

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**

September 19, 2023, 3:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church, Tecumseh, MI

THE ROLL

MINISTER MEMBERS

Present

Bartley, Dave, HR
Bella, Roberta
Brown, Bruce
Clendenin, Ruth Ellen
Commeret, Jessica
Desterhaft, Janice
Emery, Thomas
Gay, Jeanne
Hodsden, James
Hodsden, Sara
Holmes, Douglas

Hruaia, J H Vanlal
Johnson-Paine, Cathy
Kim, Jin Seung
King, Cathi
Kling, Julie
Ladd, Dennis, HR
Layraman, Tawee, HR
McCandless, Mary Beth
McGormley, Dean, HR
McGormley, Ellen, HR
Meinke, Matt

Miller, R. James
Montgomery, Ann Marie
Pech, Leo
Remaklus, Amy
Schooley, Jeffrey
Short, Pamela, HR
Speakman, Stephen
Steensma, Thomas, HR
Tolbert, Clint
Treadway, Kathryn
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
Kivlin, Keith, HR

Koch, David, 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

Rowland Miller, Susan
Saunders, Gary, HR
Saunders, Mary, HR
Schwartz, Tom, HR
Smith, Robert, HR
Smith, William, HR
Snedeker, Henry, HR
Sweet, Barry, HR
Wasson, Ann
Young, David, HR
Zuehlke, Beth, HR

Absent

Brundage, Chris
Chorle, Kenneth
Clancy, Nancy
James, Tom
Metcalf, Darcy

Middleton, William
Pistora, Tomas
Rife, Richard
Rivera-Torea, Kathryn
Ross, Sarah

Stecker, Michelle
Williams, Alicia
Zuehlke, Matthew

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Present

Adrian, First, Cindy Frownfelder
Blissfield, First, Suzanne Saxton
Britton, Raisin, John Calhoun

Defiance, First, Pam Reid
Findlay First, Diana Wagar
Fremont First, William Taylor

Ruling Elder Commissioners – Present – cont.

Maumee, First, Jason Armstrong
Napoleon, First, Lynn Yarnell
Norwalk First, Alice Pleasnick
Ottawa, Beth Myers
Palmyra Community, Doris Van Sickle
Pemberville First, James Jones
Perrysburg First, Kathy Jarosz
Port Clinton, Firelands. Richard Dietz

Sandusky First, Norma Wible
Tecumseh First, David Hammond
Tiffin First, Ken Krieger
Toledo Collingwood, Sheri Kuhlman
Toledo Eastminster, Ellen Danie
Van Wert, First, Bill Knoll
Waterville, First, Dave Woodward

Absent (congregations with no commissioner(s) present)

Adrian, Cadmus
Antwerp, First United
Bluffton
Bowling Green, First
Bryan, First
Bucyrus, First
Cecil
Celina, First
Clyde, First
Delphos, First United
Dola
Erie, First
Findlay, Enon Valley
Findlay, Faith

Findlay, First
Forest, First
Fostoria, First
Freemont, Eastside
Galion, First
Grand Rapids, First
Huron, First
Kenton Trinity United,
LaSalle First
Lima Faith,
Lima Market Street
Marseilles
McComb, First
Milan

Monroe, First
Montpelier, First
Montpelier, West Bethesda
Montpelier, West Eagle Creek
Shelby, First
Toledo, Christ
Toledo, Fairgreen
Toledo Glendale
Toledo, Hanmi Covenant
Tontogany
Upper Sandusky
Van Buren
Venedocia, Salem
West Unity, First

OTHERS

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

Present

Bettendorf, Ed, Firelands, Commission Chair
Boyd, Ron, Upper Sandusky, Past Moderator
Burnworth, Carole, Eastminster, Vice Moderator
Hardwick, Chip, Synod, Corresponding Member

Jones, Rose, CP, Clyde
Juhasz, Jen, CCE, Toledo, Christ
Myers, Chas, Moderator
Polker, Tom CP, Napoleon First

Excused

Lora Manon, CP

Loving, Donald, CP

Absent

Berkheiser, Nancy, CP
Fogle, Julie, CP
Pennington, Mike CP

Roadruck, Michael, CP
Tolhurst, Harry, CP

VISITORS

King, Belinda, MVP
Metzger, Jean, Toledo, Collingwood
Dieckman, Donna, Monroe, First
Dieckman, Dallas, Monroe, First

Gillin, Lisa, Adrian, First
Knoll, Lisa, Van Wert, First
Moser, Anne, Bowling Green, First
Paine, Steve, Tecumseh, First

Getting Organized MVP Moderator, Elder Chas Myers (Ottawa), presiding

Maumee Valley Presbytery gathered in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Tecumseh, Michigan for the September 19, 2023, Stated Meeting of the presbytery.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 3:00 p.m.

