

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY
Saturday, March 11, 2023
On Zoom**

CALL OF THE MEETING

Today's special meeting was duly called by the Moderator at the request of the Leadership Council in compliance with Section 4.02 of the Bylaws of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. This meeting was requested by the Leadership Council by action that committee took on February 9, 2023. Pursuant to the presbytery Bylaws, notice was given to all church sessions, Ministers of Word and Sacrament, and Ruling Elder members of the presbytery by email on March 1, 2023. It was also announced verbally at the February stated meeting of presbytery. The purpose of the meeting was to vote on the Amendments to the Constitution of the PCUSA.

The special meeting was convened with prayer on Zoom at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday, March 11, 2023, by MWS Sarah Sparks-Franklin, Moderator. The moderator declared a quorum after confirming with the stated clerk. The protocols for Zoom including that voting would be done by poll and that requests to speak should be entered into the chat function were explained. **A motion prevailed** to excuse 10 MWS, 1 HR, and one RE from the meeting.

MWS Lynn Bova, Stated Clerk, shared that none of the amendments could be amended in any way. Further, a vote of yes for the omnibus motion was voting yes for each of the amendments included. It was also explained that if amendment 22-GG was approved, amendments 22-CC, 22-DD, 22-EE and 22-FF would no longer be relevant and would not go into effect. They still require a vote. Commissioners were invited to pull any of the amendments from the omnibus motion. Amendments 22-A, 22-I and 22-U were pulled from the motion for further discussion and debate.

A motion prevailed to approve the omnibus motion that included 22-B, 22-C, 22-D, 22-E, 22-F, 22-G, 22-H, 22-J, 22-K, 22-L, 22-M, 22-N, 22-O, 22-P, 22-Q, 22-R, 22-S, 22-T, 22-V, 22-W, 22-X, 22-Y, 22-Z, 22-AA, 22-BB, 22-CC, 22-DD, 22-EE, and 22-FF.

A motion prevailed to approve 22-GG.
(See the appendixes B and C for information)

Following discussion, **a motion prevailed** to approve 22-A.
Following discussion, **a motion prevailed** to approve 22-I.
Following discussion, **a motion failed to approve** 22-U.

The stated clerk will report these votes to the Office of the General Assembly.

A motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting. Moderator Sarah Sparks-Franklin closed the meeting with prayer at 9:38 a.m.
The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley will be at the Fairborm Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 3 p.m.

Attested by:

Lynette H Bova, Stated Clerk

APPENDICES:

A - ATTENDANCE

**B - LIST OF AMENDMENTS IN ORIGINAL OMNIBUS MOTION – 22-A, 22-I, 22-U WERE PULLED
AND VOTED ON INDIVIDUALLY**

C - AMENDMENT 22-GG CONCERNING CHURCH DISCIPLINE

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APPENDIX A

LEGEND:
 P – Present E – Excused Blank – Absent *Italics* – attendance recorded in more than one category
 MWS – Minister of Word and Sacrament RE – Ruling Elder

OFFICERS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY

MWS Sarah Sparks-Franklin, Moderator
RE Michael Seewer, Vice Moderator
MWS Amy Duiker, Leadership Council Chair
MWS Lynette Bova, Stated Clerk
RE Kathleen Seewer, Recording Clerk

