

**FINAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION  
FOR FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
RUSHSYLVANIA**

November 2025

The Presbytery of the Miami Valley's Administrative Commission has completed the tasks to close First United Presbyterian Church, Rushsylvania.

The Administrative Commission (AC) for Rushsylvania was formed In July for the purpose of assisting the congregation in closing the church. We met as a Commission over zoom and corresponded regularly by email. We also met with the congregation in Rushsylvania in person on July 25 and August 27, 2025.

In the spring of 2025, the congregation was informed by their Methodist Lay Pastor, Linda Smith, that she planned on retiring on July 1, 2025. The congregation then discerned their future going forward and since attendance was in the single digits, decided to close their doors to coincide with her retirement. They held their final worship service on June 29 and celebrated communion with members from the presbytery and a celebration luncheon.

All minutes have been turned into the presbytery office. Their membership role has been updated with the remaining members' names turned into the presbytery office. The building and all of its contents were sold to an organization called, Where the Church Meets, on October 13, 2025, approved by the presbytery Trustees. The church also paid all per capita dues from 2021 to 2026 in the amount of \$5,567.46. Any and all remaining income will be given to a local non-profit organization in Rushsylvania. The corporation will be formally dissolved as soon as the State of Ohio takes action on the application.

The church members expressed grief in seeing their church close but are pleased that it will be used for ministry in a new way. They also shared their frustrations with the presbytery and lack of connection. They indicated they did not have a Session meeting or celebrate any sacraments in years. They further expressed some anger and frustration in being forgotten. The Administrative Commission heard their concerns and wishes to encourage all of our churches and presbytery to be especially mindful for the churches among us who may no longer feel connected and to do what we can to strengthen those connections.

Thanks are expressed to the full Administrative Commission for their efforts.

Frank Rupnik, Chair

Administrative Commission Members:

Ruling Elder Bridget Hawkins, First United Presbyterian Church of Bellefontaine  
Rev. Steve Merrin, Northminster Presbyterian Church of Springfield  
Ruling Elder Barbara Neyhouse, Sugar Creek Presbyterian Church  
Ruling Elder Doug Quay, United Presbyterian Church of Belle Center  
Rev. Frank Rupnik, First Presbyterian Church of Troy