The Rev. Cathi King, pastor of the host church, First Presbyterian Church, Tecumseh, MI, welcomed the body to *Worshipful Work*. After the lighting of the Christ Candle, Donna Andre led the commissioners in playing *Let There Be Peace on Earth* using colored handbells. She also shared her joy regarding the way God has been at work at First Presbyterian Church in Tecumseh and thanked MVP for their work to help the congregation. Cathi reminded the presbyters of the ways the congregations of our presbytery came alongside the Tecumseh First when they were needed. One of those ways was donating *Glory to God* hymnals to the church to replace hymnals that had been taken. She then led us in a Call to Worship, *The Blessing of Jesus*, by John Philip Newel and reminded us of the who lived on this land before us. Then we sang the Matthew 25 hymn, *Jesus Be with Us*, by David Gambrell.

A quorum was declared present by Chas Myers.

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

The docket was moved and adopted without objection.

Having received no corrections or additions to the **Minutes of May 16, 2023** (attachment 1), **a motion to adopt the minutes as presented was so ordered.**

The stated clerk reported that Ann Wasson has resigned as Moderator of the Hanmi Administrative Commission.

A motion to seat Corresponding Member Chip Hardwick, Synod of the Covenant Executive, was so ordered. First Time Commissioner, Elder Suzanne Saxton (Blissfield, First), was recognized. Lisa Knoll, VanWert First's new Christian Educator, was introduced.

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

General Presbyter Matt Meinke updated presbyters on the work that mid-council leaders are doing to provide templates and training modules for the expanded requirements for boundary training and new requirements for anti-harassment and anti-racism policies. It is recommended that congregations check with their insurers regarding these types of policies (for example, your insurance company may have a particular recommendation for an anti-harassment policy that includes both bullying and sexual harassment.) Watch for notices of future presentations. Matt also lifted up the 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative and the work of the Mission Commission in paving the way for new church development in MVP. *Ordiversaries* were celebrated. Folks were encouraged to use the online directory through Breeze CHMS and to sign up for the MVP newsletter. Matt reminded presbyters that boundary training is available through the Synod in October and November.

Synod Report Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick, Executive for the Synod of the Covenant

Synod Executive Chip Hardwick announced the Matthew 25 Scholarships for Christian Leaders. Our presbytery had more recipients than any other presbytery in our synod. He also highlighted the deadline for applications for Matthew 25 Grants (September 30). Several workshops are offered by the Synod, go to www.synodofthecovenant.org to find out more. Finally, the Synod will be offering a 4th Sunday in Advent Worship Service that churches could use (especially considering that Advent 4 and Christmas Eve are the same Sunday this year!) You may contact Chip at chip@synodofthecovenant.org or 309-530-4578.

Report of Mission Commission Rev. Cathi King (Tecumseh)

Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery:

Adopted a manual adapted from the successful model from the Pittsburgh Presbytery to serve as our operational manual for 1001 New Worshipping Communities.

Approved acting as the New Worshipping Communities Commission, until such a time as the presbytery can meet to adopt a new standing committee and amend its Operational Procedures.

Informational Items:

- **Budget changes**
With the prioritization of the formation of New Worshipping Communities in the coming year and given that the Mission Commission has had more money allocated for Matthew 25 grants than applications require, the commission requested that #5374 (Mt. 25 grants) be reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000 and that \$5000 be added to #5377 (New Worshipping Communities – NWC Commission) with all other budget line items remaining the same for the 2024 Mission Commission portion of the budget.
- **Mission Trip to the Yucatan Peninsula in 2024**
Leo Pech announced that Bryan and Defiance congregations are working together on a mission trip to provide Vacation Bible School in the Yucatan Peninsula: Prince of Peace Presbytery next July 20- 30, 2024.
- **Peace and Global Witness Offering: 9/3-10/1: “You are with me”**
The Mission Commission is collecting stories about how our MVP congregations will use the retained portions of this offering to inspire each other in mission.

Kentucky PDA Mission Trip Commissioning - Rev. Doug Holmes (Blissfield and Palmyra) and Rev. Leo Pech (Bryan) of the Mission Commission led a **Commissioning Liturgy** for the Kentucky PDA Mission Trip team.

