

DRAFT: Corrections in these minutes should be submitted in writing to the Stated Clerk within ten days of receipt. If no corrections are received within that period all items shall be considered to be correct. These minutes are not an official record of the Presbytery until approved by the body.

**MAUMEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Stated Meeting**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017**

3:15 GETTING ORGANIZED The Moderator, Mary Jane Saunders

Moderator Mary Jane Saunders opened the meeting with the singing of a hymn and a prayer. She called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present.

Adoption of the Docket..... Rev. Dean McGormley, Stated Clerk
ON MOTION: to approve the docket as amended. **So Ordered.**

Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2017 as written.
ON MOTION: to approve the minutes as presented. **So Ordered.**

Approval of Minutes of Special Meeting July 25, 2017 (Attachment 1)

Seating of Corresponding Members
ON MOTION: to seat as corresponding member: Doug Portz, Pittsburgh Presbytery and Board of Pensions. **So Ordered.**

Privileges of the Floor
ON MOTION: to give privileges of the floor to Ginny McCook, elder at Firelands, and Daniel Weisert, youth from Bowling Green. **So Ordered.**

Recognition of First Time Commissioners

Welcome from the Host Pastor..... Rev. Annemarie Kidder

3:25 COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY Ron Boyd

Comings and Goings:

Comings: Ben Shaw – Ottawa
Elaina Sipes – Toledo Christ (Ordination October 14th at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Chillicothe, Ohio, by Scioto Valley

CRE Julie Fogle – McComb
Elder Rose Jones – Clyde
Rev Julie Kling – Fremont First
Rev Karol Farris – Bluffton

Goings: Rev Mark Rich – Lima Market Street (to the Mission field of the ELCA)
Rev David Good – Bluffton (retirement) Members of the congregation spoke of their joy in their shared ministry

3:35 CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (attachment 2) Pamela Short

- A. ON MOTION:** That Maumee Valley Presbytery authorize the Urban Ministry Task Force of the Branch of Congregational Life to proceed with leadership of United Church of Christ and the Maumee Valley Presbytery leadership with the intent of working together with Grace Community and Grace Presbyterian to provide reformed worship and pastoral care and the mission of God in the urban context. The Toledo Task Force can seek grants inside/outside church which include getting permission from Presbytery Council for possible financial support, volunteer support, and prayer support.” **So Ordered.**

- B. **ON MOTION:** To authorize the Branch of Congregational Life Committee to apply for Synod Grant for \$10,000 of Synod of New Covenant Fund Grant under the oversight of Presbytery to be used for the Grace, Collingwood, and Grace Community endeavor.” **So Ordered.**

The Task Force is looking for prayer partners, volunteers, and financial support as they move forward.

3:45 ADRIAN FIRST UPDATE..... Susan Meier

Susan Meier provided an update. Scaffolding is up and cleanup of the sanctuary has begun. Structural engineers are talking about the cost of repairing the sanctuary, and negotiations with the insurance company also continue. The hope for the short term is to be able to move back into fellowship hall. Presbytery has sent all available disaster relief funds to Adrian. The offering on Reformation Sunday will go to the Adrian church. Churches are invited to consider whatever support they can send. Sessions are invited to send letters of support

CLERK DEAN MCGORMLEY added to his report that in June allegations were filed against a minister member. The investigation was concluded. No charges were filed. Investigations are complete.

3:50 PRESBYTER FOR COMMON LIFE..... Susan Meier

Susan Meier reported some of the accomplishments of the past years, including having right-sized the Presbytery administration, changed the model for pastor searches and changed our way of doing business. We have restored relationships with many of our evangelical churches, demonstrated by the paying of back owed per capita. She invited us to continue to engage in the good work we have to do. In February it will be time to say good-bye.

