

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 correct. These minutes are not an official record of the presbytery until approved by the body.

MAUMEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY
STATED MEETING
Tuesday, May 16, 2023
First Presbyterian Church, Bowling Green, Ohio

THE ROLL

MINISTER MEMBERS

Present

Bartley, Dave, HR
Bella, Roberta
Clancy, Nancy
Commeret, Jessica
Christopherson, Diane
Desterhaft, Janice
Emery, Thomas
Hodsden, James
Holmes, Douglas
Hruaia, J H Vanlal
James, Tom

Kim, Jin Seung
Kling, Julie
McCandless, Mary Beth
McGormley, Dean, HR
McGormley, Ellen, HR
Meinke, Matt
Miller, R. James
Montgomery, Ann Marie
Pech, Leo
Remaklus, Amy
Rivera-Torea, Kathryn

Rowland Miller, Susan
Saunders, Gary, HR
Saunders, Mary, HR
Schooley, Jeffrey
Short, Pamela, HR
Speakman, Stephen
Tolbert, Clint
Treadway, Kathryn
Wasson, Ann
Wessler, Kenneth

Excused

Bell, George, HR
Brewer, Jr., Clair, HR
Burnett, William, HR
Butcher, Robert, HR
Chandler, Doris
Cooper, Mark, HR
Esterly, Barbara, HR
Gallant, Melinda, HR
Good, David, HR
Hess, John (Jack), HR
Hoff, Rick, HR
Johnson, Robert B, HR
Kim, Yongjin, HR

King, Cathi
Kivlin, Keith, HR
Koch, David, HR
Ladd, Dennis, HR
Layraman, Tawee, HR
Leckrone, Donald, HR
Lemon, Jack, HR
McClellan, Alex, HR
Middleton, Ralph, HR
Mills, Harold, HR
Murr, Barry, HR
Myers, Alton, HR
Nutting, Cheryl, HR

Pannabecker, Donald, HR
Pitt, Gavin, HR
Resseguie, James, HR
Schwartz, Tom, HR
Smith, Robert, HR
Smith, William, HR
Snedeker, Henry, HR
Steensma, Thomas, HR
Sweet, Barry, HR
Walters, Stanley, HR
Young, David, HR
Zuehlke, Beth, HR

Absent

Brown, Bruce
Brundage, Chris
Chorle, Kenneth
Everett, Tom
Gay, Jeanne
Hodsden, Sara

Johnson-Paine, Cathy
Metcalf, Darcy
Middleton, William
Pistora, Tomas
Rife, Richard
Ross, Sarah

Seng, William
Stecker, Michelle
Williams, Alicia
Zuehlke, Matthew

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Present

Adrian, First, Cindy Frownfelder
Bluffton, Lori Schmidt
Bowling Green, First, Rosemary Apple

Clyde, First, Diane Darr
Erie, First, David VanBelle
Findlay First, Diana Wagar

Fostoria, First, James Schrek
Fremont East Side, Ann Weiler
Fremont First, William Taylor
Huron First, Phillip Hopkins
Kenton Trinity United, Julie Crowe
Lima Faith, Christian, James Cooper
Maumee First, John Sluhan, Jason Armstrong
Montpelier West Bethesda, Michael Cox
Napoleon, First, Lynn Yarnell
Norwalk First, Alice Pleasnick

Absent

Adrian, Cadmus
Antwerp, First United
Blissfield, First
Britton, Raisin
Bryan, First
Bucyrus, First
Cecil
Celina, First
Defiance, First
Delphos, First United
Dola
Findlay, Enon Valley
Findlay, Faith
Findlay, First
Forest, First
Galion, First
Grand Rapids, First
LaSalle First
Lima Market Street

Ottawa, Beth Myers
Perrysburg First, Kathy Jarosz
Port Clinton, Firelands. Richard Dietz
Tecumseh First, David Hammond
Tiffin First, Ken Krieger
Toledo Collingwood, Jean Metzger
Toledo Eastminster, Mike Kowalec
Toledo, Fairgreen, Mike Roadruck, CP
Van Wert, First, Susan McVay

Marseilles
Maumee, First
McComb, First
Milan
Monroe, First
Montpelier, First
Montpelier, West Eagle Creek
Palmyra Community,
Pemberville, First
Sandusky, First
Shelby, First
Toledo, Christ
Toledo, Hanmi Covenant
Tontogany
Upper Sandusky
Van Buren
Venedocia, Salem
Waterville/Glendale
West Unity, First

OTHERS

(Presbytery Officers, Committee Moderator Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Former Elder Moderators, Certified Christian Educators, Corresponding Members)

