

Final Report of the Administrative Commission for College Hill Community Church

April 30, 2025

Introduction

The Administrative Commission (AC) was appointed by the moderator of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley to address and resolve the discord that had developed within College Hill Community Church (PCUSA). The members of the AC comprised:

- MWS Lucinda Isaacs
- MWS Cynthia Holder Rich
- MWS Angie Schenck
- RE Gene Saunders
- RE Donna Courtney
- RE Bridget Hawkins

Purpose and Objectives

The AC was charged with several key responsibilities aimed at fostering unity and understanding within the congregation.

1. **Conflict Resolution:** To address and mediate the conflicts present in the congregation, facilitating open dialogue and reconciliation among members.
2. **Education on Presbyterianism:** To teach the congregations about the tenets of being presbyterian and expectations and responsibilities associated with membership at College Hill.
3. **Establishment of a Nominating Committee:** To form a committee responsible for identifying and nominating candidates for church leadership positions.
4. **Election of Deacons and Elders:** To oversee the election process for deacons and elders, ensuring a fair and transparent selection of leaders.
5. **Training for Deacons and Elders:** To conduct comprehensive training sessions for the newly elected deacons and elders to equip them for their roles and responsibilities.

Activities and Findings:

Original Jurisdiction was claimed on May 30, 2023.

SCHISM was declared on January 30, 2024 at a called meeting of the presbytery.

Conflict Resolution: The AC held several meetings with various factions within the congregation to listen to concerns and grievances. Through facilitated discussions, the AC was able to identify the root causes of discord and work towards reconciliation.

1. Education on Presbyterianism: Workshops and informational sessions were conducted to educate members on the principles of Presbyterian governance, emphasizing the importance of active participation and collaboration in church life. Feedback indicated a greater understanding of the church's structure and responsibilities.
2. Establishment of a Nominating Committee: A nominating committee was successfully established, comprising a diverse group of congregation members. This committee has completed the work of identifying potential leaders within the church community.
3. Election of Deacons and Elders: The election process was organized and conducted in accordance with Presbyterian guidelines. The congregation actively participated, and the elected deacons and elders were announced during a special worship service.
4. Training for Deacons and Elders: Training sessions were held, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of deacons and elders. These sessions included discussions on leadership, spiritual care and church governance, ensuring that the newly elected leaders are well-prepared for their responsibilities.

Return of Jurisdiction: The AC voted to return jurisdiction to College Hill on February 3, 2025. Since that time, College Hill has successfully elected a clerk and assistant clerk of session. The Church has been conducting its own session meetings moderated by MWS Kazy Hinds demonstrating its ability to govern and lead effectively.

Liaison Communication

The AC recommends that the liaison assigned to College Hill should immediately initiate contact with the session of College Hill to ensure open communication continues between College Hill and the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. This step is crucial in maintaining a supportive relationship and facilitating ongoing dialogue.

Conclusion

The Administrative Commission is pleased to report that significant progress has been made towards resolving the discord at College Hill Community Church. The congregation exudes the love of God and each other reflecting a strong and vibrant community.

In light of the achievements and positive direction of the church, the AC respectfully requests the dissolution of the commission. The groundwork has been laid for a healthy and united congregation moving forward.

Acknowledgments

The AC extends its gratitude to the members of College Hill Community Church for their willingness to engage in this process and to work towards a more unified and vibrant congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS Lucinda Isaacs

MWS Cynthia Holder Rich

MWS Angie Schenck

RE Gene Saunders

RE Donna Courtney

RE Bridget Hawkins

ON MOTION: to dismiss the Administrative Commission for College Hill Community Church with gratitude.