

Presbytery of the Miami Valley Stated Meeting
ORDER OF THE DOCKET
May 13, 2025, at 2:00 pm
Oxford Presbyterian Church

We will Livestream the meeting. This link will take you to the YouTube channel for Miami Valley Presbytery: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCg5xdqkKB5iO8dKZ6DcaP-g>

Registration for the meeting or requests to be excused can be found here:
<https://miamipresbytery.org/presbytery-meeting-registration/>

PREPARE

NOTE: MWS = Minister of Word and Sacrament
CRE = Commissioned Ruling Elder
RE = Ruling Elder

1:30 pm Gathering and Registration

2:00 pm Convening Prayer & Welcome

CRE Janet Miller, Moderator

+ **Minute for Good News** – please write down your minutes of good news and signs of hope in chat so we can share them throughout the meeting.

+ **Declaration of Quorum**

CRE Janet Miller, Moderator

+ **Formation of the Roll**

MWS Lynn Bova, Stated Clerk

ON MOTION: to seat corresponding member _____, approve ___excused minister members and to give voice to Carla Rice, guest from Oxford Presbyterian.

+ **Adoption of the Docket (A-1)** – *Final docket will be posted on the website when the final call for the meeting goes out.*

ON MOTION: Adoption of the Docket (A-1)

+ **Welcome** to any first-time commissioners with us today.

+ **COM Report:**

Welcome - MWS Dan Hrach – HR

RE Jim Griffin, Chair

Hospitality Report

+ **Minute for Good News and Greetings:**

MWS Lawrence Bartel

+ **Mission at Every Meeting** – for more information on the mission opportunities selected by Oxford Presbyterian Church. (I-1)

Mission at every meeting supports our involvement as a Matthew 25 Presbytery

+ **Land Acknowledgement**

RE Guy McElroy

Report of the Stated Clerk

- + **Correspondence** – PILP 1st Quarter update.
- + **Minutes** are included in the consent agenda (A-2) including:
 - Minutes of February 2025 stated meeting (A-3)
 - Minutes of March 2025 called special meeting (A-4)
 - Minutes of AC to install Cynthia Holder-Rich (A-5)
 - Minutes of AC to install Caitlin Deyerle (A-6)
 - Minutes of AC to install Jay Kim (A-7)
- + **Minute Review** –
Congregational Minute Review – Update for 2023 Minute Review - The following churches have completed their 2023 minute review as of May 1, 2025: Blue Ball and Reily. **2024 Minute Review** will be scheduled soon.
Presbytery Minutes for 2024 will be read in October by the Synod.
- + **Statistical Reports** – Thanks to all who completed their reports. Immanuel Korean PC, Huntsville, Middletown St. Luke, Rushsylvania and Yellow Springs did not complete their reports.
Presbytery Statistical Reports (A-8, 9)
- + **Congregational Commissioners for 2025-2026** – Each congregation will have one or two commissioners based on membership as follows:
 - 1 – 249 members: 1 ruling elder
 - 250 or more members: 2 ruling elders(beginning in September this includes: Dayton, Fairmont, Dayton, Southminster, Dayton, Westminster, Eaton, Hamilton Presbyterian, Middletown First, Oxford, and Springfield Covenant)
Ruling Elders serving the PMV as officers, committee chairs or members of Leadership Council, Committee on Ministry and Committee on Preparation for Ministry are also seated as commissioners. If you chair one of these committees, please remind your RE members that they are commissioners with voice and vote.
- + **GA Amendment updates:** all but 24C have been approved. There are still presbyteries that have not voted or reported and 24 C needs 15 to pass (as of 4/21/25).
- + **Minister Cards** – are available at the May meeting.
- + **Boundary Training Reminder** – new BOO rules state that MWS, CREs, CCEs, Inquirers, Candidates, CEs in certification process and Ruling Elders serving the presbytery must have boundary training and child protection training every 36 months. If you completed the Boundary Training or Child Protection Training with LeaderWise through the Synod, please send a copy of the certificate you received to: statedclerk@miamipresbytery.org.
The Synod of the Covenant is offering Child Protection Training this year. You can sign up on the Synod's website.

