

Presbytery of the Miami Valley
Stated Meeting Minutes (to be approved in November)
September 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.
At Xenia United Presbyterian Church

PREPARE

A Convening Prayer & Welcome was offered by RE Michael Seewer, Moderator. A quorum was declared by the moderator. A Minute for Good News from the Wilmington Presbyterian Church was read. Other Minutes for Good News were shared throughout the meeting. The moderator then asked Stated Clerk, MWS Lynn Bova, to begin the formation of the roll. A **motion prevailed** to seat and give voice to the delegation from the Presbytery of the North Coast in Colombia including Rev. Cristhian Gómez (presbytery executive), Rev. Vilma Yáñez (presbytery moderator), Elder Gina Zabala (presbytery recording secretary), and Elder Belkys Teherán (administrative director of the Colegio Americano, a school connected to the presbytery) and to excuse 11 Minister members. It was also announced that 3 Ruling Elders and 1 Honorably Retired Member requested to be excused. The attendance can be found in the appendixes.

(Appendix A)

A motion prevailed to give voice to the following guests who are serving as translators and assistants to the delegation: Melanie Monzon, Susan Stewart, Paula Ewers, and Megan Worcester. Former Moderators Tom Milligan and Larry Hollar also assisted.

A motion prevailed to approve the final docket.

The Moderator welcomed first time Commissioners then called on RE Jim Griffin, COM chair. Rev. Ken Locke and Rev. Bruce Miller were introduced as new pastors in our midst. The COM chair invited MWS Nancy Hodgkins to share words of recognition for newly retired MWS Denise Weaver. The COM chair read a memorial for MWS Ed Brown. (Appendix B)

The moderator called for the passing of the peace with those sitting nearby.

Hospitality Report – MWS Michael Wakeland welcomed the presbytery and shared some history about the Xenia United Church. He then invited a member of the congregation to share information about the Sweet Dreams Bed project that is the mission selected by the session for this presbytery meeting.

A Land Acknowledgment was also shared.

Stated Clerk's Report – Stated Clerk, Lynn Bova, reported that the minutes for the May 2023 Stated Meeting and the minutes from the called June 2023 meeting are in the consent agenda.

+ Presbytery minutes will be read in October 2023.

+ Congregational minute reading is in process and will be reported at the November meeting.

+ The Stated Clerk announced that the new Book of Order is for sale and a downloadable version is also available.

+The stated clerk shared that some of the changes to the Book of Order will affect congregations. Policies for Family Leave, anti-racism and harassment will need to be written.

+ The Book of Order now requires boundary training every 36 months for all Ministers, Certified Christian Educators, Educators seeking certification, Commission Ruling Elders, Inquirers, Candidates and those serving on presbytery committees.

+Upcoming boundary trainings were announced and those who participate are requested to send a copy of their certificate of completion to the stated clerk.

+The stated clerk shared important dates for the 2024 General Assembly in Salt Lake City.

+ The stated clerk read a report from the Administrative Commission for College Hill Community Church. (Appendix C)

+ The stated clerk shared that the Book of Order requires the following to appear in the minutes *D-3.0602b and c of the Book of Order says: "The 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 or councils."*

....Should the current PJC lack a quorum, the clerk will select by rotation a sufficient number of these former members to constitute a quorum.

Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the Presbytery

• **Former Members Roster**

Class of 2022

MWS Karen Cassedy (HR)

RE Steve Davis (Dayton, Southminster)

RE Josephine Laury (Dayton, College Hill Community)

Class of 2020

MWS George (Sandy) McConnel (HR)—resigned before completion of term to serve on COM

RE Marge Morgan (Dayton, Sugar Creek)—resigned before completion of term to serve on COM

RE Cynthia Nowka (Springfield, Covenant)

MWS Robert Wade (HR)

Class of 2018

MWS Brian Maguire (Dayton, Fairmont)—resigned before completion of term to assume office of presbytery Moderator (currently serving on the SoC PJC)

MWS Denise Weaver (VAL)

+ The stated clerk reminded members of the Bylaw change and that clerks of session had been notified of the number of commissioners that should attend for their congregation.

+ The upcoming meeting dates and times were announced, and the clerk encouraged churches to consider hosting. Currently planned dates and locations:

Saturday, November 11, 2023, 9:00 a.m., ZOOM (Host: TBA)

Reports and docket requests due by Oct. 30

Saturday, February 10, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ZOOM (Host: TBA)

Reports and docket requests due by January 31, 2024

+ The clerk reminded MWS to pick up their Minister cards at registration as they will not be mailed.

Membership and Minister Changes since the February 2023 stated presbytery meeting:

a. Gains: Kenneth Locke (from Winnebago), Bruce Miller (newly ordained, from Scioto)

b. Losses: Anna Owens (to Heartland), Dwight McCormick (to Shenandoah), Ed Brown, (to the Lord's loving care in death)

c. In transition:

Leadership Council - MWS John Lewis, Chair, presented the Consent Agenda.

