

**MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY**  
 Tuesday, May 12, 2020  
 VIA ZOOM

**Approved at the September 8, 2020 stated presbytery meeting**

The meeting was convened with prayer at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, by Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, Moderator. The meeting was conducted virtually by Zoom, respecting governmental prohibitions on larger meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the presbytery's desire to protect its members from the effects of the pandemic.

LEGEND:

P – Present    E – Excused    Blank – Absent    *Italics* – attendance recorded in more than one category

**OFFICERS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY**

<i>Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders</i> , Moderator	P
<i>Ruling Elder Alice McCollum</i> , Vice Moderator	P
<i>Ruling Elder Don Niece</i> , Leadership Council Chair	P
<i>Ruling Elder Larry Hollar</i> , Stated Clerk	P
<i>Ruling Elder Kathleen Sewer</i> , Recording Clerk	P

**MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ON ACTIVE ROLL**

Adams, Garth	P	Haddox, Clifford	P	Merrin, Steven	
Allen, Todd	P	Haddox, Emily	P	Miller, Herbie	P
Avotri, Solomon		Hamilton, Susan	P	Murphy, Kevin	P
Bain, Marciana		Helling, Michael	P	Neely, John	P
Baker, Jeri		Hernandez, David		Nile, Laura	
Baker, Richard	P	Hess, Lisa	P	Owens, Anna	P
Bartel, Lawrence	P	Hinds, Kathryn Blocher	P	Pelaez-Diaz, Francisco	P
Beres, Benjamin		Hodgkins, Nancy	P	Ramsey, Thomas	
Birdsong, Nancy	P	Ingram, Steven	P	Rupnik, Frank	
Bova, Lynette	P	Isaacs, Michael	P	Schenck, Angela	P
Brakemeyer, Randall	P	Kobs, Erin	P	Shin, Kelley Wehmeyer	P
Brown, Beau		Kukuk, Terry	P	Soards, Marion	
Burslem, Kathleen		Lawler, Kevin		Sparks-Franklin, Sarah	P
Cassedy, Karen	P	Lawrence, Ronald		Tidwell, Melissa	
Circelli, Diana	P	Lee, Sang Un		van Bulck, Marcel	P
Dardaganian, Brad		Lewis, John		Weaver, Denise	P
Dennis, Ted	P	Linville, Deborah		Worthen, Merritt	
Dozeman, Thomas		Maguire, Brian	P	Young, Darryll	
Duiker, Amy	P	Martin, Christopher		Ziegler, Diane	P
Garrigan, Carmen	P	McCormick, Dwight	P		

**TEMPORARY MINISTER MEMBERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS**

Gockel, Stan	P
Schaffnit, Daria	P
Schumm, Steven	P
Williamson, Julia	P
Whitt, Joe	

**HONORABLY RETIRED MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT (Excused unless attendance indicated)**

Amidon, C. Forrest		Fleming, David L.	P	Hookey, Joseph R.	
Barr, Judith Dunlap		Foubert, David		Horrigan, Kevin	
Brown, Edward		Fulton, Robert		Howard, Kenneth	
Conn, Arbuth		Gerhart, Andrew		Kester, Gordon L.	
Creager, Ronald		Girbert, David A.		Kim, Soo Kwang	
Davis-Dudding, Kay		Godfrey, Norman		McConnel, George H.	
Edwards, Robert L.		Graham, James		McNulty, Edward	
Evans, Michael		Hinds, Joe. M III	P	Meyers, JoAnne	

Niece, Linda	P	Sparks, W. Franklin	Walthour, William
Nowak, Jacqueline		Stewart, Donald M.	Warren, Patrick
Philips, William		Swaim, Gerald G.	Yanney, William
Righter, Richard L.		Thornton, Jesse	Zuercher, John
Sheldon, Jocelyn J.	P	Wade, Robert	
Smith, Robert B., Jr.		Wall, Evan	