3:55 ITEMS FOR ACTION..... Ron Boyd

Actions Taken to the Presbytery from Council/Committee on Ministry (attachment 3)

- C. **ON MOTION** to concur with regret with the request of Susan Meier to be granted Honorably Retired Status effective February 28, 2018. (attachment 4) **So Ordered.**

- D. **ON MOTION** that the Presbytery agrees to the Maumee Valley Presbytery Council hiring a Temporary Presbyter for Common Life with a view to, if the way be clear and with the approval of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry, after a minimum of 3 years of service to that Presbytery, the Maumee Valley Presbytery Council may present that Temporary Presbyter for Common Life to the Presbytery as sole nominee to be voted on for the position of called and installed Presbyter for Common Life without the Presbytery going through the process as outlined in Section G-2.08 of the Book of Order”.

- Discussion ensued. **So Ordered.**

- E. **ON MOTION** that if the way be clear upon positive vote of the Presbytery of the above motion, that the Council will appoint the following to serve as a Search Committee:

A search Committee representative of the Presbytery which includes an equal (or near to equal) Number of Ruling Elders, Clergy, and congregational members, including a diversity of age, gender, size of congregation, rural/urban/small town, and theological perspective. **So Ordered.**

- F. **ON MOTION** that the Presbytery per capita be raised 75 cents to \$20.00. (attachment 5) **So Ordered.**

- G. **ON MOTION** that the 2018 budget be adopted. **So Ordered.**

- H. **ON MOTION:** at the request of the Mt. Sinai Commission, to authorize the Budget and Finance Committee of the Presbytery's Council, functioning as Trustees, to sell the property (formerly used as a manse) located at 1246 Peru Olena Road, Olena, Ohio. in accordance with the Book of Order G 4.0201-4.0206). Legal description of the Property is Parcel 0502500 0022 0000, Section 1, Lot 23, 511 Residential

dwelling, unplanted land .158 acres in Bronson Township, Western Reserve LSD. And to authorize Reverend David Bartley, MVP Treasurer to sign on behalf of the Presbytery property located at 1246 Peru Olena Road.

An offer of \$45,000 has been received. Maumee Valley Presbytery does hereby authorize a title of the sale of the property be given to the ongoing Mt. Sinai Presbyterian New Church Development for ministry, mission and program.

After previous maintenance bills have been paid, the proceeds will be placed in the New and Redevelopment Fund per Presbytery policy. (attachment 6) **So Ordered.**

Actions taken to Presbytery by Nominating Committee

I. ON MOTION to elect according to procedures approved by Roberts Rules of order:

Tom Polker (CRE Napoleon) for Vice Moderator for 2018/Moderator for 2019 and Chair of Council for 2020.

There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed. **So Ordered.**

J. ON MOTION to present for nomination

2020	CRE Training Committee	Rose Jones,	CRE, Clyde
2020	CRE Training Committee	Ann Marie Montgomery	Cadmus, Teaching Elder
2020	COM	Tom Steensma	HR
2020	COM Moderator	Ron Boyd	Upper Sandusky Ruling Elder
2020	COM	Mary Bielen	Bowling Green, Ruling Elder
2020	COM	Karen Gerber	Clyde, Ruling Elder
2020	COM	Susan Rowland Miller	Member at Large
2020	ACDC Commission	Katie Treadway	Tiffin, Teaching Elder
2020	ACDC Commission	Tom Emery	Venedocia, Salem, Teaching Elder
2020	CPM	Ken Krieger	Tiffin First, Ruling Elder
2020	CPM	Don Loving	CRE, Milan

There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed. **So Ordered.**

We were also invited to nominate people for the Search Committee for the new Presbyter for Common Life and for delegates to General Assembly.