A motion prevailed to approve the consent Agenda as follows.

Stated Clerk

Approved the following actions of the Stated Clerk:

1. **Minutes** of the May 9, 2023 stated presbytery meeting as distributed, and that the Stated Clerk be authorized to make any technical and non-substantive corrections as needed.
2. **Minutes** of the June 10, 2023, called presbytery meeting as distributed, and that the Stated Clerk be authorized to make any technical and non-substantive corrections as needed.

Leadership Council:

Approve the action of the Leadership Council: none

Receive the report of the Leadership Council:

+ **Approved** the minutes of the April 13, May 11, June 8, and July 13, 2023 meetings.

+ A recommendation prevailed that the PMV connectional support remain unchanged at \$40, per capita for Synod of the Covenant is \$3.25 and per capita for General Assembly

is \$9.80 for a total of \$53.05 per member be presented at the September presbytery meeting.

Committee on Ministry:

Approve the action of the Committee on Ministry: none

Receive the report of the COM:

Approved the Minutes of the May 30, June 27 stated meetings and the June 7 called meeting.

Approved the action of the session of the Southminster Presbyterian Church to renew the full-time Stated Supply Pastor appointment of MWS Steve Schumm for the period of March 15, 2023 to March 14, 2024 at the following terms:

Annual Cash Salary	\$65,270.00
Effective Salary	\$65,270.00
Est. Pension/Medical Dues (BOP)	\$25,455
SECA	\$ 4,993
Reimbursable Expenses	
Auto	\$1,000
Continuing Education	\$1,750
Professional Exp./Books	\$1,500
Bureau of Worker's Compensation	\$ 300
Total Compensation	\$100,268
Annual Leave	
Vacation	4 weeks, including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks, including 2 Sundays
This meets presbytery minimums for effective salary	

Approved MWS Nancy Ross Zimmerman contract for pastoral affiliate with Dayton, Westminster

A. Title:

The Reverend Nancy Ross-Zimmerman shall serve as Pastoral Affiliate of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Ohio.

B. Terms:

This is a PAID position.

- The financial terms of employment are based on 8-10 hours per week, payable at \$30 per hour, plus mileage reimbursement.
- All payments are to be designated as housing allowance. (Note: Any compensation not designated as housing allowance may be taxable.)
- Vacation time and sick leave will be negotiated and will be unpaid.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

If the pastor works 20 or more hours per week, and is paid for that work, then a form is required by the Board of Pensions and the congregation is responsible for paying 12% post-retirement dues to the Board.

Approved requesting that the presbytery grant the status of retired for Minister of Word and Sacrament Denise Weaver and designate her as retired as prescribed by the Book of Order (G-2.0503c), effective July 16, 2023 at her request.

Approved MWS Ken Locke as a member of this presbytery and to validate his ministry as an interim to St Paul's UCC church in New Bremen.

Approved adding MWS Norm Godfrey on the Pulpit Supply list.

Approved the action of the session of the Faith Presbyterian Church to renew the part-time (30 hours/week) Stated Supply Pastor appointment of MWS Julia Williamson for the period of July 8, 2023 to July 7, 2024, and to appoint her as moderator at the following terms:

Annual Cash Salary	\$44,350.90
Deferred Income	\$ 7,452.19
Effective Salary	\$51,703.09
Est. Pension/Medical Dues (BOP)	\$0
SECA	\$ 3,955.29

Reimbursable Expenses	
Auto	\$1,000
Continuing Education	\$1,750
Professional Exp./Books	\$600
Total Compensation	\$59,008.38
Annual Leave	
Vacation	4 weeks, including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

This meets presbytery minimums for effective salary.

Did not approve the action of the session of the College Hill Community Presbyterian Church to renew the full-time Stated Supply Pastor appointment of MWS Merritt Worthen for the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, at the following terms:

Annual Cash Salary	\$50,900.00
Housing Allowance	\$20,100.00
Deferred Income	\$ 0
Effective Salary	\$71,000.00
Est. Pension/Medical Dues (BOP)	\$22,500.00
SECA	\$ 3,894
Reimbursable Expenses	
Auto	\$1,000
Continuing Education	\$1,750
Professional Exp./Books	\$1,500
Total Compensation	\$101,644

Annual Leave	
Vacation	4 weeks, including 4 Sundays
Study Leave	2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

This meets presbytery minimums for effective salary.

