

### ***Moderator and Vice Moderator, continued***

Palestine. Through the ministry of OPC, Lawrence has participated in mission journeys to sister congregations in Colombia and Russia. In 2022, he coordinated a learning journey to Scotland followed by a civil rights learning journey to Georgia and Alabama.

#### **MWS Diane Ziegler, Vice Moderator The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church, Bellbrook**

The Rev. Diane Ziegler was raised in the Oxford Presbyterian Church. She has served as Stated Supply pastor of The Bellbrook Presbyterian Church since 2016 and as Parish Associate of the Oxford Presbyterian Church since 2010.

Prior to serving the Bellbrook church, Diane served as Executive Director of Kirkmont Center, as transitional pastor for the Belle Center United Presbyterian Church, and as pastor of the Reily Presbyterian Church. Within the Presbytery, Diane has served as a Commissioner to General Assembly, a Commissioner to the Synod of the Covenant, Chair of Staff Support, Chair of the Executive Presbyter Search Committee and the Stated Clerk Search Committee, Member of the Transition Visioning Team of the Presbytery, co-leader of the Small Church Transformation Project, and Missional Presbyteries Project Participant. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Theology.

#### **Synod Gathering of Presbyterian Women June 27-28, Battle Creek, Michigan**



The 2025 Synod of the Covenant Gathering of Presbyterian Women will be held June 27-28 at First Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek, MI. The registration fee will be \$75 and a block of rooms has been reserved at the Double Tree Hotel.

The featured Speaker will be the Rev. Dr. **Rhashell Hunter**, author of the 2025-2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study. Dr. Hunter has written the worship materials for “Celebrate the Gifts of Women” for multiple years. She currently teaches the Presbyter-

terian polity course at Louisville Seminary.

► Learn more and register at [tinyurl.com/synodpw2025](https://tinyurl.com/synodpw2025)

## **PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY**

*Preparing, equipping, nurturing, and connecting congregations in their ministries for God's mission.*

News & Information

Spring 2025

### **Meet our new Moderator and Vice Moderator**



*At its May 13, 2025 meeting, Presbytery of the Miami Valley elected Minister of Word and Sacrament Lawrence Bartel as Moderator and Minister of Word and Sacrament Diane Ziegler as Vice Moderator for 2025-26.*

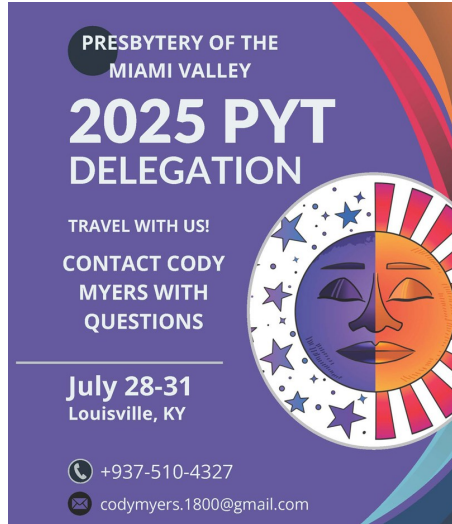
#### **MWS Lawrence Bartel, Moderator Oxford Presbyterian Church, Oxford**

Lawrence is the pastor of Oxford Presbyterian Church (OPC). A Buckeye native, he returned to Ohio after graduating from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and serving churches in Chicago as well as upstate New York. Lawrence and his wife, Amy, round out their family with a son, Jens, and daughter, Lydia.

Passionate about life-long learning, Lawrence has been shaped by formal classroom settings as well as the transformative experience of journeys around the region, the nation and the world. In 2016 and 2018, he served as the co-leader for the PC(USA) Mosaic of Peace to Israel and

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## Presbyterian Youth Triennium



The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will welcome thousands of its high school age youth and their adult youth workers to the 2025 Presbyterian Youth Triennium in Louisville, Kentucky, July 28-31, for four days of worship, recreation, bible study, outreach, and faith formation, all around the theme of “As If We Were Dreaming”.

To explore being a part of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley delegation, email **Cody Myers** at [codymyers.1800@gmail.com](mailto:codymyers.1800@gmail.com) or call him at 937-510-4327.

## Christian Ministry Scholarship for a Seminary Student



The **Oxford Presbyterian Church** Deacons are honored to support the ministry and faith formation of our church’s future leaders with the offering of the **Gene and Faye Santavicca Christian Ministry Scholarship**.

The Santavicca Scholarship was created to help support the education of a person who is pursuing or advancing a vocation in Christian Ministry. Seminary students who are under care of the presbytery of their local church are invited to apply. **Apply by June 30.**

► Learn more and apply at [tinyurl.com/OPCSCH](https://tinyurl.com/OPCSCH)



Presbytery of the Miami Valley  
[www.miamipresbytery.org](http://www.miamipresbytery.org)

## Our Executive Presbyter’s Summer Sabbatical

Dear Siblings in the Presbytery of the Miami Valley,

The Lord be with you!



During my report at the May 13 presbytery meeting, I shared with those gathered in person and online that I have been partnering with you in ministry for seven years, which means this is my sabbatical year. I will be on sabbatical from **June 1 to August 31**. I am grateful for this generous gift of time for rest, renewal, and curiosity. My time of sabbatical is a double grace in that my husband, the Rev. **Brad Sheppard**, pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian in Cincinnati, is also on sabbatical this summer.

My sabbatical will be shaped by the three foci for our presbytery. First, I am looking forward to tending to the quality of relationships in my life—with God, with my family, with myself. Second, I will spend time considering how we might be equipped for ministry and building up the body of Christ. I will travel throughout the United States to engage in conversations with colleagues and congregations that are healthy, thriving, and engaging in innovative ministries. And finally, I will explore how a posture of curiosity can build health and vitality into our mission and ministry. I intend to ask a lot of questions to help me explore, discover, and participate in God’s activity in the world.

While I am on sabbatical, Ruling Elder **Marge Morgan** will be the acting Executive Presbyter. Marge loves the church of Jesus Christ and this presbytery. She has spent the month of May attending presbytery committee meetings and in conversation with me so that she can seamlessly step into her duties as acting Executive Presbyter. I am thankful for Marge and her willingness to step into this role. I know that your work together this summer will be fruitful.

It is my hope that this sabbatical time of rest, renewal, and curiosity, will contribute to our partnership in the gospel here, throughout the Presbytery of the Miami Valley.

Grace and peace,

Terry Kukuk, Executive Presbyter