Action presented by Treasurer on behalf of the Moderator of the Budget and Finance, Moderator of Committee on Ministry, and Presbyter for Common Life. (attachment 7)

K. ON MOTION: That \$25,373 from the Church Closing Fund 2416 be placed in the Pastoral Care Fund of Maumee Valley Presbytery Pastoral Care Fund 2634 and that the description of the Pastoral Care Fund be amended to read:

“#2634 Pastoral Care Fund

Classification: Board Restricted

Special Collections & Offerings

Purpose:

"This Fund was started in February 1984 as a result of Presbytery action authorizing an offering during worship at stated meetings of Presbytery, including ordinations and installations, with the proceeds to be used for helping clergy and other church professionals in M.V.P. with special need such as medical bills, emergencies and unusual expenses. In addition, the fund is to be used to send appropriate expressions of concern to clergy and their families during times of hospitalization, crisis or bereavement."

Historical Information:

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The Presbytery added \$25,373 to the Pastoral Care Fund in September 2017 to address financial needs of pastoral leaders in Maumee Valley Presbytery from the Church Closing Accounts to address unusually high requests for assistance during that year.
Signing Authority: Presbyter for Common Life upon approval by Moderator of the Committee on Ministry”

In our Presbytery there have been \$77,000 in requests in recent years. There is high need. **So Ordered.**

4:35 MINUTES FOR GOOD NEWS

- October 22nd Celebration of the Reformation 1:30 CROP Walk, followed by 3:00 choir rehearsal, followed by 4:00 Service. Dinner at 5:30
- Jenny McCook, Firelands Bistro 163 is in its 2nd year as a Pay It Forward restaurant. More than 17,000 meals served. Hires those who have a hard time finding jobs. Won best new non-profit and second-best burger in 2016.
- Bluffton Food Pantry is thriving and doing great ministry
- Kathy Johnson on Immigration assistance available through Dominican sisters in Adrian
- Firelands Presbyterian – 143 beds provided for children and families
- Katie Treadway from Tiffin took sabbatical after 16 years.
- Jillian Holzhauzer Graber. Ottawa has put together 129 disaster relief kits.
- Kathy King from Tecumseh is working with program to host Muslim speaker from Indonesia.
- Ron invited Lanie Sipes, new associate pastor at Christ Presbyterian to come up front and be introduced since she was delayed getting to the meeting.
- Gene McEvoy’s grandson arrived this morning
- In Nov. Donald Leckrone will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination
- Barry Sweet had surgery today that went well. Is on leave for several months

4:55 BOARD OF PENSIONS PRESENTATION.....Rev. Doug Portz

- Updated BoP work in response to hurricanes – made sure that pastors in affected areas are getting medications and other needs getting met
- Updated work of the Board – have strong commitment to care for pastors. Debt level being raised that Board will help recent seminarians pay off. Offers income security. Pension fund fully funded. Part time church workers can participate in Board plans. Many additional services available.
- Actions churches need to take: Need to fill out employer agreement before Oct 13th!!!!!!! Pastors then need to elect benefits between Oct 30-Nov 17!!!!!!! There is help available – web tutorials, consultants, at Benefits Connect, and more.
- Addressing need: Board will supplement need for retired pastors, and help pastors who don’t understand financial management.
- Changes that are coming in 2018

5:30 DINNER

Jay Salvage moderating

6:15 ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF MAUMEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY

Actions Taken on Behalf of the Presbytery by COM

1. *West Eagle Creek/West Bethesda* - **Appointed** COM member, elder Joel Youkers as moderator with effect from September 1,

2. *Bluffton*– Appointed Rev Roy Pneuman as moderator with effect from July 1, 2017 Permitted Rev David Good to return to Bluffton after his retirement for a retirement celebration on a date to be agreed upon between the church and David.
3. Approved If the way be clear, the Terms of Call between the church *and* Rev Karol Farris, commencing September 1, 2017, as follows:

Salary	\$33,600
Manse (non-cash)	10,440
Travel & Professional Expenses	2,448
Social Security re-imburement	3,369
Retirement Savings	600
Medical Flex Spending Accounts	
Dental	200
Medical	400
Continuing Education	816
Pension and Medical	16,513
Utilities (paid by church)	2,288
Total	\$70,674

Moving Expenses – one time to re-locate

Vacation – 4 weeks (4 Sundays), Continuing Education 2 weeks (2 Sundays)

Service to the Greater Church- 1 week (1 Sunday)

Approved If the way be clear, to appoint Rev Karol Farris moderator with effect from September 1, 2017.

