

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
First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, Michigan
Tuesday, May 21, 2024
THE ROLL

MINISTER MEMBERS

Present

Bartley, Dave, HR
Bella, Roberta
Brown, Bruce
Chandler, Doris
Nancy Clancy
Clendenin, Ruth Ellen
Commeret, Jessica
Desterhaft, Janice

Gay, Jeanne
Hodsden, Sara
Holmes, Douglas
Johnson-Paine, Cathy
McCandless, Mary Beth
Meinke, Matt
Pech, Leo
Remaklus, Amy

Rivera-Torea, Kathryn
Rowland Miller, Susan
Schooley, Jeffrey
Short, Pamela, HR
Steensma, Thomas, HR
Tolbert, Clint
Wasson, Ann

Excused

Aber, David, HR
Bell, George, HR
Brewer, Jr., Clair, HR
Burnett, William, HR
Butcher, Robert, HR
Chorle, Kenneth, HR
Cooper, Mark, HR
Emery, Thomas
Esterly, Barbara, HR
Gallant, Melinda, HR
Good, David, HR
Hess, John (Jack), HR
Hodsden, James
Hoff, Rick, HR
Hruaia, J H Vanlal

King, Cathi
Kivlin, Keith, HR
Koch, David, HR
Ladd, Dennis, HR
Layraman, Tawee, HR
Leckrone, Donald, HR
Lemon, Jack, HR
McClellan, Alex, HR
McGormley, Dean, HR
McGormley, Ellen, HR
Middleton, Ralph, HR
Pistora, Tomas
Miller, R. James
Mills, Harold, HR
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
Speakman, Stephen
Sweet, Barry, HR
Young, David, HR
Zuehlke, Beth, HR

Absent

Brundage, Chris
James, Tom
Kim, Jin Seung
Kling, Julie
Metcalf, Darcy

Middleton, William
Rife, Richard
Ross, Sarah
Stecker, Michelle
Treadway, Kathryn

Wessler, Kenneth
Williams, Alicia
Zuehlke, Matthew

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Present

Adrian, First, Scott Elliot
Bowling Green, First, Anne Moser
Celina, First, Doris Glass
Clyde, First, Lynda Wilbert
Defiance, First, Joel Youkers
Findlay First, Diana Wagar
Fremont First, William Taylor
Huron First, Phillip Hopkins
Lima Market Street, Ruth Hardesty
Montpelier, First, Roger Thorp
Montpelier West Bethesda, Michael Cox

Napoleon, First, Lynn Yarnell
Ottawa, Beth Myers
Palmyra Community, Doris Van Sickle
Sandusky First, Norma Wible
Tecumseh First, David Hammond
Tiffin First, Bill Treadway
Toledo Christ, Carole Gildemeister
Toledo Collingwood, Sheri Kuhlman
Toledo Eastminster, Mike Kowalec
Van Wert, First, Bill Knoll
Waterville First, Dave Woodward

Excused

Bluffton, Lori Schmidt
Galion First, Gary Proietti

Kenton, Trinity United, Julie Crowe

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS *(continued)*

Absent *(no commissioner present)*

Adrian, Cadmus,
Antwerp, First United,
Blissfield, First,
Britton, Raisin,
Bryan, First
Bucyrus, First
Cecil
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

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

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

Present

Bettendorf, Ed, Firelands, Commission Chair
Burnworth, Carole, Eastminster, Moderator
**Choi, Luke, Western Reserve
Hopkins, Jeaneane, Former Moderator
Jones, Rose, CP
*Johnston, Heather, Pulpit Supply, First Presbyterian Church
LaSalle
Juhasz, Jen, CCE, Christ Presbyterian Church

*Kaiser, Dottie, Pastor, Market Street Presbyterian Church
Kirkconnell, Leslee, CCE, Findlay First Presbyterian Church
Myers, Chas, Former Moderator
Wiesmann, Lance, CP
**Rogers, Lauren, PC USA ASG

**voice (not a voting member)*
***corresponding member*

Excused

Loving, Donald, CP

Manon, Lora, CP

Absent

Berkheiser, Nancy, CP
Fogle, Julie, CP
Louden-Hanes, Marie

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

VISITORS

Bella, Wes, Firelands, Port Clinton
Buda, Margaret, West Bethesda

King, Belinda, MVP
Palmer, Christine, Collingwood

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

Maumee Valley Presbytery gathered at First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, Michigan, for the May 21, 2024, Stated Meeting of the presbytery.

The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 3:05 p.m.

A quorum was declared present by Carole Burnworth.

Acting Stated Clerk Matt Meinke noted no significant changes to the docket.

The docket was moved and adopted without objection.

Matt Meinke moved (with support) the approval of the Minutes of February 20, 2024, as presented. **So ordered.**

Matt moved (with support) to seat the following corresponding members with privilege of the floor: Luke Choi, Board of Pensions, Western Reserve; Lauren Rogers, Ministry Engagement Advisor, PCUSA, so ordered.

The report of the Clerk (attached) and MVP Statistics (attached) were noted.

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler, First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, Michigan, brought greetings from the session and congregation.

