

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

Saturday, February 8, 2020

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Ohio

**Approved at May 12, 2020 stated presbytery meeting**

The meeting was convened with prayer at 9:01 a.m. on Saturday, February 8, 2020, by Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, Moderator, at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Springfield, 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	P	Garrigan, Carmen		McCormick, Dwight	P
Allen, Todd	P	Haddox, Clifford	P	Merrin, Steven	
Avotri, Solomon		Haddox, Emily	P	Miller, Herbie	P
Bain, Marciana	P	Hamilton, Susan	P	Murphy, Kevin	P
Baker, Jeri	P	Helling, Michael	P	Neely, John	P
Baker, Richard		Hernandez, David		Nile, Laura	P
Bartel, Lawrence	P	Hess, Lisa		Pelaez-Diaz, Francisco	
Beres, Benjamin	P	Hinds, Kathryn Blocher	E	Ramsey, Thomas	
Birdsong, Nancy	P	Hodgkins, Nancy	P	Rupnik, Frank	E
Bova, Lynette	P	Ingram, Steven	E	Schenck, Angela	E
Brakemeyer, Randall	P	Isaacs, Michael	P	Shin, Kelley Wehmeyer	P
Brown, Beau		Kukuk, Terry	P	Soards, Marion	
Burslem, Kathleen	E	Lawler, Kevin		Sparks-Franklin, Sarah	
Cassedy, Karen	P	Lawrence, Ronald	E	Tidwell, Melissa	
Circelli, Diana	E	Lee, Sang Un		Van Bulck, Marcel	P
Dardaganian, Brad	E	Lewis, John	P	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

**TEMPORARY MINISTER MEMBERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS**

Gockel, Stan	P
Schaffnit, Daria	E
Schumm, Steven	P
Williamson, Julia	
Whitt, Joe	

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

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

Swaim, Gerald G.  
 Thornton, Jesse  
 Wade, Robert P  
 Wall, Evan

Walthour, William  
 Warren, Patrick  
 Williams, Russell D.  
 Yanney, William

Zuercher, John

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

BELLBROOK 1 -	DAYTON: TRINITY 1 - Smith, Rosemary P	PIQUA: GOOD SHEPHERD 1 - Kerns, Sandra P
BELLE CENTER 1 - Claassen, Debbie P	2 - Coleman, Gail P	PIQUA: WESTMINSTER 1
BELLEFONTAINE 1 -	DAYTON: WESTMINSTER 1 - Saunders, Gene P	REILY 1 -
BLUE BALL 1 -	2 - Lachman, Amy P	RUSHSVLVANIA 1 -
BRADFORD 1 -Buker, Mike (CRE)	3 - Keller, Melissa P	SEVEN MILE 1 -
2 -	EATON: FIRST 1 - McCreary, K. P	SIDNEY: FIRST 1 -
CLIFTON 1 -	FAIRBORN: FIRST 1 - Gadd, Ken P	SPRINGBORO: COVENANT 1 - Sebastian, Loretta P
COLLINSVILLE 1 -	FARMERSVILLE: SLIFERS 1 -	SPRINGFIELD: COVENANT 1 -
COVINGTON 1 - Schultz, Judy P	HAMILTON: THE P. C. 1 - Eyler, Greg P	SPRINGFIELD: NORTHMINSTER 1 - Rigio, Terry P
DAYTON: BATH 1 - Mast, Becky P	2 -	2- Heaton, Judith P
DAYTON: CENTRAL 1 -	HAMILTON: WESTWOOD 1 -	TROY: FIRST 1 - Tyner, Troy P
DAYTON: COLLEGE HILL 1 -	HUBER HEIGHTS: FAITH 1 -	2 -
DAYTON: CORINTH 1 -	HUNTSVILLE 1 -	URBANA: FIRST 1 -
DAYTON: FAIRMONT 1 - Chamberlain, C. P	JAMESTOWN 1 - Herdman, Mary P	WEST LIBERTY 1 -
DAYTON: IMMANUEL KOREAN 1 -	MIDDLETOWN: FIRST 1 -	WILMINGTON 1 - Gillette, James P
DAYTON: MEMORIAL 1 -	MIDDLETOWN: ST. LUKE 1 -	2 -
DAYTON: SOUTHMINSTER 1 - Thorp, Lois P	MONROE 1 -	XENIA: MEMORIAL UNITED 1 - Strickland, K. P
2 -	NEW CARLISLE: HONEY CREEK 1 - Oliver, Linda P	XENIA: WESTMINSTER 1 - Rickels, Joyce P
DAYTON: SUGAR CREEK 1	NEW PARIS 1 -	YELLOW SPRINGS: FIRST 1 -
	OXFORD 1 -	