Present

Bettendorf, Ed, Firelands, Committee Moderator
Boyd, Ron, Upper Sandusky, Former Moderator
Burnworth, Carole, Eastminster, Vice Moderator
Hopkins, Jeaneane, Former Moderator
Jones, Rose, CP
Juhasz, Jen, Christ Presbyterian Church, CCE

Manon, Lora, CP
Myers, Chas, Moderator
Watts, Lisa, Presbytery of Western Reserve
Wies-Haithcock, Terri, CP
Wiesmann, Lance, CP

Absent

Berkheiser, Nancy, CP
Fogle, Julie, CP
Loving, Donald, CP

Pennington, Mike CP
Polker, Tom CP
Tolhurst, Harry, CP

VISITORS

King, Belinda, MVP
McClellan, Dave, Christ Presbyterian Church
McClellan, Diane, Christ Presbyterian Church
McGown, Charlotte, Lynhurst Community of Faith
McKeever Vicki, Christ Presbyterian Church

Moore, David, Firelands Presbyterian Church
Moser, Anne, First Presbyterian Church BG
Thomas, Joe, Anglican minister/Dola
William, Christopher, First Presbyterian Church BG
Williams, Terry, Rev. Orchard Mill UCC Chillicothe

Getting Organized MVP Moderator, Elder Chas Myers (Ottawa)

As the body gathered for the May 16, 2023, Stated Meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery, the moderator, Elder Chas Myers (Ottawa), invited Stated Clerk, Rev. Dean McGormley (Honorably Retired), to lead the singing of “*O the Lord is Good to Me.*”

At the invitation of the moderator, the Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley, pastor of the host church, First Presbyterian Church, Bowling Green, Ohio, **opened the meeting with prayer at 3:01 p.m.**

Chas Myers introduced the presbytery’s new journal clerk, the Rev. Mary Beth McCandless (West Bethesda, West Eagle Creek). **A quorum was declared present.**

Dean McGormley presented the docket which was moved and adopted without objection.

A motion to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2023 (attachment 1) **as presented was so ordered.**

A motion to seat Corresponding Member Lisa Watts of Western Reserve Presbytery was so ordered.

Report of the Stated Clerk Rev. Dean McGormley (HR)

Dean McGormley noted the submission of the **MVP Statistical Report** (attachment 2). The clerk also reviewed the overtures from GA225 yet to be acted upon by MVP (those to be discussed were pulled from the larger document presented in February for discussion at this meeting and forwarded in PDF form for clarity.) Even though most of the items yet to be acted on by MVP had already reached the threshold necessary for passage through the actions of other presbyteries, each would be acted on later in the meeting.

A motion to replace the nominations report in the Minutes of November 15, 2022, with the report that was presented at the meeting was so ordered (attachment 3).

A motion to approve both the Minutes of the Commission to install Vanlal Hruaia as the Called and Installed pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Van Wert, Ohio on December 18, 2022, **and the Minutes of the Commission to install Janice Desterhaft** as the Called and Installed pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Montpelier, Ohio on March 26, 2023, **was so ordered** (attachments 4 and 5).

First Time Commissioners, Elder Susan McVay of VanWert and Elder Cindy Frownfelder of Adrian First, were recognized.

Welcome Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley (Bowling Green)

Host pastor, Jeff Schooley, welcomed Maumee Valley Presbytery to First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green, Ohio with greetings from the congregation and logistical instructions.

Report of General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Matt Meinke (MVP)

General Presbyter, Matt Meinke, opened his report with a land acknowledgement highlighting the Shawnee people, who in addition to the Ottawa, Miami and Wyandot people, were prominent in Wood County for many generations.

Matt encouraged our congregations to let go and birth new things and challenged Maumee Valley Presbytery with a goal of 20 new worshipping communities in Maumee Valley in the next 10 years. A new 6.5-minute video on Matthew 25 has been created and will be on PBS in many areas. A 30 second video is also available for congregations to use.

Ordination anniversaries were celebrated. Three books were recommended: Susan Beaumont's *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You Are Going*, Gil Rendle's *Quietly Courageous*, and Cass Sunstein's *How Change Happens*. Additionally *What Kind of Christianity - A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church* by William Yoo was lifted as a good resource for Matthew 25 Congregations who are working on anti-racism.

The report closed with a responsive reading of *A Psalm of the Woodlands*.

