

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY
 Tuesday, October 27, 2020
VIA ZOOM

Approved at the November 14, 2020 stated presbytery meeting

The meeting was convened with prayer at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, by Ruling Elder Alice McCollum, Presbytery Moderator. The meeting was conducted virtually by Zoom under Sec. 4.03 of the presbytery Bylaws which authorizes Electronic Meetings. The decision to meet virtually is in keeping with current 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

Ruling Elder Alice McCollum, Moderator P
Minister of the Word and Sacrament Ben Beres, Vice Moderator
Ruling Elder Bruce Saunders, Leadership Council Chair
Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk P
Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer, Recording Clerk P

MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT ON ACTIVE ROLL

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

TEMPORARY MINISTER MEMBERS FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Gockel, Stan E
 Schaffnit, Daria
 Williamson, Julia P
 Whitt, Joe

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

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

Schenck, Angela P
 Sheldon, Jocelyn J. P
 Smith, Robert B., Jr.
 Sparks, W. Franklin
 Stewart, Donald M.

Swaim, Gerald G.
 Thornton, Jesse
 Wade, Robert P
 Wall, Evan
 Walthour, William

Warren, Patrick
 Yanney, William
 Zuercher, John

ROLL OF CHURCHES (RULING ELDERS PRESENT)

BELLBROOK 1 – Aldrich, Ray P	DAYTON: TRINITY 1 – Blackmon, M.J. P	PIQUA: GOOD SHEPHERD 1 –
BELLE CENTER 1 – Claassen, Deb P	DAYTON: WESTMINSTER 1 –	PIQUA: WESTMINSTER 1
BELLEFONTAINE 1 –	2 –	REILY 1 –
BLUE BALL 1 –	3 –	RUSHSYLVANIA 1 -
BRADFORD 1 –Buker, Mike (CRE)	EATON: FIRST 1 – Neavin, Bradley P	SEVEN MILE 1 – Collins, Gidget (CRE) P
2 –	FAIRBORN: FIRST 1 – Gadd, Ken P	2 --
CLIFTON 1 –	FARMERSVILLE: SLIFERS 1 –	SIDNEY: FIRST 1 –
COLLINSVILLE 1 –	HAMILTON: THE P. C. 1 –	SPRINGBORO: COVENANT 1 –
COVINGTON 1 –	HAMILTON: WESTWOOD 1 -	SPRINGFIELD: COVENANT 1 –
DAYTON: BATH 1 – Lockwood, Susan P	HUBER HEIGHTS: FAITH 1 – Grycz, Diane P	SPRINGFIELD: NORTHMINSTER 1 –
DAYTON: CENTRAL 1 –	2 – Skare, Mary P	TROY: FIRST 1 –
DAYTON: COLLEGE HILL 1 –	HUNTSVILLE 1 –	2 –
DAYTON: CORINTH 1 – Zeh, Barbara P	JAMESTOWN 1 –	URBANA: FIRST 1 –
DAYTON: FAIRMONT 1 – Shearer, Lisa P	MIDDLETOWN: FIRST 1 –	WEST LIBERTY 1 -
DAYTON: IMMANUEL KOREAN 1 –	MIDDLETOWN: ST. LUKE 1 -	WILMINGTON 1 – Gillette, Jim P
DAYTON: MEMORIAL 1 -	MONROE 1 –	XENIA: UNITED 1 –
DAYTON: SOUTHMINSTER 1 – Fyffe, Dorothy P	NEW CARLISLE: HONEY CREEK 1 –	2--
2 –Gaffney, Jean P	NEW PARIS 1 –	YELLOW SPRINGS: FIRST 1 –
DAYTON: SUGAR CREEK 1 – Neyhouse, Barbara P	OXFORD 1 –	

RULING ELDER MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY

Courtney, Donna (LC)	Meadows, Pat (RD)	Shoemaker, Matt (LC)
Hamilton, Kim (LC) P	Morgan, Marge (COM) P	Welborn, Diane (LC)
Hollar, Larry (SC) P	Niece, Don (LC) P	Woessner, Georgie (LC)
McCollum, Alice (Mod) P	Saunders, Bruce (LC)	

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND THOSE GRANTED VOICE (not otherwise registered): Seated by presbytery rule: Ruling Elder Kathleen Seewer (Recording Clerk) Seated by presbytery vote: Candidate Susan Brasier; Ruling Elder Marge Mauntler (member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry); Rev. John Crawford and Rev. Philip Lee, members of the Presbyterian Church in Canada seated as corresponding members for this meeting.

