

**Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
March 2, 2023**

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on March 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich, Donna Courtney, and Bridget Hawkins. Excused: Gene Saunders.

The meeting was opened with prayer by MWS Lucinda Isaacs.

Members present introduced themselves.

There was a brief review of our charge.

MWS Lucinda Isaacs and Ruling Elder, Donna Courtney gave a synopsis of the session meeting they attended at College Hill Community Church on February 27, 2023. It was reported that the session meeting did not proceed in an orderly fashion and that the agenda was never finalized. Due to the disorder at the session meeting, with few items on the agenda addressed, another session meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 6:00 pm to approve the budget.

MWS Lucinda Isaacs presented the following recommendations to be considered by the AC for submission to the COM of the Miami Valley Presbytery.

1. The COM appoint a moderator by March 19, 2023 to be appointed for the session at College Hill Community Church in lieu of the AC immediately asserting original jurisdiction. (Hopefully someone who has good rapport with the church.)
2. The session undergo Elder Training to be conducted by the AC which will empower the leadership of the church.
3. The Clerk of Session be required to take the notes of all session meetings and called meetings of the congregation.
4. Pastor Worhten's daughter is not permitted to attend or record session meetings.
5. Listening sessions shall be scheduled.

It was moved by MWS Lucinda Isaacs that these recommendations be approved and submitted to COM and seconded by Ruling Elder Donna Courtney. The motion passed without objection.

Listening Sessions:

Ruling Elder Donna Courtney will arrange the listening sessions with College Hill after the congregational meeting scheduled for March 19, 2023. It is anticipated that the listening sessions will take place on a Saturday and members will sign up.

between the AC & Presbytery. The misuse of the pastoral office to abuse members emotionally and spiritually.

AC can make recommendations as to the Pastoral relationship and recommend that Pastor Worthen meet with the COM. Changes in the pastor's contract must be approved by COM.

Action Items

Draft letter regarding renunciation.

Call special meeting to elect church officers.

Draft letter regarding Moderator and Clerk of Session.

Provide response regarding meeting with Pastor Worthen, Lucinda, and Shelley.

Provide pastoral care to those members who are upset and feel alienated.

Focus on the issue that we were charged to solve and not on one person.

Donna and Gene will attend the session meeting on March 28, 2023.

Correspondence:

None

Listening Sessions:

Listening sessions shall be held at CHCC on March 25 and April 1, 2023.

Lucinda, Cynthia, Donna, and Gene will attend the session on March 25, 2023.

Lucinda, Donna, Bridget, and Gene will attend the session on April 1, 2023.

Meeting Dates:

The next scheduled meetings for the AC will be Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm and Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich will send out the Zoom invitations.

MWS Lucinda Isaacs was elected to serve as Moderator of the A C and Ruling Elder Bridget Hawkins will serve as Clerk.

Lucinda thanked Fran Lane Lawrence for her attendance and advice.

The meeting was adjourned after closing with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget D Hawkins
Clerk

**Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
March 9, 2023**

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on March 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich, Donna Courtney, Gene Saunders, and Bridget Hawkins.

The meeting was opened with prayer by MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich

Approval of Agenda and Minutes from March 2, 2023:

The minutes from the AC meeting held on March 2, 2023 and the Agenda for March 9, 2023 were approved without objection.

Correspondence:

The correspondence received from Pastor Merritt Worthen requesting copies of correspondence received by the presbytery voicing concerns about College Hill Community Church was discussed. MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich moved to deny the request and it was seconded by Donna Courtney. The motion passed unanimously.

Moderator Isaacs advised that MWS Kazy Hinds has agreed to serve as moderator for the session and all called meetings of College Hill Community Church. In addition, the COM will meet on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 to vote on the appointment of MWS Kazy Hinds to serve as moderator for College Hill Community Church.

Committee on Ministry Recommendation:

Bridget had no additional information to share with the members.

Listening Sessions:

Ruling Elder Donna Courtney has arranged the listening sessions. They will take place on Saturday, March 18, 25, and April 1, 2023 from 9:00 am to 3:50 pm with an hour break for lunch and will be held concurrently and two members of the AC will be in each listening session. Members of the College Hill Community can sign up as individuals, or in small groups not to exceed three people. In addition, each person or group may only sign up for one listening session. The sign-up sheets were given to Pastor Worthen at the session meeting held on March 7, 2023 to be shared with the congregation.

MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich will draft a letter to be included in College Hill's newsletter, bulletin or Facebook page explaining the purpose of the AC and to inform members of the listening sessions.

It was agreed that the following questions could be asked to facilitate discussion:

1. Are you a member of College Hill Community Church?
2. How long have you attended College Hill Community Church?
3. What roles/positions have you served at College Hill Community Church?
4. What would you like to tell us about the ministry/governance of the church?

Observations from Budget Session Meeting – Donna, Gene & Lucinda

Gene's observations/concerns:

It was observed that Session had not been presented the budget to review beforehand and that each line of the budget was reviewed and then voted on. He also stated it was alarming that no bookkeeping software was used, and that the Treasurer relied on an Excel spreadsheet. In addition, there was no stewardship campaign, or an audit or financial review. Further, the church does not track giving units.

Lucinda's observations/concerns:

It was also observed that there is a \$150K shortfall in the budget and the plan is to ask members to give an additional \$500.00 to make up the shortfall. The budget was approved by session.

Donna's observations/concerns:

The meeting was disorganized.

Other Business:

Moderator Isaacs stated that Pastor Worthen attempted to have the AC moderate session for the purpose of her becoming the installed pastor for College Hill. It was decided by the commission that it is premature to discuss Pastor Worthen's position with College Hill and that she should be informed that the AC would not do anything in regard to her position until our investigation has been completed.

The AC discussed establishing benchmarks for session and Pastor Worthen, but this was placed on the back burner until after the listening sessions have been completed.

Homework assignments were given to AC Members:

Cynthia will review the sacraments specifically baptism and communion.

Lucinda and Bridget will watch Pastor Worthen's sermons on YouTube to check for harsh language.

All AC members will read the College Hill's conflict resolution policy.

Donna will review all correspondence received and check for disparities and irregularities.

Meeting Dates:

The next scheduled meetings for the AC will be Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich will send out the Zoom invitations.

The meeting was adjourned after closing with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bridget D Hawkins".

Bridget D Hawkins
Clerk

QUESTIONS FOR LISTENING SESSIONS

1. Are you a member of College Hill Community Church?
2. How long have you attended College Hill Community Church?
3. What roles/positions have you served at College Hill Community Church?
4. What would you like to tell us about the ministry/governance of the church?

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
March 13, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on March 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich, Donna Courtney, and Bridget Hawkins. Excused: Gene Saunders.

The meeting was opened with prayer by MWS Lucinda Isaacs.

Lucinda asked those present to share their favorite part of the weekend.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes.

The agenda for March 13, 2023 and the minutes from March 9, 2023 were approved without objection.

Correspondence:

None

Listening Sessions:

Listening sessions shall be held at CHCC on March 18, 25 and April 1, 2023.

Lucinda, Bridget, Cynthia, and Donna will attend the session on March 18, 2023

Lucinda, Cynthia, Donna, and Gene will attend the session on March 25, 2023.

Lucinda, Donna, Bridget, and Gene will attend the session on April 1, 2023.

CHCC Congregational Meeting March 19, 2023.

The AC has requested that COM appoint a new moderator to moderate the Session, and all called congregational meetings for CHCC.

Meeting Dates:

The next scheduled meetings for the AC will be Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 7:00 pm and Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich will send out the Zoom invitations.

MWS Lucinda Isaacs was elected to serve as Moderator of the A C and Ruling Elder Bridget Hawkins will serve as Clerk.

The meeting was adjourned after closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget D Hawkins
Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
March 19, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on March 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, RE-Gene Saunders, and RE-Bridget Hawkins. Excused: MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich and RE-Donna Courtney.

Guests: Stated Clerk, Lynn Bova and Fran Lane Lawrence

The meeting was opened with prayer by MWS Lynn Bova.

Lucinda shared concerns about Pastor Worthen's sermon. Pastor Worthen preached from the book of Matthew, specifically the last three beatitudes. She referred to "Good Trouble" invoking John Lewis. Lucinda also cited specific areas of the sermon. (i.e., at 1:19:50 call for protests, at 1:25 – she spoke of contempt for the BOO.)

Donna opined that Pastor Worthen used her sermon to alienate the congregation from the presbytery. She believes some members are convinced the AC has already assumed original jurisdiction and that there is a conspiracy..

During prayer time the clerk of session and moderator of the deacons prayed for everyone and complained about the AC.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was scheduled after worship. Lucinda reported there were multiple instances where members only came in for the congregational meeting. None were in the sanctuary. Some members remained in the narthex, and some remained in their cars.