Workshop DATES & TIMES

May 19 and 20 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

September 17 and 18 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

COM is working on providing additional options for boundary training and child protection Training for MWS and Presbytery Committee Members (RE). Information will be coming soon.

May 13, 2025

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

+ **Report of the Administrative Commission** for College Hill Community Church.
(A-10,11)

ON MOTION: to approve with gratitude the dismissal of the Administrative Commission for the College Hill Community Church, upon receipt of the final report and the minutes of the AC.

+ **Report of the Administrative Commission** for Corinth Presbyterian Church.
(A-12) MWS Jody Noble and RE Greg Eyler

+ **Upcoming 2025 Presbytery Meeting Dates**

We are grateful to churches for agreeing to host. Please consider hosting a meeting. The stated clerk is beginning to schedule 2026 meetings. February and November meetings will be held on Zoom and May (typically at the home church of the incoming moderator) and September meetings will be in person. Churches interested in hosting stated presbytery meetings are encouraged to contact the Stated Clerk. We encourage our smaller churches who might not be able to host an in-person meeting to host a Zoom meeting in November or February or to partner with another small church to host an in-person meeting.

Please note the time change to 2:00 pm for the September meeting in 2025.

Currently planned dates and locations:

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 2:00 p.m., Springfield Covenant Reports and docket requests due by Aug. 22, 2025 Saturday, November 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m., ZOOM, Host: Piqua Good Shepherd Reports and docket requests due by October 24, 2025
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+**Membership and Minister Changes** since the February 2025 stated presbytery meeting:
a. Gains: Rev. Dan Hrach (from the James)
b. Losses: Rev. Lucinda Isaacs (to Cincinnati) Rev. Carol Pierson (to Missouri Union)
Rev. Emily Knoth (to Southern Kansas)
c. In transition:

Leadership Council

RE Michael Sewer, Chair

+ **ON MOTION:** Adoption of the Consent Agenda (A-2)
+ **Consideration of Action Items**, if any, pulled from the Consent Agenda.
+ **Announcements & Information:**

Immigration Information & Resources are available on the PMV website.

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

TREASURER'S REPORT (A-13, 14)

RE Ivy Young, Treasurer

EQUIP

Synod Report

Executive Presbyter's Report

MWS Terry Kukuk

Policy Change Recommendations:

Leadership Council

RE Michael Sewer, Chair

+ Harassment Policy as required by the Book of Order G-3.0106. Please see the attachment for the complete policy. (A-15)

ON MOTION: to approve the Harassment Policy for the Presbytery of the Miami Valley.

May 13, 2025

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Trustees

MWS Kazy Hinds. Chair

+ Policy Change (words in **bold italics** are added to the current policy)

ON MOTION: to approve the change of policy in Section 1.02: Function for Trustees.

Section 1.02: Function

.....

Specific functions of the Presbytery Trustees shall include:

1.
2.
3. Serving as the Trustees of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley; the Chairperson of the Presbytery Trustees shall be the President of the Corporation, the Stated Clerk shall be the Secretary of the Corporation, **and the Treasurer shall be the Treasurer of the Corporation or in the event the presbytery no longer has a treasurer, the Trustees will appoint a treasurer for the corporation.**

Rationale: *This will bring us into alignment with the State of Ohio requirements for a nonprofit.*

COM

RE Jim Griffin, Chair

- + **reporting** the added Practice on Congregational Voting and Call Approval. See the attachment for the complete policy. (A-16)
- + CRE Commissioning - The COM has reviewed the call, met with the Session at Bradford and with CRE Mike Buker and all parties agree that the call remains viable, and COM recommends that he be recommissioned.

ON MOTION: to approve the recommissioning, during worship at this meeting, of CRE Mike Buker as required by the Book of Order (G-2.1001) and to continue serving at Bradford Presbyterian Church.

- + **request** to appoint an Administrative Commission for Honey Creek Presbyterian Church in New Carlisle.