**RULING ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY**

Courtney, Donna (LC)	Niece, Don (LC)	P	Welborn, Diane (LC)	P
Hamilton, Kim (LC)	Saunders, Bruce (Mod)	P	Hollar, Larry (SC)	P
McCollum, Alice (ViceMod)	Shoemaker, Matt (LC)	P	Morgan, Marge (COM)	P

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND THOSE GRANTED VOICE** (not otherwise registered): Seated by presbytery rule: Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer (Recording Clerk); Ruling Elder Gidget Collins (former presbytery Moderator)). Seated by presbytery vote: Ministers of the Word and Sacrament Cindy Kohlmanni (Boston), Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly; Anna Owens (Mid-Kentucky); 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**

Trudy Faber, organist

**CONVENING PRAYER**  
Moderator

Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders,

**OPENING HYMN***"There Is a Balm in Gilead"***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**--Presbyters were welcomed and the presbytery in turn expressed deep gratitude for Covenant's gracious hosting. General Assembly Co-Moderator Cindy Kohlmann was also warmly welcomed. The Hunger Offering taken at registration today supports the Second Harvest Food Bank in Springfield, whose Executive Director, Tyra Jackson, is director of Covenant's Christian Education program. Tracing its roots back to 1981, the Food Bank's stated mission is "targeting hunger to serve and educate through community partnerships." Besides working through agencies in three counties (Champaign, Clark and Logan), the Food Bank has a fresh market pantry, a mobile pantry, a children's feeding program, and a senior program. The "Mission at Every Meeting" initiative, under which presbyters bring tangible goods to support the host church's mission, today helps the Food Pantry at Christ Episcopal Church, Springfield. The specific items requested were paper products, shampoo and toothpaste, cleaning supplies such as laundry detergent, peanut butter and quick meals such as tuna. The pantry is open the third Wednesday of each month.
- **Guests and first-time Ruling Elders** were welcomed.
- **New pastors in our midst** – Presbytery gave a joyous welcome to Minister of the Word and Sacrament Anna Owens, who has begun work as associate pastor at Dayton: Westminster, and Rev. Steven Schumm, who is again among us as stated supply pastor at New Carlisle: Honey Creek. Other new pastors who could not be present today will be introduced at future meetings.
- **Memorial – (Appendix A)** Minister of the Word and Sacrament Garth Adams was invited and offered a memorial remembrance and tribute, with prayer, for Honorably Retired Minister of the Word and Sacrament Glenn E. Thompson, who died January 24. Glenn had served at EUB and United Methodist congregations in Ohio as well as the Presbyterian congregations in Clifton during his ministerial career, which regrettably was shortened by medical issues.
- **Significant Church Anniversaries** – Two hundredth anniversaries were recognized for the Springfield: Covenant and Farmersville: Slifers Churches, and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dayton: College Hill Community Church.
- Following passing of the peace, the presbytery sang "*Blest Be the Tie that Binds*" to welcome all those newly in our midst, to mark the enduring witness of the churches celebrating anniversaries, and to hold dear the 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 thirty-seven (37) ministers of the Word and Sacrament, two (2) minister member from other denominations, twenty-three (23) ruling elder commissioners (representing nineteen (19) congregations), and eight (8) ruling elder members of presbytery: seventh (70) voting members. Also present and not otherwise registered were five (5) corresponding members, including two seated by presbytery rule and three by presbytery vote, fifteen (15) visitors, and one (1) presbytery staff member. Including duplicate categories, total registered attendance of ninety-one (91). A motion to accept excuses from nine ministers of the Word and Sacrament or minister

- members was adopted.
- On motion/second, the revised docket as distributed in the supplemental packet was adopted.

**Correspondence** (November 8, 2019 to February 5, 2020) **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; 2020 per capita assessment letters from General Assembly and Synod the Covenant; information from the Synod of the Covenant and from the Administrative Commission for the Synod of the Covenant.
- **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.
- **Key dates** – The Clerk mentioned key upcoming dates for finishing the annual statistics reports and 2019 minutes review and clerk's training, and the dates for the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Larry thanked clerks of session and church staff and volunteers for their steadfast work in compiling these important archival documents.
- Minister of the Word and Sacrament membership changes since last stated meeting:
  - a. Gains: Gains: **Daria Schaffnit** (entered on the rolls as a minister member from another denomination (United Church of Christ) to serve Yellow Springs: First, Jan. 1, 2020; **Steven Schumm** (entered on the rolls as a minister member from another denomination (Mennonite Church USA) to serve New Carlisle: Honey Creek, Jan. 1, 2020.
  - b. Losses: **Glenn E. Thompson**, HR (to the Lord's loving care in death, Jan. 24, 2020); **Harry (Hart) Edmonds**, HR and **Cheryl Edmonds**, HR (by transfer to the Presbytery of New Hope, Jan. 7, 2020); **Ruling Elder Michael Gabbard** (by termination of his Commissioned Ruling Elder appointment at Collinsville: United effective December 31, 2019.
  - c. In transition: **Erin Kobs** (by transfer from Minnesota Valleys); **Anna Owens** (by transfer from Mid-Kentucky).

