

Informal Summary of Major Actions
Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley
Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 3:00 pm starting time
Via Zoom

Documents for this meeting are at http://www.miamipresbytery.org/pmv_presby_docs.htm. Page numbers below from pp. 1 to 59 are in the May advance packet; pp. 60 and higher are in the supplemental packet.

Our Moderator, Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, presided at this May 2020 meeting, our first meeting ever done completely by electronic means. Bruce completed his year-long term as Moderator today and reflected on all that had happened in our area and presbytery since May 2019. He expressed gratitude to staff for support.

Process for Holding Virtual Meetings — Presbytery had not adopted clear Bylaw and manual provisions to guide how we do presbytery and Leadership Council meetings via Zoom or other electronic means. So presbytery began by approving temporary rules to ensure 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 gain recognition to speak and engage in simultaneous aural communication, and vote. The same rules were also offered as a first reading of permanent Bylaw and policy and practice changes that will be discussed and voted on at the September stated meeting. The Stated Clerk also explained to presbyters which buttons and tabs on their devices they would use during the meeting.

Consent Agenda—The presbytery approved a Consent Agenda (pp. 17-46) with most of the day’s business:

1. **From the Stated Clerk:** Approved presbytery meeting minutes for the February 8, 2020 meeting (pp. 19-30); meeting minutes from three Administrative Commissions, for the Xenia Churches, Dayton: Memorial and New Paris (pp. 31-41); and received the 2019 presbytery annual statistical report (p. 42).
2. **From the Leadership Council:** Ratified Leadership Council action on March 24 to authorize creation of the Administrative Commission to assist in closing the New Paris church (pp. 43-44); adopted a process to redress the imbalance between voting members who are ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders for 2020-2021 (pp. 44-46); adopted a new process to designate a temporary moderator for presbytery meetings when the elected Moderator and Vice Moderator are unavailable (p. 46).

Our Executive Presbyter, Minister of the Word and Sacrament Terry Kukuk, assured our churches, pastors and elders that she sees them doing good ministry during this time of disruption. She has enjoyed visiting a good percentage of our churches through their online and drive-in worship services. Terry pointed to the continually growing resources on the presbytery webpage and Facebook presence, and encouraged churches to reach out if they need support. We are in this for the long haul, she said, and will continue to add resources to help us be the church in new ways—including holding online meetings, developing ways to do officer ordinations and installations, and adopting other creative approaches to ministry.

From the Nominations Committee— **Presbytery elected Officers for 2020-2021: as Moderator, Ruling Elder Alice McCollum (Dayton: Trinity); as Vice Moderator, Minister of the Word and Sacrament Ben Beres; and as Leadership Council Chair, Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders (Wilmington).** Since committee terms end for 2020 in May, presbytery elected a significant number of committee chairs and members (pp. 71-74). Near the end of the meeting, the **new Officers were installed** and exchanged words and gifts of gratitude and support.