Administrative Commission to Honey Creek Presbyterian Church recommendation:

+ **PC(USA) Book of Order, G-3.0109 b (5), Administrative Commissions:**

Administrative commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process, except that in the discharge of their assigned responsibilities they may discover and report to the designating council matters that may require judicial action by the council.

Functions that may be entrusted to administrative commissions include, but are not limited to:

(5) (by presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly) visiting particular councils, congregations, or agencies over which they have immediate jurisdiction reported to be affected with disorder, and inquiring into and settling the difficulties therein, except that no commission of a presbytery shall be empowered to dissolve a pastoral relationship without the specific authorization by the designating body (G-2.0901).

Background on Request for an Administrative Commission

The Session from the Honey Creek Presbyterian Church in New Carlisle has requested that an administrative commission be appointed to assist them in discerning the future of the church. They are at a point where some session members believe it is time to close the church due to significant financial struggles. Upkeep on the property is becoming a challenge for an aging congregation. Some members have died or moved away.

Other members recognize these restraints but would like to consider other options as opposed to simply dissolving the congregation.

Purpose:

The Committee on Ministry recommends pursuant to the Book of Order provisions G-3.0109b (4)

& (5) that the Presbytery authorize the PMV Moderator to appoint an Administrative Commission (according to our bylaws Article VI, Section 6.02) to work with the Honey Creek Presbyterian Church. The Commission will consist of at least five (5) presbyters, and at least one of whom shall be a member of the Committee on Ministry, with the remaining members representing an even distribution of teaching and ruling elders from churches in the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, for the following purposes, including but not limited to:

- a. Working with the Session, Pastor, and congregation to determine the best option for Honey Creek Presbyterian Church to include but not limited to:
 - +enter a shared ministry with another congregation,
 - + merge with another congregation,
 - + sell the property and other assets with proceeds being used to support the congregation as they find a place to nest,
 - + sell part of the property and use the assets to continue worshipping in place and develop a strategy to grow,
 - +dissolve the current congregation and dispose of some or all property, (see the authority of the AC in the event of closure below)
- b. Providing at least two (2) members of the Administrative Commission to attend all Session meetings with voice (but no vote) and to provide leadership where necessary and appropriate,
- c. Keeping accurate minutes of AC actions for the Presbytery,
- d. Reporting its progress to the Committee on Ministry monthly,
- e. Providing an initial report of its findings and recommendations to the Presbytery of the Miami Valley at the next immediate stated meeting following its appointment, and
- f. Providing regular reports to the Presbytery of the Miami Valley at all stated meetings thereafter until completion.
- g.

Scope and Authority

It is further recommended that this Administrative Commission be granted authority and power:

- a. To investigate and determine if the reported division in the session is present and recommend ways to work together.
- b. Working with the Session, Pastor, and congregation to determine the best option for Honey Creek Presbyterian Church to include but not limited to:
 - +enter a shared ministry with another congregation (see BOP options),
 - + merge with another congregation,
 - + sell the property and other assets with proceeds being used to support the congregation as they find a place to nest,
 - + sell part of the property and use the assets to continue worshipping in place and develop a strategy to grow,
 - +dissolve the current congregation and dispose of some or all property, (see the authority of the AC in the event of closure below)
- c. To call meetings with the Session, Pastor, committees, or congregation as needed.
- d. To cite members of the Session, Pastor, and congregation to participate in listening sessions.
- e. To attend all Session and Congregational meetings (with voice).
- f. To advise on ways to resolve any disorder that is discovered and work to bring about reconciliation.
- g. To provide leadership as necessary and appropriate.
- h. To report to the designating council matters that may require judicial action by the council.
- i. To make recommendations to the presbytery through the COM concerning the pastoral relationship.
- j. If it is determined by the Administrative Commission that the Session of Honey Creek Presbyterian Church in New Carlisle, Ohio cannot exercise its authority, or is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs, the Administrative Commission of the

Presbytery of the Miami Valley, after a thorough investigation and a full opportunity to be heard is given to all parties involved, has the authority to assume original jurisdiction with full powers of the Session, in which case the Session of the Honey Creek Presbyterian Church will cease to act until such time as the Presbytery shall otherwise direct (G-3.0303e).

