

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**

February 20, 2024, 10:00 AM
Zoom Meeting

THE ROLL

MINISTER MEMBERS

Present

Bartley, Dave, HR
Bella, Roberta
Brown, Bruce
Chandler, Doris
Clancy, Nancy
Commeret, Jessica
Desterhaft, Janice
Emery, Thomas
Gay, Jeanne
Holmes, Douglas
Hodsden, James
Hodsden, Sara
Hruaia, J H Vanlal
James, Tom
Kaiser, Dottie
Kim, Jin Seung
King, Cathi
Kling, Julie
McCandless, Mary Beth
McClean, Alex, HR
McGormley, Dean, HR
McGormley, Ellen, HR
Meinke, Matt
Miller, R. James
Pech, Leo
Remaklus, Amy
Rowland Miller, Susan
Rivera-Torea, Kathryn

Schooley, Jeffrey
Short, Pamela, HR
Speakman, Stephen
Steensma, Thomas, HR
Tolbert, Clint
Treadway, Kathryn
Wasson, Ann
Wessler, Kenneth

Excused

Aber, David, HR
Bell, George, HR
Brewer, Jr., Clair, HR
Burnett, William, HR
Butcher, Robert, HR
Chorle, Kenneth, HR
Clendenin, Ruth Ellen
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
Ladd, Dennis, HR
Layraman, Tawee, HR
Leckrone, Donald, HR
Lemon, Jack, HR

Middleton, Ralph, HR
Mills, Harold, HR
Murr, Barry, HR
Myers, Alton, HR
Nutting, Cheryl, HR
Johnson-Paine, Cathy
Pannabecker, Donald, HR
Pitt, Gavin, HR
Resseguie, James, HR
Saunders, Gary, HR
Saunders, Mary, HR
Schwartz, Tom, HR
Smith, William, HR
Sweet, Barry, HR
Young, David, HR
Zuehlke, Beth, HR

Absent

Brundage, Chris
Metcalf, Darcy
Middleton, William
Rife, Richard
Ross, Sarah
Stecker, Michelle
Pistora, Tomas
Williams, Alicia
Zuehlke, Matthew

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Present

Adrian, First, Dane Nelson
Bluffton, Lori Schmidt
Bowling Green, First, Anne Moser
Clyde, First, Lynda Wilbert
Defiance, First, Joel Youkers
Findlay First, Amy Fox
Fremont First, William Taylor
Galion First, Gary Proietti

Huron First, Phillip Hopkins
Maumee First, Jason Armstrong
Montpelier West Bethesda, Michael Cox
Napoleon, First, Lynn Yarnell
Ottawa, Beth Myers
Palmyra Community, Doris Van Sickle
Tecumseh First, David Hammond
Tiffin First, Ken Krieger
Toledo Collingwood, Jean Metzger

Ruling Elder Commissioners – Present – cont.

Toledo Eastminster, Don Sutphin
Toledo, Fairgreen, Linda Hoover
Van Wert, First, Bill Knoll

Waterville First, Dave Woodward
West Unity, First, Julie Klinger

Absent (congregations with no commissioner(s) present)

Adrian, Cadmus,
Antwerp, First United,
Blissfield, First,
Britton, Raisin,
Bryan, First
Bucyrus, First
Cecil
Celina, First,
Delphos, First United
Dola
Erie, First,
Findlay, Enon Valley
Findlay, Faith
Findlay, First
Forest, First
Fostoria, First,
Fremont East Side
Grand Rapids, First
Kenton Trinity United
LaSalle First
Lima Faith

Lima Market Street,
Maumee First
Marseilles
McComb, First
Milan
Monroe, First
Montpelier, First
Montpelier, West Eagle Creek
Norwalk First
Pemberville First,
Perrysburg First
Port Clinton, Firelands
Sandusky First
Shelby First
Toledo Christ,
Toledo, Hanmi Covenant
Tontogany
Upper Sandusky
Van Buren
Venedocia, Salem

OTHERS

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

Present

Boyd, Ron, Upper Sandusky
Burnworth, Carole, Eastminster, Moderator
Choi, Luke, Western Reserve
Hardwick, Chip, Miami Valley Presbytery
Hopkins, Jeaneane, Former Moderator
Jones, Rose, CP
Kirkconnell, Leslee, CCE, Findlay First

Loving, Donald, CP
Myers, Chas, Past Moderator
Polker, Tom, CP, Past Moderator
Tolhurst, Harry, CP
Vazquez, Jose, Presbyterian Church, Mexico
Wiesmann, Lance, CP

Excused

Bettendorf, Ed, Commission Moderator

Louden-Hanes, Marie, CP

Absent

Berkheiser, Nancy, CP
Fogle, Julie, CP
Juhasz, Jen, CCE, Christ Presbyterian Church

Manon, Lora, CP
Pennington, Mike CP

VISITORS

Bruce, Matthew
Heinle, Judy, Collingwood
King, Belinda, MVP

Palmer, Christine, Collingwood
Shull Copelan, Cheri, Collingwood
Treadway, Bill

Getting Organized MVP Moderator, Elder Carole Burnworth (Westminster), presiding

Maumee Valley Presbytery gathered on Zoom for the February 20, 2024, Stated Meeting of the presbytery.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 10:02 a.m.