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ON ACTIVE ROLL

Adams, Garth		Hinds, Kathryn Blocher	E	Noble, Jody	E
Bain, Marciana		Hodgkins, Nancy	P	Owens, Anna	P
Baker, Richard		Holder-Rich, Cynthia	P	Pelaez-Díaz, Francisco	P
Bartel, Lawrence	P	Ingram, Steven		Pierson, Carol	P
Beres, Benjamin		Isaacs, Lucinda	E	Ramsey, Thomas	P
Birdsong, Nancy	P	Kukuk, Terry	P	Rodriguez, Joshua	P
Bova, Lynette	P	Lawler, Kevin		Rupnik, Frank	P
Brasier, Susan		Lee, Joungnam		Schumm, Steven	
Burslem, Kathleen	P	Lewis, John	P	Shin, Kelley Wehmeyer	E
Dennis, Ted	P	Maguire, Brian	E	Soards, Marion	
Deyerle, Caitlin	P	Martin, Christopher		Sparks-Franklin, Sarah	P
Duiker, Amy	P	McCormick, Dwight	P	van Bulck, Marcel	E
Garrigan, Carmen	P	Melick, Ann		Wakeland, Michael	P
Haddox, Clifford	P	Merrin, Steven	P	Weaver, Denise	
Haddox, Emily	P	Murphy, Kevin		Wiley, Shelley	P
Hardwick, Charles	E	Neely, John	E	Worthen, Merritt	
Helling, Michael				Ziegler, Diane	P
Hess, Lisa	E				

TEMPORARY MINISTER MEMBERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Copeland, Steve
 Gockel, Stan E
 Schaffnit, Daria P
 Williamson, Julia
 Whitt, Joe

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

Amidon, C. Forrest		Hamilton, Susan		Philips, William	
Barr, Judith Dunlap		Hernandez, David		Schenck, Angela	
Brakemeyer, Randall		Hinds, Joe. M III	P	Sheldon, Jocelyn J.	E
Brown, Edward		Horrigan, Kevin		Sherman, Donald	
Cassedy, Karen		Howard, Kenneth		Smith, Robert B., Jr.	
Conn, Arbuth		Kester, Gordon L.		Stewart, Donald M.	
Davis-Dudding, Kay		Kim, Soo Kwang		Swaim, Gerald G.	
Dozeman, Thomas		Linville, Deborah		Thornton, Jesse	
Evans, Michael		McConnel, George H.		Wade, Robert	
Foubert, David		McNulty, Edward		Wall, Evan	
Fulton, Robert		Meyers, JoAnne		Walthour, William	
Girbert, David A.		Niece, Linda	P	Warren, Patrick	
Godfrey, Norman		Nowak, Jacqueline		Young, Darryll	
Graham, James				Zuercher, John	

ROLL OF CHURCHES (RULING ELDERS PRESENT)

BELLBROOK 1 – Blose, Betty P	DAYTON: WESTMINSTER 1 – Saunders, Eugene P	PIQUA: WESTMINSTER 1 -
BELLE CENTER 1 – Elson, Mike P	2 – Boezi, Rachael P	REILY 1 –
BELLEFONTAINE 1 –	3 –	RUSHSYLVANIA 1 -
BLUE BALL 1 –	EATON: FIRST 1 –	SEVEN MILE 1 – Collins, C. (CRE) P
BRADFORD 1 –Buker, Mike (CRE)	FAIRBORN: FIRST 1 –	2 – Flynn, Deana P
2 –	FARMERSVILLE: SLIFERS 1 – Gray, Jennifer P	SIDNEY: FIRST 1 – Poling, Ken P
COVINGTON 1 –	HAMILTON: THE P. C. 1 – Eyler, Greg P	SPRINGBORO: COVENANT 1 –
DAYTON: BATH 1 –	2 –	SPRINGFIELD: COVENANT 1 –
DAYTON: CENTRAL 1 –	HUBER HEIGHTS: FAITH 1 – Skare, Mary P	SPRINGFIELD: NORTHMINSTER 1 – Hapner, David P
DAYTON: COLLEGE HILL 1 –	HUNTSVILLE 1 –	TROY: FIRST 1 – Mauntler, Marge P
DAYTON: CORINTH 1 – Carnahan, Geneva P	JAMESTOWN 1 –	URBANA: FIRST 1 –
DAYTON: FAIRMONT 1 –	MIDDLETOWN: FIRST 1 –	WEST LIBERTY 1 -
DAYTON: IMMANUEL KOREAN 1 –	MIDDLETOWN: ST. LUKE 1 -	WILMINGTON 1 –
DAYTON: SOUTHMINSTER 1 –	MONROE 1 –	XENIA: UNITED 1 – Rickels, Joyce P
DAYTON: SUGAR CREEK 1 – Neyhouse, Barb P	NEW CARLISLE: HONEY CREEK 1 – Cook, Cindi P	YELLOW SPRINGS: FIRST 1 – Gunderkline, Jeanna P
DAYTON: TRINITY 1 –	OXFORD 1 –	
	PIQUA: GOOD SHEPHERD 1 – Kerns, Sandra P	

