when a pastor commits boundary violations after honorably serving and leaving a congregation to move to other endeavors. There may also be situations that occurred during a pastor’s membership in a previous presbytery that could be unreported during a transfer process and only later come to light following retirement in a different presbytery.

So how do presbyteries today respond when ministers with service marked by difficulties or challenges on their records seek retirement? Some may maintain those ministers as members-at-large or in other in-between statuses rather than offering retirement, to avoid characterizing the minister’s service as Honorable. Other presbyteries may go ahead and Honorably Retire ministers of all types regardless of the quality and faithfulness of their service. In doing so, however, the term Honorably loses its meaning for anyone. Such a retirement may confuse or, as noted above, revictimize people who have been harmed by a troubled pastorate and who may feel that the presbytery is praising the pastor’s service despite the gravity of its problems.

The proposed amendment would maintain the Retired category but remove the mandatory designation of “Honorably” that now applies to all retirements. The new designation of “Retired”

would be effective for retirements approved by presbyteries on or after the effective date of the amendment under G-6.04e of the *Book of Order*.

This proposed amendment would have no impact whatsoever on a minister of the Word and Sacrament's access to Board of Pension retirement benefits. That Board of Pensions process is completely separate from a presbytery granting Retired status to a minister on its rolls.

2. Appointment of Administrative Commission for the Collinsville: United Church, if needed -- On motion and following discussion, presbytery approved the following request from the Committee on Ministry:

- Authorized the presbytery Moderator to appoint an Administrative Commission ("Commission"), if it is determined to be necessary, to work with the congregation, session and pastor of the Collinsville United Presbyterian Church, with the following composition and charge:
 1. The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Moderator of the presbytery. The Commission shall have at least five members who shall be ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible. The Commission shall elect a chair and a clerk from its members.
 2. The Committee on Ministry recently received information that the session and the congregation of the Collinsville United Presbyterian Church have indicated through advisory votes a desire to disaffiliate from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and this presbytery. In the event that efforts at reconciliation between the church and the presbytery are not successful, and in order to expedite the process of resolving the church's status in that situation, the presbytery now authorizes creation of this Commission which shall act on behalf of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley on all matters relating to the disaffiliation of the Collinsville United Presbyterian Church. The Committee on Ministry shall determine whether or not to proceed with creation of the Commission, following continued talks with the Collinsville Church.
 3. It is within the mission of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley to make sure that ministry for the mission of Jesus Christ as found in the body of Christ in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will continue. The presbytery will make its own findings of fact regarding the presbytery's mission and ministry and various financial issues related to the property of the Collinsville United Presbyterian Church. In addition, the presbytery delegates to the Commission, if it is created, the following powers, acting within the authority of the presbytery:
 - a. Authority to consult, counsel and guide the session of the Collinsville United Presbyterian Church in determining the precise process under the authority of the *Book of Order* by which the congregation may withdraw from the denomination.
 - b. Authority to negotiate an appropriate Covenant of Gracious Separation between the Collinsville United Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of the Miami Valley for approval by the church and the presbytery, including:
 - i. the dissolution of the church as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and this presbytery, and the effective date of the dissolution;
 - ii. an appropriate distribution of all property and assets of the congregation, including an equitable settlement of amounts the church owes to the presbytery for Connectional Support, per capita, and other payments. All original church records or certified copies thereof shall be retained by the Presbytery of the Miami Valley and held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
 - c. Authority to counsel members of the Collinsville United Presbyterian Church who wish to remain members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
 - d. Authority to counsel any pastor of the Collinsville United Presbyterian Church concerning his/her status.
 - e. Access to all church records, including but not limited to: membership rolls, minutes of session and all boards and committees, financial records, membership directories, newsletters, and materials distributed for congregational information.

- f. Authority to consult with legal counsel retained by the presbytery.
4. This Commission shall not have the authority to assume original jurisdiction without a subsequent action of the presbytery.
5. This Commission shall provide periodic update reports at each subsequent stated meeting of the presbytery.

(End of Committee on Ministry Action Items)

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:

- **Huntsville:**
 - Reaffirmed the COM decision at the August 2018 COM meeting to approve the Stated Clerk offering the 2019 proceeds from the Krebs Memorial Fund of the Presbyterian Foundation, initially set up under the now-closed Morning Sun United Presbyterian Church, to the Huntsville Presbyterian Church. The total annual amount is expected to be approximately \$100-120. The fund proceeds are required to be used for rural church evangelism and education;
 - Requested that the Clifton church provide a brief report on its use of the prior year funds to send to the Presbyterian Foundation and the fund donors. (COM, Sept. 24)
- **MWS Karen Cassedy:** Authorized the Stated Clerk to place MWS Karen Cassedy on the member-at-large roll following the completion of her pastoral service at the Fairborn: First Church on November 30, 2019. (COM, Sept. 24)
- **Laura Nile:** If the way be clear pending completion of the ordination service of Candidate Laura Nile in the Presbytery of Seattle, authorized the Stated Clerk to enter MWS Laura Nile on the member-at-large roll following her transfer from Seattle, until such time as she is installed in this presbytery. (COM, Sept. 24)
- **Springfield: Covenant:** Following a successful consultation with the church's mission study team,
 - Approved the mission study report for Springfield: Covenant Church with comments; and
 - Authorized the session to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee. (COM, Sept. 24)
- **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. 106(11) of the COM Policy and Practice:
 - **Carmen Garrigan**, Mobilization/Pastoral Care Manager, Missionary Air Group, Whitsett, NC (COM, Sept. 24)
 - **Garth Adams**, Chaplain, Kettering Medical Center
 - **Kathleen Burslem**, Advance Chaplain Practitioner, OhioHealth Corporate
 - **Sue Hamilton**, Pastoral Affiliate for Congregational Care, Dayton: Westminster Presbyterian Church (COM, Oct. 29)
- **Notice of Approval of Validated Ministries by other Presbyteries within whose bounds our members labor (G-3.0306):**
 - **Carmen Garrigan** by Salem Presbytery (9/26/19)
 - **Christopher Martin** by Presbytery of San Diego (10/22/19)
 - **Marion Soards** by Mid-Kentucky Presbytery (per conversation with Presbyter for Community Life John Odom, 10/20/19)
- **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:
 - **Marciana Bain**
 - **Kevin Lawler**
 - **Merritt Worthen** (COM, Sept. 24)
- **Pulpit Supply List**—Following subcommittee review, took note of the following changes to the PMV pulpit supply list:
 - Authorized Ruling Elder Michele Slone (Urbana: First) to be placed on the pulpit supply list if the way be clear following an interview, an opportunity to preach for representatives of COM, and successful conclusion of required Sexual Misconduct Prevention training

- Authorized Ruling Elder Irwin Roberts (Dayton: Sugar Creek) to be added to the list upon successful conclusion of required Sexual Misconduct Prevention training
- Added Rev. Steven Schumm
- Removed MWS Amy Duiker (COM, Sept. 24)
- **Xenia: Memorial—**
 - Approved the action of the session of the Xenia: Memorial United Presbyterian Church to renew the full-time interim pastor appointment of MWS Kevin Murphy for the period from October 15, 2019 through October 15, 2020, at the following terms, and continued his appointment as moderator of the session: Effective Salary \$67,500, including cash salary, housing allowance and deferred income; full Board of Pensions dues and dental coverage; SECA up to 50%; travel reimbursement (auto at IRS rate) \$1,500; continuing education reimbursement \$1,700; professional expense reimbursement \$1,000; Vacation 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays); Continuing education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). Terms comply with 2020 presbytery requirements.
 - Approved the agreement of the church and pastor that this contract will be considered null and void as of the effective date of any merger between Memorial United Presbyterian Church and Westminster United Presbyterian Church (Xenia). Otherwise, the agreement stays intact as long as Memorial United Presbyterian Church remains an independent legal entity. (COM, Oct. 29)
- **Belle Center: United—** Approved the action of the session of the Belle Center United Presbyterian Church to renew the full-time interim pastor appointment of MWS Lynette Bova for the period from November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020, at the following terms, and continued her appointment as moderator of the session: Effective Salary \$57,000, including cash salary, use of manse and related expenses, SECA above 50%, and deferred income; full Board of Pensions dues including eye and dental coverage; SECA up to 50%; employer 403b match of \$1,200; travel reimbursement (auto at IRS rate) \$4,750; continuing education reimbursement \$1,220; professional expense reimbursement \$1,500; Vacation 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays); Continuing education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays, cumulative to 4 weeks); service to the church 1 week (including 1 Sunday); Sabbath and Family Time (2 days per week). Terms comply with 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, Oct. 29)
- **Urbana: First—**Approved the action of the session of the Urbana First Presbyterian Church to enter into a contract to provide part-time (25 hours per week) transitional pastor services with MWS Kathryn Blocher Hinds for the period from November 3, 2019 through December 31, 2019, at the following terms, and appointed her moderator of the session: Annualized Effective Salary (prorated for the term of the contract) \$41,000, including cash salary and housing allowance; Board of Pensions dues for pension and death/disability; SECA up to 50%; continuing education reimbursement \$1,500; professional expense reimbursement \$2,000; Vacation 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays); Continuing education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). Terms comply with 2019 presbytery requirements. (COM, Oct. 29)
- **Urbana: First—**Approved the action of the session of the Urbana First Presbyterian Church to enter into a contract to provide part-time (30 hours per week) transitional pastor services with MWS Kathryn Blocher Hinds for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, at the following terms, and continued her appointment as moderator of the session: Effective Salary \$46,116.75, including cash salary and housing allowance; Board of Pensions dues for pension and death/disability; SECA up to 50%; continuing education reimbursement \$2,000; professional expense reimbursement \$1,500; Vacation 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays); Continuing education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). Terms comply with 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, Oct. 29)
- **Possible Overture to GA relating to Honorably Retired language in Book of Order —** Following discussion of the draft Overture that proposes amending G-2.0503 of the *Book of Order* related to the status of Honorable Retired, and the Rationale for the amendment--
 - Requested that the presbytery at its November 9, 2019 stated meeting vote to approve sending the Overture and Rationale to the 224th General Assembly (2020) in Baltimore for consideration and passage;
 - Approved requesting that the presbytery make available from 2020 presbytery budget resources the funds necessary for an Overture Advocate to attend the General Assembly to testify and advocate for the Overture, such Advocate to be appointed by the Leadership Council and the appointment reported to the Office of the General Assembly. (COM, Oct. 29)
- **Erin Kobs --** If the way be clear following an additional COM interview, authorized the Stated Clerk to request the transfer of membership of MWS Erin Kobs from the Presbytery of Minnesota