**Treasurer's Report Summaries**

- Year-end Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet through December 2019 distributed. YTD Receipts for General: \$337,560; YTD Disbursements for General: \$337,983; Difference: (\$423). YTD Pass-Through Income and Expense: \$185,652. Total Liabilities and Fund Balance: \$1,529,452.
- Year to Date Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet through January 2020 distributed. YTD Receipts for General: \$41,958; YTD Disbursements for General: \$26,325; Difference: \$15,633. YTD Pass-Through Income and Expense: \$22,149. Total Liabilities and Fund Balance: \$1,523,584.

**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 November 9, 2019 and the special meeting of December 19, 2019.
- **Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches** – Approved the minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches of November 3, 2019; November 14, 2019; December 16, 2019 and January 20, 2020 (**Appendix C**).
- **Minutes of the Administrative Commission to Install MWS Laura Nile** as Associate Pastor at Dayton: Southminster Church, November 24, 2019 (**Appendix D**).

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

- **Approval of Lord's Supper at 2020 youth events:** Granted the celebration of the Lord's Supper at the 2020 Youth Retreat and during 2020 summer camp at Kirkmont Center as long

as ministers of the Word and Sacrament preside at the table and ruling elders serve the elements.

**EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT** – Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk noted the importance of the mission

of the presbytery to “prepare, equip, nurture and connect” churches for God’s mission. She noted that the presbytery is not housed in a building on South Smithville, but in the people gathered here today and their work for Christ’s vision. She asked a variety of questions to show how churches are engaged in the presbytery’s work. The presbytery office hours have been reduced with the office closed on Fridays. The future for a presbytery office is being explored. The Facebook page has been updated. Terry also called attention to a new line item in the 2020 budget for minister of the Word and Sacrament financial support for the presbytery. The response to that so far has been good, with a matching grant helping to encourage support.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**WORDS FROM THE 223<sup>RD</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY CO-MODERATOR, MINISTER OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT CINDY KOHLMANN**

The Co-Moderator discussed the Hands and Feet initiative that occurred at the 223<sup>rd</sup> GA in St. Louis, which led to a major focus and downtown march to urge ending cash bail. Significant funds were raised to help secure release of people held for minor infractions and who could not afford to pay their bail. Plans are underway for an appropriate activity in Baltimore in June 2020 during the 224<sup>th</sup> GA. The opening day of that assembly aligns with the Poor People’s Campaign event in Washington, DC, and efforts will be made to connect with the energy in DC. Cindy also explained the symbolic significance of her stole and the Moderator’s cross. She ended by encouraging the presbytery to take seriously the Vision 2020 effort to ground our denomination more fully in the language describing our fundamental calling as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) –that we are Prayeful, Courageous, United, Serving, and Alive! The Presbytery joined in expressing deep gratitude for our Co-Moderator joining us again, because she had served earlier (1999-2004) in this presbytery as pastor of the Carlisle: New Jersey church when it was part of our presbytery.

The presbytery has arranged a variety of activities during Cindy’s stay, including a dinner with clergywomen last evening, post-lunch conversation today, a casual dessert gathering this evening at Dayton: Sugar Creek, and preaching at Dayton: College Hill Community Church tomorrow.

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, PART II** – Ruling Elder Don Niece, chair  
*February Foundations Focus*

Presbyters in small groups took time to explore the February 2020 Focus from the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, which relates to Government by Presbyters. The conversation focused on ways

for ruling elders to discern and guide congregations in their faithfulness to the will of God, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament equipping people for ministry and witness.

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**—Ruling Elder Greg Eyler, 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:

- **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**  
Class of 2021  
MWS Frank Rupnik
- **REPRESENTATION AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**  
Class of 2022, At-Large Member  
RE Pat Meadows (Dayton: Trinity)

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**—Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders thanked members of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches, which he appointed, for their efforts on the presbytery's behalf to help the two Xenia churches join their ministries together. He also thanked the members recently appointed to the Administrative Commission for the Collinsville Church for beginning their journey with that church that wishes to leave the denomination. The Moderator said he is looking forward to being a commissioner to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Baltimore this summer, along with MWS Michael Isaacs and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Anne Paquette.

