

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
VIA ZOOM

Approved at the November 14, 2020 stated presbytery meeting

The meeting was convened with prayer at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, by Ruling Elder Alice McCollum, Moderator. The meeting was conducted virtually by Zoom, respecting governmental prohibitions on larger meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the presbytery's desire to protect its members from the effects of the pandemic.

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 Alice McCollum</i> , Moderator	P
<i>Minister of the Word and Sacrament Ben Beres</i> , Vice Moderator	P
<i>Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders</i> , Leadership Council Chair	P
<i>Ruling Elder Larry Hollar</i> , Stated Clerk	P
<i>Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer</i> , Recording Clerk	P

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ON ACTIVE ROLL

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

TEMPORARY MINISTER MEMBERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Gockel, Stan	P
Schaffnit, Daria	P
Williamson, Julia	P
Whitt, Joe	

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

Amidon, C. Forrest		Fleming, David L.		Hookey, Joseph R.	
Barr, Judith Dunlap	P	Foubert, David		Horrigan, Kevin	
Brown, Edward		Fulton, Robert		Howard, Kenneth	
Conn, Arbuth		Gerhart, Andrew		Kester, Gordon L.	
Creager, Ronald		Girbert, David A.		Kim, Soo Kwang	
Davis-Dudding, Kay		Godfrey, Norman		McConnel, George H.	
Edwards, Robert L.		Graham, James		McNulty, Edward	
Evans, Michael		Hinds, Joe. M III	P	Meyers, JoAnne	

Niece, Linda	P	Sparks, W. Franklin	Walthour, William
Nowak, Jacqueline		Stewart, Donald M.	Warren, Patrick
Philips, William		Swaim, Gerald G.	Yanney, William
Righter, Richard L.		Thornton, Jesse	Zuercher, John
Sheldon, Jocelyn J.	P	Wade, Robert	
Smith, Robert B., Jr.		Wall, Evan	

ROLL OF CHURCHES (RULING ELDERS PRESENT)

BELLBROOK		DAYTON: TRINITY	OXFORD
1 – Seiler, Michael	P	1 – Blackmon, M.J.	1 – Smith, Robert S. P
BELLE CENTER		2 – Smith, Rosemary	PIQUA: GOOD SHEPHERD
1 – Stoner, Keith	P	DAYTON: WESTMINSTER	1 – Kerns, Sandra P
BELLEFONTAINE		1 – Shonle, Joseph	PIQUA: WESTMINSTER
1 –		2 – Saunders, Gene	1
BLUE BALL		3 –	REILY
1 –		EATON: FIRST	1 –
BRADFORD		1 – Neavin, Bradley	RUSHSYLVANIA
1 – Buker, Mike (CRE)	P	FAIRBORN: FIRST	1 -
2 –		1 – Gadd, Ken	SEVEN MILE
CLIFTON		FARMERSVILLE: SLIFERS	1 – Collins, C. (CRE) P
1 –		1 – Gray, Jennifer	2 -Durbin, MaryRose P
COLLINSVILLE		HAMILTON: THE P. C.	SIDNEY: FIRST
1 –		1 – Eyler, Greg	1 –
COVINGTON		2 – Baer, Mary	SPRINGBORO: COVENANT
1 –		HAMILTON: WESTWOOD	1 –
DAYTON: BATH		1 -	SPRINGFIELD: COVENANT
1 – Lockwood, Susan	P	HUBER HEIGHTS: FAITH	1 – Storm, Robert P
DAYTON: CENTRAL		1 – Adams, Cyndi	SPRINGFIELD: NORTHMINSTER
1 –		2 – Skare, Mary	1 –
DAYTON: COLLEGE HILL		HUNTSVILLE	2 –
1 – Peters, Carolyn	P	1 –	TROY: FIRST
DAYTON: CORINTH		JAMESTOWN	1 – Mauntler, John P
1 –		1 –	2 –
DAYTON: FAIRMONT		MIDDLETOWN: FIRST	URBANA: FIRST
1 – Youngerman, Cindy	P	1 –	1 –
DAYTON: IMMANUEL KOREAN		MIDDLETOWN: ST. LUKE	WEST LIBERTY
1 –		1 -	1 -
DAYTON: MEMORIAL		MONROE	WILMINGTON
1 -		1 –	1 – Wallace, Mike P
DAYTON: SOUTHMINSTER		NEW CARLISLE: HONEY CREEK	XENIA: UNITED
1 – Davis, Elizabeth	P	1 – Perkins, Marilyn	1 – Hedges, Terry P
2 – Thorp, Lois	P	NEW PARIS	2 – Randall, Jerry P
DAYTON: SUGAR CREEK		1 –	YELLOW SPRINGS: FIRST
1 –			1 –

RULING ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY

Courtney, Donna (LC)	P	<i>Morgan, Marge (COM)</i>	P	Welborn, Diane (LC)	P
Hamilton, Kim (LC)	P	Niece, Don (LC)	P	Woessner, G. (LC)	P
<i>Hollar, Larry (SC)</i>	P	<i>Saunders, Bruce (LC)</i>	P		
<i>McCollum, Alice (Mod)</i>	P	Shoemaker, Matt (LC)			
Meadows, Pat (RD)	P				

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND THOSE GRANTED VOICE (not otherwise registered): Seated by presbytery rule: Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer (Recording Clerk Seated by presbytery vote: Minister of the Word and Sacrament Douglas Portz (Pittsburgh), Board of Pensions; Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 224th General Assembly Anne Paquette; Ruling Elder Margaret Haney, former executive presbyter; presbytery office manager Thomas Oxley, and Ruling Elder Eliot Heflin (Dayton: Trinity).

INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES (not otherwise registered): None

STAFF MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY (not otherwise registered): None

CONVENING PRAYER

Ruling Elder Alice McCollum, Moderator

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

- A quorum was declared and the Clerk announced that the roll for today's meeting would be formed by advance registration of presbyters and confirmation of those registered being present electronically, accomplished by observation of their faces and names on Zoom and the participants list. The confirmed attendance consisted of forty-three (43) ministers of the Word and Sacrament, three (3) minister member from other denominations, twenty-eight (28) ruling elder commissioners (representing twenty-two (22) congregations), and ten (10) ruling elder members of presbytery: eight-four (84) voting members. Also present and not otherwise registered were five (5) corresponding members and others granted voice, including one (1) seated by presbytery rule and four (4) by presbytery vote. Including duplicate categories, total registered attendance of eighty-nine (89). A motion was adopted by unanimous consent to accept excuses from three minister of the Word and Sacrament and to seat as corresponding members for this meeting Minister of the Word and Sacrament Douglas Portz (Chicago); and grant voice to Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 224th General Assembly Anne Paquette; Ruling Elder Margaret Haney (Dayton: Westminster), former executive presbyter; presbytery office manager Thomas Oxley; and Ruling Elder Eliot Heflin (Dayton: Trinity). More than 12 devices were recorded as viewing the meeting via livestream.
- **Process for Holding Virtual Meetings** — Presbytery adopted by a required 2/3 vote (77 Yes--0 (zero) No) Bylaw and manual provisions to guide how we do presbytery and Leadership Council meetings via Zoom or other electronic means (**Appendix A**). The rules ensure that presbyters "have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss, deliberate, discern the will of God, and vote on business items." The rules addressed the need to create a roll of attendees, allow presbyters to be recognized to speak and engage in simultaneous aural communication, and vote. The Stated Clerk also explained to presbyters which buttons and tabs on their devices they would use during this meeting. Assistance was offered to anyone having trouble navigating their devices through the Zoom Chat function. A practice meeting had also been offered prior to this special meeting for anyone wishing to learn what was required electronically.
- On motion/second, by unanimous consent the revised docket as distributed in the supplemental packet was adopted.

Correspondence (May 2, 2020 to September 4, 2020) and other information matters:

- **Correspondence** –
 - Notification on June 15, 2020 from the Office of the General Assembly that action on the Overture sent from this presbytery to the 224th General Assembly related to amending the Book of Order regarding the definition of Honorably Retired had been recommended for referral to the 225th General Assembly (2022). The 224th General Assembly later approved that referral.
 - Delinquency reports from the Board of Pensions; summary of Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program loans and mortgage grants to churches.
 - Request from Dayton: Immanuel Korean Presbyterian Church for presbytery support for dues relief from the Board of Pensions following the departure of Rev. Sang Un Lee as pastor. The presbytery provided this support.
- **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 to serve on COM

Ruling Elder Marge Morgan (Dayton: Sugar Creek)—resigned before completion of term to serve on COM

Ruling Elder Cynthia Nowka (Springfield: Covenant)
Minister of the Word and Sacrament Robert Wade

Class of 2018

Minister of the Word and Sacrament Brian Maguire—resigned before completion of term to assume office of presbytery Moderator

Minister of the Word and Sacrament Denise Weaver

- **Synod Minutes Review**—The Presbytery of the Miami Valley minutes for 2019 were reviewed on August 18, 2020, via a Zoom conference with stated clerks from other presbyteries in our Synod. The Clerk has not yet officially received the results of the review.
- **Synod Assembly Report**—The Stated Clerk provided the following report on recent virtual Synod Assemblies:

The Administrative Commission for the Synod of the Covenant, acting as the Synod, has been meeting monthly by Zoom and inviting presbytery staff to take part as corresponding members. Your PMV staff have been participating as schedules permit. Synod discussions have recently centered on:

- Enhancing communications (see the new Synod web site, <https://synodofthecovenant.org/>)
- Studying ways to build relationships and promote reconciliation, with skilled assistance from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center
- Promoting the availability of Synod grants and scholarships (see the flier on p. 85 of this packet)
- Undertaking personnel searches for a Synod stated clerk and an office manager
- Clarifying Synod finances
- Relocating the Synod office to the Detroit area
- Discerning when and in what ways to begin to return control of the Synod operations to elected representatives of the presbyteries, and to ensure strong engagement with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities.

The Commission has encouraged open discussions at its meetings on various topics with presbytery staff. We are very grateful for this willingness on the Synod's part to hear a variety of voices and to reflect deeply on what it means to be a Synod in these challenging moments in the life of the Church.