(COM has removed her as moderator of the session so that should not be included and is currently listed on the contract and there were questions about the estimated Board of Pension dues and SECA)

Approved removing Rev. Merritt Worthen from all pastoral duties at College Hill Community Church effective immediately as requested by the AC, with the understanding that upon her removal she will abide by the Ethical Standards adopted by our General Assembly, and in particular the following standards:

- a. She will: Participate in continuing education and seek the counsel of mentors and professional advisors;
- b. She will: Deal honorably with the record of her predecessor and upon leaving this ministry or office speak and act in ways that support the ministry of her successor;
- c. She will: Participate in the life of a ministry setting she has left . . . only as directed by presbytery.

(NOTE: This motion was rescinded on June 7, 2023.)

Recommended the to the AC and the Session of College Hill Community Church that the balance of the financial terms of the contract of Rev. M. Merritt Worthen for the period ending June 30, 2023, be paid to her, including maintaining all benefits during that period.

(NOTE: This motion was rescinded on June 7, 2023.)

Requested the PMV call a special meeting to examine Candidate Bruce Miller for ordination. **Authorized**, if the way be clear following the examination for ordination, the PNC to request that Session call a congregational meeting for the purpose of electing Candidate Bruce Miller, chosen by the PNC and approved by COM, to serve as pastor and to agree to the terms of call that follow. A start date has yet to be announced.

Annual Cash Salary	\$ 43,475.00
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Housing/Utility Allowance	\$ 21,525.00
EFFECTIVE SALARY (total above)	\$ 65,000.00
ESTIMATED PENSION/MEDICAL DUES 39%	\$ 25,350.00
SECA(not to exceed)	\$ 4,972.00
REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES (NEED TO SHOW AS ITEMIZED FOR COM PURPOSES)	
Continuing Ed. (min. \$1,750 for 2022)	\$ 1750.00
Professional Expenses/Books	\$ 2,000.00
Other (please specify):	
Moving Expenses (Reimbursable up to)	\$5,000.00
ANNUAL LEAVE	
Vacation (minimum 4 weeks including 4 Sundays)	4 weeks, including 4 Sundays
Study leave (minimum 2 weeks including 2 Sundays)	2 weeks, including 2 Sundays
Note: Acknowledge that the family may not move to Urbana until summer 2024	

Received the report of the exit interview team who met with MWS Stan Gockel.

Rescinded the motion below concerning terminating the contract of MWS Merritt Worthen (“**On motion:** to remove Rev. Merritt Worthen from all pastoral duties at College Hill Community Church effective immediately as requested by the AC, with the understanding that upon her removal she will abide by the Ethical Standards adopted by our General Assembly, and in particular the following standards:

- She will: Participate in continuing education and seek the counsel of mentors and professional advisors;
- She will: Deal honorably with the record of her predecessor and upon leaving this ministry or office speak and act in ways that support the ministry of her successor;
- She will: Participate in the life of a ministry setting she has left . . . only as directed by presbytery.”)

Rescinded the motion below concerning the recommendation to pay out the contract of MWS Merritt Worthen.

(“**On motion:** to recommend the to the AC and the Session of College Hill Community Church that the balance of the financial terms of the contract of Rev. M. Merritt Worthen for the period ending June 30, 2023, be paid to her, including maintaining all benefits during that period.”)

Approved Candidate Bruce Miller to begin serving at Urbana on August 1, 2023.

Approved reimbursing MWS Kazy Hinds for moderating and mileage for March – June for \$594.45. This was agreed to previously but did not have an amount. There may be additional costs in the future.

Approved, with recommended changes, the MIF for Middletown First Presbyterian and to begin circulating when changes are completed. Question number 5 needs to be updated noting partnership and removing the statement about politics in the pulpit.

Appointed MWS Ed McNulty to serve as moderator of Blue Ball beginning in July 2023.

Approved paying half of the cost of the mediation at College Hill to come from COM funds. Approximately \$6250 plus travel and lodging.

Appointed a group to mediate the severance package with the entire session, MWS Steve Merrin and his advocate (if possible).

Appointed to the Mediation Team: RE Scott Risner, RE Michele Slone, and two additional members (EP and Stated Clerk will consider who has the gifts so as to not hold this group up.) The committee will ratify the selection at the next meeting.

Approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Northminster Presbyterian Church and MWS Dwight McCormick, pending the congregational meeting. A congregational meeting will be held on August 27, 2023.

Instructed the stated clerk to dismiss MWS Dwight McCormick to the Presbytery of Shenandoah when requested.

Approved MWS Shelley Wiley as moderator of the session of Northminster upon Dwight's departure.

Approved the ordination and installation of Bruce Miller at Urbana Presbyterian on Sunday, September 10 at 2 pm.

Granted the Leadership team of Chair, Vice Chair and EP, on behalf of the COM, to approve the Administrative Commission for Bruce Miller's ordination and installation. This approval will be ratified at the August meeting.

This concludes the consent agenda.