Moderator Kazy Hinds opened the congregational meeting. A member moved to delay the meeting until Pastor Worthen could be present.

The meeting was called out of order by Moderator Hinds and no business was accomplished.

Discussion

Next steps:

Process to assume original jurisdiction?

1. Must inform congregation.
2. Must attend listening session.

The AC then becomes the session and can then ask to dissolve the relationship between Pastor Worthen and College Hill.

Reasons to Assume:

Church in schism.

Use of inflammatory language that impacts the peace, purity, and unity of the church. The expression of contempt for the BOO and the constitution. The encouragement of conflict

between the AC & Presbytery. The misuse of the pastoral office to abuse members emotionally and spiritually.

AC can make recommendations as to the Pastoral relationship and recommend that Pastor Worthen meet with the COM. Changes in the pastor's contract must be approved by COM.

Action Items

Draft letter regarding renunciation.

Call special meeting to elect church officers.

Draft letter regarding Moderator and Clerk of Session.

Provide response regarding meeting with Pastor Worthen, Lucinda, and Shelley.

Provide pastoral care to those members who are upset and feel alienated.

Focus on the issue that we were charged to solve and not on one person.

Donna and Gene will attend the session meeting on March 28, 2023.

Correspondence:

None

Listening Sessions:

Listening sessions shall be held at CHCC on March 25 and April 1, 2023.

Lucinda, Cynthia, Donna, and Gene will attend the session on March 25, 2023.

Lucinda, Donna, Bridget, and Gene will attend the session on April 1, 2023.

Meeting Dates:

Lucinda thanked Fran Lane Lawrence for her attendance and advice.

The meeting was adjourned after closing with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget D Hawkins
Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
March 26, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on March 26, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder Rich, RE-Gene Saunders, and RE-Bridget Hawkins.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Lucinda and Gene shared devotions.

Reviewed the Agenda. The minutes from the prior meeting had not been transcribed.

Listening Sessions:

Members shared thoughts on listening session held on March 26, 2023.

Marva came with a list of questions for the AC and appeared ready for confrontation. However, she appeared sincere in her desire to support the church.

Celeste has been worshipping at College Hill for 30-40 years. She was very supportive of the church.

Larry was in support of the pastor, but felt the services lasted too long.

Jan served as moderator of the deacons and is responsible for the church newsletter. She is in support of the pastor.

Brenda Peters – stated there are inaccuracies in the session roster. Wants the pastor to realize that this is a presbyterian church.

Carla – concerned about the church finances.

Discussion was had regarding assuming original jurisdiction.

It was further decided that no new date would be set for a congregational meeting.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,


Bridget D. Hawkins

Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
May 2, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on May 2, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, RE-Gene Saunders, RE-Bridget Hawkins, MWS Cynthia Holder-Rich and RE-Donna Courtney.

The meeting was opened with prayer by RE Donna Courtney.

Lucinda shared what happened at the CHCC Session meeting held on Tuesday, April 28, 2023. The report from the AC was shared with Session in Executive Session. The session agreed to participate in mediation.

There remains the concern that the session does not know their roles and responsibilities as elders. The Clerk of Session also does not know or understand her role as clerk.

Lucinda, Cynthia and Donna will meet with Dr. Udo to discuss mediation with CHCC on Wednesday May ____, 2023 at 9:00 am. The Presbytery of the Miami Valley has agreed to pay the costs of mediation. The report prepared by the AC will be shared with the mediator.

The AC report has been shared with COM.

The issue of assuming original jurisdiction was discussed again. It is agreed that it can be assumed at the invitation of the session without following the hearing process. The consensus is that the congregation including session primary focus should be on mediation.

Questions:

What is our role if we obtain original jurisdiction?

1. Approving baptisms and communion.
2. Are there UCC Pastors (African American) in the area who could fill the pulpit.

Lucinda is in favor of assuming original jurisdiction because CHCC does not have a functioning session.

Cynthia moved that we ask the CHCC session at their next session meeting scheduled for May 23, 2023, if they would like the AC to assume original jurisdiction while they are working with the mediator. The motion was seconded by Donna and passed unanimously.

It was also posited that mediation could take 4 to 8 months.

The memo from Marva Gray advising of the proposed listening session with the congregation by session was discussed. It is the recommendation of the AC to oppose the listening session.