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

**For Information—Reports Offered on the Floor:**

- **Report on the presbytery becoming a Matthew 25 Presbytery** – MWS Cliff Haddox, a Leadership Council member, showed a video describing one of the presbytery's Matthew 25 churches in ministry. Dayton: Corinth's Kids Club ministry, linking children from the church and the neighborhood, was highlighted. A meeting for churches interested in exploring becoming Matthew 25 churches is set for February 23.
- **Report on Representation and Diversity Committee** – Committee member RE Diane Welborn described the committee structure and encouraged presbyters to watch for the rescheduling of an orientation event on what Representation means, featuring national staff member Molly Casteel.
- **Synod of the Covenant Update** – One of our elected commissioners to the Synod, MWS Diane Ziegler, spoke about the summer health fair plans and a need for support from college students for that effort. She also spoke of needs for congregations to partner with Bosnia and host a pastor in the fall, and take part in a trip to Sarajevo.
- **Presbyterian Youth Connection** – MWS Cliff Haddox showed a video promoting the Spring Youth Retreat in April.

**For Information—Other Written Reports:**

- **Final accounting of each church's 2019 payments for Presbytery Connectional Support, General Assembly Per Capita and Synod Per Capita – Appendix E** contains the final accounting of each church's 2019 payments for Presbytery Connectional Support, General Assembly Per Capita and Synod Per Capita.
- **Trustee/LC Discussions with Kirkmont Center, Inc.** – Leadership Council approved expanding the authority of the team negotiating with Kirkmont to deal with the relationship of the presbytery and Kirkmont Center, Inc. as well as the Kirkmont-related mortgages and loans that remain on the presbytery's books. (LC, Nov. 14, 2019)
- **Closure of presbytery office on Fridays** – Leadership Council approved a proposal from the Staff Support Committee to close the presbytery offices on Fridays starting in January 2020, except for the two Fridays before Saturday presbytery meetings. This is being done to align staffing with the presbytery's current purpose and mission. (LC, Nov 14, 2019)
- **Appointment to Trustees** – Leadership Council appointed Brian Sharp, a member of Dayton: Westminster, to serve as a non-voting member of the Presbytery Trustees under Sec. 3.04(1) of the PMV Policy and Practice, to permit Brian to begin service immediately to support Trustees with his real estate expertise before Trustees next meet. (LC, Dec. 12, 2019). When Trustees met in January 2020, they confirmed this appointment.
- **Location of presbytery office** – Leadership Council delegated authority to the Staff Support Committee to evaluate and explore relocating the presbytery office, and in doing so to maintain close communication with the presbytery Trustees to ensure consideration of the financial and facilities implications of any recommendations Staff Support may bring to Leadership Council for approval. (LC, Dec. 12, 2019)
- **Fulfill Our Calling Network** – Materials were made available about this still relatively new Network that supports congregations in "calling all people to Christ." Rev. David Fleming is the principal contact, at [dfleminggg@gmail.com](mailto:dfleminggg@gmail.com).
- **Overture Advocate Appointment for Overture 012 to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** – At the request of the Committee on Ministry, Council approved Minister of the Word and Sacrament Ben Beres to serve as Overture Advocate for the Overture (now listed as OVT 012 on pc-biz) that presbytery approved in November 2019. That Overture would amend the Book

of Order to change the term “Honorably Retired” to “Retired.” Council also approved funds from available presbytery resources for MWS Beres’ expenses to attend and participate in the General Assembly in Baltimore, MD on the presbytery’s behalf. (LC, Jan. 9, 2020)

- **Covenant Relationships** – Leadership Council is beginning to explore what it means to be in covenant relationships with certain groups in the presbytery, a status currently reflected in the presbytery’s Policy and Practice but not carried out in practice. (LC, Jan. 9, 2020)
- **Network Support and Grants Committee 2020 Allocations to presbytery Networks** – Leadership Council received information from the Network Support and Grants Committee on its 2020 allocations to presbytery Networks. (LC, Jan. 9, 2020) That report is in **Appendix F**.
- **Administrative Commission for the Synod of the Covenant** – The presbytery staff provided materials relevant to the mandate of the Administrative Commission that is working under General Assembly authority to address disorder in the Synod.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Kevin Murphy, committee member

**For Information:** The committee has adopted a handbook and has continued to work with candidates for ministry, Certified Christian Educator, and Commissioned Ruling Elder status. RE Gidget Collins has been found to be satisfactorily prepared to receive a commission as a CRE pending identification of an appropriate ministry location (CPM, January 16, 2020).