- **Presbytery Directories**—The availability of 2021 presbytery directories was announced.
- **Administrative Commissions**--The presbytery expressed appreciation for the faithful ongoing work of the following presbyters now serving on Administrative Commissions (ACs) by Moderator appointment:
 - AC for Collinsville: MWS Brian Maguire, chair; MWS Arbuth Conn; MWS Norman Godfrey; RE Nancy Peterson (Middletown: First); RE Marj Lawson (Dayton: Southminster).
 - AC for Dayton: Memorial: MWS Amy Duiker, chair; MWS Ed McNulty; RE Cindi Cook (New Carlisle: Honey Creek); RE Charles Chamberlain (Dayton: Fairmont); RE Gordon Neumann (Springboro: Covenant).
 - AC for New Paris: RE Jennifer Gray (Farmersville: Slifers), chair; RE Kathy McCreary (Eaton: First); RE Linda Taggart (New Paris); MWS Lawrence Bartel; MWS Jocelyn Sheldon.
 - AC for the Xenia Churches: MWS Todd Allen, acting chair; MWS Emily Haddox; MWS M. Merritt Worthen; RE Rob Storm (Springfield: Covenant); RE Jay Peterson (New Carlisle: Honey Creek). RE David Weaver (Dayton: Westminster) formerly served on this Commission.
- Minister of the Word and Sacrament membership changes since last stated meeting:
 - a. Gains: **Cheryl (Gidget) Collins** (as Commissioned Ruling Elder commissioned to the Seven Mile Church by action of the presbytery); **Charles (Chip) Hardwick** (from Chicago); **Steven Schumm** (following presbytery action in August 2020 to receive him into membership pending receipt of evidence that he no longer has ministerial standing in another denomination, which has now been provided)
 - b. Losses: **Solomon Avotri** (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 August 2020 distributed. YTD Receipts for General: \$273,210; YTD Disbursements for General: \$196,357; Difference: \$76,853. YTD Pass-Through Income and Expense: \$96,064. Total Liabilities and Fund Balance: \$1,608,715.

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**—The Moderator announced that the offering at today's meeting would be accomplished by requesting that presbyters give an offering to their local foodbank to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Moderator prayed to dedicate this offering.
- **Guests and first-time Ruling Elders** were welcomed.
- **New pastors in our midst** – Presbytery noted transitions for several ministry colleagues since our last meeting. Minister of the Word and Sacrament Charles (Chip) Hardwick is a new member of our presbytery by transfer from Chicago; MWS Steve Schumm is now transferred from the Mennonite Church (USA); and Ruling Elder Gidget Collins is serving as Commissioned Ruling Elder at Seven Mile.
- **Memorial – (Appendix B)** Memorial remembrances and prayers were offered for Dr. Solomon Avotri, long-time professor of Biblical Studies at Payne Theological Seminary, and MWS Thomas Martin, who served at Xenia: Memorial and other churches in our presbytery. COM chair Marge Morgan led prayers for the new ministers among us and offered a memorial remembrance for our departed friends in ministry.
- To enable a virtual passing of the peace, the presbytery was unmuted *en masse* and encouraged to extend warm greetings to each other.

WORSHIP -- Former Moderator Bruce Saunders led presbytery in worship, reflecting on the changes in the way we do the work of the church together in these days, and reminding us of the ways the people remembered the songs of Zion in exile in Babylon. Bruce completed his year-long term as Moderator in May during our first Zoom meeting and did not have a chance to lead his final worship until today.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT – Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk reminded us that many churches are not currently worshipping in their buildings but the people are still doing church. She encouraged everyone to watch the presbytery web site for virus-related resources. In the midst of the anxiety that pastors and church leaders are feeling, self-care remains vitally important. Terry described the strong partnership with Brethren Disaster Ministries in the use of the former Dayton: Memorial Church facility for tornado reconstruction teams. She commended us to look for the new things God is doing among us; for places the Spirit is at work; and ways we can witness to Christ's love.

REPORT FROM REV. DR. DOUGLAS PORTZ, SENIOR CHURCH CONSULTANT, BOARD OF PENSIONS – Doug offered his annual report sharing information on new programs the Board is offering to help ensure the well-being of pastors and church staff. Key timelines for benefits to be offered and accepted are coming soon. **(Appendix C)**

A PERSONAL TIME FOR RENEWAL OF BODY AND SOUL -- During this mid-meeting break, Ruling Elder Eliot Heflin (Dayton: Trinity) offered a recorded cell-phone chorus of "It Is Well With My Soul."

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL—CONSENT AGENDA – Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, chair

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 May 12, 2020 and the special meetings of June 10 and August 12, 2020.

- **Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches** – Approved the minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches of June 1, 2020 (**Appendix D**).
- **Minutes of the Administrative Commission for Dayton: Memorial Church** – Approved the minutes of the Administrative Commission for Dayton: Memorial Church of June 22, July 27, and August 10, 2020 (**Appendix E**).

