

Administrative Commission Report

St. Luke United Presbyterian Church, Middletown, Ohio

Commission Members: *Rev. Marc van Bulck and Marge Morgan (co-chairs), Cheryl Collins, Marty Hensler, and Thomas Ramsey*

Background: An Administrative Commission was formed in September 2025 to work with St. Luke United Presbyterian Church at the request of their session. Rev. Dick Sedgwick serves as their pastor. In June 2025, the session reported declining attendance (20 or fewer), monthly deficits of \$1,500-\$5,000, and a checking balance of \$45,000. The session sought to faithfully discern their future and asked for guidance from an Administrative Commission regarding their sustainability and the necessary next steps.

Development: The A.C. held its first meeting with the session on October 14, 2025 with Rev. Marc van Bulck maintaining close contact with Rev. Sedgwick as the church's COM liaison. The A.C. offered an initial consultation with the session members as well as a recommendation to consider the Good Futures program as a possible way to discern additional sources of income. After a period of prayer and discernment. The session chose not to pursue the Good Futures program at this time.

As 2025 came to a close, St. Luke experienced a significant financial turnaround. They received generous memorial gifts and benefit from a \$6,500 distribution twice annually from a local trust. On January 14, 2026, Rev. Sedgwick reported that the congregation is feeling "energized financially" with a balance "north of \$50,000," he estimates. November and December 2025 were particularly strong months for giving.

Current Status: The session has requested that activity from an Administrative Commission be suspended indefinitely as their do not currently see it as productive or necessary. However, Rev. Sedgwick has noted that St. Luke remains vulnerable due to its small size and aging congregation. The COM liaison (Rev. Marc van Bulck) and Rev. Sedgwick have agreed that is possible that further A.C. assistance may be needed in the future.

Recommendation: The Administrative Commission recommends that the presbytery slow (rather than disband) the A.C. for St. Luke United Presbyterian Church. This approach preserves the commission's structure and membership, allowing it to be resume active assistance should St. Luke's circumstances change. We wish to honor the congregation's improved financial position and while reducing unproductive oversight for the time being.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Marc van Bulck and Marge Morgan, Co-Chairs
January 14, 2026