RULING ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY

Gardner, Mike (NS&G) P	Bridget Hawkins (COM)	Corresponding Members: Kathleen Seewer - Rec Sec P Larry Hollar – Prev. Mod.
McCollum, Alice (LC) P	Brenda Peters (COM)	
Morgan, Marge (NOM) P	Scott Risner (COM) P	
Seewer, Michael (V-Mod, LC) P	Rob Storm (COM)	
DeWine, Robin (LC)	Bruce Saunders (CPM) P	
Shoemaker, Matt (LC) p	Jessica Jenkins (CPM)	
Welborn, Diane (LC) P	Anne Brienza (CPM)	
Woessner, Georgie (Trustees) P	Kevin Creager (CPM)	
Michele Slone (COM) E	Cindy Wakeland (CCE/RE)	
Sue Seiler (COM) P	Jim Griffin (COM) P	
		Guests: None

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND THOSE GRANTED VOICE (not otherwise registered):

The confirmed attendance consisted of 28 ministers of the Word and Sacrament, 1 minister members from other denominations, 18 ruling elder commissioners (representing 16 congregations), 11 ruling elder members of presbytery, and 0 Certified Christian Educator Ruling Elder: total of 58 voting members. Also present and not otherwise registered but granted voice were 1. There were 0 guests. Total registered attendance was 59.

Count –

Pastors – 26	RE Church – 18	Total Voting - 58
MOAD – 1	RE Committee – 11	
HR - 2	RE CCE - 0	Total in attendance - 59
	Others present – 1	

Appendix B

On Motion: to approve the following Amendments to the Constitution of the PCUSA approved by the 225th General Assembly (2022):

22-A F-1.0302c THE CATHOLICITY OF THE CHURCH (POL-16 1a)

Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity

22-B F-1.0404 OPENNESS (POL-16 1b)

Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity

22-C G-1.0501 MEETINGS (ROD-06 2)

Establishes Robert's Rules of Order (RONR) as the default parliamentary authority for congregational meetings, and authorizes electronic congregational meetings

22-D G-1.0503 BUSINESS PROPER TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS (ROD-06 1)

Adds receiving a disciplinary decision against a church member (as opposed to a minister) to the list of proper business at a congregational meeting

22-E G-2.0503 CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP (POL-07)

Removes "honorably" before "retired" as the category for retired ministers

22-F G-2.0505a(1) TRANSFER OF MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS (POL-15)

Adds the requirement to consult with the other denomination when receiving immigrant pastors without otherwise acceptable PC(USA) ordination educational requirements

22-G G-2.0603 PURPOSE OF INQUIRY (HSB-05 2)

Adds the requirement of boundary training during the inquiry phase of preparation for ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament

22-H G-2.0605 OVERSIGHT (HSB-05 1)

Adds a requirement of sessions to "report to the presbytery of any matters of sexual misconduct" of their members who are enrolled as inquirers or candidates

22-I G-2.0804 TERMS OF CALL (HSB-06)

Adds the requirement of a minimum of twelve weeks of paid family leave in terms of call for all installed pastors/associate pastors

22-J G-2.1001 FUNCTIONS (MC-08)

Adds language allowing Commissioned Pastors to be commissioned to more than one validated ministry at a time

