

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
November 14, 2023, 10:00 AM
First Presbyterian Church, Findlay, OH

THE ROLL

MINISTER MEMBERS

Present

Present

Bartley, Dave, HR
Brown, Bruce
Butcher, Robert, HR
Chandler, Doris
Chorle, Kenneth
Clancy, Nancy
Commeret, Jessica
Desterhaft, Janice
Emery, Thomas

Holmes, Douglas
Hruaia, J H Vanlal
James, Tom
Kim, Jin Seung
King, Cathi
Kling, Julie
McCandless, Mary Beth
McGormley, Dean, HR
McGormley, Ellen, HR
Meinke, Matt

Pistora, Tomas
Remaklus, Amy
Rivera-Torea, Kathryn
Schooley, Jeffrey
Short, Pamela, HR
Speakman, Stephen
Steensma, Thomas, HR
Treadway, Kathryn
Wasson, Ann
Wessler, Kenneth

Excused

Aber, David, HR
Bell, George, HR
Bella, Roberta
Brewer, Jr., Clair, HR
Burnett, William, HR
Clendenin, Ruth Ellen
Cooper, Mark, HR
Esterly, Barbara, HR
Gallant, Melinda, HR
Good, David, HR
Hess, John (Jack), HR
Hodsden, James
Hodsden, Sara
Hoff, Rick, HR

Johnson-Paine, Cathy
Kivlin, Keith, HR
Koch, David, HR
Ladd, Dennis, HR
Layraman, Tawee, HR
Leckrone, Donald, HR
Lemon, Jack, HR
McClellan, Alex, HR
Middleton, Ralph, HR
Miller, R. James
Mills, Harold, HR
Montgomery, Ann Marie
Murr, Barry, HR
Myers, Alton, HR

Nutting, Cheryl, HR
Pannabecker, Donald, HR
Pitt, Gavin, HR
Resseguie, James, HR
Saunders, Gary, HR
Saunders, Mary, HR
Schwartz, Tom, HR
Smith, William, HR
Sweet, Barry, HR
Tolbert, Clint
Young, David, HR
Zuehlke, Beth, HR

Absent

Brundage, Chris
Gay, Jeanne
Metcalf, Darcy
Middleton, William

Pech, Leo
Rife, Richard
Ross, Sarah
Rowland Miller, Susan

Stecker, Michelle
Williams, Alicia
Zuehlke, Matthew

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Present

Bluffton, Lori Schmidt
Findlay First, Diana Wagar
Fostoria, First, James Schrek

Fremont East Side, Ann Weiler
Fremont First, William Taylor
Galion First, Gary Proietti

Ruling Elder Commissioners, Present, cont.

Kenton Trinity United, Julie Crowe
Lima Faith, James Cooper
Lima Market Street, Ruth Hardesty
Maumee First, Sheryl Stiles
Maumee First, Jason Armstrong
Montpelier West Bethesda, Michael Cox
Napoleon, First, Lynn Yarnell
Norwalk First, Alice Pleasnick
Ottawa, Beth Myers
Palmyra Community, Doris Van Sickle

Perrysburg First, Kathy Jarosz
Port Clinton, Firelands. Richard Dietz
Sandusky First, Norma Wible
Shelby First, Sharon Stober
Tecumseh First, David Hammond
Tiffin First, Ken Krieger
Toledo Eastminster, Ellen Danie
Van Wert, First, Bill Knoll
Waterville First, Dave Woodward

Absent (congregations with no commissioner(s) present)

Adrian, Cadmus,
Adrian, First,
Antwerp, First United,
Blissfield, First, Suzanne Saxton
Bowling Green, First,
Britton, Raisin,
Bryan, First
Bucyrus, First
Cecil
Celina, First,
Clyde, First,
Defiance, First,
Delphos, First United

Dola
Erie, First,
Findlay, Enon Valley
Findlay, Faith
Findlay, First
Forest, First
Grand Rapids, First
Huron First,
LaSalle First
Marseilles
McComb, First
Milan
Monroe, First

Montpelier, First
Montpelier, West Eagle Creek
Pemberville First,
Toledo Christ,
Toledo Collingwood
Toledo, Fairgreen,
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

Burnworth, Carole, Eastminster, Vice Mod.
Jones, Rose, CP
Juhasz, Jen, CCE, Christ Presbyterian
Kirkconnell, Leslee, CCE, Findlay First
Loving, Donald, CP
Manon, Lora, CP
Myers, Chas, Moderator
Tolhurst, Harry, CP

Excused

Bettendorf, Ed, Firelands

Absent

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

VISITORS

Hall, Olga, First Presbyterian Church Napoleon
Kennedy, Lena, Findlay First Presbyterian Church
King, Belinda, MVP
Orzechowski, MARRISA, First Presbyterian Church Tiffin
Thomas, Joe, Rev. Dr, Dola Presbyterian Church
Weiler, Denny, Fremont East Side
Wies-Haithcock, Terri, Lima Faith Christian Church
Wiesman, Lance, Tecumseh First

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

Maumee Valley Presbytery gathered in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church of Findlay, Ohio for the November 14, 2023, Stated Meeting of the presbytery.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 10:00 a.m.