Valleys, and upon completing the required paperwork enter her on the rolls of this presbytery as member-at-large. (COM, Oct. 29)

- **Dayton: College Hill Community** — Approved the Rev. Donna Moore, a member in good standing of the United Church of Christ through its local judicatory SONKA and currently regularly attending and participating in the life of College Hill Church, to preside at the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper when requested in situations when a Presbyterian minister of the Word and Sacrament is not reasonably available. (COM, Oct. 29)
- **Huber Heights: Faith** -- Following COM review and approval of the church’s draft Ministry Information Form (with comments), authorized the session of the Faith Presbyterian Church, Huber Heights, to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee. (COM, Oct. 29)
- **Moderators of Session**—Took the following actions regarding moderators or co-moderators of sessions (COM, Oct. 29):
 - RE Michael Seewer was appointed at Dayton: College Hill Community, effective immediately.
 - The COM chair was authorized to appoint moderators at Fairborn: First, effective December 1, 2019, and at Collinsville: United, if necessary, effective January 1, 2020.
- **Laura Nile**—The Committee on Ministry:
 - Took note of the installation service for MWS Laura Nile as associate pastor at Dayton: Southminster Church scheduled to occur on Sunday, November 24, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. at the Southminster church;
 - Approved the following members to serve on the Administrative Commission: RE Bruce Saunders (Wilmington), Moderator, to moderate the AC; MWS Nancy Birdsong; RE Mark Ferguson (Dayton: Southminster); MWS Kelley Shin; RE José Lamont Jones (Dayton: College Hill Community); and granted permission for the Moderator to dismiss the commission following the service.
 - Authorized the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, at the discretion of the Associate Pastor. (COM, Oct. 29)
- **Rev. Dr. Darryll Young** -- The Committee chair, at the presbytery meeting, requested prayers for Rev. Dr. Darryll Young, pastor of the Dayton: College Hill Community Church, who has taken a 90-day medical leave on the advice of his doctor due to an Alzheimer’s diagnosis.

Hearing God’s Word Proclaimed

MUSIC David Broerman, organist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE John 15:12-13; Matthew 28:20b

SERMON *“Ministry of Presence”*
Rev. Dr. CDR Frank T. Rupnik III, USNR

HYMN OF PREPARATION *“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”*

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER
Ministers of the Word and Sacrament Melissa Tidwell and Kevin Murphy, Presiding

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We Respond to God’s Generous Gift

CLOSING HYMN *“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”*

TABLE BLESSING FOR LUNCH, WHICH WE SHARE AS A COVENANT COMMUNITY

ADJOURNMENT WITH CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Bruce Saunders at 12:10 p.m.

November 9, 2019

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley will be held on Saturday, February 8, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 201 N. Limestone St., Springfield, Ohio 45503, at which General Assembly Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann will preach.

Attest:

Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk

APPENDICES:

- A. Memorial for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Richard Schechter, HR
- B. 2018 Session Records Review Status Report
- C. Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches
- D. Detailed Legal Descriptions of Property for Inclusion in January 2018 special meeting minutes—Southminster Cell Phone Tower transaction and Middletown Manse sale
- E. 2020 Presbytery of the Miami Valley Proposed Budget
- F. 2020 Presbytery Budget Explanatory Comments
- G. Synod Commissioner Report on November 2019 Synod Assembly