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

**For Action:** The presbytery approved the following request No. 1 and deferred action on No. 2:

- 1. Dayton: Memorial**—Pending a congregational vote at the Dayton: Memorial Church on Sunday, February 9, to request the presbytery to assist in dissolving the church, the Committee on Ministry recommends that the presbytery:
  - a. authorize the presbytery Moderator to appoint an Administrative Commission pursuant to G-3.0109b of the *Book of Order* and Sec. 5.05 of the *Presbytery of the Miami Valley Policy and Practice*, to take any necessary actions, in consultation with the session and congregation, to close and dissolve the church and, in collaboration with the presbytery trustees, appropriately care for and dispose of its property; and
  - b. adopt the following specific authorities and responsibilities for the Administrative Commission to carry out its mandate:

The Administrative Commission to assist the Dayton: Memorial Presbyterian Church (the “AC”), in consultation with the church’s session and congregation, shall:

- i. Arrange for all liabilities of the church to be paid in full;
  - ii. Determine the care and distribution of the real property and contents of the church, with the authority to dispose of such property granted to the Trustees of the Presbytery of Miami Valley. The Administrative Commission shall determine the amount of reserve funds to be retained to offset anticipated presbytery expenses for the continued maintenance of the vacant building;
  - iii. Determine the use of undesignated mission funds;
  - iv. Arrange for ways to address the pastoral care of the congregation and transfer of membership upon dissolution of the congregation;
  - v. Arrange for transfer of session and financial records to the presbytery;
  - vi. Determine an appropriate schedule for the congregation’s last worship service and celebration;
  - vii. Dissolve the congregation after the last worship service;
  - viii. Prepare minutes of its proceedings and a final report upon completion of its actions that will be reported at stated meetings of the presbytery.
- c. Should additional authority not specified above be necessary to implement the AC’s mandate, the AC, in consultation with the congregation, may request the presbytery’s Leadership Council to approve and grant the AC additional or clarifying authority. The

Leadership Council shall report on any such authority granted to the AC to the next stated presbytery meeting.

2. **Revised Policy and Practice language for transitional ministry**—Following extensive discussion and questions on the floor, the Committee on Ministry asked that proposed changes in the Committee on Ministry Policy and Practice be withdrawn from today's action agenda and that this be considered a first reading (**Appendix G**). A revised version will be presented for floor approval at a future presbytery meeting, so presbyters are invited to share ideas and concerns with COM following today's meeting.

**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):

- **Authority of Committee Chair between November and January COM meetings**—Authorized the COM chair to take any necessary urgent actions, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter and Vice Chair, prior to the first COM meeting in January 2020, subject to the ratification of those actions by the COM at that first January meeting. (COM, Nov. 26, 2019)
- **Yellow Springs: First**—
  - Approved the action of the session of the Yellow Springs: First Presbyterian Church to enter into a contract to provide part-time (18 hours per week) stated supply pastor services with Rev. Daria Schaffnit, a minister member of the United Church of Christ in good standing with the local judicatory SONKA, for the period from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, at the following terms, and appoint her moderator of the session following a period of training: Effective Salary \$24,000, (including cash salary and housing allowance); no Board of Pensions dues or SECA; auto @ IRS rate \$500; continuing education reimbursement \$1,220; Vacation 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays); Continuing education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). Terms comply with 2020 presbytery requirements; and
  - Authorized the Stated Clerk to add Rev. Schaffnit to the roll of temporary ministry members from other denominations. (COM, Nov. 26, 2019 and Jan. 7, 2020)
- **New Carlisle: Honey Creek**—
  - Approved the action of the session of the New Carlisle: Honey Creek Presbyterian Church to enter into a contract to provide part-time (18 hours per week) stated supply pastor services with Rev. Steven Schumm, a minister member of the Mennonite Church (USA) in good standing with his denomination, for the period from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, at the following terms, and appoint him moderator of the session: Effective Salary \$25,272, including cash salary only; no Board of Pensions dues or SECA; travel @ IRS rate \$1,000; medical supplement reimbursement \$1,000; professional expense reimbursement \$500; Rotary dues \$680; continuing education reimbursement \$1,220; Vacation 4 weeks (including 4 Sundays); Continuing education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). Terms comply with 2020 presbytery requirements; and
  - Authorized the Stated Clerk to add Rev. Schumm to the roll of temporary ministry members from other denominations. (COM, Nov. 26, 2019)
- **MWS Laura Nile-- On motion,**
  - Ratified the designation of the following substitute member to serve as a member of the Administrative Commission for the Installation of MWS Laura Nile that occurred on Sunday, November 24, 2019: RE Ron Kuker (Dayton: Southminster) instead of RE Mark Ferguson (Dayton: Southminster); and
  - Elected MWS Rachel VanKirk Mathews, associate pastor of the Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY and a minister member of Transylvania Presbytery, as a corresponding member of the AC. (COM, Nov. 26, 2019)
- **Dayton: Westminster**—If the way be clear, authorized the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to request that the session call a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing a candidate chosen by the APNC and approved by a COM subgroup, to be elected to serve as associate pastor and to agree to the terms of call. (COM, Nov. 26, 2019)
- **Xenia: Westminster and Xenia: Memorial United**—Pending favorable congregational votes in each church on Sunday, December 8 to approve a merger and Plan of Union, expressed support for the Administrative Commission requesting the presbytery Moderator to call a special meeting of presbytery to concur in the Plan of Union and approve Implementing and Empowering Authority for the AC. (COM, Nov. 26, 2019)