From the Leadership Council:

- **Approval of Independent Accountant's Audit Report regarding 2019 Presbytery of the Miami Valley Financial Statements** – Approved the Independent Accountant's Report dated August 7, 2020 relating to the presbytery's financial statements as of December 31, 2019, in accordance with G-3.0113 of the Book of Order, which include the conclusion that, in the auditor's opinion, "the financial statements referred to above present, in all material respects, the financial position of Presbytery of the Miami Valley as of December 31, 2019, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." (**Appendix F**)

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL – Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, chair

For Action:

- **Kirkmont Center Obligations** (Ruling Elder Georgie Woessner, chair of Trustees)
On the recommendation of the Leadership Council and Presbytery Trustees, presbytery adopted the following two actions by separate recorded votes of 74 votes in favor and 0 (zero) votes against:
 - That the presbytery return the four remaining \$10,000 Kirkmont mortgages received by the presbytery at the dissolution of the Morning Sun United Presbyterian Church back to Kirkmont Center Mortgage Group, LLC.
Rationale: This has been an ongoing issue since Morning Sun dissolved in 2017. The circumstances that caused both discussion and delay no longer exist and the Trustees would like to honor the wishes of the session of the Morning Sun church in returning these mortgages to Kirkmont Center Mortgage Group, LLC.
 - That the presbytery forgive the three unsecured loans that the presbytery holds for Kirkmont Center totaling \$45,005.
Rationale: It is the desire of the Trustees to align the balance sheet of PMV to represent both the presbytery's work and mission. We believe these items on our balance sheet represent assets that further the mission of Kirkmont Center and it serves us both at this time to return them to Kirkmont.

Reports Presented For Information:

- **Presentation by Anne Paquette, Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 224th General Assembly** Anne orally presented her perspectives on the all-virtual General Assembly in June. Her written report and those of Ruling Elder Commissioner Bruce Saunders and Minister of the Word and Sacrament Commissioner Michael Isaacs are in **Appendix G**.
- **Preliminary 2021 Budget Guidance** -- Ruling Elder Georgie Woessner, chair of Trustees, outlined the financial expectations for churches to provide payments for Presbytery Connectional Support (\$40.00 per active member) and General Assembly per capita (\$8.98 per active member) and Synod per capita (\$3.25 per active member) in 2021 (**Appendix H**). These funds are an expression of the covenant that binds us together to do the Lord's work in a united, mutually-supportive way. The presbytery expressed gratitude for the strong support from many churches.
- **Representation and Diversity Committee**—Committee co-chair Ruling Elder Pat Meadows introduced committee members and noted plans for conversations with each standing committee about diversity and inclusion opportunities in their work (**Appendix I**). She invited presbyters to a Presbyterian Outlook webinar on Choosing Faith over Fear.
- **Blessing and Farewell for PMV Office Manager Tom Oxley**—Led by Staff Support chair MWS Diane Ziegler, Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk, and former EP Ruling Elder Margaret Haney, the presbytery wished Tom Oxley well as he leaves the staff and begins a business manager position with a local church. Tom has been a vital member of the staff for 20 years.

His compassion, dedication and procedural knowledge have been invaluable to our work over the years. Our prayers go with Tom as God leads his next steps.

- **Synod Grants and Scholarships** -- Presbytery again welcomed Minister of the Word and Sacrament Charles (Chip) Hardwick, Interim Executive of the Synod of the Covenant. Chip focused on promoting Synod racial/ethnic and new covenant grants and higher education and COVID/emergency scholarships, underscoring the timelines for applying and when applications will be reviewed.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE—Minister of the Word and Sacrament Sarah Sparks-Franklin, committee member

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

The Committee nominated the following names to serve the Presbytery in elected positions. Additional nominees from the floor were solicited, and none appearing, nominations were declared closed and, **by a Yes/No vote on Zoom of 76 votes in favor and 0 (zero) votes against, the presbytery elected the following people:**

- To serve in the indicated capacities on presbytery committees, commissions, and Council:

Leadership Council

Class of 2023

MWS Nancy Birdsong

Network Support and Grants

Class of 2021

Rev. Daria Schaffnit

Presbytery Trustees

Class of 2023

MWS Kazy Blocher Hinds

Representation and Diversity

Class of 2023

MWS Laura Nile Tuell

Staff Support

Class of 2021

MWS Lawrence Bartel

Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2026

RE Eliot Heflin (Dayton: Trinity)

MODERATOR'S REPORT— Moderator Alice McCollum noted that her tenure has been entirely by Zoom meetings, but she is available to the presbytery. She encouraged people to reach out to others, including those for whom technology is difficult, in a time when isolation and despair are real but hope will see us through.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY -- Ruling Elder Marge Morgan, chair

For Action: On recommendation and motion of the committee, presbytery:

- Approved by a Yes/No vote on Zoom of 75 votes in favor and 0 (zero) votes against, the **2021 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation**, which provides for no change in the minimum effective salary or continuing education reimbursement for 2021. (**Appendix J**)
- Approved by unanimous consent **granting the status of Honorably Retired to Minister of the Word and Sacrament Angela Schenck**, effective September 30, 2020, at her request.