Recognition of Certified Christian Educator: Jennifer Juhasz

Matt Meinke introduced Lisa Watts, the Presbytery Certification Advisor, who reviewed what a Certified Christian Educator is and introduced Jennifer Juhasz to the presbytery. Jennifer was surrounded by representatives of Christ Presbyterian Church, Toledo, while Moderator Chas Myers asked the Constitutional Questions and recognized Jennifer as a certified Christian educator in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) A certificate and quaiich were presented.

Report of Leadership Commission Rev. Ann Wasson (Defiance)

Received the ***Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery by the Leadership Commission***

Approved the dissolution of pastoral relationship between Waterville and Glendale Presbyterian Churches and the Rev. Karen VanderPloeg effective March 12, 2023. The Commission dismissed her with gratitude for her leadership to Ohio Valley Presbytery.

Appointed the Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley as Moderator of Session for Waterville Presbyterian Church.

Validated the ministry of the Rev. Cathy Johnson-Paine as chaplain with the Adrian (Michigan) Dominican Sisters.

Approved a shared grant from the pastoral care fund for pastor support and approved the \$2,500 request to Board of Pensions, as partner in the shared grant.

Approved the terms of call between Christ Presbyterian Church, Toledo, OH and the Rev. Ruth Clendenin, effective May 1, 2023. Received her as a member of MVP and requested her transfer from South Dakota Presbytery.

Terms of Call: Salary \$ 39,000, Housing \$ 36,000, SECA allowance \$ 5737.50, Professional Expenses reimbursed \$ 5000, Con Ed Allowance \$ 2500, Pastor's Participation in the Board of Pension plus dental and vision coverage, moving expenses up to \$ 20,000; 2 weeks for Continuing Education (including Sundays) and 4 weeks of vacation (including Sundays).

The Leadership Commission **confirmed** Maumee Valley Presbytery's understanding of the approval of specific ruling elders trained to preside at communion. A Session may approve individuals *who have completed the Presbytery approved training* to preside at communion. The Session needs to then report those names to the Leadership Commission.

Recommendations from the Leadership Commission to the Presbytery:

The Commission recommended that Maumee Valley Presbytery grant a waiver to G- 2.0404 in the Book of Order, the limitation of terms of service, for session members to Milan Presbyterian Church at their request, made at the session meeting on Feb. 15, 2023. The moderator called for a voice vote; the motion was approved.

The Commission recommended the adoption of The Minimum Terms of Call as attached (attachments 6 and 7). With the adoption of this motion, the minimum reimbursable professional expenses and continuing education allowance for Commissioned Ruling Elders and Certified Christian Educators for 2024 is also raised to \$4000 and \$1500 respectively. The moderator called for a voice vote; the motion carried.

The Report of Terms of Call and Contracts (attachment 8) was noted. Ministers are encouraged to let the presbytery office know if there are errors.

Additional announcements from the Leadership Commission:

Matt Meinke and Ann Wasson attended *A Season of Rebuilding* presentation by the **Board of Pensions**. This new way forward will be offered to provide more access for the medical plan beginning January 1, 2025. Luke Choi will be available to talk with the presbytery and churches in the future.

The new **Church Leadership Connection (CLC)** is opening. There is a new format and folks who are in the system are encouraged to engage the new system. There will be an upcoming Mid Council webinar.

Report of Discipleship Commission Rev. Jim Miller (Honorably Retired)

Elder Ken Krieger (Tiffin, First) introduced Jason Armstrong, Maumee Presbyterian Church, an inquirer in the Preparation for Ministry process. Jason has a Master of Theology from Lourdes University (2016) and has completed Clinical Pastoral Education at Mercy St. Vincent's in Toledo. Ken invited Jason to share some of his faith journey and the discernment of his call to ministry with the presbytery.

Received the ***Action Taken on Behalf of Presbytery by the Discipleship Commission:***

Approved changing Jason Armstrong's status from Inquirer (2021) to Candidate (2023) based upon the recommendations of both his Session and his Preparation for Ministry Team.

Additional informational items from the Discipleship Commission:

Rev. Clint Tolbert (Maumee) and Rev. Dr. Julie Kling (Fremont, First) announced the Tod Bolsinger, **Canoeing the Mountains** workshop with Tod Bolsinger on Saturday, October 7, 2023, at Sandusky Presbyterian Church. The event is sponsored by the eastern churches of MVP and the Discipleship Commission. All congregations are encouraged to participate. Contact Clint or Julie for registration information.

Rev. Ann Marie Montgomery (Cadmus, Adrian) encouraged pastors and elders to participate in the Fall Spiritual Formation Retreat at Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse. This year's retreat, **True Identity: You Are Not Your DNA** led by Sr. Joanne Mary Frania of the Sisters of Notre Dame, will be October 8, 9 and 10. Registration is available on the Maumee Valley Presbytery website.

