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Report from the Administrative Commission for St. Luke United Presbyterian Church to the Presbytery of the Miami Valley May 12, 2026

On January 21, 2026, the session at St. Luke United Presbyterian Church was informed that Dick Sedgwick (their pastor) was retiring. A letter was sent out to the congregation saying that Dick's last Sunday will be April 26, 2026.

Dick reached out to Rev. Marc van Bulck (co-chair of the Administrative Commission and COM liaison to St. Luke), requesting presbytery guidance around next steps. It was agreed that members of the A.C. would meet with the session on March 17th.

On Tuesday, March 17th at 4:00 p.m., three members of the Administrative Commission (RE Marge Morgan, Rev. Marc van Bulck and CRE Gidget Collins) met with the session to discuss the congregation's future.

Dick graciously excused himself from the meeting, and the elders spoke candidly with members of the A.C. Marge Morgan laid out a range of options for the congregation's future, including (but not limited to) a possible merger with another church or closure of St. Luke if it is discerned that the ministry is no longer sustainable. The session was encouraged to reflect honestly and prayerfully. It was agreed that a follow-up meeting was needed the following week.

Members of the Administrative Commission met again with the session the following Tuesday, March 24th at 4:00 p.m. Following further conversation and discernment, it was agreed that a congregational meeting would be an important next step in helping St. Luke faithfully discern its future. Plans were made to hold such a meeting on April 12th.

On Sunday, April 12th, Marge Morgan worshipped with the congregation and moderated a congregational meeting following the service. Tom Ramsey from the A.C. was also present. Dick Sedgwick led worship and then excused himself prior to the meeting.

The meeting lasted approximately 45 minutes. Marge distributed the Commission's authorization from the Presbytery, and a member of the session distributed St. Luke's 2025 income/expense statement along with financial data from the past eleven years.

The congregation asked many practical questions. The mood was one of grief but also honesty. Several members recognized that closure may be likely, but they are not yet prepared to set a final decision. No discussion of a merger arose.

Pulpit supply has been secured through May, at which point the choir season concludes and additional transitions (including the possible retirement of the music

director) may bring further clarity. The congregation expressed a desire to proceed week-to-week with pulpit supply for the time being.

Rev. Marc van Bulck has been appointed as moderator of the session following Dick's last Sunday.

The Administrative Commission continues to walk alongside St. Luke during this tender season.

Gracefully submitted,

Rev. Marc van Bulck
Associate Pastor, Oxford Presbyterian Church
Administrative Commission, Co-Chair

Ruling Elder Marge Morgan
Interim Associate Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the Miami Valley
Administrative Commission, Co-Chair