RECOGNITION OF WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL****For Information:**

- **Redress of Imbalance** -- Under authority the presbytery granted at the May 2020 meeting, Council agreed to invite three churches to supply one additional ruling elder each to the presbytery meetings occurring between September 2020 and May 2021, to create a better balance between ministers and ruling elders in our presbytery deliberations. The three churches that have agreed to provide the additional ruling elders are Xenia: United, Huber Heights: Faith, and Dayton: Trinity. We thank these churches for assisting in balancing the number of ministers and ruling elders at presbytery meetings. (LC, June 11, Aug. 13)
- **Kirkmont Obligations** – At the Trustees' request, LC voted to request that the presbytery return to Kirkmont Center Mortgage Group, LLC, the four remaining Kirkmont mortgages the presbytery received from the Morning Sun: United church when it closed, and forgive three unsecured loans the presbytery holds for Kirkmont. (LC, Aug. 13)
- **Resolution of payment amounts to Synod and General Assembly for per capita for 2021** – Trustees requested that Council consider reducing the amount presbytery would pay in 2021 for General Assembly and Synod per capita, below the amounts those councils designate for us to pay, to reflect that several churches that were open in 2019 will have departed or closed by 2021 and that presbytery resources are strained. After discussion about the merits of doing so, and a reminder that the consistent position of our presbytery in the past has been to fully honor the requests of other councils in the spirit of connectional commitment and support for their important initiatives, Council voted to commit to paying the full amounts requested from GA and Synod for 2021. (LC, Aug. 13)
- **Approval of 2019 audit report and request for presbytery approval** -- Having received the positive audit report for 2019 financial statements from CPA Matthew Scarr, Council voted to approve the report and ask that presbytery do the same at the September stated meeting, as required by Sec. 1.08(6)(B) of the Trustees Policy and Practice. (LC, Aug. 13)
- **Approve budget guidance and maintaining Connectional Support at \$40 for 2021** – Council received an overview of the proposed 2021 presbytery budget and voted to advise churches to expect a continuation of requested Connectional Support payments of \$40.00 for 2021. The budget guidance is on pp. 59-61 of the advance packet. (LC, Aug. 13)
- **Approve RE Diane Welborn as LC designee to the Representation and Diversity Committee.** Council by a 12-0 vote reappointed RE Diane Welborn to serve as LC representative on the Representation and Diversity Committee for 2020-2021 (June 11)
- **Presbytery meeting attendance** – The three presbytery meetings conducted by Zoom—in May, June and August—have been evaluated and suggestions for change have been considered and often adopted. The combination of Zoom presence and livestream participation has meant that total numbers of people experiencing the meetings has often exceeded pre-Zoom attendance for both stated and special meetings.
- **Brethren Disaster Ministries agreement** – The presbytery signed a memorandum of understanding with Brethren Disaster Ministries permitting their shared use of the former Dayton: Memorial church building to house and support work groups involved in post-tornado and other disaster assistance programs. (LC, July 9)
- **Lilly Grant Proposal** – The presbytery submitted a grant proposal for church revitalization to the Lilly Foundation, to provide support for a 3-5 year program to work with congregations and pastors toward thriving. This is a competitive grant process and we should hear in the fall whether we receive the grant. (LC, June 11)
- **Reopening of Presbytery** – A task force of Council continues to evaluate how and when the presbytery offices might reopen more fully as the coronavirus situation changes.
- **Flexibility on meeting in-person** – Council is reviewing whether increasing experience with electronic meeting platforms might allow presbytery committees to welcome members who would essentially only connect virtually rather than attend meetings face-to-face when that becomes safe and possible to do.
- **Redefinition of Network** – The Network Support and Grants Committee has been discussing the definition of what constitutes a “Network” and how presbytery support for Networks can be aligned with the presbytery’s mission.
- **Approval of Nominations Committee motion related to waiving MWS/RE balance requirement on certain committees** -- Council considered the motion from Nominations Committee to request waiving the imbalance on the rosters of the Committee on Preparation

- for Ministry and Presbytery Trustees through May 2021, and after discussion adopted the motion by a vote of 11-0. (June 11)
- **Stated Clerk Search** – The Staff Support Committee reported that it was pleased to report that the Stated Clerk Search Committee is in the stages of final interviews and will complete the search on the targeted timeline (November 2020).
 - **Presbytery Meeting hosts approved** – The Stated Clerk and Council reported that the following churches have committed to hosting presbytery meetings through the end of 2022, assuming that at some point the COVID-19 virus and government safety regulations permit face-to-face meetings:
 - Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 3:00 p.m., Virtual Meeting via Zoom
 - Saturday, November 14, 2020, 9:00 a.m., at Huber Heights: Faith or Virtual (TBD soon)
 - Saturday, February 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m., at Dayton: Trinity
 - Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 3:00 p.m., at Huntsville
 - Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 3:00 p.m. [Presbyterian Church of Hamilton has been offered this slot, since their September 2020 slot went virtual. They will decide at next session meeting]
 - Saturday, November 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. OPEN [Tentatively reserved for Huber Heights: Faith United if the November 2020 meeting becomes virtual]
 - Saturday, February 12, 2022, 9:00 a.m., at Bellefontaine: First United
 - Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 3:00 p.m., expected to be at home church of incoming presbytery moderator
 - Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 3:00 p.m., at Farmersville: Slifers
 - Saturday, November 12, 2022, 9:00 a.m., at Springboro: Covenant

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY –

- **For Information:** The committee noted it had enrolled a new Inquirer, Emily Knoth (Springboro: Covenant); completed processes both for Rev. Steven Schumm and CRE Gidget Collins; certified Candidate Susan Brasier Goud ready to receive a call; and continued outreach to inquirers and candidates under care.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