4. *Lima, Market Street* – Appointed Rev Tom Emery as moderator with effect from July 16, 2017.
5. *Lima Faith* – Appointed Elder Jim Cooper as Moderator of Record as long as he serves on Committee on Ministry.
6. *Defiance*- Lynn Bova is to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament at Perrysburg on July 2017. Approved her ordination commission as follows: Pastors –Rev Pamela Short, Rev Barry Murr, Rev Susan Meier and Rev Margaret Fox. Elders- Pam Reid (Defiance), and Charles Myers (Ottawa). Lynn’s sons, Ian and Andrew, and Becca Snedeker Meier will also participate in the service. Appointed Rev Tom Emery as moderator until Lynn has been ordained and appointed moderator. Following her ordination, appoint Rev Lynn Bova as moderator. Approved their Mission Study.
7. *McComb*- Appointed CRE Harry Tolhurst as temporary moderator.
8. Authorized CRE Julie Fogle to administer communion at *McComb* on July 2, 2017.
9. Approved the contract between the session of *McComb* and CRE Julie Fogle, commencing July 1, 2017, as follows: This is a part-time contract for no more than 30 hours per week. he yearly compensation is as follows:

Salary	\$11,818.00
Housing	\$10,000.00
Retirement Savings Plan	\$ 2,182.00
Continuing Education/Conferences: covered expenses	
Vacation – 4 weeks including 4 Sundays. Study Leave 2 weeks including 2 Sundays.	

Appointed Rev. Emily Mitchell as moderator of *McComb* for a period of one year.

10. *Fostoria*- Approved the amended part-time contract between the session and Rev Bob Butcher for the period May 1, 2017 to Oct 31, 2017, to be paid monthly as follows:

Housing Allowance	\$1,455.00
Mileage	195.00
Education & Reimbursements	450.00
Total	\$2,100.00

Vacation 4 weeks (4 Sundays) per annum. Study Leave 2 weeks (2 Sundays).

11. *Clyde*- Approved the part-time contract between the session and Elder Rose Jones to provide pastoral services, commencing July 16, 2017, not to exceed 19 hours per week, at an annual rate as follows:

Salary	\$13,000
Housing Allowance	\$12,000
Continuing Education	\$400 maximum

Mileage	\$1,200 maximum (vouchered at IRS Rate)
Cell phone service	\$480 (vouchered at \$40 per month)
Vacation 4 weeks (4 Sundays), Study Leave 2 weeks (2 Sundays)	

As Rose is currently training as a CRE she may not moderate session or administer the sacraments. Rev Jim Miller will continue as moderator.

12. Huron – Approved their MIF.

13. Approved to transfer to receiving presbytery, on request: Rev Adrian Doll, Rev Kris Schondelmeyer, Rev Patrick Harley and Rev Robert Joel Stevenor.

14. Bluffton Approved if the way be clear, to request transfer of Rev Karol Farris from Western North Carolina Presbytery to Maumee Valley Presbytery.

15. Ottawa – Approved upon his ordination, to appoint Rev Ben Shaw as moderator.

16. Kenton- Approved that while Rev Tomas Pistora will remain their called and installed pastor, to approve the reduction of his time to ¼ time (15 hours per week) with the Terms of Call being reduced, effective August 1, 2017, as follows:

Salary	\$ 5,564.52
Housing	7,054.44
Social Security	940.04
Pension	1,492.92
Medical	10,779.96
Death and Disability	135.72

Rev Pistora has taken on a full time position as chaplain with Bridge Hospice in Findlay.