A quorum was declared present by Carole Burnworth.

Stated Clerk Dean McGormley (HR) noted no significant changes to the docket.

The docket was moved and adopted without objection.

A motion to seat corresponding members Chip Hardwick, Synod of the Covenant Executive, Miami Valley, and Luke Choi, Board of Pensions, Western Reserve, was so ordered.

A motion to grant privileges of the floor to Matt Aragon Bruce, Synod of the Covenant, and Jose Vazquez, Mexico, was so ordered.

First Time Commissioners, Elder Linda Hoover (Fairgreen), Elder Linda Wilbert (Clyde), and Elder Amy Fox (Findlay First) were recognized.

Opening Worship (*Don Loving coordinated leaders from Eastern Region congregations*)

Rev. Julie Kling (Fremont, First), Rev. Bobbi Bella (Firelands), Rev. Sarah Hodsdon (Huron), and Elder Philip Hopkins (Huron) led a time of Morning Prayer and Lectio Divina on Mark 8:31-38.

Omnibus Motion Stated Clerk Dean McGormley

Following a reading of the motions to be acted upon in the following omnibus motion and hearing no requests to pull any items, the following motions were so ordered.

FROM THE CLERK

A) To approve Minutes from November 14, 2023

FROM CENTRAL SUPPORT (B and C)

B) Property motion for Erie

ON MOTION that Maumee Valley Presbytery support actions by the First Presbyterian Church of Erie, MI necessary for the listing and future sale of the church property with a property description of [a complete legal property description will be required upon the reporting of the sale of the property]. As the congregation works toward selling the property and closing as a congregation, Ed Bettendorf (trustee of Corporation) be granted permission to sign any and all documents necessary to proceed to sale of Property. Should the church cease to function as a congregation prior to and including the sale of

the property, the CCCM of Maumee Valley Presbytery would be in charge of the church closing and sale of property.

The use of the funds generated from the sale would need to be negotiated with the CCCM to preserve the presbytery's interest and mission within Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

C) Property motion for Palmyra

ON MOTION to recommend to Maumee Valley Presbytery to support actions by the **Community United Presbyterian Church** of Palmyra, MI necessary for the listing and future sale of the church property with a property description of Lot 24 Supervisors Plat No 1. As the congregation works towards selling the property and closing as a congregation, Dane Nelson (trustee of Corporation) be granted permission to sign any and all documents necessary to proceed to sale of Property. Should the church cease to function as a congregation prior to and including the sale of the property, the CCCM of Maumee Valley Presbytery would be in charge of the church closing and sale of property.

The use of the funds generated from the sale would need to be negotiated with the CCCM to preserve the presbytery's interest and mission within Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan.

WE ARE A CONNECTIONAL DENOMINATION

Board of Pensions Report Luke Choi

Luke noted upcoming changes to the Board of Pensions benefit plans will be finalized in April; he will be back for our May Stated Meeting in Monroe to report. Luke will meet with the Leadership Commission / COM, Matt and churches as needed. News for pensioners - retirees and survivors currently receiving pensions are now eligible to apply for emergency assistance grant of up to \$5000 for a financial crisis. This emergency assistance grant is also available for any employee of the church with any one benefit [for example a retirement savings plan (no cost to church), a vision plan (less than \$4/month / member) a dental plan, a flexible spending account for dependent care]. Any employee can be offered these benefits and then they are eligible to apply for emergency assistance. Employees working more than 20 hours/month can get term life for \$5000/year (with church paying \$1/month). And ALL employees who have ever had any benefit will be eligible to enroll in the group Medicare Advantage Plan when they retire. Finally, all congregations and pastors need to re-register for new benefit plan at benefit connect (all have to re-register as new members or new employers.) Luke's personal cell is 609-575-6321 and his email is lchoi@pensions.org should you need to reach him.

Synod Report Matt Aragon-Bruce

Chip Hardwick, Synod Executive, introduced Matt Aragon-Bruce, Director of Cultivating the Gift of Preaching. Matt reminded the body that this work is what we are doing with the 1.25-

million-dollar Lilly grant for the next 5 years. The goal of the program is to train 140 preachers across the 11 presbyteries of the synod.