Report of Discipleship Commission Elder David Hammond (Tecumseh)

Informational Items:

- ***Canoeing The Mountains*** – James Hodsden
Saturday, October 7, 2023 – Sandusky Presbyterian Church
Sponsored by the eastern churches of MVP and the Discipleship Commission
- ***Spiritual Formation Team*** – Ann Marie Montgomery
2023 Fall Retreat – October 8-10 *True Identity: You Are Not Your SS#!* (registration open on MVP website); 2024 Spring Retreat – April 14-16.
- ***Kirkmont*** – David Bartley
Camp Rejoice; REkindle Fall Youth Retreat – Nov. 10-12, 2023.
- ***CRE Program Resources***
Pathways to Online Courses: Registration is open 2023-2024 Academic Year.
Open to all, including those desiring to become Commissioned Ruling Elders as well as church and community members who want to further their education and discipleship.
- ***Boundary Training Update*** – Clint Tolbert
Those needing Boundary Training in 2023 are encouraged to use the free, online training provided by the Synod of the Covenant.

Report of Leadership Commission Rev. Jeanne Gay (Toledo, Collingwood)

Actions Taken on Behalf of the Presbytery:

Approved the transfer of the Rev. Karol Farris Schilling from MVP to Great Rivers Presbytery effective March 1, 2023.

Approved the transfer of the Rev. Karen Rose VanderPloeg from MVP to Ohio Valley Presbytery, effective March 20, 2023.

Enrolled the Rev. Ruth Clendenin (Christ Toledo) as a member of MVP effective May 1, 2023 and the Stated Clerk to request her transfer from South Dakota Presbytery.

Approved the Installation Commission for the Rev. Ruth Clendenin as pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church, Toledo: Chas Myers, Moderator; Don Loving (RE Tiffin), Phil Minton (RE Christ), Rev Jeanne Gay, Rev Barbara Esterly; 2:30 pm on Sept 10, 2023 at the church; Commission was empowered to add and replace members as needed.

Enrolled David Aber as a member of Maumee Valley Presbytery effective August 4, 2023 and instructed the Stated Clerk to request his transfer from Eastminster Presbytery.

Approved the Temporary Supply Contract between Bill Treadway (RE Tiffin) and Waterville Presbyterian Church, effective August 28, 2023, 30 hours per week:

Cash Salary: \$ 2916.67/ month (\$ 35,000 per year)

Ministry Expenses: \$1000 / quarter

Minister's Choice through Board of Pensions: \$3620 / year

Deferred Compensation: \$1200 / year

FSA: \$2000 / year

HRA: \$2000 / year

Matching Annuity: \$1200 / year

Continuing Education Expense: \$1500 / year

2 Weeks Continuing Education (cumulative up to 6 weeks in 3 years)

4 Weeks Vacation including 4 Sundays

The loan for CRE training made to Lance Wiesmann in 2013 has been forgiven. MVP policy is that such loans can be forgiven provided the student is a CRE commissioned to a church for at least 24 months. Lance fulfilled that requirement in his work at Ottawa.

For Information:

Church Leadership Connection has transferred to a new system for pastoral and staff searches. Those seeking a call file a PDP: Personal Discernment Profile and PNCs or other search teams submit the MDP: Ministry Discernment Profile. These are significantly different forms from the previous PIF and MIF. As of August 31, the old system is no longer operating. Some "bugs" are still being worked out in the new system. Informational videos and training modules are available on the PC(USA) website.

What's Next for our Ministries? Jeanne Gay and Julie Kling of the Vision Team of the Leadership Commission presented resources to get us all talking about "What's Next" for our ministries. Please share this with your sessions and leaders now, whether or not your congregation is in transition.

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

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

Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery:

Received the **INDEPENDENT MINI THIRD-PARTY FINANCIAL REVIEW** of MVP finances dated 7/25/2023 (attachment 2).