17. Added to COM's Manual of Operation Policy 3.6 MIF Instructions for Yoked Congregations.

18. Added to COM's Manual of Operations Policy 15.9 Pastoral Care and Assistance Funds.

19. Fremont First – Approved the temporary contract between the session and Rev Julie Kling, for the period August 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 (thereafter to be written for the 2018 calendar year), to work between 20 – 25 hours per week, for an annual salary, as follows:

Salary	\$22,560
Pension, Death and Disability and Health coverage as required by the Board of Pensions	
Professional Travel	\$ 2,450
Study/Books	825
Vacation 4 weeks (4 Sundays), Study Leave 2 weeks (2 Sundays)	

Appointed Rev Julie Kling as moderator.

Julie is hopeful she will be able to continue providing pastoral care/preaching to First PC, Galion. This will be tried for a 2 month period after which it will be re-assessed

20. Norwalk- Permit the church to elect a PNC to search for a new called and installed pastor. This is with the full support of their current interim pastor, Rev David Comstock.

Actions Taken on Behalf of the Presbytery by General Council

21. Tabled until the next Council meeting, and to refer to Committee on Ministry for their reflection and action on how a Transition Resource Specialist might be used. Susan was asked to prepare a job description. David Bartley observed that this could be funded by an increase of \$4.50 per capita increase.

22. Approved that the Presbytery joyfully celebrate the restoration of community which the full payment of back per capita gifts by the First Presbyterian Church of Bryan represents at the September 19th meeting in Monroe Michigan, and that the Presbytery celebrates the fulfillment of back per capita from the other churches including Hicksville, Dola, Fostoria, Van Wert (partial).

23. Approved That \$5,000 of the Presbytery's retained earnings #3900 be placed in a Board Directed Fund for the Commissioned Ruling Elder Training Program #2721 for future expenses with the following description to be placed in the Manual of Operations:

“#2721 CLP Reunion Retreats and CRE training ministries

Classification: Board Directed

Purpose: The purpose of this fund is to hold any excess funds received from those attending

Commissioned Lay Pastor Reunion Retreats. The excess money is to be used to offset future expenditures. The Presbytery's Council allocated \$5,000 to be placed in a Board directed fund for the use as directed by the Commissioned Ruling Elder Training program.

Signing Authority: Commission Ruling Elder Training Program”

24. Approved that \$5,000 remain in the 2017 retained earnings #3900 to repay a portion of the \$38,147.43 that has been spent on the Commissioned Ruling Elder Training Program during the time of withholding of per capita by multiple churches since 2011.
25. Approved that the whole Branch of service to the World budget (#7700's) be allocated a total of \$13,000 with no specific designations except for Toledo Campus Ministry (Line item #7736) which will include \$2,200 in pass through funds from the Synod. In 2018, the Council will determine the use for mission and outreach ministries.
26. Approved the Budget and Finance Committee revised the Financial Records Retention Policy and approved with amendment changing the retention of tax returns from permanently to seven years. The new 8q Records Retention in the Financial Practices and Manual of Operations will be presented as amended to the Presbytery for information.
27. Approved the general concepts of reorganizing around Spiritual Leadership, Mission Outreach of Salt and Light, and Discipleship and Covenant Community and adopt the time line for reconsideration of reorganization. (attachment 8)
28. Approved that the Grace/ Collingwood Ministry Task Force of the Branch of Congregational Life proceed with leadership of the United Church of Christ and the Maumee Valley Presbytery with the intent of working together with Grace Community and Grace Presbyterian to provide reformed worship and pastoral care and the mission of God in the urban context. The Toledo Grace/Collingwood Task Force can seek grants within congregations and outside of congregations which include getting permission from Presbytery Council for possible financial support, volunteer support, and prayer support.”
29. Approved that the Branch of Congregational Life Committee would apply for Synod Grant for \$10,000 of Synod of New Covenant Fund Grant under the oversight of Presbytery to be used for the Grace, Collingwood, and Grace Community endeavor.

