

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY
Wednesday, June 10, 2020
VIA ZOOM

Approved at the September 8, 2020 stated presbytery meeting

The meeting was convened with prayer at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10, 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, Moderator</i>	P
<i>Minister of the Word and Sacrament Ben Beres, Vice Moderator</i>	P
<i>Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, 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	Haddox, Clifford	P	Merrin, Steven	
Allen, Todd	E	Haddox, Emily	P	Miller, Herbie	P
Avotri, Solomon		Hamilton, Susan		Murphy, Kevin	P
Bain, Marciana		Helling, Michael	P	Neely, John	P
Baker, Jeri		Hernandez, David		Nile, Laura	
Baker, Richard		Hess, Lisa	P	Owens, Anna	P
Bartel, Lawrence	P	Hinds, Kathryn Blocher	E	Pelaez-Diaz, Francisco	
Beres, Benjamin	P	Hodgkins, Nancy	E	Ramsey, Thomas	
Birdsong, Nancy		Ingram, Steven	P	Rupnik, Frank	
Bova, Lynette	P	Isaacs, Michael	P	Schenck, Angela	P
Brakemeyer, Randall	P	Kobs, Erin	P	Shin, Kelley Wehmeyer	P
Brown, Beau		Kukuk, Terry	P	Soards, Marion	
Burslem, Kathleen		Lawler, Kevin		Sparks-Franklin, Sarah	
Cassedy, Karen	P	Lawrence, Ronald		Tidwell, Melissa	
Circelli, Diana	P	Lee, Sang Un		van Bulck, Marcel	P
Dardaganian, Brad		Lewis, John		Weaver, Denise	P
Dennis, Ted	P	Linville, Deborah		Worthen, Merritt	
Dozeman, Thomas		Maguire, Brian		Young, Darryll	
Duiker, Amy	E	Martin, Christopher		Ziegler, Diane	P
Garrigan, Carmen		McCormick, Dwight			

TEMPORARY MINISTER MEMBERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Gockel, Stan	P
Schaffnit, Daria	
Schumm, Steven	
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	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	McConnell, George H.	P
Edwards, Robert L.	Graham, James	McNulty, Edward	
Evans, Michael	Hinds, Joe. M III	Meyers, JoAnne	

Niece, Linda
 Nowak, Jacqueline P
 Phillips, William
 Righter, Richard L.
 Sheldon, Jocelyn J.
 Smith, Robert B., Jr.

Sparks, W. Franklin
 Stewart, Donald M.
 Swaim, Gerald G.
 Thornton, Jesse
 Wade, Robert
 Wall, Evan

Walthour, William
 Warren, Patrick
 Yanney, William
 Zuercher, John

ROLL OF CHURCHES (RULING ELDERS PRESENT)

BELLBROOK
 1 – Aldrich, Ray P
 BELLE CENTER
 1 –
 BELLEFONTAINE
 1 –
 BLUE BALL
 1 –
 BRADFORD
 1 –Buker, Mike (CRE)
 2 –
 CLIFTON
 1 –
 COLLINSVILLE
 1 –
 COVINGTON
 1 –
 DAYTON: BATH
 1 – Mast, Becky P
 DAYTON: CENTRAL
 1 –
 DAYTON: COLLEGE HILL
 1 – Peters, Carolyn P
 DAYTON: CORINTH
 1 – Zeh, Barbara P
 DAYTON: FAIRMONT
 1 –
 DAYTON: IMMANUEL KOREAN
 1 –
 DAYTON: MEMORIAL
 1 –
 DAYTON: SOUTHMINSTER
 1 –
 2 –

