

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
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Napoleon, Ohio
Tuesday, November 14, 2017

10:00 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 September 19, 2017 as written.
ON MOTION: to approve the minutes as presented. **So Ordered.**

Seating of Corresponding Members
ON MOTION: to seat as corresponding member: Bill Lindeman of North Carolina Presbytery, Buzz Reed of Kirkmont camp and Miami Valley Presbytery. **So Ordered.**

Recognition of First Time Commissioners

Welcome from the Host Pastor..... Tom Polker

Report of the Clerk..... Dean McGormley
ECO is receiving churches without us releasing them, including the Grand Rapids congregation from our Presbytery. But it is a Grand Rapids member who is our nominee to go to General Assembly

10:20 ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Actions Taken to the Presbytery from Nominations

ON MOTION that the following be elected:

CRE Committee

2018	Dennis Ladd	Clergy	Member at Large
2020	Rose Jones	Laity	Clyde First Presbyterian

Branch of Congregational Life

2020	Lainie Sipes	Clergy	Christ Presbyterian, Toledo
2020	Alice Pleasnick	Laity	Norwalk First Presbyterian

Budget and Finance

2020	Debra Davies	Laity	Tecumseh First
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General Assembly in St. Louis

Representative - Clergy	2018	Douglas Holmes	Palmyra
Alternate - Clergy	2018	Jessica Myers	Findlay First

Representative - Laity	2018	Gloria Box	Grand Rapids
Alternate - Laity	2018	Michael Cox	West Bethesda
YAAD	2018	Katrina Rippnoff,	Ottawa

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

Actions Taken to the Presbytery from Committee on Ministry

2. **ON MOTION** that we approve a 2% ‘cost of living’ increase in Minimum Terms of Call for 2018 for full-time installed clergy serving churches. In addition to this there will be subsequent increases in Health Dues, Pension Dues and Death and Disability Dues as required by the Board of Pensions. Committee on Ministry is also recommending that Professional Expenses (including travel and technology reimbursements) be set at a minimum of \$3,000 and Continuing Education allowance be set at a minimum of \$850. This results in a Total Minimum Terms of Call of \$67,067.26.(attachment #1) **So Ordered.**

3. *Hamni Covenant Presbyterian Church, Toledo* - At the request of the pastor, **ON MOTION** that the presbytery appoint a 3 person Administrative Commission to act as the session of the church until such time as the church is able to elect its own session, **and to approve** the appointment of Rev Luke Choi, the PC (USA)’s Manager for Korean-speaking Councils Support, as adviser. COM also recommended that ruling elder Carole Burnworth be elected as one of the three members of the commission. **So Ordered.**

10:40 REPORT FROM PRESBYTER FOR COMMON LIFE..... Susan Meier
In 10 years the Presbytery has changed dramatically: from 76 to 62 churches, from 55 to 24 full time pastors, from 11 to 6 CREs, from 10 to 16 part time pastors, from 11 to 18 churches served by pulpit supply, from 48 to 38 honorably retired pastors.

In 2003 we envisioned ourselves as a tree. The focus was on evangelism, leadership and evangelism training, evaluating ministry, and a plan for communicating. Presbytery was putting authority for doing ministry in the hands of the people, instead of having paid staff do ministry. If people didn’t do ministry, it didn’t get done.

In 2008 when Susan arrived pastors reported feeling cut off. There were clusters, but weren’t well implemented. Congregations were faced with financial challenges after crash of 2009. A significant number of congregations went through New Beginnings, a prayerful self-study process. Spiritual formation and practices were a challenge in our life together. Many pastors were within 5-10 years of retirement. Congregations began withholding per capita and there was division in churches. We did not share common ordination vows. Mission funding shifted.

Presbytery shifted to say the primary function of the presbytery is to fulfill ordination vows – to work with leaders. Presbytery also said the transformation of congregations is essential. So we adopted a plan to live as covenant community, transforming lives and communities in Christ so congregations can make healthy transitions. COM adopted: every church a touch and face. Monthly, then quarterly sacred conversations began. We began giving quaichs to new pastors. Worship occurred at every presbytery including the Lord’s Supper, and we reaffirmed ordination vows and put emphasis on connectedness. We tried to connect congregations in mission together but that ministry lay fallow for years. When the Book of Order enabled flexibility in calling pastoral leadership, we moved to 3-6 months for pastoral transitions. We encourage congregations to rethink vision every two years. Who are we? Who is our neighbor? Who is God calling us to be?