INQUIRERS AND CANDIDATES (not otherwise registered): None (Susan Brasier registered above)

STAFF MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY (not otherwise registered): None

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CONVENING PRAYER

Ruling Elder Alice McCollum, Moderator

The Moderator welcomed those joining this Zoom and livestream meeting from Canada and other parts of the United States due to the vote and expected ordination service for Candidate Susan Brasier.

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 twenty-two (22) ministers of the Word and Sacrament, one (1) minister member from other denominations, fifteen (15) ruling elder commissioners (representing twelve (12) congregations), and five (5) ruling elder members of presbytery: forty-three (43) voting members. Also present and not otherwise registered was one (1) corresponding member seated by presbytery rule and four (4) seated by presbytery vote, and zero (0) presbytery staff members. Including duplicate categories, total registered attendance of forty-eight (48).
- The Clerk declared the meeting properly called under the presbytery Bylaws by notice issued on October 14, 2020. The Clerk noted that only those matters specified in the call of the meeting may be considered today. In this case, the docket consists of motions relating to the examination and approval of Candidate Susan Marie Brasier for ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If the vote on Motion 2 is for approval, the presbytery will at the Moderator's motion move immediately into the service of ordination. Without objection, the docket was adopted.
- The Clerk explained 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. A practice meeting was offered the day before this special meeting for anyone wishing to learn what was required electronically on their devices.
- The Clerk moved the following omnibus motion, which was seconded and adopted by unanimous consent:
 - Approve five requests for excuses from ministers received prior to the beginning of this meeting.
 - If the way be clear, that the following persons be offered the privilege of voice but not vote during the upcoming meeting: RE Marge Mauntler, a member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and Candidate Susan Brasier. For the worship service to follow, if the way be clear, that the following have voice to allow their participation in the service: Candidate Susan Brasier, and Rev. John Crawford and Rev. Philip Lee, both ministers in the Presbyterian Church in Canada and to be seated as corresponding members.
 - That the presbytery, in lieu of both an appointed Administrative Commission and a printed order of worship, authorize, if the way be clear following approval of Motion 2, the following elements of the Order of Worship be adopted: a recorded call to worship and music by Tom Goud; to offer the Prayer of Approach, Rev. John Crawford; to present Scripture and to preach, Rev. Brian Maguire; to ask the constitutional questions of the candidate, the Prayer and the Declaration of Ordination, Moderator Alice McCollum; to present the charge to the newly ordained, Rev. Philip Lee; to offer the final blessing, the newly ordained Rev. Susan Brasier; and for the service and the special meeting to be adjourned following that final blessing.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY – Minister of the Word and Sacrament Michael Isaacs, chair
On behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) and the Committee on Ministry (COM), the CPM chair presented the following rationale for the motions the committees offer today:

Rationale of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Susan Brasier enrolled with our Committee on the Preparation of Ministry in 2015. As a part of her preparation for ministry, she completed an M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary (compulsory coursework from the committee included Hebrew, Greek, Presbyterian polity, Presbyterian worship and sacraments, exegesis, reformed theology, as

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well as field education in a congregational setting), completed a Clinical Pastoral Education program in Canada, and successfully passed ordination examinations in polity, theology, exegesis and worship sacraments. At the end of the process she could clearly articulate to us her sense of call, a personal faith, an understanding of the church, a plan for on-going professional development, and a deepening sense of self-awareness.

Following the successful completion of the aforementioned process, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry prayerfully discerned in May 2020 that Susan Brasier was ready to receive a call as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. The Committee now requests that the presbytery examine and approve her for ordination.

Rationale of the Committee on Ministry: In assessing Candidate Susan Brasier's readiness for examination and ordination, the Committee on Ministry has:

1. At the request of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, concurred in Candidate Susan Brasier being examined for ordination by the presbytery and, if approved, to be enrolled as a member of this presbytery; and

2. Found that the position of Stated Supply Ministry with the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada for which the Candidate has been approved to serve by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, is a suitably ordainable position in a denomination in relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and that the salary and benefits terms are adequate. (September 29, 2020)

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Based on these findings of both committees, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry offered the following motion:

Motion 1: That the presbytery examine Candidate Susan Brasier for Ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament pursuant to G-2.07 of the Book of Order and of Section 1.02 of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Policy and Practice.

Following opportunity for discussion, the presbytery adopted the motion by unanimous consent.