DAYTON: SUGAR CREEK
 1 – Morgan, Marge P
 DAYTON: TRINITY
 1 – Blackmon, M.J. P
 DAYTON: WESTMINSTER
 1 –
 2 –
 3 –
 EATON: FIRST
 1 – Neavin, Bradley P
 FAIRBORN: FIRST
 1 – Gadd, Ken P
 FARMERSVILLE: SLIFERS
 1 –
 HAMILTON: THE P. C.
 1 – Eyler, Greg P
 2 –
 HAMILTON: WESTWOOD
 1 –
 HUBER HEIGHTS: FAITH
 1 – Adams, Cyndi P
 HUNTSVILLE
 1 –
 JAMESTOWN
 1 –
 MIDDLETOWN: FIRST
 1 –
 MIDDLETOWN: ST. LUKE
 1 –
 MONROE
 1 –
 NEW CARLISLE: HONEY CREEK
 1 –
 NEW PARIS
 1 –

OXFORD
 1 – Cross, Danny P
 PIQUA: GOOD SHEPHERD
 1 –
 PIQUA: WESTMINSTER
 1 –
 REILY
 1 –
 RUSHSYLVANIA
 1 –
 SEVEN MILE
 1 --Durbin, MaryRose P
 SIDNEY: FIRST
 1 –
 SPRINGBORO: COVENANT
 1 –
 SPRINGFIELD: COVENANT
 1 –
 SPRINGFIELD: NORTHMINSTER
 1 –
 TROY: FIRST
 1 – Mauntler, Marge P
 2 –
 URBANA: FIRST
 1 –
 WEST LIBERTY
 1 –
 WILMINGTON
 1 –
 XENIA: UNITED
 1 –
 YELLOW SPRINGS: FIRST
 1 –

RULING ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY

Courtney, Donna (LC)
 Hamilton, Kim (LC) P
 Hollar, Larry (SC) P
 McCollum, Alice (Mod) P

Meadows, Pat (RD)
 Morgan, Marge (COM) P
 Niece, Don (LC)
 Saunders, Bruce (LC) P

Shoemaker, Matt (LC)
 Welborn, Diane (LC)
 Woessner, Georgie (LC)

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND THOSE GRANTED VOICE (not otherwise registered): Seated by presbytery rule: Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer (Recording Clerk); Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins (former presbytery Moderator); Seated by presbytery vote: None

INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES (not otherwise registered): None

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

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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 twenty-seven (27) ministers of the Word and Sacrament, two (2) minister member from other denominations, thirteen (13) ruling elder commissioners (representing thirteen (13) congregations), and four (4) ruling elder members of presbytery: forty-six (46) voting members. Also present and not otherwise registered were two (2) corresponding members seated by presbytery rule and none seated by presbytery vote, and one (1) presbytery staff member. Including duplicate categories, total registered attendance of forty-nine (49). Four timely requests for an excuse were received from ministers of the Word and Sacrament or minister members, and approved by presbytery by unanimous consent. Approximately thirteen (13) devices were recorded as viewing the meeting on livestream.
- The Clerk declared the meeting properly called under the presbytery Bylaws by notice issued on May 29, 2020. The Clerk explained that the docket consists of one nomination brought by the Nominations Committee, and several related motions brought by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). The CPM motions were to have been considered at a special meeting called for March 26, 2020, but concerns for the current coronavirus pandemic caused cancellation of that face-to-face special meeting.
- The Clerk explained the special processes for this meeting by Zoom and provided an orientation to the various Zoom features that presbyters would be required to use during the meeting. Assistance was offered to anyone having trouble navigating their devices through the Chat function. A practice meeting had also been offered two days prior to this special meeting for anyone wishing to learn what was required electronically.
- Presbytery passed by unanimous consent (thereby satisfying the need for a 2/3 vote) the following Clerk's motion that the presbytery temporarily suspend provisions of the Bylaws to permit a virtual electronic meeting of presbytery to occur today. More permanent rules are expected to be adopted at the September 2020 stated meeting.
 - Motion from the Stated Clerk
 1. That the presbytery, pursuant to Section 8.01 of the Presbytery Bylaws, temporarily suspend for its June 10, 2020 special meeting any Bylaw provision, or excuse the lack of any Bylaw provision, that would impede the holding of an electronic meeting on that day in compliance with the *Book of Order* and *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*; and
 2. That the presbytery adopt the same operating provisions to apply on a temporary basis to the June 10, 2020 special meeting as were in effect for the May 12, 2020 stated presbytery meeting and are contained on pp. 10-11 of the Advance Packet for the May 12 stated presbytery meeting, also held by Zoom: (<http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pmvpresbydocs.htm>).
 - By unanimous consent, the docket was adopted.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: The Moderator recognized Minister of the Word and Sacrament Steven Ingram, chair of the committee, for the following motion:

Motion 1: The Nominations Committee presents the following candidate(s) for election to presbytery committees:

- **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
Class of 2022
RE Kevin Laughlin (Monroe)

After opportunity for discussion, presbytery adopted the motion by a vote of 40 votes Yes and 0 votes No, using the voting function on Zoom. So the candidate was duly elected, effective at the adjournment of this meeting.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY – The Moderator recognized Minister of the Word and Sacrament Michael Isaacs, chair of the committee, and on behalf of the committee, the chair presented the following **Motion 2** in the following three parts after explaining the process for preparing and commissioning Commissioned Ruling Elders to service in our churches:

- a. That the presbytery examine Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins on her statements of faith, call, and motive to seek a commission under G-2.1002 (**Appendix A**), and on her fitness for receiving a commission.

Following opportunity for discussion, the presbytery adopted the motion by unanimous consent.

Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins was recognized and orally presented her Statement of Faith (**Appendix A**). Presbyters were then invited to examine Ruling Elder Collins on the Statement of Faith, Statement of Call, and Motive to Seek a Commission under G-2.1002. Eight presbyters asked questions during the examination and Ruling Elder Collins responded. The Moderator then declared the examination concluded. Ruling Elder Collins was removed to a Zoom waiting room.

The committee chair then offered the following additional motion on behalf of the committee.

- b. That the presbytery declare itself satisfied as to her qualifications and confirm the action of the Committee on Ministry in finding the proposed commission with the Seven Mile United Presbyterian Church a suitable one (**Appendix B**).

Committee on Ministry chair Ruling Elder Marge Morgan explained the COM's rationale in approving the proposed commission (Appendix B) and the nature of Ruling Elder Collins's current service at the Seven Mile church. Discussion occurred on this motion with two presbyters offering support for the motion.

When no further presbyters wished to speak, the moderator presented the motion for electronic vote via Zoom. The vote was 40 votes in favor of the motion and 0 votes opposed, so motion (b) was adopted.

Ruling Elder Collins was invited back into the main room and the result of the vote was announced to applause. The committee chair then offered the following motion on behalf of the committee, which was adopted by unanimous consent:

- c. That the presbytery immediately proceed to hold a commissioning service pursuant to G-2.1003. In doing so the presbytery welcomes a forthcoming invitation from the Seven Mile congregation to celebrate the presbytery's act of commissioning at an event at the Seven Mile church on a date and format to be determined.

The Moderator presided at the commissioning service, asking Ruling Elder Collins the Constitutional Questions appropriate for a Commissioned Ruling Elder from the Book of Order, and they were all answered in the affirmative. The moderator then prayed, and following that **announced that Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins had been duly commissioned this day by the Presbytery of the Miami Valley to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elder at the Seven Mile United Presbyterian Church, Seven Mile, Ohio.**

The Moderator warmly welcomed Ruling Elder Collins to these new responsibilities in Christ's service, and invited her to speak, during which she expressed deep thanks to many people for their support and guidance during her discernment time and preparation for service as a Commissioned Ruling Elder.

ADJOURNMENT WITH CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Commissioned Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins at 4:07 p.m.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., either at the Presbyterian Church of Hamilton or virtually.

June 10, 2020

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Attest:

Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk

APPENDICES:

- A. Statement of Faith, Statement of Call, and Statement of Motive for Seeking a Commission – Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins
- B. Committee on Ministry Rationale for the Candidate's Fitness for the Commission with the Seven Mile United Presbyterian Church

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