For Information: The Committee on Ministry, on motion, took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery (date of COM action listed after each item):

- **Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins and Seven Mile—**
 - Revised retroactively to March 1, 2020 the approved terms of service for RE Gidget Collins at the Seven Mile Church to authorize her to preside at funerals without restriction beginning on March 1, to clarify and amend the terms approved by COM on February 25, 2020;
 - Renewed the request to the presbytery Moderator to promptly call a special meeting of the presbytery to examine Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins on her statement of faith, call, and motive, and on her fitness for the commission at the Seven Mile Presbyterian Church, and
 - Following presbytery approval in (b) above at the special meeting, approved that:
 - the presbytery immediately proceed to hold a commissioning service pursuant to G-2.1003; and
 - the presbytery be invited to join the Seven Mile congregation in celebrating the commissioning in a way and at a time to be arranged by the Seven Mile Church. (COM, May 26)
- **Monroe** — In light of the expected action of the Monroe congregation on Sunday, June 7 to vote to agree to the request of MWS Jeri Baker to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective June 21, 2020, the COM:
 - Authorized RE Marge Morgan to moderate the June 7 congregational meeting;
 - If the way be clear after the congregational vote, concurred on behalf of the presbytery in the dissolution of the pastoral relationship under Sec. 1.06(7) of the COM Policy and Practice;
 - Appointed MWS John Lewis to moderate the Monroe session, effective June 21, 2020;
 - Authorized the Stated Clerk to transfer MWS Baker to the Member at Large roll effective June 21, 2020;

- Made plans for an exit interview with MWS Baker. (COM, May 26)
- **MWS Charles (Chip) Hardwick**—Following a successful interview with COM members on May 20--
 - Approved receiving Minister of the Word and Sacrament Charles (Chip) Hardwick as a member of this presbytery, effective May 26, 2020, and
 - Authorized the Stated Clerk to request the dismissal and transfer from Rev. Hardwick's current presbytery, Chicago, and enter him on the Validated Ministry roll and request that he submit a report for renewal of a Validated Ministry that is approved by COM this fall. (COM, May 26)
- **Bradford: First** – Renewed the part-time (14 hours per week) Commissioned Ruling Elder Covenant between Ruling Elder Mike Buker and the First Presbyterian Church in Bradford, effective June 1, 2020 through June 1, 2021. Duties: Preach and worship leadership, administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, perform weddings and funerals, provide pastoral care, advise and resource session and congregational committees. Serve as Moderator of session, attend meetings of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley with voice and vote. Mentoring by MWS Cliff Haddox. RE Buker's membership is in the Dayton: Central Church. Terms: Effective Salary including housing--\$11,600; Mileage and Professional Expense Reimbursement -- \$1,600; Continuing Education expense reimbursement--\$1,300. Vacation--4 weeks, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education—2 weeks, including 2 Sundays. Salary terms do not meet 2020 presbytery minimum salary requirements for CREs. (COM, May 26)
- **Dayton: College Hill Community** – Approved the full-time Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament M. Merritt Worthen, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, at the following terms, and appoint her moderator of the session: Total Effective Salary (including housing allowance) \$55,000; full Board of Pension dues; SECA (up to 50%); Travel reimbursement (including auto at IRS rates) \$1,000; Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,220; Vacation – 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education time 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays, cumulative to 4 weeks. Terms meet 2020 presbytery pastor salary and reimbursement guidelines. (COM, May 26)
- **Dayton: Immanuel Korean** – Authorized a team convened by COM to work with the Immanuel Korean session, along with Office of the General Assembly staff member Rev. Luke Choi who is assisting with guidance, and with the congregation in discerning key next steps. Agreed to appoint MWS Sunkyoo Park, a member of Midwest Korean American Presbytery, to moderate the session and congregational meetings, if necessary. (COM, May 26)
- **Sexual Misconduct Response Taskforce** – Authorized the COM liaison to the Sexual Misconduct Response Taskforce to inquire of the Taskforce leadership about the taskforce's current activities and needs, including whether new appointments are required to fill vacancies in membership on the taskforce; and next steps on implementing the presbytery's authorization for a special team to be created to train members of an Investigating Committee to be prepared for future sexual misconduct charges. (COM, May 26)
- **Ruling Elders to serve Communion** – The Committee:
 - Authorized RE Gidget Collins to coordinate contacting Ruling Elders who were trained in 2019 to serve communion in their churches in the absence of a pastor to:
 - require a report from them for review at the June 30 COM meeting detailing how many times they have administered the Lord's Supper and how their understanding of the Lord's Supper has grown; and
 - find out their willingness to continue serving the Lord's Supper if their church remains eligible for their service.
 - Extended the authority of these ruling elders trained in 2019 to serve communion until June 30, 2020, the date of the next COM meeting, rather than June 25, 2020. (COM, May 26)
- **Huber Heights: Faith**—Approved the recommendation of the Pastor Nominating Committee and session of the Huber Heights: Faith Presbyterian Church to enter into a part-time Stated Supply contract (30 hours per week) with the Rev. Julia Hinshaw Williamson, for the period July 8, 2020 to July 7, 2021, and appoint her to continue as moderator of the session and to administer the Sacraments, at the following terms: Effective Salary \$49,202.35 (including cash salary and deferred income); no Board of Pensions dues on account of spousal coverage through the UCC; SECA up to 50%; Travel reimbursement (auto at IRS rate) \$1,000; Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,720; Professional Expense reimbursement \$600; Vacation 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays); Continuing education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). Terms comply with 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, June 30)