Received the MVP Stated meeting schedule for the next five meetings:

November 14, 2023, at 10AM

First Presbyterian Church, Findlay

Ecclesiastical and Annual Meeting of the Corporation

February 20, 2024, at 10AM
Virtual/East Region Churches serve as Virtual Hosts

May 21, 2024, at 3PM
First Presbyterian Church, Monroe

September 17, 2024, at 3PM
open (pending session approval)

November 19, 2024, at 10AM
First Presbyterian Church, Bryan
Ecclesiastical and Annual Meeting of the Corporation

Recommendations to Presbytery:

1. ON MOTION to replace the former Mission distribution (Presbytery 70%, Synod 3%, G.A. 27%) with a new distribution (Presbytery 75%, Synod 3%, G.A. 22%). The motion was **approved** by voice vote. (Note: the mission distribution numbers were accidentally transposed in the minutes from Central Support and the numbers were verbally corrected by treasurer David Bartley.)
2. ON MOTION to approve a \$.55 increase in the per capita for 2024 (New per capita total of \$39.10). An **amendment** to not increase per capita this year was offered by Ron Boyd and was **defeated**. The motion to approve a \$.55 increase in the per capita for 2024 was **approved** by voice vote.
3. ON MOTION to approve the **2024 Presbytery Budget** (attachment 3). The proposed budget reflects the \$.55 increase in per capita. The budget was **approved** by voice vote.
4. ON MOTION to **Amend the Manual of Operations by adding the following to SECTION 3 of the Operational Procedures (following the Mission Commission entry):**

NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES COMMISSION

The New Worshipping Communities Commission shall be composed of six (6) members, composed of ministers and ruling elders. The general presbyter and stated clerk are ex-officio members, without vote. Members should have experience, knowledge, expertise or willingness to undergo training in the area of New Worshipping Communities. Other individuals, including members and leaders of new worshipping communities, regardless of ordination status or congregational membership, may be invited by the commission to serve in a non-voting capacity when the commission determines such participation would support the commission's work and mission.

The commission shall serve the presbytery in the following ways:

- a. Establish, oversee, and dissolve all New Worshipping Communities and Fellowships, and their Task Forces/Leadership Teams. Each New

Worshipping Community and Fellowship will be governed by a Task Force/Leadership Team authorized by the NWC Commission. The Task Force shall have responsibility and authority similar to that of a church session and appropriate to the context (including the calling of a leader), as determined by the NWC commission, and accountable to the NWC Commission and Leadership Commission in the case of pastoral calls.

- b. Maintain a Manual that governs the establishment, development, oversight, and processes for NWCs.
- c. Strategize the overall continued growth of new worshipping communities within the bounds of Maumee Valley Presbytery.
- d. Encourage and coordinate congregational efforts to engage in local or multi-congregational new worshipping community experimentation.
- e. Pursuant to G-3.0109b, provide examination for leadership utilizing the approved terms of call, and dissolve the relationships of leaders of New Worshipping Communities and Fellowships. The membership status, pastoral calls, and ministry contracts of Ministers of Word and Sacrament serving New Worshipping Communities and Fellowships in Maumee Valley Presbytery will continue to be subject to the examination and approval process of the Leadership Commission (COM) in consultation with NWCC.
- f. Distribute presbytery allocated resources in support of New Worshipping Communities and Fellowships.
- g. Monitor and evaluate the progress of New Worshipping Communities and Fellowships.
- h. Authorize the administration of the sacraments in New Worshipping Communities and Fellowships.
- i. Communicate regarding New Worshipping Communities and Fellowships, and report the commission's actions on behalf of the presbytery.
- j. Recommend that presbytery charter a New Church when appropriate, in consultation with Leadership Commission.

AND to Amend the Manual of Operations by striking the following to SECTION 3 of the Operational Procedures (under Mission Commission entry):

~~They shall oversee the support and encouragement of new faith communities and new church development.~~

The motion was **approved** by voice vote.

5. **ON MOTION to Amend the STANDING RULES of the Manual of Operations by amending the Description of the Presbytery:**

Description of the Presbytery

The Presbytery is a corporate expression of the church in Northwest Ohio and Southeastern Michigan. The Presbytery bears responsibility for ministry within the boundaries of the following counties in the State of Ohio: Allen, Auglaize, Crawford, Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Huron, Lucas, **Mercer**, Ottawa,

Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, ~~Shelby (parts)~~, Van Wert, Williams, Wood and Wyandot, **and the First Presbyterian Church of Shelby in Richland County**. The Presbytery bears responsibility for ministry within the boundaries of the following counties in the State of Michigan: Lenawee and Monroe.

The motion was **approved** by voice vote.