**ROLL OF CHURCHES (RULING ELDERS PRESENT)**

BELLBROOK		DAYTON: TRINITY		PIQUA: GOOD SHEPHERD	
1 – Seiler, Michael	P	1 – Blackmon, M.J.	P	1 – Kerns, Sandra	P
BELLE CENTER		2 – Smith, Rosemary	P	PIQUA: WESTMINSTER	
1 – Stout, Jeanne L.	P	DAYTON: WESTMINSTER		1	
BELLEFONTAINE		1 –		REILY	
1 –		2 –		1 –	
BLUE BALL		3 –		RUSHSYLVANIA	
1 –		EATON: FIRST		1 -	
BRADFORD		1 – Neavin, Bradley	P	SEVEN MILE	
1 –Buker, Mike (CRE)	P	FAIRBORN: FIRST		1 --Durbin, MaryRose	P
2 –		1 – Gadd, Ken	P	SIDNEY: FIRST	
CLIFTON		FARMERSVILLE: SLIFERS		1 –	
1 –		1 – Gray, Jennifer	P	SPRINGBORO: COVENANT	
COLLINSVILLE		HAMILTON: THE P. C.		1 –	
1 –		1 – Eyler, Greg	P	SPRINGFIELD: COVENANT	
COVINGTON		2 – Baer, Mary	P	1 – Filer, Janet	P
1 –		HAMILTON: WESTWOOD		SPRINGFIELD: NORTHMINSTER	
DAYTON: BATH		1 -		1 – Shroyer, Lois	P
1 –		HUBER HEIGHTS: FAITH		2 – Dodds, Deborah	P
DAYTON: CENTRAL		1 – Adams, Cyndi	P	TROY: FIRST	
1 –		HUNTSVILLE		1 – Mauntler, John	P
DAYTON: COLLEGE HILL		1 –		2 –	
1 –		JAMESTOWN		URBANA: FIRST	
DAYTON: CORINTH		1 –		1 – Hains, Janet	P
1 – Zeh, Barbara	P	MIDDLETOWN: FIRST		WEST LIBERTY	
DAYTON: FAIRMONT		1 – Hensler, Marty	P	1 -	
1 – Cohen, Julianne	P	MIDDLETOWN: ST. LUKE		WILMINGTON	
DAYTON: IMMANUEL KOREAN		1 -		1 – Wallace, Mike	P
1 –		MONROE		XENIA: MEMORIAL UNITED	
DAYTON: MEMORIAL		1 – Laughlin, Kevin	P	1 – Martin, Judy	P
1 -		NEW CARLISLE: HONEY CREEK		XENIA: WESTMINSTER	
DAYTON: SOUTHMINSTER		1 – Perkins, Marilyn	P	1 – Rickels, Joyce	P
1 – Davis, Elizabeth	P	NEW PARIS		YELLOW SPRINGS: FIRST	
2 – Garland, Peter	P	1 –		1 –	
DAYTON: SUGAR CREEK		OXFORD			
1 – Morgan, Marge	P	1 – Cross, Danny	P		

**RULING ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY**

Courtney, Donna (LC)	P	<i>Morgan, Marge (COM)</i>	P	Welborn, Diane (LC)	P
Hamilton, Kim (LC)	P	Niece, Don (LC)	P		
<i>Hollar, Larry (SC)</i>	P	<i>Saunders, Bruce (Mod)</i>	P		
<i>McCollum, Alice (VMod)</i>	P	Shoemaker, Matt (LC)	P		

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND THOSE GRANTED VOICE** (not otherwise registered): Seated by presbytery rule: Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer (Recording Clerk); Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins (former presbytery Moderator); Seated by presbytery vote: Ruling Elder Bridget Hawkins, Alternate Ruling Elder Commissioner to General Assembly; Anne Paquette, Young Adult Advisory Delegate to General Assembly; Caroline Eader and Abby Schultz, Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegates to General Assembly; Ruling Elder José LaMont Jones, PC(USA) Mission Co-worker; Ministers of the Word and Sacrament Chris Roseland (Ohio Valley), Presbyterian Mission Agency, Luke Choi (Western Reserve), Office of the General Assembly; and Charles Hardwick (Chicago), Synod of the Covenant

**INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES** (not otherwise registered): None

**STAFF MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY** (not otherwise registered): Tom Oxley

**CONVENING PRAYER**

Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, Moderator

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK – Ruling Elder Larry Hollar****Preliminary Business**

- A quorum was declared and the Clerk announced that the roll for today's meeting would be formed by advance registration of presbyters and confirmation of those registered being present electronically, accomplished by observation of their faces and names on Zoom and the participants list. The confirmed attendance consisted of forty-one (41) ministers of the Word and Sacrament, four (4) minister member from other denominations, twenty-nine (29) ruling elder commissioners (representing twenty-six (26) congregations), and eight (8) ruling elder members of presbytery: eighty-two (82) voting members. Also present and not otherwise registered were ten (10) corresponding members, including two (2) seated by presbytery rule and eight (8) by presbytery vote, and one (1) presbytery staff member. Including duplicate categories, total registered attendance of ninety-three (93). A motion was adopted by a Yes/No vote on Zoom of 77 Yes votes and 0 (zero) No votes to accept excuses from one minister of the Word and Sacrament and to seat as corresponding members for this meeting Ministers of the Word and Sacrament Chris Roseland, Luke Choi, and Charles Hardwick; Ruling Elder José LaMont Jones; and the following members of the presbytery's delegation to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: Ruling Elder Bridget Hawkins, Anne Paquette, Caroline Eader and Abigail Schultz. More than 70 devices were recorded as viewing the meeting via livestream.
- **Why we need new processes for a changed world:** The Clerk noted that presbytery had not adopted clear Bylaw and manual provisions to guide how we do presbytery and Leadership Council meetings via Zoom or other electronic means. The current COVID-19 crisis has called us away from normal in-person meetings and toward forms of electronic connection we could not have imagined even a few months ago. We can still meet and transact business and relationships, but in very different formats than before. So presbytery needs to begin by approving temporary rules to ensure presbyters "have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss, deliberate, discern the will of God, and vote on business items." The rules must address the need to create a roll of attendees, allow presbyters to gain recognition to speak and engage in simultaneous aural communication, and vote. The same rules that would govern today's meeting would also be offered as a first reading of permanent Bylaw and policy and practice changes that will be discussed and voted on at the September stated meeting.
- The Clerk began by explaining the special processes for this meeting by Zoom and provided an orientation to the various Zoom features that presbyters would be required to use during the meeting. Assistance was offered to anyone having trouble navigating their devices through the Zoom Chat function. Two practice meetings had also been offered prior to this special meeting for anyone wishing to learn what was required electronically, and several dozen presbyters attended those practice meetings.
- **Approving temporary rules:** Presbytery passed by a Yes/No recorded vote on Zoom of 78 vote Yes and 0 (zero) votes No (thereby satisfying the need for a 2/3 vote under the Bylaws) the Clerk's motion that the presbytery temporarily suspend provisions of the Bylaws to permit a virtual electronic meeting of presbytery to occur today (**Appendix A**). The presentation of this motion served not only to guide today's meeting but to serve as a first reading of prospective Bylaws changes expected to be considered and adopted at the September 2020 stated meeting.
- On motion/second, the revised docket as distributed in the supplemental packet was adopted by a Yes/No vote on Zoom of 76 Yes votes and 0 (zero) No votes.
- The Clerk led the presbytery in the annual observance of the Necrology, giving thanks for the faithful service of Ruling Elder members of our churches who died in 2019 (**Appendix B**).