- **Pulpit Supply List**—Following subcommittee review, took note of the following changes to the PMV pulpit supply list: Removed Rev. Steve Schumm, MWS Kevin Lawler, and MWS Trent Holden. (COM, Nov. 26, 2019)
- **Ratification of Committee Chair actions between November and January COM meetings**—Ratified the following urgent actions, done in consultation with the Executive Presbyter and Vice Chair:
  - a. **Nancy Hodgkins:** Approved Rev. Hodgkins laboring outside the bounds to preside at two baptisms, one in First Presbyterian Church in Boonville, NY, anticipated on Dec. 29, and the second in Memphis, TN on a date to be determined, to baptize the child of MWS Kori Phillips, who was ordained in this presbytery.
  - b. **Moderators of Session:** Ratified the COM chair's appointment of the following to serve as moderators of sessions:
    - i. MWS Linda Niece at Fairborn: First, effective December 1, 2019, and ending January 12, 2020;
    - ii. RE Sue Seiler at Collinsville: United, effective January 1, 2020;
    - iii. MWS Angie Schenck at Dayton: Memorial, effective January 1, 2020.
    - iv. MWS Kevin Murphy at Xenia: Westminster, effective upon the departure of MWS Melissa Tidwell as pastor. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
- **Xenia: Westminster**—Approved the decision of the session to extend the contract of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Melissa Tidwell as temporary pastor through the first quarter of 2020, at the same terms as applied to the designated pastor contract that expired on November 21, 2019. This extension was done at the suggestion of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches, knowing that the merger process for the Xenia churches might take some additional time. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
- **Farmersville: Slifers**--Approved the part-time (29 hours per week) Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Angela Schenck, effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, at the following terms, and appointed her moderator of the session: Total Effective Salary (including housing and medical supplement reimbursement) – \$45,836; Board of Pensions dues for pension, death and disability; Travel reimbursement (including Auto at IRS rate) -- \$1,200; Continuing Education reimbursement – \$1,220; Professional Expense reimbursement - \$500; Vacation—6 weeks, including 6 Sundays; Continuing Education Time—2 weeks, including 2 Sundays. These terms meet 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
- **Dayton: Trinity**—Approved an extension of the existing agreement of the Trinity session with Rev. Joe Whitt for temporary supply pastor responsibilities from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, at the following terms: \$200 per Sunday for worship leadership (preaching and administering the Sacraments); pastoral care visitation \$27/hour; other services \$27/hour; mileage reimbursement at IRS rates. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
- **Dayton: Sugar Creek:** Approved the contract terms for the Transitional Pastor position at the Dayton: Sugar Creek Church for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Amy Duiker, for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, at full-time through the program year and part-time (32 hours per week) during the months of June, July and August, for a total of 19 full-time pay periods and 7 part-time pay periods (to be paid on a level payment of total compensation divided by the 26 weekly pay periods of the 2020 salary schedule), and appointed her moderator of the session: Effective Salary (including housing allowance) \$54,995; 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 2020 compensation guidelines. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
- **Dayton: Corinth**--Approved the full-time Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Herbert Miller, effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, at the following terms, and appointed him moderator of the session: Total Effective Salary (including housing allowance) – \$66,000; full Board of Pension dues; SECA (up to 50%) – \$4,807; Travel reimbursement (including Auto at IRS rate) -- \$300; Continuing Education reimbursement – \$1,220; Professional Expense reimbursement - \$2,000; Vacation—4 weeks, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education Time—2 weeks, including 2 Sundays, cumulative up to 6 weeks. These terms meet 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
- **Bellbrook** -- Approved the full-time Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Diane Ziegler, effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, at the following terms, and appointed her moderator of the session: Total Effective Salary (including housing allowance) – \$63,005; no Board of Pensions dues; Travel reimbursement (including Auto at IRS