- **MWS Garth Adams**—Approved MWS Garth Adams to labor outside the bounds of this presbytery in a temporary pulpit supply position with the Carmel Presbyterian Church, a congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, effective November 12, 2019. (COM, June 30)
- **Representation and Diversity Committee**—Reaffirmed the appointment for 2020-2021 of MWS Garth Adams as the COM representative on the Representation and Diversity Committee. (COM, June 30)
- **Rural Church Fund**—Approved the Stated Clerk offering the 2020 proceeds from the Krebs Memorial Fund of the Presbyterian Foundation, initially set up under the now-closed Morning Sun United Presbyterian Church, to the New Carlisle: Honey Creek 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. In previous years, the funds were provided to the Clifton Church (2018) and the Huntsville Church (2019). (COM, June 30)
- **Candidate Susan Brasier**—The Committee on Preparation for Ministry at its May meeting authorized Candidate Susan Brasier to seek a call. COM authorized the chair and vice chair of COM, together with the EP, to resolve any issues relating to the ordainability of potential calls for this candidate to expedite scheduling of a presbytery meeting to examine her for ordination, if the way be clear, between COM meetings. Any such resolution to approve the ordainability of a position would be ratified at the next COM meeting. (COM, June 30)
- **Dayton: Immanuel Korean**--On the advice of PCUSA staff member MWS Luke Choi who is assisting COM, approved the equivalent of the Ministry Information Form that the Immanuel Korean PNC has created and authorized Rev. Choi and the PNC to place it on appropriate pastoral search sites for pastors of Korean churches. (COM, June 30)
- **Rev. Stan Gockel**—Approved the following mutually agreed-on temporary alterations in the contract of Rev. Stan Gockel as interim pastor at the Springfield: Covenant Church: a ten percent reduction in salary for the months of July and August 2020, to align with similar reductions for other church staff. (COM, June 30)
- **MWS Kevin Lawler**—Authorized MWS Lawler to labor outside the bounds of this presbytery to perform a wedding in Cincinnati, OH in 2021. (COM, June 30)
- **Board of Pensions' representative MWS Douglas Portz**--Invited Rev. Doug Portz to present information to the July COM meeting relating to new programs offered by BoP to support ministers and churches, and requested that Leadership Council invite Rev. Portz to present information to the September stated presbytery meeting. (COM, June 30)
- **MWS Richard Dalton** – MWS Garth Adams, following a report to COM, agreed to arrange a conversation with Rev. Richard Dalton, a minister member of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery, who has reached out to our presbytery with information about a new violence reduction initiative in West Dayton. (COM, June 30)
- **Sexual Misconduct Response Taskforce** – RE Mike Buker reported on his inquiry to the Taskforce leadership about the taskforce's current activities and needs, including the need for several new appointments to fill vacancies in membership on the taskforce; and next steps on implementing the presbytery's authorization for a special team to be created to train members of an Investigating Committee to be prepared for future sexual misconduct charges. (COM, June 30)
- **Ruling Elders authorized to preside at the Lord's Supper** –
 - RE Gidget Collins prepared a summary of reports submitted by Ruling Elders who were trained in 2019 to serve communion in their churches in the absence of a pastor, detailing how many times they have administered the Lord's Supper and how their understanding of the Lord's Supper has grown; and their willingness to continue serving the Lord's Supper if their church remains eligible for their service. (COM, June 30)
 - COM then approved extending the authority of the following ruling elders trained in 2019 to serve communion until June 29, 2021, on the same terms as COM approved on April 30 and June 25, 2019:
 - David Wantz, The Presbyterian Church of Wilmington
 - James Gillette, The Presbyterian Church of Wilmington
 - Rosemary Smith, Dayton: Trinity
 - Mary Jean Blackmon, Dayton: Trinity
 - Alice McCollum, Dayton: Trinity
 - Alex Bowers, Springboro: Covenant
 - Ann Hagen, Sidney: First

- COM determined not to extend the authority of the following ruling elders trained in 2019 to serve communion, without prejudice to their ability to reapply to COM for such authority if the circumstances in their churches change:
 - 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