Report of Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry (CCCM) Elder Ed Bettendorf, Chair (Firelands Presbyterian Church)

After sharing detailed information regarding the work of the **Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry with the First Presbyterian Church of Forest, Ohio** (see attachment 4), **the CCCM moved the following:**

That Presbytery approves and/or ratifies (a) dissolution of First Presbyterian Church of Forest, Ohio (hereinafter, "Forest, First"); and (b) the decisions and actions of the CCCM (consisting of Ed Bettendorf, Chair (RE Firelands), Tom James (TE), Marie LoudenHanes (RE Findlay), Lora Manon (RE Bryan), Ashley Roberts (RE Ottawa), Harry Tolhurst (RE Delphos), Ken Wessler (TE)), to date (as reported in Part A of this Memorandum); and that Presbytery grants the following additional authority to the CCCM:

1. To care for all the spiritual needs of the remaining members (active and inactive) of Forest, First, including, where necessary and appropriate, approving and otherwise transferring anyone's membership to another church or denomination as requested by such member.
2. To dispose of the real and personal property of Forest, First, including (a) offering at little or no cost any and all "Non-Religious Property" and "Religious Property" (as exemplified above) to both local and regional charitable, religious, and/or other worthy entities; and retaining Regina Vent Realty Company to sell the church building at a reasonable, market-based asking price.
3. To transfer all real and personal property (if any) and all financial accounts to the CCCM, which shall hereby be authorized to assume original jurisdiction of Forest, First as a legal and PC(USA) entity for closing and winding up the ministry and mission of the church. This authority shall include, but not be limited to, responsibility for (a) curating and transferring all the rolls and records, together with any historical materials that CCCM deems worthy of preservation to the PC(USA)'s Historical Society (Philadelphia, PA); (b) dissolving the corporate existence of Forest, First as an Ohio non-profit corporation and otherwise completing the disposition of the affairs of the church.
4. To undertake any and all reasonable decisions and actions, whether or not specified herein, to complete the closing of Forest, First.

Having come from a commission, the motion required no second. The moderator asked if there were any questions; hearing none, the moderator called for the vote. **The motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.**

Report of Nominations Rev. MB McCandless (West Bethesda & West Eagle Creek)

The nominations team places the following persons for nomination to the offices of moderator and vice moderator for 2024:

2024 Moderator of Maumee Valley Presbytery: Carole Burnworth, RE, Eastminster
2024 Vice Moderator of Maumee Valley Presbytery: Douglas Holmes, TE, Blissfield, Palmyra

The motion was seconded, and the floor was opened for further nominations. A motion was made to close nominations and to elect those named. The motion was seconded and **approved** by voice vote.

The chair of nominations **moved that Elder Richard Dietz (Port Clinton, Firelands) be elected to fill the vacancy on the Mission Commission (first term ending in 2024). The motion was seconded, and the floor was opened for further nominations.** There being none, the moderator called for the vote and **the elder was elected** by voice vote.

The chair **moved that Rev. Stephen Speakman (validated ministry, chaplain at St. Vincent) be elected to fill the unexpired term of Moderator of the Hanmi Administrative Commission.** The motion was seconded, and the floor opened for further nominations. There being none, the moderator called for the vote and **the motion was approved** by voice vote.

Mary Beth McCandless shared information about our nominations process and specifically about General Assembly Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners and YAADs.

Offerings of Thanksgiving and Music

Cathi King shared information about dinner and worship at the tables in Knox Hall. Worship has been planned using resources from the *Follow Me* curriculum. MB McCandless shared thanks for the grant from the Discipleship Commission that West Bethesda received in 2022 for the *Follow Me* curriculum and highly endorsed the materials for use in a small congregation.

An anthem, “*I Believe*” St. Andrew’s Choir (directed by Kristin Clark; accompanied by Phil Clark) was followed by a prayer. An offering was received for the minister’s emergency fund of Maumee Valley Presbytery.

Dinner and continuing Worshipful Work in Knox Hall

The meeting moved to Knox Hall where presbyters sat at tables with folks from their geographic areas. Questions and scripture relating to community were discussed as people shared a meal. After supper Cathi King presided at Table and communion elements were shared in groups where people were seated. We prayed for each other and for our congregations and the world and then were charged to go out and be the church in this world.

After passing the peace, we sang the refrain of *Jesus Be with Us*.

A motion to adjourn the meeting with prayer was received. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:40 p.m. by Moderator Chas Myers.

Many thanks to the Tecumseh congregation for their generous hospitality, delicious food, and welcoming presence.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Mary Beth McCandless
Journal Clerk

Dean McGormley
Stated Clerk

The next regular meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery will be Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at the First Presbyterian Church in Findlay, OH, beginning at 10 a.m.

Attachments:

1. Minutes of May 16, 2023
2. INDEPENDENT MINI THIRD-PARTY FINANCIAL REVIEW
3. 2024 Presbytery Budget
4. CCCM