- rate) -- \$250; Continuing Education reimbursement – \$1,220; Vacation—4 weeks, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education Time—2 weeks, including 2 Sundays, cumulative up to 6 weeks. These terms meet 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
- **Dayton: Bath**—Approved the part-time (19 hours per week) Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Emily Haddox, effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, at the following terms, and appointed her moderator of the session: Total Effective Salary (including cash salary, medical supplement reimbursement, and deferred income) – \$41,394.00; no Board of Pensions dues; Professional expense reimbursement \$500; Continuing Education reimbursement – \$1,220; Travel reimbursement (including auto @ IRS rate) – \$1,000; Vacation—4 weeks, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education Time—2 weeks, including 2 Sundays. These terms meet 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
  - **Fairborn: First** -- Approved the part-time (variable hours per week) Temporary Supply Pastor appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Kathleen Burslem, effective January 12, 2020 through April 12, 2020, at the following terms, and appointed her moderator of the session: Worship leadership, including preaching and administering sacraments \$175 per occasion; moderate session \$100 per meeting; pastoral care visitation \$26/hour; not available for funerals. All other services as requested \$26/hour. Mileage reimbursement at IRS rates. These terms meet 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
  - **Hamilton: Westwood**—Approved the part-time (20 hours per week) Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Norman Godfrey, effective January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, at the following terms, and appointed him moderator of the session: Effective Salary (including cash salary, housing, and medical supplemental) – \$30,467; Board of Pension dues for pension, death and disability; Travel reimbursement (including Auto at IRS rate) -- \$1,500; Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,220; Professional expense reimbursement \$1,000; Vacation—4 weeks, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education Time—2 weeks, including 2 Sundays. These terms meet 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
  - **First reading of revised Policy and Practice language for transitional ministry**—COM had a first reading of proposed Policy and Practice language regarding new approaches to transitional ministry and succession to installed ministry. COM members were invited to review the language and submit questions and comments, so the new language can be approved on Jan. 28. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
  - **RE Gidget Collins**—If the way be clear after a joint CPM-COM team examination on Jan. 9, and CPM review and certification on Jan. 16 of RE Gidget Collins as prepared to receive a CRE commission placement, authorized the COM chair to notify selected churches without current pastoral leadership about Elder Collins's potential availability. (COM, Jan. 7, 2020)
  - **MWS Hart Edmonds, HR and MWS Cheryl Edmonds, HR**—Authorized the Stated Clerk to dismiss MWS Harry (Hart) Edmonds and MWS Cheryl Edmonds to the Presbytery of New Hope, Raleigh, NC, at that presbytery's request, effective January 7, 2020. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
  - **Wilmington**—Approved the part-time Stated Supply appointment at the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Robert Wade for the period January 5, 2020 to April 12, 2020, at the following terms, and appointed him moderator of the session: Worship leadership, including preaching and administering the sacraments, \$100 plus mileage per service; Funeral service \$100; moderate session \$50; pastoral care visitation \$26/hr.; all other services as requested \$26/hr.; mileage reimbursement at IRS rate. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
  - **MWS Anna Owens**—
    - Authorized the Stated Clerk to request the transfer of MWS Anna Owens from the Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, if the way be clear:
      - following a congregational vote on Sunday, February 2 at Dayton: Westminster to call her as associate pastor, and
      - upon successful completion of a background check overseen by the presbytery, and
      - following signing of the call papers; and
    - Assuming a call is finally approved and Rev. Owens begins work expeditiously, authorized MWS Anna Owens to labor within the bounds of this presbytery until such time as the paperwork for her transfer from her current presbytery is completed. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
  - **Approval of revised Policy and Practice language for transitional ministry**—Following the first reading of proposed revised language regarding new approaches to transitional ministry and succession to installed ministry at the Jan. 7 COM meeting, and following further discussion

today, approved the draft language distributed with the materials for this meeting and requested that presbytery approve the policy and practice change at the February 8 stated meeting (Motion 2 above). (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)