**Correspondence (February 6, 2020 to May 1, 2020) and other information matters:**

- **2019 Church Reports**—The Clerk presented to presbytery the annual presbytery statistical summary based on the reports filed by all 49 churches in our presbytery (**Appendix C**) and the summary the Stated Clerk submits annually to General Assembly of the numbers of churches and ministers of the Word and Sacrament in our presbytery (**Appendix D**).
- **Correspondence** -- Delinquency reports received from Board of Pensions; summary of Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program loans and mortgage grants to churches; Reports from the Board of Pensions on dues relief requested by Presbytery of the Miami Valley churches

- due to COVID-19 impact; information from the Synod of the Covenant and from the Administrative Commission for the Synod of the Covenant.
- **2019 Session Record Review** – The Clerk advised presbytery on the 2019 session records review, accomplished at the annual clerk of session review and training session on March 7, 2020 (**Appendix E**). Once the current pandemic is over, make-up gatherings will happen around the presbytery. Churches not yet reviewed were also invited to submit their records to the Stated Clerk who will arrange the review. The Clerk thanked clerks of session for their great support on these reviews.
  - **Synod Minutes Review**—Due to the Administrative Commission for the Synod of the Covenant taking original jurisdiction of the Synod and removing all staff and officers, as well as the pandemic distancing needs, the annual presbytery minutes review at the Synod of the Covenant offices in early May has not yet occurred. We expect that to be scheduled when it is safe to do so.
  - Minister of the Word and Sacrament membership changes since last stated meeting:
    - a. Gains: **Erin Kobs** (by transfer from Minnesota Valleys); **Anna Owens** (by transfer from Mid-Kentucky).
    - b. Losses: **Robert E. Jones and Russell D. Williams, Jr., HR** (to the Lord's loving care in death).
    - c. In transition: None

#### **Treasurer's Report Summaries**

- Year to Date Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet through April 2020 distributed. YTD Receipts for General: \$106,895; YTD Disbursements for General: \$107,223; Difference: \$(328). YTD Pass-Through Income and Expense: \$42,273. Total Liabilities and Fund Balance: \$1,429,165.

#### **SPEAKING TOGETHER THE PRESBYTERY COVENANT**

- To remind ourselves of what binds us together as a presbytery, the entire body spoke words from our Presbytery Covenant, including the mission statement.

#### **HOSPITALITY REPORT**

- **Welcome and Service Opportunities**—The Moderator announced that the offering at today's meeting would be accomplished by requesting that presbyters give an offering to their local church where they worship or serve, to support the church's ministries in the community to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Moderator prayed to dedicate this offering.
- **Guests and first-time Ruling Elders** were welcomed.
- **New pastors in our midst** – Presbytery gave a joyous welcome to Rev. Daria Schaffnit, a minister member of the United Church of Christ, who is serving as stated supply pastor at the Yellow Springs: First church, and Minister of the Word and Sacrament Erin Kobs, who is living and working in our midst and has been transferred to us from the Minnesota Valleys Presbytery.
- **Memorial – (Appendix F)** Memorial remembrances and prayers were offered for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Russell D. Williams, Jr., Honorably Retired, who died April 26, and for Rev. Robert E. Jones, who died March 2. Russ was pastor for 19 years at the Huntsville church and served other congregations in our presbytery. Robert E., a minister member of the United Church of Christ, was pastor at the Dayton: College Hill Community church for 37 years.
- To enable a virtual passing of the peace, the presbytery was unmuted *en masse* and encouraged to extend warm greetings to each other.

**REPORT FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE OF THE SYNOD OF THE COVENANT** – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Charles (Chip) Hardwick, the interim executive of the Synod of the Covenant, brought warm greetings and a renewed sense of connection between the Synod and the presbyteries that comprise it. He spoke of structural and vision changes now underway as the Synod is being led by the Administrative Commission that has taken original jurisdiction of the Synod, with a goal of restoring trust and healing some of the wounds that have existed for some time. Rev. Hardwick also committed to wider listening and deeper relationships with the Synod's 11 presbyteries, and a stronger sense that the Synod exists to enhance the capacities of presbyteries to do their missions for Christ. Rev. Hardwick grew up in and was under care of this presbytery during his candidacy process, and appreciated being among us again. An extensive report on the situation at the Synod is at **Appendix G**. The Moderator prayed for Rev. Hardwick and the Synod.

**EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT** – Executive Presbyter Terry Kukuk assured our churches, pastors and elders that she sees them doing good ministry during this time of disruption. She has enjoyed visiting a good percentage of our churches through their online and drive-in worship services. Rev. Kukuk pointed to the continually growing resources on the presbytery webpage and Facebook presence, and encouraged churches to reach out if they need support. We are in this for the long haul, she said, and will continue to add resources to help us be the church in new ways—including holding online meetings, developing ways to do officer ordinations and installations, and adopting other creative approaches to ministry.

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL—CONSENT AGENDA** – Ruling Elder Don Niece, chair  
The Consent Agenda below was presented. No items were requested to be pulled from the agenda, and by unanimous consent the following actions were approved:

**From the Stated Clerk:**

- **Presbytery Meeting Minutes** -- Approved the minutes of the stated meeting of February 8, 2020.
- **Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches** – Approved the minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches of January 27, 2020, February 8, 2020, February 9, 2020, March 31, 2020, April 1, 2020 and April 27, 2020 (**Appendix H**).
- **Minutes of the Administrative Commission for Dayton: Memorial Church** – Approved the minutes of the Administrative Commission for Dayton: Memorial Church of April 14, 2020 and April 22, 2020 (**Appendix I**).
- **Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian Church of New Paris** – Approved the minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian Church of New Paris of April 1, 2020. (**Appendix J**).
- **Receive the presbytery's 2019 Annual Statistical Report** – Receive the 2019 Annual Statistical Report that the Stated Clerk submitted to the Office of the General Assembly based on information provided by all 49 presbytery churches (**Appendix C**)

**From the Leadership Council:**

- **Ratification of Leadership Council action on March 24 to authorize the presbytery Moderator to recruit members of an Administrative Commission to assist the Presbyterian Church of New Paris in closing** – Ratify an action taken by the Leadership Council at its March 24, 2020 special meeting (**Appendix K**).
- **Process for Redress of Imbalance between ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders for 2020-2021** – Approve delegating to Leadership Council authority to approve and implement a plan on behalf of the presbytery to redress the imbalance of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders prior to the September 2020 stated presbytery meeting (**Appendix L**).
- **Approve Presbytery of the Miami Valley Policy and Practice Change to designate a temporary moderator for situations when the Moderator and Vice Moderator are unavailable to preside at presbytery meetings** – Approve changes in the PMV Policy and Practice relating to presiding at presbytery meetings (**Appendix M**).

**NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**—Minister of the Word and Sacrament Steven Ingram, chair  
(*legend: MWS= Minister of the Word and Sacrament; RE= Ruling Elder*)

The Committee nominated the following names to serve the Presbytery in elected positions. Additional nominees from the floor were solicited, and none appearing, nominations were declared closed and, **by a Yes/No vote on Zoom of 74 Yes votes and 0 (zero) No votes, the presbytery elected the following people:**

- To serve as presbytery officers for 2020-2021:

**Class of 2021**

**Moderator** RE Alice McCollum (Dayton: Trinity)

**Vice Moderator** MWS Ben Beres

**Chair of Leadership Council** RE Bruce Saunders (Wilmington)

- To serve in the indicated capacities on presbytery committees, commissions, and Council:

**Leadership Council**

[2020-21 Chair RE Bruce Saunders (Wilmington), noted above]

Class of 2023

Rev. Stan Gockel

RE Matt Shoemaker (Eaton: First)

**Committee on Ministry**

2020-21 Chair – RE Marge Morgan (Dayton: Sugar Creek)

2020-21 Vice Chair – MWS George (Sandy) McConnel

Class of 2022

MWS Garth Adams

Class of 2023

MWS Karen Cassidy

RE Gidget Collins (Dayton: Bath)

RE Sue Seiler (Bellbrook)

MWS Robert Wade

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

2020-2021 Chair – MWS Michael Isaacs

Class of 2021

MWS Erin Kobs

Class of 2022

MWS Michael Isaacs

Class of 2023

MWS Kevin Murphy

MWS Linda Niece

MWS Brad Dardaganian

**Network Support and Grants**

2020-21 Chair – Rev. Steve Schumm

Class of 2023

RE Amy Cotterman (New Carlisle: Honey Creek)

RE Mike Gardner (Springboro: Covenant)

RE Jim Pelfrey (Dayton: Corinth)

**Nominations**

2020-21 Chair – MWS Steven Ingram

Class of 2023

MWS Sarah Sparks-Franklin

**Representation and Diversity**

2020-21 Co-Chairs – RE Pat Meadows and RE Diane Welborn

**Staff Support**

2020-2021 Chair – MWS Diane Ziegler

Class of 2023

RE John Ey (Dayton: Westminster)

RE Sherry Webb (Hamilton: TPC)

**Presbytery Trustees**

2020-21 Chair – RE Georgie Woessner (Dayton: Westminster)

Class of 2023

RE Kathleen Seewer (Fairborn: First)

**Permanent Judicial Commission**

Class of 2026

MWS Joe Hinds

MWS Jocelyn Sheldon

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**—Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders noted that, as he closed his year as Moderator, he had the privilege to moderate the first-ever virtual presbytery meeting carried out by electronic means. He reflected on the many things that have happened in our area since he took office in May 2019 and the ways the presbytery has responded. He expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and for the support the presbytery staff members have given him this year.