Presbyters were asked to do two things: 1) submit names of people who would be good for the program, and 2) to submit (or volunteer) to be mentors for the program. Applications are due April 5 – since this is a short timeline if people apply late, they will be considered if spots are available. The application will be live in March; a flyer is available on the synod website. After the first two years those who are CREs may possibly be incorporated if there is room. Send names of potential students or mentors to Matt Aragon-Bruce at 609-712-4258 or matt@synodofthecovenant.org.

General Presbyter's Report (attachment 1) Matt Meinke

The great resignation is upon us. Church attendance is down; ministers are retiring; there not as many clergy as there used to be – the program in the Synod is a way to train folks to fill pulpits. We are being called to be the church in new ways. Might congregations consider meeting at different times in order to find preachers who can fill the pulpit? Matt challenged each congregation to submit names of two people who could be future preachers and reminded teaching elders of their call to equip others. Ruling elders are called to take the challenge to give their pastors the time to equip them and to preach.

With regard to the report submitted in the packet, see attachment 3. Matt invites those in path of Solar Eclipse to stay after today's meeting for a 15-20-minute open space to talk about what you are doing for the eclipse.

Matt recommended a General Assembly resolution on honest patriotism as meaningful today. He commended the book "Prayers Through the Years" by Clair Brewers (which was collected and published by First Presbyterian in Norwalk.) And Katie Treadway is offering a Monday morning selfcare group on Zoom during Lent. Matt has emailed a PowerPoint resource for boundary training for sessions. Antiracism training is coming. Policies and procedures coming. Amy Remaklus, Leslie Kirkconnell and Matt Meinke working on the presbytery Antiracism policy and training.

Ordinaries: Dean McGormley is celebrating 40 years of ordained ministry.

Moderator's Report Carole Burnworth

Carole took a moment to yield the floor to Katie Treadway for more information about the Religious Leadership Self-Care group Katie is leading.

Carole attended the Moderator's Conference virtually. At that conference the things we've been talking about at this meeting were lifted up: the need to move from membership to discipleship – from how many people are members to how people are participating. Carole reminded the body of the May 21 Stated Presbytery Meeting at Monroe. Doris Chandler, pastor at Monroe, extended greetings and welcome from FPC Monroe.

Reports of Commissions

Report of the Central Support Commission (attachments 2 and 3) Elder Chas Myer (Ottawa) Chas reported that the sale of Eastminster has changed and turned to Dean McGormley for the update. Dean stated that Central Support acting as the Trustees approved the sale, but the sale fell through – both motions in print are invalid and need to be replaced with the following:

Upon a request from the congregation of Toledo Eastminster Presbyterian Church to sell the church property, ON MOTION to approve the sale of said property and authorizing Dean McGormley, Stated Clerk or Ed Bettendorf authority to sign any and all documents in connection with the sale of the property.

Owner: Eastminster Presbyterian Church

Address: 725 Navarre Ave; Toledo, Ohio 43605

Parcel No: 1019697

Legal Description: MOIES ADDITION 7 S 42 FT FRT & 8 & 9 &
SE 45 & 75HDS FT 10

AND INCL C ALLEY SP 4704

Dean moved (support). No objections. So ordered.

David Bartley (attachment 3) reported that the financial reports are self-explanatory – we continue the trend of spending less due to more remote meetings.

David recommended that people who are over 70.5 and have investments need to discuss Qualified Charitable Distribution with an established brokerage firm. Churches are qualified as charitable organizations. If you are approaching the age when you will have to take your first distribution from an investment account, talk to a broker to learn about your options.

Report of Leadership Commission (attachment 4) Rev. Ann Wasson (Defiance)

The Leadership Commission Report is in attachment 3; there are no recommendations to presbytery. Ann introduced Rev. Dorothy “Dottie” Kaiser, the temporary pastor for Lima Market Street; Matt Meinke presented quail as gift of welcome and peace.

One of the commission’s annual actions is sharing reports from some of our validated ministries. Stephen Speakman and Amy Remaklus reported on their ministries. Amy shared that Toledo Campus Ministries needs a Presbyterian board member and Stephen noted that a variety of CPE options are available through his work.

Ann noted the recent retirements of Tom Polker and Jeanne Gay. Carole Burnworth led the body in a litany in recognition of honorable retirement (attachment 5A). Linda Yarnell of Napoleon and Matt Meinke shared words of gratitude for Tom’s ministry. Jean Metzger; Matt Meinke; Sherri and Christine Palmer, shared words of gratitude for Jeanne’s ministry. Christine noted that Jeanne was the first woman to serve as pastor at Collingwood.