From Leadership Council—

1. **We welcomed Minister of the Word and Sacrament Charles (Chip) Hardwick, the new Interim Executive of the Synod of the Covenant.** Chip described his goals to listen widely among the 11 presbyteries in the Synod; to work with the Administrative Commission for the Synod in this transitional period to rebuild structures and vision for the Synod; and help restore trust and bring healing for some of the wounds that have existed for some time. Chip, who grew up and was ordained in our presbytery, noted that the Synod exists to assist presbyteries and churches in their ministries to serve Christ. The Moderator prayed for Rev. Hardwick and the Synod (pp. 62-66).
2. **Presbytery Commissioned our elected delegation to the 224th General Assembly** – Due to coronavirus, the 224th General Assembly will be a three-day, all-virtual assembly instead of a week-long gathering in Baltimore, MD. The PMV delegation was elected last September, and will serve at Assembly sessions on June 19, 26 and 27, 2020. Vice Moderator Alice McCollum led the commissioning of Ruling Elder Commissioner Bruce Saunders (Wilmington), Minister of the Word and Sacrament Commissioner Michael Isaacs, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Anne Paquette (Dayton: Westminster). Also commissioned were these alternates, who will serve if one of the commissioners or YAAD cannot: Ruling Elder Commissioner Bridget Hawkins (Bellefontaine: First United); Minister of the Word and Sacrament Commissioner Sarah Sparks-Franklin; and Young Adult Advisory Delegates Caroline Eader (Bellefontaine: First United) and Abigail Schultz (Dayton: Sugar Creek). We are grateful for their willingness to honor and serve God in this way, and yet sad that they will not be able to enjoy Baltimore and the fellowship and inspiration of an in-person Assembly (pp. 75-76).
3. **We offered a blessing for PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker José Lamont Jones** – José Jones, a ruling elder at Dayton: College Hill Community Church, is preparing to begin service as an educational consultant Mission Co-Worker in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo. José noted the current plans for him and his wife Evelin to continue language training online and in Africa, before arriving in Kinshasa. He expressed gratitude for the many years in this presbytery during his youth and now more recently, and for the people who have shaped his commitment to Christ's mission. Moderator Bruce Saunders led the ceremony of blessing and prayer (pp. 77-78).
4. **Council presented written information items and financial reports**, including a property sale at Springfield: Covenant (pp. 79-92)
5. **Council invited presbyters to direct their offering for this meeting** to the church they have a relationship with to support ministries dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in their communities (p. 9).

From the Committee on Ministry—

1. **We noted the presence of new ministers Daria Schaffnit and Erin Kobs, and remembered Rev. Robert E. Jones and Minister of the Word and Sacrament Russell Williams, Jr., HR upon their deaths—**COM chair Marge Morgan led prayers for the new ministers, and offered a memorial remembrance for our departed colleagues in ministry (pp. 67-68).
2. **Information--**COM presented numerous information items (pp. 51-55).

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry—

1. The committee noted it had enrolled a new Inquirer, Rachel Boden; made progress in the transfer process for Rev. Steven Schumm; and continued outreach to inquirers and candidates under care (p. 56).

From the Stated Clerk—

1. The Clerk led **prayers for ruling elders in PMV churches who died in 2019**, as listed in the annual Necrology report (pp. 15-16)
2. The Clerk presented many reports, including results of the **2019 session records review** in March (p. 70); the report of **churches and ministers** as of year-end 2019 (p. 59); and the **annual presbytery-wide statistical report for 2019** (p. 42).
3. The **Synod review of presbytery meeting minutes**, normally completed in early May, has been postponed (p. 13).
4. **Seated as corresponding members** for this meeting by vote of presbytery were Rev. Chip Hardwick (Chicago) from Synod of the Covenant; Rev. Chris Roseland (Ohio Valley) from Presbyterian Mission Agency; and Rev. Luke Choi (Western Reserve) from Office of the General Assembly and currently moderator at Dayton: Immanuel Korean. One minister excuse was also approved.
5. The Clerk prepared various **explanatory materials** on how to use Zoom and how our virtual meeting would be held. It was an adventure, to be sure (pp. 1-3, 8-9).
6. **Approximately 98 people attended the actual Zoom presbytery meeting, and more than 70 others viewed the livestream on the presbytery's YouTube channel.** This included a number of people living distant from Dayton who normally would not get the chance to participate.

UPCOMING STATED PRESBYTERY MEETINGS—

Note: These meetings may become virtual gatherings depending on the situation at the time

Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 3:00 p.m., at Hamilton: TPC
Saturday, November 14, 2020, 9:00 a.m., at Huber Heights: Faith
Saturday, February 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m., at Dayton: Trinity
Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 3:00 p.m., at Huntsville

Prepared by Stated Clerk Larry Hollar, May 16, 2020

(Formal and official minutes of this May meeting will be reviewed and approved at the September 2020 stated presbytery meeting.)