A quorum was declared present by Chas Myers.

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

The docket was moved and adopted with one change (the retirement liturgy was moved to follow the Leadership Commission Report) without objection by Dean McGormley.

Having received no corrections or additions to the **Minutes of September 19, 2023** (attachment 1), **a motion to adopt the minutes as presented was so ordered.**

A motion to seat Corresponding Member Chip Hardwick, Synod of the Covenant Executive, was so ordered.

Approval of the Minutes of the Commission to install Ruth Clendenin (attachment 2) **was so ordered.**

The stated clerk reported the past members of the Permanent Judicial Commission: Teaching Elder R. James Miller (2022); Ruling Elder Missey Kaser (2020) Tol. Christ; Teaching Elder David Bartley (2018); Ruling Elder Lori Schmidt (2016) Bluffton; Ruling Elder Arthur Statler (2016) Toledo.

Christ Presbyterian Church, Toledo was approved as the Host Church for the September 17, 2024 State Meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery.

The Stated Clerk noted the approval of Presbytery Minutes without exception.

Communication was received from FPC Madisonville, KY thanking the mission team from MVP for their work. The team began their workweek in Madisonville in worship at FPC. The presbytery extended thanks to FPC Madisonville for their hospitality.

The Rev. Jessie Commeret, pastor of the host church, First Presbyterian Church, Findlay, OH, welcomed the body to Findlay and shared logistical information and instructions.

First Time Commissioners, Elder NAME of FPC, Maumee, was introduced by Elder Jason Armstrong.

Morning Worship & Communion

With a view toward Advent, worship leaders Jessie Commeret (pastor, FPC Findlay) and Clinton Miller (director of music, FPC Findlay) invited presbyters to listen for God in the voices of the prophets in an advent lessons and carols service.

Reports resumed at 11:05 PM

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

General Presbyter Matt Meinke extended thanks to Jessie and Clint for their worship leadership and noted that the prophets do still speak in these times. He offered a land acknowledgement for historic first peoples of Ohio, particularly for those of Findlay and Hancock County. Several prayer concerns were shared. Matt offered anti-racism policy templates for congregations and for the presbytery. Matt drew attention to items in the packet for clerks and treasurers from Belinda King and noted the death of Rev. Dr. Hank Snedeker. (attachments 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e)

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

On behalf of the Central Support Commission, Katie Treadway nominated Stated Clerk Dean McGormley and Treasurer David Bartley to each serve another three-year term. No other nominations were offered from the floor. The clerk and treasurer were unanimously elected.

Katie thanked Vice Moderator Carole Burnworth for her work on securing hosts for 2024 Presbytery Meetings, to Ed Bettendorf for his work leading the task force for Grand Rapids and Bucyrus, to the nominating team who was empowered to bring a slate of nominees to the floor of presbytery, and also drew attention to the regular financial reports in the packet. (attachments 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e)

Report of the Commission on Churches Concluding Ministry (CCCM)

The report was postponed until the next stated meeting of the presbytery meeting due to Elder Ed Bettendorf's excused absence upon the death of his sister.

Report of the Nominations Team Rev. MB McCandless (W Bethesda, W Eagle Creek, Montpelier)

The 2024 Slate of Nominees (attachment 5) was moved with additions*:

Chairs of Commissions/Committees (1-year terms)

Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry (CCCM) Chair

Ed Bettendorf, RE; Port Clinton, Firelands

Discipleship Commission Chair

Amy Remaklus, TE, Validated Ministry

Leadership Commission Chair

Ann Wasson, TE; Defiance, OH

Mission Commission Chair

Cathi King, TE; Tecumseh, MI

Committee on Representation Chair

MB McCandless, TE; W Bethesda/W Eagle Creek, Montpelier, OH

Central Support Commission *(nominated by Leadership Commission)*

RE Dar Bevelheimer, Bowling Green First, OH 2026 1st term
TE MB McCandless, West Bethesda/West Eagle Creek, Montpelier, OH 2026 2nd term

Discipleship Commission

TE Clint Tolbert, Maumee First, OH 2026 1st term
*TE JH Vanlal Hruaia, VanWert First, OH 2026 1st term

Leadership Commission

RE Jo Salvage, Perrysburg, OH 2026 1st term
TE Jessie Commeret, Findlay First, OH 2026 1st term
TE Jeff Schooley, Bowling Green, OH 2026 2nd term

Mission Commission

RE Kathy Jarosz, Perrysburg, OH 2026 1st term

New Worshipping Communities Commission

TE Doug Holmes, Blissfield/Palmyra MI (1-year term) 2024 1st term
RE Jason Armstrong, Maumee First, OH (2-year term) 2025 1st term
RE Melissa Stallkamp, Milan First, OH (3-year term) 2026 1st term