We had committees and commissions doing the work of Presbytery. That is no longer possible. Current structure requires 67 clergy.

11:00 FOCUS OF THE DAY Future Vision for Presbytery..... Jay Salvage and Lynn Bova

This is percolating, and open for input. Rethinking the structure began with the realization that we didn't have enough people to make the current structure work. We need to help local congregations develop spiritual leaders. Churches that closed lacked vision, mission and purpose. We have an evolving understanding of how we can carry out our purpose.

3 main tasks for each of the primary platforms of Presbytery

Covenant Community Discipleship

- Enable/equip disciples of all ages
- Coaching congregations
- Crowd source programming and Retreats

Transforming Lives - Salt & Light

- Communications about congregational mission and providing models for mission
- Developing new worshiping communities
- Coordination of joint response for mission both acute and chronic

Health transitions – spiritual leadership development in 21st century

- Sacred conversations beer & hymns
- Cultivate spiritual life through sacrament and worship (for pastors)
- Leadership development
 - CRE training
 - CPM
 - Bible basics, preaching course
 - Understanding Presbyterian identity

General themes also addressed

- Need to curate resources
- Better communications between churches, committees, platforms, networking....
- Using round tables
- Using technology that we aren't using

It is becoming clearer how we can support and encourage each other. What might be possible? What could we do? Not just what do we have to do. What if Presbytery organizes around passions for ministry? What if we can create a more organic and fluid structure that gives attention to what is critical.

Presbytery attendees were asked to share ideas with Presbytery leadership.

11:36 Good News from Churches

- The McGormley's daughter is expecting her first child.
- David Bartley announced our Presbytery's YAD has been a summer camper and received a heart transplant. She also helped with youth at Bowling Green
- Sarah Ross reported Adrian folks are back in the building and worshiping in fellowship hall
- Cathi King - Tecumseh starting book study on book "Torn", Justin Lee author
- Gillian Holzhauser Graber – Rev. Ben Shaw to be ordained next week at Ottawa

- Gary Saunders, Bowling Green – working with university to host gathering for LGBTQ
- David Montgomery – The Great Spiritual Migration by Brian McLaren – great book study at TCM and TCM has 3 mission trips coming up.
- Susan Rowland Miller announced Don Leckrone celebrating 50th year of ordination this Sunday – there will be a worship at Zion Lutheran in Defiance.
- Pamela Short Tontogany – reach out to 3 different school systems. Started Theo’s Theater – where tell Bible stories with puppets, and children act them out over and over. Started small 3-5 students. This year 56 students.
- Susan Meier - Upper Sandusky had concert to raise money for We Care for Students which provides support for in school legal Bible education. Raised more than \$20,000.
- Bill Lindemann First Findlay. Staff are reading a book called the No Asshole Rule: Building a Civilized Workplace by Bill Sutton. Has been helpful in transforming staff relationships.
- Joel Youkers, Defiance congregation did coats for Christmas: handed out 900 coats. Have probably given out 20-30,000 coats over the years
- Kathy Jarosz, Perrysburg's Table provides meal. Will serve Thanksgiving meal tomorrow. All welcome.

12:00 LUNCH

1:00 ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF MAUMEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY

Actions Taken on Behalf of the Presbytery by COM

1. **Approved** Rev Dennis Ladd’s request that he be authorized to labor outside the bounds of our presbytery. Rev. Ladd is taking on a temporary position in Brooklyn, Michigan.
2. *Toledo Eastminster-* **Approved** the request of the congregation to dissolve the pastoral relationship between Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Toledo and Rev David Bartley effective November 30, 2017 and to place Rev Bartley on the presbytery’s list of Honorably Retired Pastors on that date.
3. **Approved** the Eastminster MIF written for full time installed pastor.
4. *Lima Faith –* **Approved** the contract between the members of Faith Christian Church, Lima and Terri Haithcock contingent upon final approval by the appropriate UCC body. Ms. Haithcock is licensed by the UCC which is equivalent to our Commissioned Ruling Elder status.

This is a half-time position commencing on October 22, 2017.

Salary	\$17,000
Housing	\$12,000
Automobile Expenses	\$ 1,000
Business Expenses	\$ 2,000
Social Security	\$ 2,300
Life Insurance/Disability	\$ 900
Continuing Education	\$ 900

Vacation: One month per year including 4 Sundays.

Study Leave: 2 weeks per year (2 Sundays).