Meeting Dates:

The next scheduled meetings for the AC will be May 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned after closing with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,


Bridget D Hawkins, Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
May 5, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on May 5, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, RE-Gene Saunders, RE-Bridget Hawkins, and RE-Donna Courtney.

Guests: Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, Lynn Bova.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Lynn Bova.

Lucinda discussed the AC's response to the proposed listening session to be held by the CHCC Session after worship on Sunday, May 7, 2023. The AC has been invited to attend the listening session.

It was decided that the AC would send a written response to CHCC Clerk of Session and to reiterate our opposition to the listening session and that we ask that they proceed with mediation as agreed to at the last session meeting.

Discussion was had regarding Session authority and original jurisdiction. Specifically, what happens to CHCC Session in terms of their own authority.

The report to the Presbytery was also discussed. Lucinda stated she would provide a short response that emphasized the continued disorder at CHCC which threatens their peace, unity, and purity.

It was also stated that we should be prepared to have the motion removing Pastor Worthen as moderator of session and congregational meetings at CHCC removed from the consent agenda and a motion to rescind it.

It was also discussed sending a letter to CHCC asking them to cease and desist the use of polling as it contributes to the disorder.

Criticism from CHCC regarding AC's lack of communication and/or transparency of our actions with the congregation. Response to Session: What are you doing to communicate with the congregation what is going on? It is the Session's responsibility to inform the congregation.

Lucinda opined that there is no spirit of cooperation with the AC and that the Elders remain divided.

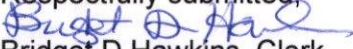
We also discussed the termination of Pastor Worthen's contract and when that could happen. It was noted that members of COM were to meet with Pastor Worthen on May 22, 2023. Termination of Pastor Worthen must be voted on by the entire COM and a meeting is not scheduled until May 30, 2023.

Donna moved to recommend to COM to request the immediate termination of Pastor Worthen or no later than the end of May 2023. Gene seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

It was decided the following members of the AC would attend the listening session scheduled at CHCC on May 7, 2023. Donna, Bridget, and Lucinda. In addition, Shelley Wiley and other members of the COM will hopefully be able to attend.

The meeting was adjourned and closed with prayer by Lucinda.

Respectfully submitted,


Bridget D Hawkins, Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
June 12, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on June 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder Rich, Donna Courtney, MWS Angie Schenck and Bridget Hawkins. Excused: Gene Saunders.

The meeting was opened with prayer by MWS Lucinda Isaacs.

Members of the AC discussed the upcoming session meeting at College Hill. It was agreed that this would be an organizational meeting. A Clerk and Treasurer would need to be elected. It was also decided that the congregational meeting could wait until the Elders are trained.

Agenda items were reviewed.

It was agreed that Pastor Merritt Worthen's contract would not be renewed, and it was recommended that she would be paid for her unused vacation plus 30 days.

We also discussed elder training and mediation.

Cynthia advised that she is unable to attend meetings on Tuesdays.

The meeting was adjourned, and Donna Courtney closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget D Hawkins
Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
June 27, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on June 27, 2023 at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder Rich, Donna Courtney, MWS Angie Schenck, Gene Saunders and Bridget Hawkins.

Guests: MWS Lynn Bova, Stated Clerk of Miami Valley Presbytery

The meeting was opened with prayer.

Discussion of the Worship Service at College Hill and the importance of saying goodbye.

Rev. Charles Tinsley has agreed to lead worship three Sundays in July 2023.

Rev. Charles Williams (friend of College Hill) was invited to provide pastoral care but declined.

Discussion of office coverage at College Hill was discussed as the Church Secretary, Dominique Worthen's was terminated from employment. Other concerns include list of liturgists, Ushers, pulpit supply and the Hispanic ministry. MWS Angie Schenck will follow up with Larry Hollar regarding the usher situation.

It was also agreed that pulpit supply will be paid the day of service.

Discussion had regarding letters received from Stan Hirtle and Jan Brecht – members of College Hill Community Presbyterian Church. MWS Angie Schenck was encouraged by the letters sent.

Lynn Bova updated the AC on the remedial case. The case has been accepted by the PJC. The committee of counsel represented the session of College Hill rejected that acceptance. The committee of counsel prior to assumption of original jurisdiction was Carolyn Peters and Pastor Worthen.

Discussion regarding Pastor Worthen: It was agreed that Pastor Worthen's contract would not be renewed and that it would end on June 30, 2023. She will be receiving 60 days severance and four weeks of vacation..