Committee on Representation

*RE Lance Wiesmann, Tecumseh First, MI 2026 2nd term

2024 GA Commissioners (1TE, 1RE), Alternates

TE Commissioner Doug Holmes, Blissfield/Palmyra, MI GA 2024
TE Alternate Nan Clancy, Celina, OH GA 2024
*RE Commissioner Norma Weible, Sandusky First, OH GA 2024
*RE Alternate Lance Wiesmann, Tecumseh First, MI GA 2024

**No additional nominations were received from the floor.
The slate with additions was so moved.**

Report of the Discipleship Commission Elder David Hammond, Tecumseh First, MI

David noted the informational items in the Discipleship Report (attachment 6). Rev. Pamela Short (HR) highlighted the Spiritual Formation Retreats and Rev. David Bartley (HR) reported on the ReKindle Youth Retreat.

Minutes for Good News

Moderator Chas Myers invited presbyters to share Good News.

Jessie Commeret offered instructions for lunch and a prayer of blessing for the noon meal.

Lunch was hosted by the Enon Valley, Bluffton, Ottawa, FPC Findlay congregations.

The meeting reconvened in the sanctuary at 1:00 PM.

Report of the Leadership Commission Rev. Ann Wasson, Defiance First, OH

Ann Wasson reviewed **Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery** by the Leadership Commission:

1. Appointed the following Moderators of Session: The Rev. David Bartley to Dola Presbyterian Church, Dola OH, effective September 20, 2023; The Rev. Ann C. Wasson to Ottawa Presbyterian Church, Ottawa OH, effective October 1, 2023; Ruling Elder Maire Loudon-Haines to Van Buren Presbyterian Church, Van Buren OH, effective October 24, 2023; The Rev. Dr. Ellen McGormley to First Presbyterian Church, Adrian MI, effective Nov. 1, 2023; The Rev. Thomas Emery to Market Street Presbyterian Church, Lima OH, effective January 1, 2024.
2. Approved the part time contract between CRE Julie Fogle and the Session of McComb Presbyterian Church, effective July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, for 30 hours per week. Terms are \$ 21,671 Salary, \$ 10,000 Housing Allowance, with reimbursable expenses up to \$ 3000.

Additional items in the Leadership Commission's report were noted and Certified Christian Educator Leslee Kirkconnell was welcomed as a member of the presbytery (attachments 7a, 7b). She also noted the retirements (effective December 31, 2023) of Rev. Ken Chorle, Market Street Presbyterian Church, Lima, OH and Commissioned Ruling Elder Tom Polker, FPC Napoleon, OH.

Rev. Ann Wasson and Rev. Julie Kling, Fremont First, OH (Vision Team) shared slides from the *Canoeing the Mountains* event. One of the primary takeaways was the value of leaders maintaining a non-anxious presence in anxious times.

Retirement Liturgy

Rev. Matt Meinke and Elder Ruth Hardesty from Market Street remembered highlights from Rev. Ken Chorle's ministry. Rev. Chorle shared some memories and thanked the congregation and the presbytery for their collegiality and support. Matt led the body in a Retirement Liturgy for Rev. Chorle.

Report of the Mission Commission Rev. Cathi King, Tecumseh First, MI

Rev. Cathi King shared highlights from the Mission Commission Report (attachment 8) along with a photo essay of the MVP PDA Mission Trip to Madisonville, KY.

Report from the Synod Rev. Dr. Chip Hardwick, Synod Executive

Chip Hardwick shared the GREAT NEWS that the synod has received one of the 81 grants from the Lilly Endowment's Compelling Preaching initiative, for a total of \$1.25 million to be invested in new preachers over five years in the synod's "Cultivating the Gift of Preaching" program along with news of staffing expansions for the Synod of the Covenant.

Installation of New Moderator, Vice Moderator, Stated Clerk and Treasurer (attachment 9)

Elder Carole Burnworth, Rev. Doug Holmes, Rev. Dean McGormley (HR) and Rev. David Bartley (HR) were installed as Moderator, Vice Moderator, Stated Clerk and Treasurer of Maumee Valley Presbytery.

A motion to adjourn the meeting with prayer to *Open Spaces* (attachment 10) at 2:00 p.m. was received. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:50 p.m. by Moderator Chas Myers.

Many thanks to the Findlay congregation for their generous hospitality 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, February 20, 2024 at 10 a.m. on Zoom (TBA)

Items:

1. Docket
2. Minutes - AC to Install Ruth Clendenin
3. a. General Presbyter Report
b. Memo from MVP Finance Admin
c. End of Year Due Date
4. a. Central Support Report
b. 2023 September Balance Sheet
c. 2023 September Income and Expense
d. September 2023 Mission and Per Capita Report
e. 2024-2025 Presby Meeting Date/Site
5. Nominating Committee Slate of Nominees
6. Discipleship Commission Report
7. a. Leadership Commission Report
b. Leslee Kirkconnell Faith Journey
8. Mission Commission Report
9. Installation Liturgy - Moderator, Vice Moderator, Stated Clerk, Treasurer
10. Open Spaces