5. *Bluffton-* **Approved** the installation service for Rev Karol Farris to Bluffton Presbyterian Church to be held on Sunday November 5 at 4pm and **approved** the installation commission of Rev. Sarah Ross (Adrian), Rev. Mary Jane Saunders (Presbytery Moderator), Rev. Lanie Sipes (Toledo Christ), Rev. Susan Meier (Presbyter for Common Life), Elder Chas. Myers (Ottawa) and Elder Lori Schmidt (Bluffton). Communion will be celebrated at the service. Others participating in the service will be Rev Dr Dianne Reistroffer, Professor Emeritus, Louisville Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky and CRE John Robson, Winchester Presbyterian Church, Winchester, OH.
6. *Findlay First-* **Approved** Rev John William (Bill) Lindeman’s status as laboring across presbytery bounds.

7. **Approved** the contract between the session of Findlay First and Rev John William (Bill) Lindeman effective October 1, 2017 as follows, and to appoint him moderator. The contract between Rev. Lindeman and Findlay First is an intentional interim pastoral relationship for one year. COM acknowledges the exception of appointing a moderator who is not a member of Maumee Valley Presbytery. This unique contractual relationship supports a one-time exception.

This is a full time position.

He will be compensated as follows:

Salary	\$ 35,000 annually	\$ 2,916.67 per month
Housing	\$ 35,000 annually	\$ 2,916.67 per month
Board of Pensions required dues (12% of Effective Salary)		\$ 12,180 (estimate)
Local Housing Accommodation	\$ 9,000 annually	\$750 per month
Automobile expenses not to exceed (reimbursable at IRS allowable rate)	\$ 3,210 annually	\$267.50 per month

(amount may be re-negotiated with the session as required to perform the duties of office).

Continuing Education/

Professional Expenses/ Books	\$ 3,000 annually	\$250 per month
Flexible Spending Account	\$ 2,500 annually	
Retirement Savings Account	\$ 20,000 annually	

Total **\$119,890**

The cost of moving onto the field will be paid by the church.

Study leave will be pro-rated at 2½ days every two months. (2 weeks per year, including 2 Sundays)

Vacation time will be pro-rated at 2½ days per month. (4 weeks per year, including 4 Sundays)

Family Care time will be 7 days per month, including 1 Sunday per month, schedule to be coordinated with Staff.

8. *Grand Rapids*- **Approved** the appointment of Rev Karen VanderPloeg as moderator of session. She is currently moderator of the Grand Rapid's Administrative Commission which has taken over as session of the church .
9. *Lima, Market Street* – **Approved** for inclusion in their MIF their responses to the three questions “Who We Are As A Church”, “Who is God calling Us to Be?” and “Who is Our Neighbor?”
10. *McComb* – **Approved** the appointment of CRE Julie Fogle as moderator.
11. *Van Buren*- **Approved** the appointment of CRE Julie Fogle as moderator.
12. **Approved** Rev Roy Pneuman as mentor to CRE Julie Fogle.
13. *Toledo, Eastminster* – If the way be clear, **Approved** the appointment of Rev Emily Mitchell as Moderator with effect from November 19, 2017 on the retirement of Rev David Bartley.

Actions Taken on Behalf of the Presbytery by Council (Attachments 2 & 3)

14. **Approved** to fund We Care at \$3,500, and Toledo Campus Ministry at \$6,000 (TCM will also get approximately \$2,200 from Synod for total support of \$8,200)

1:05 Moderator's Report

Reported that General Assembly's policy is that before any overture can come before General Assembly it must be supported by a second Presbytery. Invited response. Rev Gary Saunders then invited us to examine overture on property ownership and ties. It will have impact on our Presbytery. Also drew our attention to fossil fuel divestment questions and named questions about how we want to stand given Marathon's presence and the question of whether we want to stay invested and work from inside or divest.

Rev Mary Jane Saunders reflected on the past year. - on challenges, joys and sorrows. Spoke of how this is our time, and how important it is for us to share light.

1:15 Report on Search Committee for Presbyter for Common Life (Attachment 4) Jay introduced the search committee.

1:18 Synod Report Gillian Holzhauser Graber

1:35 Comings and Goings

Comings: Rev. John William (Bill) Lindeman – Findlay First (Interim)
Terri Haithcock – Lima Faith (CRE equivalent)
Goings: Rev. David Bartley – Toledo Eastminster (Retirement)

2:00 WORSHIPCommunion and Installation of Officers

3:15 ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery will be Tuesday, February 20th at the First Presbyterian Church, Tiffin, OH, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Attachments:

1. Minimum Terms of Call
2. Council minutes
3. Financial reports
4. Search Committee Names
5. Personnel (written only)