Stated Clerk, Lynn Bova advised that Pastor Worthen receive a letter from the Committee on Ministry advising her as to what is required upon leaving a church. Specifically, no communication with congregation, must abide by the standards of ethical conduct and participate in an exit interview.

AC Members provided dates of unavailability:

June 28 to July 10, 2023 – Cynthia

July 21 to July 29, 2023 – Gene

July 12 to July 17, 2023 – Lucinda

July 29 to August 14, 2023 – Angie

Stated Clerk's dates of unavailability.

August 8 to August 30, 2023 - Lynn

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget D. Hawkins

Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
July 24, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on July 24, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder Rich, Donna Courtney, MWS Angie Schenck, and Bridget Hawkins. Excused: Gene Saunders

Guests: MWS Lynn Bova, Stated Clerk of Miami Valley Presbytery

The meeting was opened with prayer by Lucinda Isaacs.

Correspondence:

Letter received from Pastor Worthen regarding lump sum payment being \$400.00 less than she expected. The question was forwarded to the College Hill Treasurer, Ivy Young and he provided Pastor Worthen with a paystub and sent her additional questions.

Elder Pat Townsel sent questions to the AC acting as session for College Hill regarding pastoral care and the need for the congregation to begin the healing process. This concern was also voiced by Gladys Finney-Turner. Donna Courtney agreed to speak with Ms. Finney regarding these concerns and Lynn Bova agreed to respond to Pat Townsel's questions.

Comments/Concerns/Issues:

Kathy & Mack Lakes continue to invite members of the congregation to worship services.

Rev. Charles Tinsley preached at College Hill and the feedback is that he has preached wonderful and inspirational sermons and that they have had a calming effect. Rev. Tinsley is from the Presbytery of the Redlands and has been approved to labor in the bounds. His last position was in Cincinnati.

Filling the pulpit in July includes Edgar Sanchez Cruz, Rev Tinsley will preach the next three Sundays in August and on August 27th, Chip Hardwick will preach.

Mediation:

Who will pay the cost? Fifty percent will be paid for by the presbytery and College Hill. The bill should be submitted to the Presbytery and College Hill.

Concern about participation by the Ruling Elders of Session – currently have an Us v Them position.

How do we transition to an interim pastor? Need for music and the cost? It was decided that we would delegate these responsibilities back to the Music & Worship Committee. Cynthia advised that Larry Hollar, Judy McGray, and Kathy & Mack Lakes are serving on this committee.

MWS Cynthia Holder Rich will lead Elder Training for any elder from CHCC who are interested in learning about Church polity on August 19, 2023, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

The order removing Elder Brenda Brown from participating in any of the committees at College Hill has been ruled out of order and rescinded.

COM Report:

Lucinda will summarize reports to the congregation and COM.

Next session meeting will be Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Original jurisdiction was assumed by the AC on May 30, 2023. The current elders of College Hill Community Presbyterian Church are Albert Watson, Lucy Gay Gerren, Josephine Laury, Marlea Gaskins, Jessica Jenkins and Marva Gray who also serves as Clerk of Session.

The meeting adjourned and Donna closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget D. Hawkins

Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
September 6, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on September 6, 2023. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder Rich, Donna Courtney, MWS Angie Schenck, Gene Saunders and Bridget Hawkins.

Guests: MWS Lynn Bova, Stated Clerk of Miami Valley Presbytery and Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyterian.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Cytnhia Holder Rich.

This AC meeting was called to discuss the petition signed by 41 members of the congregation of College Hill Community Church demanding that a congregational meeting be called to have the congregation consider leaving the PC(USA).

The 41 members referred to themselves as the diaspora and have stated they have formed their own spiritual community.

What should be done?

It was decided that a letter should be sent to the congregation to inform them about the petition.

Encourage all members of the congregation to participate in mediation.

It was moved and seconded to file a complaint against the ruling elders of College Hill regarding the violation of their ordination vows. The motion was approved.

It was also agreed that Gene Saunders, who serves as Clerk of Session will review the church rolls to determine their accuracy. As the rolls exist today, there are 141 members and 130 members shown on the rolls.

The meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget D. Hawkins
Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
September 23, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on September 23, 2023. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder Rich, MWS Angie Schenck, Gene Saunders and Bridget Hawkins. Excused: Donna Courtney

Guests: Executive Presbyter, Terry Kukuk.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

More discussion was had regarding the diaspora of 41 and their petition.