- **Belle Center: United**—Approved the Belle Center: United mission study with comment, and authorized the church's session to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
- **Springfield: Covenant**—Approved the Springfield: Covenant MIF with comments, and authorized its placement with appropriate changes on the CLC platform. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
- **Dayton: Memorial**—Pending a congregational vote at the Dayton: Memorial Church on February 9 to request the presbytery to assist in dissolving the church, the Committee on Ministry recommends that the presbytery approve the request now included as Motion 1 in the COM Action Items above for today's meeting, to appoint an Administrative Commission for the Dayton: Memorial Church. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
- **RE Gidget Collins**—The COM:
  - Recognized that the Committee on Preparation for Ministry as of January 16, 2020, has reviewed the statements of faith, call, and motive for RE Gidget Collins, and has found her to be satisfactorily prepared to receive a commission as a Commissioned Ruling Elder;
  - Noted that the COM chair has taken and will continue to take steps to approach churches who might be willing to enter a contract with a CRE with her qualifications;
  - Affirmed that following agreement on a suitable commission, RE Collins will be examined on the floor of presbytery on her three statements and the fitness of the commission, and following approval a commissioning service will take place. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
- **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 authorized this minister of the Word and Sacrament to celebrate the Lord's Supper pursuant to Sec. 106(11) of the COM Policy and Practice: **MWS Solomon Avotri, Professor of Biblical Studies, Payne Theological Seminary**. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020) As part of the motion authorized members of the Pastoral Care Subcommittee to serve home communion to MWS Avotri, should he request it.
- **Notice of Approval of Validated Ministries by other Presbyteries within whose bounds our members labor (G-3.0306)**: The Stated Clerk reported receiving notice from his counterpart in **Scioto Valley Presbytery** that that presbytery's Commission for Church Professionals has approved the validated ministry report of MWS **Kathleen Burslem**. This completed action on MWS Burslem's report. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
- **Members-at-Large**—Approved on behalf of the presbytery for 2020 the status of member-at-large, in accordance with G-2.0503b, for the following: **MWS David Hernandez** (Nov. 26, 2019, pending receipt of paperwork which was later received)
- **Moderators of Sessions**--Approved the following to serve as moderators or co-moderators of sessions:
  - **Collinsville**—Authorized the COM chair to appoint a moderator for the period of appointed moderator RE Sue Seiler's absence, from Feb. 6 to March 17, 2020, to ensure moderator coverage during negotiations with the AC for Departing Churches. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
- **Pulpit Supply List**—Following subcommittee review, took note of the following changes to the PMV pulpit supply list: Added MWS Erin Kobs and Ruling Elder Irwin Roberts (COM, Jan. 28, 2020).
- **AC for Collinsville departure**—The presbytery Moderator has appointed the following as members of the Administrative Commission for Departing Churches to assist in implementing Collinsville: United's request for dismissal: MWS Brian Maguire (chair); MWS Norman Godfrey; MWS Arbuth Conn; RE Nancy Peterson (Middletown: First); RE Marj Lawson (Dayton: Southminster). The AC orientation will occur January 30, 2020. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)
- **MWS Erin Kobs**—Following a favorable report approved tonight on the interview with MWS Erin Kobs, the Stated Clerk agreed to proceed to implement her transfer from Minnesota Valleys Presbytery and her placement on the member-at-large roll of our presbytery, under authority he was granted at the October 29, 2019 COM meeting, following clarification of her leadership involvement at the United Church of Christ congregation she now attends. (COM, Jan. 28, 2020)

February 8, 2020

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

**MUSIC**

Covenant Handbell Ringers

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**SCRIPTURE**

Jeremiah 29:1-14

**SERMON**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament Cindy Kohlmann,  
Co-Moderator, 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

**HYMN OF PREPARATION**

*“Shine, Jesus, Shine”*

**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

Minister of the Word and Sacrament Herbie Miller, Presiding

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*We Respond to God’s Generous Gift*

**CLOSING HYMN**

*“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”*

**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 12:09 p.m.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3211 Lakeview Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45417, at which Presbytery officers for 2020-2021 will be elected and installed.

Attest:

Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk

**APPENDICES:**

- A. Memorial for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Glenn E. Thompson, HR
- B. 2018 Session Records Review Final Report
- C. Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches
- D. Minutes of the Administrative Commission to Install MWS Laura Nile as Associate Pastor at Dayton: Southminster Church, November 24, 2019
- E. Final accounting of each church’s 2019 payments for Presbytery Connectional Support, General Assembly Per Capita and Synod Per Capita
- F. Network Support and Grants Committee 2020 Allocations to presbytery Networks
- G. Proposed Changes to COM Policy and Practice related to Transitional Ministry—First reading