6:20 HICKSVILLE COMMISSION (Attachment 9)

Susan Rowland Miller

L. ON MOTION: That, in consultation with the forty-one (41) members of First Presbyterian Church of Hicksville, Ohio, Maumee Valley Presbytery dissolve the First Presbyterian Church of Hicksville Ohio effective September 20, 2017 contingent upon presentation of the incorporation papers of the Hicksville Cornerstone Church of Ohio to the Stated Clerk of Maumee Valley Presbytery. (G-3.0303b). **So Ordered.**

M. ON MOTION: That Maumee Valley Presbytery nurture the remaining PC(USA) members by taking jurisdiction over the members of dissolved congregations and granting transfers of their memberships to other congregations (G-3.0303c). Maumee Valley Presbytery will continue to provide pastoral care and worship through other PC(USA) congregations in the region for the remaining PC(USA) members. **So Ordered.**

N. ON MOTION: That all available Session minutes, records and history of the First Presbyterian Church of Hicksville be received by the Administrative Commission for Dismissing and Dissolving churches. **So Ordered.**

O. ON MOTION: That the property of the First Presbyterian Church of Hicksville located at 232 W. Arthur, Hicksville, Ohio, AUDITOR PLAT, LOT 61 PT (E060025000100), AUDITOR PLAT 61 PT, .72 acre (E060025000201) be sold and the title be transferred to Hicksville Cornerstone Church, Inc., upon verification of articles of incorporation filed with the State of Ohio. The payment of \$25,373 represents 10% of the net value of the property including building and assets. This payment will be used to support mission and ministries of the PC(USA) through Maumee Valley Presbytery. **So Ordered.**

P. ON MOTION: That Maumee Valley Presbytery thank the Administrative Commission for Dissolving and Dismissing Churches (ACDC) and the Elders of the First Presbyterian Church of Hicksville for their work. While the Presbytery mourns that, through dissolution of the covenant relationship between the Presbyterian Church USA and the First Presbyterian Church of Hicksville the Body of Christ seen on earth is further rent, the Presbytery acknowledges that the individual members of the congregation are following their sense of God's call upon them for service and mission in God's Kingdom and that God's plan for wholeness, shalom and unity of our world continues to be worked out, even if unseen by our human eyes. **So ordered.**

- 6:30 CAMP PRESENTATION Rev. Mary Jane Saunders
David Bartley and Daniel Weisert (youth from Bowling Green) spoke, and a video was presented.
- 6:40 COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY Rev. Mary Jane Saunders
Mary Jane presented inquirer Mary Bielen for Candidacy (attachment 10). Mary Bielen's session, at Bowling Green, has been very supportive. Mary was asked questions.

ON MOTION that Mary Bielen be received as a candidate for ordained ministry. **So Ordered.**

Mary was prayed over.

- 6:55 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR INFORMATION
Process and Time Line for Visioning and Restructuring (attachment 11)
CRE policies (attachment 12)
Announcements of Upcoming Events
Pre-Advent Workshop November 9-10th Lial Center
Nominating Form for GA commissioners, Search Committee and Ministries (attachment 13)

ON MOTION that the meeting be adjourned with the closing prayer at worship. **So Ordered.**

- 7:00 WORSHIP
- 8:15 ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Karen VanderPloeg
Journal Clerk

Dean McGormley
Stated Clerk

The next regular meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery will be Tuesday November 14th, beginning at 10 am at First Presbyterian Church of Napoleon. The February 20th meeting will begin at 10:00 am at First Presbyterian Church of Tiffin.

Attachments:

1. *Minutes of Special Meeting of Presbytery July 25, 2017*
2. *Congregational Life*
3. *Council minutes of August 15, 2017*
4. *Personnel*
5. *Budget & Finance, 2018 Budget*
6. *Mt. Sinai*
7. *Pastoral Care Fund*
8. *New Leadership Structure*
9. *Hicksville Commission*
10. *Mary Bielen Sense of Call*
11. *Revised Strategy MVP*
12. *CRE*
13. *Nominations*
14. *Attendance*