## RECOGNITION OF WRITTEN REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

**LEADERSHIP COUNCIL** – Ruling Elder Don Niece, chair

**For Information:**

- **Property sale** --Approved the sale of certain property known as 14 E. North St., Springfield, Ohio, of the Springfield: Covenant Church under authority of Sec. 103(2) of the Trustees Policy and Practice. The detailed legal description of the property and the sale document are in **Appendix N**). The Presbytery Trustees approved the sale on March 16, and closing occurred on April 27. Council's approval came with strong encouragement for the church's full payment of Connectional Support and per capita beginning in 2020, as suggested by the Trustees. (LC, Feb. 13; March 12)
- **Staff medical expense** -- At the request of Staff Support Committee, approved overspending of line item 501.131 Office Manager Medical Insurance for the 2020 budget year, to rectify an oversight in paying the Office Manager's medical expenses. (LC, Feb. 13)
- **Vital Congregations** -- Approved use of budgeted funds for a Vital Congregations program expense. (LC, Feb. 25)
- **Speaking in Scioto Valley** -- Approved RE Don Niece speaking at a Scioto Valley Presbytery meeting to support Special Offerings based on our post-tornado experience. (LC, Feb. 25)
- **Hosting presbytery** -- Agreed to invite four churches to host presbytery meetings in 2021-2022. (LC, Feb. 25)
- **Use of Dayton: Memorial building** -- Authorized staff to continue conversations about potential use of the Dayton: Memorial building as a host site for recovery work groups, and expending funds to ensure adequate upkeep of the building. (LC, March 12)
- **GA Overtures** -- Authorized the Stated Clerk to write a letter of support and to testify for a Seattle Presbytery overture to the 224th General Assembly on Colombia, but decided not to concur in that overture or a separate one from New Harmony Presbytery due to timing issues on concurrence approvals. (LC, March 12)
- **Presiding at presbytery meetings** -- Approved a new PMV policy to clarify who presides at presbytery meetings in the absence of the Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator. (LC, March 12)
- **AC for the New Paris Church** -- In special session, approved requesting the presbytery Moderator to form an Administrative Commission to assist the Presbyterian Church of New Paris in closing, an action to be ratified at the next presbytery meeting. (LC, March 24)
- **Possible Lilly Foundation proposal** --Approved a planning team formed by the Executive Presbyter moving forward with preparation of a letter of intent that could lead to a grant proposal to the Lilly Foundation for a Thriving Congregations initiative. (LC, April 9)
- **Processes for virtual presbytery meeting** -- Approved motions to enable a stated presbytery meeting by Zoom on Tuesday, May 12 as scheduled; approved requesting that the presbytery agree to a Bylaws waiver and future amendments to Bylaws and Policy and Practice to set ground rules for future virtual presbytery and Leadership Council meetings; approved a tentative docket for the meeting. (LC, April 9)
- **Invitation to host presbytery** -- Authorized the Stated Clerk to invite Dayton: Trinity to host the stated presbytery meeting in February 2021, since they will not do so in May 2020 due to the need for a virtual meeting. (LC, April 9)
- **AC assuming original jurisdiction of Dayton: Memorial session** --Authorized the Administrative Commission for Dayton: Memorial to take original jurisdiction of the Memorial session to expedite the church's closing, if that AC decides to request this authority. (LC, April 9) The AC on April 23 voted to take original jurisdiction.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Michael Isaacs, chair

**For Information:** The last two CPM meetings have been by Zoom. At the first of these meetings, committee members agreed to reach out to all inquirers and candidates to check in and offer a friendly greeting in the midst of the uncertainty of COVID-19. CPM met with Rachel Boden from

Dayton: Fairmont Presbyterian Church and enrolled her as an inquirer at the March meeting. In April, Rev. Steven Schumm, seeking to transfer his pastoral membership to the PC(U.S.A.) from the Mennonite Church (USA), demonstrated satisfactory competency in the areas of exegesis, theology, polity, and worship and sacraments.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY** – Ruling Elder Marge Morgan, chair

**For Information:** The Committee on Ministry, on motion, took the following actions on behalf of the presbytery (date of COM action listed after each item):