- **Rev. Steven Schumm**—The Committee on Preparation for Ministry has been overseeing the process that, if completed, would lead to the transfer of ecclesial membership of Rev. Steven Schumm from the Mennonite Church (U.S.A.) to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) under procedures that the presbytery has approved for ministers who are not members of denominations in full communion with the PCUSA (Sec. 1.09 of the CPM Policy and Practice, approved February 2019). CPM plans a final consultation with Rev. Schumm in July prior to requesting that the presbytery schedule an examination of him to approve his transfer. In anticipation of this consultation, CPM has asked for COM to take any necessary actions in support of the examination and transfer under Sec. 1.09(7) of the CPM Policy and Practice. Therefore, COM:
 - found and confirmed that Rev. Steven Schumm's membership in the presbytery would advance the presbytery's mission, life and work, and
 - pending final CPM action to request an examination, concurred in the approval of Rev. Steven Schumm to be examined for transfer on the floor of presbytery. (COM, June 30)
- **2021 Presbytery Budget Item for COM** – Approved requesting that the Trustees include \$10,000 for COM Expenses in the 2021 presbytery budget to be considered and approved at the November 2020 stated presbytery meeting. [The 2020 budget amount for COM was also \$10,000.] (COM, July 28)
- **Rev. Kim Katterheinrich** – Authorized a COM team to have a conversation with Rev. Katterheinrich concerning whether he should be authorized to serve communion upon request of the pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Hamilton, and report back for action at the August COM meeting. (COM, July 28)
- **MWS Maureen Clark and MWS Andrew Clark** – Voted to deny the request of MWS Maureen Clark (Scioto Valley) and MWS Andrew Clark (Ohio Valley) to transfer their memberships to this presbytery as members-at-large at this time. (COM, July 28)
- **MWS Steve Merrin** – Approved MWS George (Sandy) McConnel to serve as mentor to MWS Steve Merrin. (COM, July 28)
- **Moderators of Session:** Authorized the COM chair to appoint a moderator of the Farmersville: Slifers session, effective August 31, 2020, subject to ratification at a future COM meeting. (COM, July 28)
- **Honorable Retirement for MWS Angela Schenck** -- Approved requesting that the presbytery grant the status of Honorably Retired to Minister of the Word and Sacrament Angela Schenck, effective September 30, 2020, at her request. (COM, July 28)
- **2021 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation** – Approved the final draft of the 2021 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation which provides for no change in the minimum effective salary or continuing education reimbursement for 2021, and requested that the presbytery approve this Recommendation at the September 8, 2020 stated presbytery meeting. (COM, July 28 and Aug. 25)
- **Belle Center: United** – Following COM review, approved the church's draft Ministry Information Form, and authorized its placement on the CLC. (COM, Aug. 25)
- **Dayton: Immanuel Korean** -- Agreed to:
 - permit the requested neutral pulpit process on this occasion as an exception, but without an assurance that such a process would be approved in future searches;
 - approve the terms of call as presented, with the exception of amending the vacation and continuing education leave to two weeks each. (COM, Aug. 25)
- **MWS Robert C. Anderson** – Authorized MWS Robert Anderson, an honorably retired minister member of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, to labor within our bounds in connection with the Monroe church. (COM, Aug. 25)

- **Authority for membership transfers** – Authorized the Stated Clerk, following consultation with the COM chair, vice chair and the Executive Presbyter, to approve the transfer of current PMV minister members to other presbyteries at those presbyteries' request, subject to ratification at the next regular COM meeting. (COM, Aug. 25)
- **Clifton: United** – Approved the request of the church to grant the status of Pastor Emeritus to Honorably Retired Minister of the Word and Sacrament Arbuth Conn. (COM, Aug. 25)
- **Moderators of Session:** Appointed the following to serve as moderators or co-moderators of sessions:
 - Appointed MWS Karen Cassedy and RE Gidget Collins to serve as co-moderators at Blue Ball, effective July 1, 2020. (COM, June 30)
 - Ratified the COM chair's action to appoint RE Sue Seiler to moderate at Farmersville: Slifers, effective August 31. (COM, Aug. 25)
- **Pulpit Supply List**—Approved the following changes to the PMV pulpit supply list: add MWS Maureen Clark. (COM, Aug. 25)
- **Validated Ministries**—Based upon reports submitted, approved on behalf of the presbytery for 2021 the validated ministries beyond the jurisdiction of the church, in accordance with G-2.0503a, for the following, and authorized 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, Aug. 25)
 - Steven Ingram, Chaplaincy at Miami Valley Hospital
 - Christopher Martin, Chaplaincy with the U.S. Navy
 - Sang Un (Brian) Lee, Chaplaincy at Emory University Hospital
- **Members-at-Large**—Based upon reports and requests submitted, approved on behalf of the presbytery for 2021 the status of member-at-large, in accordance with G-2.0503b, for the following ministers of the Word and Sacrament: (COM, July 28 and Aug. 25)
 - Karen Cassedy
 - Beau Brown
 - Denise Weaver
 - Melissa Tidwell
 - Randall Brakemeyer

ADJOURNMENT WITH CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Alice McCollum at 5:02 p.m.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., virtually by electronic means (Zoom).

Attest:

Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk

APPENDICES:

- A. Bylaw and Presbytery Policy and Practice Change to permit virtual meetings
- B. Memorial for Dr. Solomon Avotri and MWS Thomas Martin
- C. Board of Pension Changes for 2021
- D. Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches
- E. Minutes of the Administrative Commission for Dayton: Memorial
- F. Independent Accountant Audit Report for 2019 Financial Statements
- G. Reports from members of presbytery delegation to the 224th General Assembly (2020)
- H. 2021 Preliminary Budget Guidance to Churches
- I. Representation and Diversity Committee Presentation
- J. 2021 Pastors' Compensation Recommendation