Rev. David Bartley (HR) encouraged folks to participate in **Camp Rejoice** this summer and in the **Rekindle Retreat** for youth this fall (both at Kirkmont.) He reminded folks that the camp director's kids and clergy kids go free.

Finally, CRE Program Resources were highlighted. Pathways to Online Courses is open to both those desiring to become Commissioned Ruling Elders as well as church and community members who want to further their education and discipleship.

A brief break was taken following the Discipleship Commission's report.

ORDER OF THE DAY Worship

The Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley preached and led worship with elders, deacons, and the choir and organist from Bowling Green First. Rev. Katie Rivera Torea (Perrysburg), Rev. Susan Rowland Miller (Validated Ministry), Rev. Dr. Matt Meinke (MVP), assisted with worship. Rev. Dr. Tom James (Eastminster) presided at the table with Vice Moderator, Elder Carole Burnworth (Eastminster). Deuteronomy 8:11-20 and James 1:16-27 were the focus texts for the day. The music, liturgy and preaching were inspiring and moved us to "*Go to the World*" as we closed with that hymn. Worship concluded at 5:45 p.m.

Report of Mission Commission Rev. Doug Holmes (Blissfield/Palmyra) reported for Rev. Cathi King (Tecumseh).

Received the **Action Taken on Behalf of Presbytery by the Mission Commission:**

Approved reducing budget line 5374 (Matthew 25 grant money) by \$1000 and reallocating those funds to defray the individual costs for the PDA mission trip.

The Mission Commission also planned today's open spaces meeting on new worshipping communities. Doug Holmes encouraged congregations to apply for the Mission Commission's Matthew 25 grants. He also promoted the Pentecost Offering.

Those interested in the fall PDA Mission Trip are invited to eat together this evening to talk about the trip. A bus may be needed for the trip.

Chas Myers suspended the meeting for dinner with prayer at 5:55 p.m.

Many thanks to the Bowling Green Church for their hospitality.

Chas Myers gaveled meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

Report of Central Support Commission Rev. Katie Treadway (Tiffin)

Recommendation from Central Support that Maumee Valley Presbytery approve the Galion Loan Application for a PILP loan and grants to the Galion First Church for \$40,000 (attachment 9). *So ordered.*

On behalf of the Central Support Commission, the nominations committee nominated Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley to fill the unexpired term (2023) of Rev Karen VanderPloeg on the Leadership Commission. *Nominations were opened to the floor. Bobbi Bella moved to close nominations and to elect. So ordered.*

The Nominations Committee is seeking a ruling elder to fill an unexpired term on the Mission Commission.

Minute Reading Report from Ruling Elder Lance Weismann was entered into the record with thanks (attachment 10).

Financial Reports were received (attachments 11, 12, and 13). MVP treasurer, Rev. David Bartley (H.R.), noted the Central Support Commission's reallocation of \$15,000 to Kirkmont.

Ron Boyd noted that the **Personnel Committee** had employed Mary Beth McCandless as MVP's Journal Clerk.

Consideration of remaining Overtures Dean McGormley

Motion to concur with Overture 22-A (*inclusive language*)

Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion to concur with Overture 22-B (*inclusive language*)

Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion to concur with Overture 22-I (*minimum terms for family leave in terms of call*)

Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion to concur with Overture 22-O (*addition of boundary training at session level*)

Motion defeated by voice vote.

Motion to concur with Overture 22-P (*adding an anti-racism policy*)

Motion passed by standing vote: aye 24; nay 16.

Motion to concur with Overture 22-Q (*adding provision of dissolution of terms*)

Motion passed by standing vote: aye 24, nay 16.

Motion to concur with Overture 22-S (*confidentiality*)

Motion passed by voice vote.

Synod Report from Chip Hardwick was received.

Good News from Churches was shared.

A motion to adjourn the meeting with prayer was received. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:39 p.m. by Moderator Chas Myers.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Mary Beth McCandless
Journal Clerk

Dean McGormley
Stated Clerk

The next regular meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery will be Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at the First Presbyterian Church in Tecumseh, MI, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of February 21, 2023
2. MVP Statistical Report
3. Minutes of November 15, 2022
4. Minutes Vanlal Hruaia Commission
5. Minutes Janice Desterhaft Commission
6. Minimum Terms of Call
7. Minimum Terms of Call – CREs and CCEs
8. Report of Terms of Call and Contracts
9. Galion Loan Application
10. Minute Reading Report
11. 2023 March Balance Sheet Summary
12. 2023 March Income and Expense
13. 2023 March Mission and Per Capita Report