- **Fairborn: First**—Approved the full-time Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Joe Hinds for one year, from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, at the following terms, and appointed him moderator of the session: Total Effective Salary (including housing allowance) – \$53,500; full Board of Pension dues; SECA up to 50%; Professional expense reimbursement \$1,500; Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,220; Auto at IRS rate \$1,800; Vacation -- 4 weeks including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education -- 2 weeks including 2 Sundays, cumulative to 4 weeks. Salary terms meet 2020 presbytery minimum. (COM, Feb. 25)
- **Reily**—Approved the part-time (19 hours per week) Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Thomas Ramsey for one year, January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, at the following terms, and appointed him moderator of the session: Total Effective Salary (including only cash salary) – \$22,000; no Board of Pension dues with health care expenses covered by other means; Professional expense reimbursement \$1,220; Continuing Education reimbursement \$1,220; Vacation 4 weeks including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education 2 weeks including 2 Sundays. Salary terms do not meet 2020 presbytery minimum. (COM, Feb. 25)
- **MWS Laura Nile**—Authorized Minister of the Word and Sacrament Laura Nile to:
  - Preside at the Lord's Supper at the University of Dayton Protestant worship service on March 29, 2020; and
  - Assist in leading the Sacrament of Baptism for her nephew outside the bounds of this presbytery, at Bethany Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA, on May 3, 2020. (COM, Feb. 25)
- **MWS Anna Owens**—
  - Approved the installation service for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Anna Owens as associate pastor at Dayton: Westminster to be held on Sunday, March 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. during the morning Lord's Day service, granting an exception to the presbytery's standard practice that such services not be scheduled at times that discourage participation by presbyters;
  - Approved the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install: Ruling Elder and Vice Moderator Alice McCollum (Dayton: Trinity), to preside; Ruling Elder Gene Saunders (Dayton: Westminster); Minister of the Word and Sacrament Terry Kukuk; and such other members as may be requested to serve on the AC, who will be subject to ratification at the next COM meeting; and
  - Authorized the Lord's Supper as part of the service, should the associate pastor to be installed request it. (COM, Feb. 25)
- **Action on Policy and Practice language for transitional ministry**—Authorized the drafting team to continue work on a redraft that takes into account comments at the presbytery meeting and discussion today, with a goal of COM approving a revised draft and a proposed process for presbytery consideration by no later than the April 28 COM meeting. (COM, Feb. 25)
- **Representation and Diversity Committee**—Designated MWS Garth Adams to serve as the COM representative on the Representation and Diversity Committee. (COM, Feb. 25)
- **RE Gidget Collins and Seven Mile**—The COM:
  - Found that a suitable commission has been agreed to for Ruling Elder Cheryl (Gidget) Collins with the Seven Mile Presbyterian Church to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder at the following terms:
 

The part-time (20 hours per week) Commissioned Ruling Elder Covenant between Ruling Elder Cheryl Collins and the Seven Mile Presbyterian Church, effective March 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, shall include the following duties (Note that Sacraments, weddings and funerals, and vote at presbytery meetings may not be performed prior to presbytery examination and commissioning under (b) below): Preaching and worship leadership, administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, perform weddings and funerals, provide pastoral care, advise and resource session and congregational committees. Serve as Moderator of session, attend meetings of



the Presbytery of the Miami Valley with voice and vote. Mentoring by MWS John Lewis; RE Collins's membership is in the Dayton: Bath Church. Terms: Effective Salary including housing--\$27,000; Professional expense reimbursement including mileage at IRS rate--\$500; Continuing Education expense reimbursement--\$1,220; Vacation--4 weeks, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education--2 weeks, including 2 Sundays. Salary terms meet presbytery requirements for CREs for 2020.

- Requested that the presbytery Moderator call a special meeting of the presbytery, ideally for Thursday March 19, 2020, at 11:00 am, to examine Ruling Elder Cheryl Collins on her statements of faith, call, and motive, and on her fitness for this commission, and
- Following presbytery approval in (b) above, the COM approved that:
  - the presbytery immediately proceed to hold a commissioning service pursuant to G-2.1003; and
  - The presbytery be invited to join the Seven Mile congregation in celebrating the commissioning at an event at the church on Sunday, April 19, 2020. (COM, Feb. 25)
- **Moderators of Session** -- Appointed the following to serve as moderators or co-moderators of sessions: Rev. Daria Schaffnit at Yellow Springs. (COM, Feb 25)
- **Administrative Commission for Dayton: Memorial** -- The presbytery Moderator appointed the following to serve on the AC for Dayton: Memorial. They will be oriented to their task on March 5: MWS Amy Duiker, MWS Ed McNulty, RE Cindi Cook (New Carlisle: Honey Creek), RE Charles Chamberlain (Dayton: Fairmont), RE Gordon Neumann (Springboro: Covenant). Realty advisor to the AC: Brian Sharp--Presbytery Trustees (Dayton: Westminster). (COM, Feb. 25)
- **Pulpit Supply List** – Took note of the following changes to the PMV pulpit supply list: Add RE **Michele Slone** (Urbana: First); remove RE **Cheryl (Gidget) Collins** (Dayton: Bath). (COM, Feb. 25)
- **MWS Denise Weaver** – Authorized the Stated Clerk to move Minister of the Word and Sacrament Denise Weaver to the Member-at-Large roll effective March 12, 2020, at the conclusion of her time on staff at Dayton: Westminster. (COM, Feb. 25)
- **Fairborn: First** – Approved the full-time Stated Supply appointment of Minister of the Word and Sacrament Joe Hinds for one year with the Fairborn: First Church to begin on March 16, 2020 rather than on April 1, 2020 as previously approved, and to end on March 15, 2021, at the previously-approved terms. (COM, March 31)
- **Dayton: Westminster** – Approved the action of the session of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, to continue to employ Minister of the Word and Sacrament Denise Weaver as full-time Interim Associate Pastor for Spiritual Growth for a period not to exceed one year or until she completes her interim appointment, beginning on January 1, 2020, at the following terms: Total Effective Salary, including housing – \$67,238; full Board of Pension dues; Travel reimbursement (including Auto at IRS rate) – no limit; Continuing Education reimbursement – \$1,220; Professional Expense reimbursement - \$1,030 Vacation— 4 weeks, including 5 Sundays; Continuing Education Time— 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays, cumulative to 3 weeks. These terms meet 2020 presbytery compensation requirements. (COM, March 31)
- **Dayton: Westminster**—Approved the action of the session of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, to compensate Minister of the Word and Sacrament Sue Hamilton to serve as full-time Pastoral Affiliate for Congregational Care for a period not to exceed one year at the following terms: Total Effective Salary, including housing – \$67,879; full Board of Pension dues; Travel reimbursement (including Auto at IRS rate) – no limit; Continuing Education reimbursement – \$1,220; Professional Expense reimbursement - \$1,030; Vacation— 4 weeks, including 5 Sundays; Continuing Education Time— 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays, cumulative to 3 weeks. These terms meet 2020 presbytery compensation requirements for pastors. (COM, March 31)
- **Springfield: Covenant** – Approved the continuation of the full-time interim pastor appointment of the Rev. Stan Gockel for the period from April 16, 2020 through April 15, 2021, at the following terms, and continued his appointment as moderator of the session: Effective Salary (including cash salary and housing allowance) \$65,975; medical reimbursement up to \$6,500 (Rev. Gockel is retired in the American Baptist Churches and provides for pension and medical benefits in ways other than the Board of Pensions); SECA up to 50%; travel reimbursement (auto at IRS rate) \$3,000; continuing education reimbursement \$1,500; professional expense reimbursement \$2,000; Vacation 5 weeks (including 5 Sundays); Continuing education 2 weeks (including 2 Sundays). Terms comply with 2020 presbytery requirements. (COM, March 31)