The Leadership Council chair invited RE Georgie Woessner, chair of the Trustees to present the budget recommendations for 2024 concerning per capita and connectional giving. (Appendix D) The chair of Trustees invited any questions about the Yearly Financial Review Report 2022.

A motion prevailed to approve the Independent Accountant's Report dated August 29, 2023 relating to the presbytery's financial statements as of December 31, 2022 in accordance with G-3.0113 of the Book of Order, which include the conclusion that:

"based on my [the accountant's] review, I am not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America."
(Appendix E)

Leadership Council Chair invited MWS Lawrence Bartel to bring a recommendation for the Stated Clerk position. (The stated clerk left the meeting and recording secretary RE Kathleen Seewer took the minutes) **A MOTION prevailed** to elect MWS Lynn Bova to serve as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley for an additional 3-year term beginning November 15, 2023. (terms of call will be included in the budget recommendation in November.) Stated Clerk Lynn Bova was acknowledged when she returned and commenced taking the minutes.

Leadership Council Chair invited MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich to present information about the International Peacemaker and to share a video. (Appendix F)

Leadership Council Chair reminded the assembly to like our Facebook Page and sign up for Constant Contact. We have a new YouTube channel called Miami Valley Presbytery. You can find links to these on the Presbytery website: <https://miamipresbytery.org/>.

EQUIP

The delegation from the Colombia Partnership made a presentation with each speaking for a short period of time. (Appendix G)

Executive Presbyter's Report – MWS Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyter, made a presentation of a banner to the Colombia Delegation and reminded the assembly of the importance of our call to Connect!

Committee on Preparation for Ministry - MWS Kelley Shin, chair, reported. **A motion prevailed** to appoint RE Anne Brienza and MWS Ted Dennis as readers of ordination exams.

Committee on Ministry – RE Jim Griffin, chair, reminded the assembly that Family Leave must be included in the terms of call per the Book of Order. **A motion prevailed** to approve the recommended minimum terms of call. (Appendix H)

NURTURE

Nominations Committee, RE Marge Morgan, chair presented the slate of nominations and reminded the assembly that we are still in need of a MWS GA Commissioner and a YAAD representative as well as alternates. Applications are in the papers for the meeting.

A MOTION prevailed to elect the following slate of officers and committee members and chairs (there were no nominations from the floor):

Leadership Council

Class of 2026

RE Jim Gillette, Wilmington

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Chair, 2023-2024

MWS Emily Haddox, Bath

Class of 2026

MWS Emily Haddox, Bath

Network Support and Grants

Class of 2026

RE Carolyn Leatherman, Slifers

Trustees

Class of 2026

RE Rick McGuire, Hamilton

General Assembly Commissioner 2024

RE John Ey, Dayton Westminster

Committee Reports

+ **Synod Commissioners Report** was given by RE Mary Jean Blackmon who reminded the assembly of the Matthew 25 grants that are available.

+ **Committee on Representation and Diversity** - MWS Ed McNulty, co-chair, reported that a series on Diversity would be presented in October on Thursday evenings and there would be a Giving Thanks Brunch at the end of October. Please register on the presbytery's website for these opportunities.

+ **Acknowledgement of Written Reports** – The moderator pointed out the written reports from the Staff Support Committee (Appendix I), the Synod of the Covenant Executive Chip Hardwick (Appendix J), and Financials (Appendix K).

Moderator Michael Seewer reported that he had represented the presbytery at the Ordination and Installation of Bruce Miller in Urbana and the Ordination of Rachel Boden at Fairmont, Dayton.

CONNEC

The Moderator called for a 10 minute break before worship.

We Worship Together

Participants included: Moderator Michael Seewer, call to worship, confession and installation of the Vice-moderator, Janet Miller

RE Larry Hollar, Elder Gina Zabala, RE Paula Ewers, scripture

MWS Amy Duiker, preaching

MWS Mike Wakeland and Rev. Vilma Yáñez, presiding at communion

Elder Belkys Teherán, and Rev. Cristhian Gómez, special music.

A motion to adjourn prevailed and the Moderator closed the meeting in prayer including the blessing for dinner.

Our next stated presbytery meeting

Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 9:00 am

On ZOOM

Hosted by New Carlisle, Honey Creek Presbyterian Church

Recorded by:

MWS Lynette H Bova, Stated Clerk

Appendices

A – Attendance

B – Memorial for MWS Edward Brown

C – College Hill Community Church Administrative Commission report

D – Budget Report (LC)

September 12, 2023

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

- E – Financial Review 2022 (Trustees)
- F – Peacemaker Opportunities (LC)
- G – Colombia Delegation report
- H – Minimum Terms of Call Report (COM)
- I – Staff Support Report
- J – Synod of the Covenant Report
- K - Financials

PROVISIONAL