There being no first-time commissioners, all guests to the meeting were welcomed.

Opening Worship including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Worship was planned using the framework of the four special offerings of the PCUSA as a guide with the liturgy from the special offerings' website: <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>
The following persons led worship: Justin Murray, Director of Music Ministry, Monroe; Rev. Douglas Holmes (Blissfield/Palmyra) and CRE Lance Weismann (Cadmus), liturgists; Lauren Rogers, Ministry Engagement Officer, PCUSA (preached a sermon based on 1 John 3:16-24); MVP Pop-Up Choir "In This Very Room" by Ron and Carol Harris; Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler (Monroe) and Rev. Tom Steensma, HR, presided at communion.

Report from PMA Lauren Rogers, Ministry Engagement Officer with the PCUSA

Lauren reminded folks that they could sign up as online observers for the 226th General Assembly and encourage commissioners to watch the livestream of the committees or plenary sessions. She announced upcoming new cohorts for new church development. The Lily foundation is funding a program for fostering faith at home (through prayer, hospitality, etc.) Lauren noted that this year is the 75th Anniversary of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering and encouraged congregations to remember that they can receive any of the four offerings at any time during the year. She concluded her report by handing out certificates to the congregations in our presbytery who were 4 for 4 givers to the Special Offerings.

Report about Board of Pensions Changes Luke Choi

Luke Choi gave a 30-minute report on the 2025 changes for Board of Pensions. All information is on the Board of Pensions website: <http://pensions.org> (then click on "A New Benefits Plan to Serve the Changing Church.") Luke suggested that session leaders be included in upcoming Zoom and other training events and that he is available to talk with sessions and/or pastors to help congregations make their best decisions. He reviewed the benefit plan options and encouraged congregations to offer some benefit to every employee.

The body **recessed** for dinner with prayer (Rev. Doris Chandler) at 5:25 pm.

The meeting was **reconvened** at 6:34 pm with a call to order by Moderator Carole Burnworth.

The moderator invited those requesting time for Good News Reports to share.

Rev. Ann Wasson (FPC, Defiance) announced the new collaboration in shared ministry between FPC Defiance and St. Johns UCC in Defiance. She also announced that the congregation had received a grant for their *Tools for Schools* program and that they anticipate serving 400 students this year. *Tools for Schools* now has a community steering committee so that the leadership for this ministry is shared beyond the FPC of Defiance. To date \$9000 has been received from the community plus a portion of their Pentecost offering also goes to this ministry.

Rev. Amy Remaklus (Toledo Campus Ministry) announced the celebration of graduation on campus plus the re-start of the Crop Walk. (Watch for announcements.)

Rev. Ruth Clendenin (Christ Church, Toledo) announced that Jonathan Sikes, Mission Coworker in Taiwan, would be preaching at Christ Church in July. (Watch for announcements.)

There was no Synod Report.

General Presbyter's Report Matt Meinke (4, 4a, 4b)

Matt Meinke shared that Rev. Jack Hess has entered hospice care and has moved to be near his daughter; that Lora Manon has requested prayer for a significant health challenge for which she is dealing with testing; Rev. Diane Christopherson (UCC) has requested prayer (recurrence of cancer); Rev. Matthew Zuelke (Bluffton Church) requests prayer as he undergoes testing. Matt reviewed highlights of his report and shared the land acknowledgement for the ground on which the Monroe church sits.

Report of Leadership Commission Ann Wasson (attachments 5 and 5a)

Actions

ON MOTION to approve the Terms of Call 2024 Report as presented with the correction of the date in the heading to 2024, (attachment 5a) motion passed.

Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery:

1. Approved the supply contract between First Presbyterian Church, McComb Ohio and CRE Julie Fogle effective January 1, 2024: Salary \$ 23,048; Housing \$ 10,000, reimbursable expenses \$ 4000 and continuing education \$ 1200 with 4 weeks vacation and 2 weeks study leave, including Sundays. This is a 3/4 time contract.
2. Appointed Cathi King as Moderator of First, Adrian, MI beginning in March 2024;
3. Approved the supply contract between CRE Lance Wiesmann and Cadmus Presbyterian Church, Adrian, MI, with permission to do sacraments (CRE) through June 1, 2024.
4. Having completed their training on 2/29/2023, the following Ruling Elders are approved to serve communion when invited by the session of their church: Scott Elliot (FPC Adrian) and Marilyn Smith (FPC Adrian).
5. Approved Shared Ministry Covenant between First Presbyterian Church, Defiance OH and the St John United Church of Christ, Defiance OH, effective April 15, 2024. The terms of call for the Rev. Ann Wasson will be shared 50/50 between the 2 congregations.
6. Approved the call and its terms between Bluffton Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Dr. Matthew Zuehlke, effective May 19, 2024 with the following terms:

Cash Salary \$ 50,150

Manse Value 15,045

Utilities paid by the church \$ 6,286

SECA (7.65%) 3,600

Full coverage Board of Pensions

Health Reimbursement plan \$ 2,000

Professional Expenses 4,000

Continuing Education Allow. 1,500

Vacation: 4 weeks incl. 4 Sundays annually;
Continuing Education Leave: 2 weeks incl. 2

Sundays annually; reasonable moving expenses;
3 month Sabbatical following 7 years continuing
service to Bluffton Presbyterian Church.