- **Wilmington** -- Approved the continuation of the part-time Stated Supply appointment at the Presbyterian Church of Wilmington for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Robert Wade beginning on April 13, 2020 for a period up to one year, at the following terms: Worship leadership, including preaching and administering the sacraments, \$100 plus mileage per service; Funeral service \$100; pastoral care visitation \$26/hr.; all other services as requested \$26/hr.; mileage reimbursement at IRS rate. (COM, March 31)
- **Huber Heights: Faith** – Approved the Huber Heights: Faith Ministry Information Form (MIF) and authorized its placement on the CLC platform. (COM, March 31)
- **Action on Policy and Practice language for transitional ministry**—Authorized the drafting team to continue work on a redraft that takes into account comments at the February presbytery meeting and later COM discussion, with the expectation that a new version will be presented for approval to the September stated presbytery meeting. (COM, March 31)
- **Presbytery Meeting action on Commissioned Ruling Elder examination of RE Gidget Collins** – In view of the likelihood that the May stated presbytery meeting will occur by Zoom or other electronic means, which will make discussion and examination more difficult, COM voted to recommend that the presbytery defer action on the examination of RE Gidget Collins to become the CRE at Seven Mile until a called presbytery meeting to occur at the earliest time when it is safe for a robust quorum to convene in person. (COM, March 31)
- **Administrative Commission for the Synod of the Covenant** -- The AC took original jurisdiction of the Synod on February 12 and 13, 2020. The AC recently announced that MWS Chip Hardwick, who grew up in and was ordained in our presbytery, will serve as Interim Synod Executive. MWS Richard Rojas is serving as Stated Clerk of the Synod. (COM, March 31)
- **Administrative Commission for New Paris** -- The Leadership Council on March 24 approved the presbytery Moderator being authorized to appoint an AC for the Presbyterian Church of New Paris, subject to ratification at the next presbytery meeting. The following members of the AC have been recruited and will be oriented to their task on April 1: MWS Lawrence Bartel, MWS Jocelyn Sheldon, RE Linda Taggart (New Paris), RE Jennifer Gray (Farmersville: Slifers), RE Kathy McCreary (Eaton: First). Realty advisor to the AC: Brian Sharp--Presbytery Trustees (Dayton: Westminster). (COM, March 31)
- **Installation of MWS Anna Owens postponed** – The installation service scheduled for March 19 during Dayton: Westminster's Lord's Day service was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic until a later date to be decided. (COM, March 31)
- **Dayton: Immanuel Korean** – In light of the action of the Dayton: Immanuel Korean congregation on Sunday, April 26 to agree to the request of MWS Sang Un Lee to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective May 10, 2020, the COM:
  - Appointed MWS Luke Choi, a minister member of the Presbytery of Western Reserve, to moderate the April 26 congregational meeting and subsequent session meetings, and authorized him to labor within the bounds of this presbytery for this purpose;
  - Concurred on behalf of the presbytery in the dissolution of the pastoral relationship under Sec. 1.06(7) of the COM Policy and Practice;
  - Approved the session decision to engage Rev. Jun Pil Park, a minister member of the Presbyterian Church in Korea who has most recently served a church in Tampa Bay Presbytery, to serve as pulpit supply leading two virtual worship services a week (Wednesdays & Sundays) for an indefinite period. Such service will be on a voluntary basis until the end of July, at which point the extension of his service may be renegotiated.
  - Authorized the Immanuel session to call a second congregational meeting for the purpose of electing a Pastor Nominating Committee;
  - Authorized the Stated Clerk to transfer Rev. Lee to the Member at Large roll effective May 11, 2020, with the expectation that he will be invited in June to submit a report to have his chaplaincy at Emory University approved as a Validated Ministry. Beginning in May Rev. Lee will work as a chaplain resident at Emory University Hospital of Emory Healthcare to serve diverse patients as well as learn the clinical pastoral care in diverse cultural and religious backgrounds. (COM, April 28)
- **Installed Pastor Salaries**—Approved the report (**Appendix O**) regarding Installed Pastor Compensation for 2020 submitted by PMV churches, and authorized its publication to the presbytery in May. (COM, April 28)
- **224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly new process** – The Stated Clerk outlined decisions made last week by the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly regarding how the 224<sup>th</sup> GA that was scheduled for Baltimore in June will actually happen now in virtual ways. This included an update

on the status of the presbytery's Overture regarding changing the term "Honorably Retired" in the Book of Order to "Retired," which has been deferred until the 225<sup>th</sup> GA (2022). (COM, April 28)