22-K G-2.1002 TRAINING, EXAMINING, AND COMMISSIONING (HSB-05 3)

Adds the requirement of boundary training for those elders seeking to be Commissioned Pastors

22-L G-2.1103 CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS (HSB-05 4)

Adds the requirement of boundary training for those elders seeking to be certified as Christian Educators

22-M G-3.0104 OFFICERS (MC-05)

Adds language that "it is appropriate" to adopt procedures for electronic session meetings

- 22-N G-3.0105 MEETINGS (ROD-06 3)
Adds provision that all councils and their commissions and committees may meet electronically
- 22-O G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (HSB-05 9)
Adds language regarding boundary training, including sexual abuse to the requirement for sexual misconduct policies required of councils
- 22-P G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (POL-10)
Adds the requirement of an antiracism policy to the required policies of councils, and clarifies other language in that list
- 22-Q G-3.0303c RELATIONS WITH SESSIONS (MC-03)
Authorizes presbyteries to establish minimum requirements for severance packages in terms of call
- 22-R G-3.0401 COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES (MC-06)
Authorizes synods to enroll those serving terms in elected offices of the synod as additional members of the synod as a way to fulfill principles of participation and representation
- 22-S G-4.0301 TRUST AND CONFIDENTIALITY (ROD-07)
Expands and clarifies “confidentiality” requirements for ministers and commissioned pastors
- 22-T W-3.0205 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (TWE-05 1)
Adds administration of the sacrament of Baptism to the list of appropriate actions following the proclamation of forgiveness in a service of worship
- 22-U W-3.0409 THEOLOGY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (TWE-05 2)
Adds “when appropriate” to the recommended act of providing an invitation to baptismal preparation for those who come to the table who are unbaptized
- 22-V W-3.0414 COMMUNION (TWE-05 4)
Removes the current requirement that a minister of the Word and Sacrament lead the prayer of thanksgiving that concludes the Lord’s Supper liturgy
- 22-W W-4.0403 ORDER OF WORSHIP (TWE-06)
Adds a sentence about “signs and symbols of blessing” to the section on ordination and installation services
- 22-X W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP (TWE-05 5)
Adds a sentence on the importance of household worship in faith formation in the Reformed tradition
- 22-Y W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP (TWE-05 6)
Adds an additional paragraph to the existing section on household worship
- 22-Z W-5.0201 THE CHURCH’S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH
(TWE-05 9, 1 & 2)
Adds “discipleship” to a list of the Church’s ministries that are connected to its worship, and adds references to statements in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity
- 22-AA W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE (TWE-05 7)
Adds “particular specialized pastoral care” rather than adding to an existing list of such specialties
- 22-BB W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE (TWE-05 8)

Adds clarifying language in a section on “services of wholeness” to better express a Reformed understanding of those services

22-CC D-3.0106 WHEN JURISDICTION ENDS (ROD-05)

Allows a disciplinary process to continue after an accused has renounced jurisdiction

22-DD D-10.0302 IF CHARGES ARE TO BE FILED (ROD-04 3)

Grammatical change to an existing provision of the Rules of Discipline

22-EE D-10.0303 PETITION FOR REVIEW (ROD-04 1)

Amends the current Rules of Discipline to include notifying the person accused if no charges will be filed (instead of just the person(s) who made the accusation)

22-FF AMENDING THE USE OF “THE ACCUSED” IN THE CURRENT RULES OF DISCIPLINE (ROD-04 2)

Changes “the accused” to “the person accused” wherever it occurs in the current rules of Discipline

Appendix C

On Motion: to approve the following Amendment to the Constitution of the PCUSA approved by the 225th General Assembly (2022)

22-GG REPLACING THE CURRENT “RULES OF DISCIPLINE” WITH A NEW “CHURCH DISCIPLINE” SECTION (ROD-03)

Proposed a complete revision of the Rules of Discipline,

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