Candidate Susan Brasier then orally presented her Statement of Faith (**Appendix A**). Presbyters were then invited to examine the Candidate by asking questions on the Statement of Faith or other materials Candidate Susan Brasier prepared and the committee provided as background: Brief Summary of Call Experience (**Appendix B**) and Biographical Background (**Appendix C**). After the Stated Clerk explained the process for identifying those desiring to ask questions, six presbyters asked questions and Candidate Brasier responded. The Moderator then declared the examination concluded. Candidate Brasier was removed from the meeting to a Zoom waiting room.

The CPM chair, Rev. Isaacs, then offered the following motion on behalf of the committees.

Motion 2: That the Presbytery of the Miami Valley:

- a) approve the ordination of Candidate Susan Brasier as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) under G-2.0502 and G-3.0301c, and authorize the presbytery to organize and carry out a service of ordination under G-2.0703 and W-4.04.; and
- b) authorize the Stated Clerk to enter Rev. Susan Brasier's name on the rolls of this presbytery as a minister of the Word and Sacrament upon completion of the service of ordination. (Motion 2 requires a majority vote of presbytery)

The opportunity for discussion occurred on Motion 2. When no further presbyters wished to speak, closed the discussion and presented Motion 2 for electronic Yes/No vote via Zoom. **The vote was 38 votes in favor of the motion and 0 (zero) votes opposed. So Motion 2 was adopted.**

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Candidate Brasier was returned to the main Zoom room to applause as the Moderator announced the favorable vote. The Moderator prayed for the church and its life, and in gratitude for Susan and her call to serve. The Candidate expressed words of gratitude and anticipation.

The Moderator, at 3:18 pm, announced that, at the request of the Candidate and with the concurrence of the presbytery Moderator, the presbytery without objection would enter into a Service of Worship for the purpose of ordaining Candidate Susan Brasier as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). While moving directly into a service of ordination after a presbytery vote is somewhat unusual, the Moderator noted that the Candidate now works in ministry and resides in Canada and will be there for an unknown period of time given the pandemic. In addition, proceeding directly to ordination will facilitate her being accepted as a minister in full standing with the PC(USA) by the denomination of her current congregation where she is serving in New Brunswick, the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Order of Service to Ordain Susan Brasier as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament was carried out as follows. Portions were presented in recorded format and other parts were presented live on Zoom:

- Welcome to worship by Moderator McCollum [Live]
- Recorded call to worship
- Music from Tom Goud
- Prayer of Approach by Rev. John Crawford [Live]
- Recorded Scripture and Sermon by Rev. Brian Maguire
- Recorded Music from Fairmont Presbyterian Church choir
- Moderator announced that the Offering today, by mailed check or online gift, will be used by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of Miami Valley, to assist women and men in their preparation for ministry [Live]
- Statement on Ordination by Moderator McCollum [Live]
- Constitutional Questions by Moderator McCollum and Candidate Susan Brasier [Live]—*see below*
- Prayer of Ordination by Moderator McCollum; laying on of hands done by literal raised hands of presbyters visible on Zoom and by the Candidate donning a cape with symbolic hands on it [Live]
- Declaration of Ordination by Moderator McCollum; Symbolic Welcome by Presbyters [Live]
- Charge to the Newly Ordained by Rev. Philip Lee [Live]
- Moderator invited the Newly Ordained Rev. Susan Brasier to offer a Blessing to Conclude the Worship and Presbytery Meeting [Live]
- Blessing for the Presbytery by Rev. Susan Brasier [Live]
- Adjournment and Next Meeting Announcement by Moderator McCollum [Live]

During the service, the Moderator asked Candidate Susan Brasier the Constitutional Questions appropriate for ministers of the Word and Sacrament from the Book of Order, and they were all answered in the affirmative. The moderator then prayed and invited the laying on of hands, and following that announced that Candidate Susan Brasier was ordained by this presbytery as a minister of the Word and Sacrament and would be entered on the rolls of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). The presbytery warmly greeted the newly ordained.

ADJOURNMENT WITH CLOSING PRAYER

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Rev. Susan Brasier at 4:02 pm.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., via Virtual Electronic Means (Zoom).

Attest:

Ruling Elder Larry Hollar, Stated Clerk

APPENDICES:

- A. Statement of Faith—Candidate Susan Brasier
- B. Brief Summary of Call Experience—Candidate Susan Brasier
- C. Biographical Background Provided by Candidate Susan Brasier