- **Administrative Commission for Xenia Churches** -- The presbytery Moderator has appointed RE Jay Peterson (New Carlisle: Honey Creek) to serve on the AC in the place of RE David Weaver (Dayton: Westminster), who resigned. (COM, April 28)
- **Administrative Commission for Dayton: Memorial** – In light of the reality that the Memorial Church Session is no longer active and that certain significant administrative functions have not happened in the past and are still not taking place, Leadership Council on April 9 granted the AC authority to take original jurisdiction of the Memorial Session, and on April 23 the AC voted to take original jurisdiction. (COM, April 28)
- **Gratitude** – COM members whose terms are ending—MWS Linda Niece and RE Tom Selden—and who are leaving the committee were thanked for their service, along with MWS Arbuth Conn, who is resigning. RE Gidget Collins agreed to serve as COM secretary beginning in May. (COM, April 28)

**COMMISSIONING OF THE DELEGATION TO THE 224<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY** -- Vice Moderator Alice McCollum, with liturgy and prayer, led the presbytery in commissioning the following people whom the presbytery elected in September 2019 to serve at the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or to be prepared to serve as alternates. The General Assembly will be an all-virtual one to take place between June 19 and 27, 2020. We are grateful for their willingness to honor and serve God in this way, and yet sad they will not be able to enjoy Baltimore (where an in-person GA had been planned) and the fellowship and inspiration of a gathered Assembly.

Ruling Elder Commissioner: Bruce Saunders (Wilmington)

Minister of the Word and Sacrament Commissioner: Michael Isaacs

Young Adult Advisory Delegate: Anne Paquette (Dayton: Westminster)

Alternate Ruling Elder Commissioner: Bridget Hawkins (Bellefontaine: First United)

Alternate Minister of the Word and Sacrament Commissioner: Sarah Sparks-Franklin

Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate: Caroline Eader (Bellefontaine: First United)

Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate: Abigail Schultz (Dayton: Sugar Creek)

**BLESSING OF RE JOSÉ LAMONT JONES TO SERVICE AS A MISSION CO-WORKER** – Moderator Bruce Saunders offered a blessing and prayer on the presbytery's behalf for Ruling Elder José LaMont Jones (Dayton: College Hill Community) as he prepares to begin service as an educational consultant Mission Co-Worker in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (**Appendix P**). Following the presbytery's expressions of support, Ruling Elder Jones noted his current plans for him and his wife Evelin to continue language training online and in Africa, before arriving in Kinshasa. He expressed gratitude for the many years in this presbytery during his youth and now more recently, and for the people who have shaped his commitment to Christ's mission. The presbytery also welcomed Minister of the Word and Sacrament Chris Roseland, a mission engagement advisor on the staff of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, for this blessing.

**INSTALLATION OF PRESBYTERY OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021** – The new officers of the presbytery elected earlier in this meeting were installed. Moderator Bruce Saunders installed the new Moderator, Ruling Elder Alice McCollum (Dayton: Trinity), and the new Vice Moderator, Minister of the Word and Sacrament Ben Beres, with appropriate liturgy and questions of commitment that were answered in the affirmative. Following that, Moderator Alice McCollum installed Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders (Wilmington) as chair of the Leadership Council, with appropriate liturgy and questions answered in the affirmative. Expressions of gratitude and thanks, with gifts, were exchanged, including for the service of the outgoing chair of the Leadership Council, Ruling Elder Don Niece (Huber Heights: Faith United).

#### **ADJOURNMENT WITH CLOSING PRAYER**

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Alice McCollum at 4:35 p.m.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., at either the Presbyterian Church of Hamilton, 23 South Front Street, Hamilton, OH 45011, or, should conditions require, virtually by electronic means.

May 12, 2020

Presbytery of the Miami Valley

Attest:

Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk

**APPENDICES:**

- A. Motion to suspend Bylaws and adopt provisions to permit virtual presbytery meeting.
- B. 2019 Necrology of Ruling Elder deaths
- C. 2019 Annual Presbytery Statistical Report to General Assembly
- D. 2019 Annual Report of Churches and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament to General Assembly
- E. Status of 2019 Session Records Review
- F. Memorial for Minister of the Word and Sacrament Russell D. Williams, Jr., HR and Rev. Robert E. Jones
- G. Report from the Synod of the Covenant
- H. Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Xenia Churches
- I. Minutes of the Administrative Commission for Dayton: Memorial
- J. Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Presbyterian Church of New Paris
- K. Motion to ratify Leadership Council action related to Presbyterian Church of New Paris
- L. Motion to authorize Leadership Council to develop and implement a process to redress the imbalance of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders for 2020-2021
- M. Motion to approve a presbytery Policy and Practice change to designate a temporary presbytery moderator
- N. Legal descriptions and sale documents for sale of 14 E. North Street property by Springfield: Covenant church.
- O. 2020 Installed Pastor Salary report
- P. Mission Co-Worker Description—Ruling Elder José LaMont Jones (Dayton: College Hill Community)

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