- k. Adopt the following specific authorities and responsibilities for the Administrative Commission to conduct its mandate if nesting or merging is the best option:
 - G-3.0109b (4)
 - The Administrative Commission (AC) of the Honey Creek Presbyterian Church, New Carlisle, OH in consultation with the church's session and congregation, shall:
 - i. Plan listening sessions with the congregation to determine the support or non-support,
 - ii. Help facilitate conversations between congregations to discuss merger or shared ministry,
 - iii. Develop an overview of the shared ministry or merger,
 - iv. Develop a budget,
 - v. Assist in the disposition of the property or parts of the property as required and determine the use of the proceeds,
- l. adopt the following specific authorities and responsibilities for the Administrative Commission to carry out its mandate if dissolution is the final decision:
 - i. The Administrative Commission (AC) of the Honey Creek Presbyterian Church, New Carlisle, OH in consultation with the church's session and congregation, shall:
 - a. Arrange for all liabilities of the church to be paid in full.
 - b. 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. Once the congregation is dissolved, the presbytery may direct, limit, and appoint, or such property may be sold or disposed of as the presbytery may direct. (BoO G-4.0205). The AC may work with Trustees of the Congregation to transfer property to the Presbytery and/or consult with attorney at law for the most appropriate means to transfer the property to the Presbytery. This may need to be accomplished prior to formal dissolution of the congregation.
 - c. Consult with an Attorney at law for any associated licenses or certifications for ongoing ministries and missions controlled by the congregation.
 - d. Determine the use of undesignated mission funds.
 - e. Arrange for ways to address the pastoral care of the congregation and transfer of membership upon dissolution of the congregation.
 - f. Arrange for transfer of session and financial records to the presbytery.
 - g. Determine an appropriate schedule for the congregation's last worship service and celebration.
 - h. Dissolve the congregation's corporation under state law.
 - i. Dissolve the congregation after the last worship service.
 - j. Prepare minutes of its proceedings and a final report upon completion of its actions that will be reported at stated meetings of the presbytery.

May 13, 2025

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

- m. 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.

+ **ON MOTION:** The Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley recommends that the Moderator of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley appoint an Administrative Commission for Honey Creek Presbyterian Church as described above. The Moderator of the Presbytery is to appoint the members according to our bylaws Article VI, Section 6.02.

NURTURE

CPM - written report (A-17)

MWS Emily Haddox, Chair

Nominations Committee

RE Marge Morgan, Chair

+ **ON MOTION:** the Committee nominates the following slate of officers and committee members and chairs: - slate to be provided in final docket.

Committee & Network Reports –
Network Support and Grants

MWS Ted Dennis, Chair

Acknowledgement of Written Reports
Staff Support (A-18)
Committee on Representation (A-19)

CRE Janet Miller, Moderator

Outgoing Moderator's Report

CRE Janet Miller, Moderator

We Worship Together (I-)
Necrology Report (A-20)
Participants: Moderator Janet Miller. Carla Rice
Commissioning for CRE Mike Buker
Communion – MWS Lawrence Bartel, MWS Diane Ziegler
Installation of officers

Incoming Moderator's Report
Announcements

MWS Lawrence Bartel, Moderator

- + **Ruling Elders** to preside at communion training, May 18, 2-5 at Fairborn Presbyterian
- + **Save the date** – Tod Bolsinger – Aug. 23
- + **Memorial Service** – Rev. McNulty – September
- + **Earth Care information**
- + **Equipping Feedback**

CONNEX 

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

MWS Lawrence Bartel, Moderator

Our next stated presbytery meeting
Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 2:00 pm
At Covenant Presbyterian Church
201 North Limestone Street, Springfield, OH 45503

May 13, 2025

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

937-325-2427

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May 13, 2025

Presbytery of the Miami Valley