Terry Kukuk notified the insurance company in case of secular lawsuits.

Terry also spoke with the attorney regarding the diaspora of 41 and their demands. The attorney advised us to just remain focused on the process.

1. Prove that the Presbytery controls access and that College Hill Community Presbyterian Church is operating as a church of the PC(USA).
2. The deed of the church is in the name of College Hill PC(USA).
3. College Hill has sent commissioners to the presbytery meetings and have utilized pulpit supply.
4. The membership rolls need to be cleaned up in order to prove who is the true church.

Pastor Worthen Discussion:

Specific evidence is needed to determine if Pastor Worthen is maintaining a relationship with members of the College Hill congregation. It is suspected that she initialed the petition demanding that a congregational meeting is called.

It was moved and seconded that a Cease & Desist letter will be sent to the five elders that will include references to the Book of Order reminding them of their ordination vows and their risk of renunciation. It was agreed that Lucinda and Cynthia would draft the letter. It was also noted that prior to the AC's assumption of original jurisdiction that the session of College Hill agreed to participate in mediation and then refused to participate.

It was also agreed that the AC acting as session for College Hill will call a congregational meeting as required by their bylaws with the purpose of electing officers and a financial secretary. The meeting will be held on October 29, 2023, after worship. Gene Saunders as Clerk of Session will contact Ivy Young, Church Treasurer to determine if there is a Financial Secretary. It was also noted that Josephine Laurys is Chair of the Nominating Committee and is also a member of the diaspora.

Concerns were expressed that the diaspora will try to overtake the congregational meeting. It was noted that if they become disruptive, they can be removed.

The mediator, Dr. Udo asked permission to contact the members (Ruling Elders of College Hill) who refused to participate in the mediation. It was agreed that Dr. Udo may contact those elders who chose not to participate in mediation.

If there is no nominating report, the session can appoint the Deacons individually and nominations can be made from the floor.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget D. Hawkins
Clerk

Miami Valley Presbytery
Administrative Commission Meeting Minutes – College Hill Community Church
October 8, 2023

The Administrative Commission (hereinafter AC) for College Hill Community Church met via Zoom on October 8, 2023. Members present: MWS Lucinda Isaacs, MWS Cynthia Holder Rich, MWS Angie Schenck, Gene Saunders and Bridget Hawkins.

Guests: Lynn Bova, Stated Clerk
Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyter

It was noted prior to the meeting that Donna's mother was on the prayer list.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Lucinda.

Bridget reported that she has drafted an Agreed Entry to the remedial complaint stating that all demands requested by the complainants have been met and has emailed the agreement to Brenda Brown, Gladys Turner Finney and Patricia Townsel for their review and approval. Upon receipt of their approval it will be sent to the other parties for review.

We were informed by Terry Kukuk that the EEOC is not filing a charge, nor will they be investigating a discrimination complaint filed by Pastor Worthen.

The AC considered their response to the most recent correspondence received from the diaspora. The response should state that their meeting is an attempt to divide and dissolve the church.

They are participating in unauthorized ministries by:

1. Communicating with Pastor Worthen
2. Communicating about leaving the congregation.
3. Violating the Code of Ethics

We need proof that they are continuing to meet as College Hill Community Church.

They must decide if they want to resign their membership or if they stay, they must work within the process of the denomination as provided in the Book of Order.

If they insist on leaving the denomination, a schism must be declared, and the presbytery will name the true church.

If charges are filed against the presbytery the complaint goes to the synod.

It is the opinion of members of the AC that the diaspora of 41 will only agree if they get their own way.

The Cease-and-Desist letter was sent to the five elders who signed the petition. It was also decided to invite the five elders to come in and consult with the AC.

The congregational meeting will be announced in worship on Sunday and the purpose of the meeting is to elect a new financial secretary and form a nominating committee.

The AC will invite the five elders to meet with the AC for consultation. The meeting will take place on neutral grounds. We will also inform them that the process begins by meeting with session. The disciplinary process will be explained as outlined in the Book of Order.

If they are continuing to meet, a second letter must be sent to confirm renunciation of jurisdiction.


A remedial complaint would be the next step.

It was decided by consensus to send a second letter.

It was moved and seconded to review the AC's retention of original jurisdiction of College Hill by the AC. It was decided that jurisdiction would be retained and reconsidered in 90 days.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Bridget D Hawkins

Clerk