In conclusion of the Leadership Commission's report, Ann reminded the body to continue to pray for the active Pastor Nominating Committees at Bluffton, Ottawa, Napoleon and Waterville as they continue their work.

Moderator Carole Burnworth invited all to mute and take a 15-minute stand and stretch break. Presbyters are to resume work at 12:08 p.m.

Report of Discipleship Commission Rev. Amy Remaklus (Toledo Campus Ministry)

Amy acknowledged the members of the Discipleship Commission noting that they are working on developing collaborative opportunities for discipleship for congregations.

Pam Short reported on the Spiritual Formation Retreat coming up in April.

David Bartley reported on Kirkmont camps and the Rekindle Youth Retreat in the fall.

Ken Krieger shared a PowerPoint on the work of Kirkmont and thanked MVP for support and noted that support from individual congregations would be welcome – reach out if you would like someone to speak at your church.

Chip Hardwick commented that he was a Kirkmont camper when he was young. He also shared that a church in Grand Rapids, Michigan had received a major gift which provides camp scholarships for children and youth for any Christian camp.

Report of the Mission Commission Rev. Cathy King (Tecumseh)

Rev. Leo Pech (Bryan) interpreted for Jose Vazquez, the pastor of the church where a mission team from Bryan and Defiance will do Vacation Bible School this summer. Jose is excited and asked us to pray for them and for this endeavor giving thanks for our support. They anticipate 150 children, youth, and adults each night.

The following actions were taken on behalf of presbytery:

The Mission Commission approved three Matthew 25 grant requests, each for \$2000:

1. First Presbyterian Church, Tiffin, for their non-food pantry;
2. Collingwood Presbyterian Church, Toledo, for their neighborhood improvement project;
3. First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, for their international VBS project.

Cathy invited Christine Palmer to share about the project for which Collingwood received a Matthew 25 grant.

One Great Hour of Sharing Anniversary resources are available on the PCUSA website.

Pray for those taking the upcoming Mission Trip to South Africa.

Reach out to Cathy or to the Nominating Team if you would like to be a part of the Mission Commission.

Nominations Rev. MB McCandless (West Bethesda and West Eagle Creek)

The committee presented a few additions to the slate of officers for 2024. Elder Jason Armstrong (Maumee) for moderator of the New Worshipping Communities Commission. Elder Marie Loudon-Hanes (First Findlay) and Elder Lora Manon (Bryan) for a second term on the Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry (class of 2026) MB McCandless moved with support these nominees; no motion came from the floor; motion passed unanimously.

Final notes from the Stated Clerk Rev. Dean McGormley

- 1) **Name correction:** Community United Presbyterian Church, Palmyra
- 2) **TSAD Nomination:** Janet Taylor, a seminary student who is a member of Christ Presbyterian Church, Toledo, and an inquirer in our presbytery, has been nominated by Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary to be a Theological Student Advisory Delegate to the 226th General Assembly. Standing Rule B.2.e specifies that TSAD nominees be elected by their presbytery of jurisdiction, so we are asked to arrange for the presbytery to take that action as soon as practical and then notify the Office of the General Assembly.

ON MOTION to elect Janet Taylor as a TSAD to the 226th General Assembly.
So ordered.

- 3) **LeaderWise Boundary Training** Zoom opportunities of Introduction to Boundaries Training for up to 40 participants each will be available in the fall. (This includes training on sexual misconduct but NOT Childhood Sexual Abuse Prevention training.)

Dates:

Saturday September 28, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Tuesday and Wednesday October 15 and 16, 6:00 to 9:00 pm

Thursday November 7 9:30 am to 4:30 pm

Closing Worship

Necrology (attachment 5) Don Loving (Milan) and Rose Jones (Clyde) led presbyters through a 2023 Necrology Litany with the people responding, “*God’s Spirit Binds Us Together*”. Rev. James Hodsden (Norwalk) prayed at the close of worship.

Adjournment

With no further business on the docket, Moderator Carole Burnworth offered thanks to Matt Meinke and Belinda King for their work behind the scenes and reminded folks interested in talking about the Eclipse to stay after the adjournment for an Open Spaces Conversation. With a reminder that the next stated meeting is May 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at FPC Monroe, **Carole adjourned the meeting with prayer at 1:22 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Mary Beth McCandless
Journal Clerk

Dean McGormley
Stated Clerk

The next regular meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery will be Tuesday, May 21, at Monroe, First, Monroe, MI, beginning at 3 p.m.

Attachments:

- 1 General Presbyter Report*
- 2 Central Support Commission Minutes with Meeting Dates*
- 3 Financial Reports*
- 4 Leadership Commission Report*
- 5 Necrology Report*