7. Gave permission to First Presbyterian Church, Adrian, MI to form a PNC.

Ruling elder communion training is available through the presbytery so ruling elders can serve communion when needed.

Comings and Goings

Jim Miller is retiring and will be honored at the September meeting.

Tom James is moving to a congregation in the Detroit Presbytery.

Elizabeth Hadler is coming to Faith Presbyterian Church, Findlay, from the East Ohio conference of the United Methodist Church.

Report of Discipleship Commission (attachments 6, 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d, 6e, 6f)

Amy Remaklus

Several items for information about upcoming events were offered to the presbytery.

Amy Remaklus shared information on upcoming boundary training.

Sara Hodsdon reported Scott Elliot of Adrian has enrolled in the CRE track for the presbytery. Teaching and Ruling Elders are needed to serve on the care teams for people discerning.

Pamela Short reported that the spiritual formation committee is offering a fall retreat Oct. 13, 14, 15 at Lial and two quiet day retreats at her home on Lake Diane in Michigan on Monday, July 15 and Thursday, August 15.

David Bartley announced the *Rekindle Retreat* will be Nov 8-10 at Kirkmont; he also announced summer camp registration is open for Kirkmont.

David Hammond invited presbyters to a curriculum overview of the *Follow Me* curriculum on June 12 via Zoom. A 20% discount on *Follow Me* downloads is available in June for those who attend or view the recording of the event.

Clint Tolbert talked about an upcoming event November 16 at FPC Maumee on "*Attentive Church Leadership*" (a book by Kevin Ford and Jim Singleton.)

Jessie Commeret announced an upcoming educational event September 28 in Findlay.

Report of Mission Commission (attachment 7)

The following actions were taken on behalf of the presbytery:

1. Moved to send \$1,000 to help sponsor a Presbytery wide event to bring Hunter Ferrell and/or Bala Khyllip to discuss their book *Freeing Congregational Mission*. This would be from Acct #5374, the Matthew 25, economic justice, line of the budget. – Sept 28 – presbytery event.
2. Moved to release \$1000 from the Peace and Global Witness Designated fund for the International Mission Trip to Mexico sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Bryan and First Presbyterian Church of Defiance. The intention is for this to be a matching grant to congregational financial support. Funds will be issued from Acct #7506-506, but deducted from Acct #3506-506, per Belinda King.

Leo Pech shared there has been some turnover in the membership of the commission due to illness and moves. He also noted that some of the commission is on a mission trip in South Africa and will report upon their return. The group that is going to Mexico this summer is preparing for that work. Congregations are encouraged to apply for Matthew 25 grants.

New Worshipping Communities Commission (attachment 8)

Jason Armstrong, chair (RE, Maumee) The commission held meetings on April 17 and May 2, 2024. All members were present for both meetings. Doug Holmes (Blissfield/Palmyra) reviewed the work that had been done previously under the Mission Commission. Jason contacted the new regional liaison, Gad Mpoyo. Gad suggested that we hold an Exploring Missional Leadership training event for the Presbytery in conjunction with another presbytery if possible. Future meetings will be held via Zoom on the first Thursday of the month at 5PM. At the next meeting the process for how a group can become a New Worshipping Community will be reviewed.

Central Support Commission

Chas Myers, chair (RE, Ottawa) Reported the actions of the Central Support Commission taken at their April 23, 2024 meeting (attachment 9).

Approved a uniform 5% draw on investments instead of two different levels.

Rev. David Bartley (HR) informed Central Support that there were two different draws on endowments (4% and 5%) and upon his recommendation--ON MOTION to make the draw 5% in all instances drawing from endowments. *So Ordered.*

Approved wording changes on Pastoral Care Fund to match our new structure.

Rev. David Bartley reported that there is a residual of \$1250 in the Mobile Health Fair funds and this will be advertised to churches so that if a member church is doing a similar mission they can apply for the funds. The Pastoral Care Fund description needs to be updated – ON MOTION to change wording “Presbyter for Common life” to “General Presbyter” and “Committee on Ministry” to “Leadership Commission” *So Ordered.*

Financial Reports (attachments 9a, 9b, 9c, 9d)

Nominations Report

Rev. MB McCandless (West Bethesda/West Eagle Creek, Montpelier) on behalf of the nominations team, placed the following names in nomination for the Mission Commission of Maumee Valley Presbytery:

RE Bill Treadway, Tiffin First, OH, 2026 1st term
RE Cindy Frownfelder, Adrian First, OH, 2024 1st term
RE Peggy Lobb, Findlay First, OH, 2024 1st term

Support, no nominations from the floor, so ordered.

Session Records Review Report was received. (attachment 9f)

With no further business on the docket, Moderator Carole Burnworth offered thanks to First Presbyterian in Monroe, Doris Chandler, the team at Monroe, and to Matt Meinke and Belinda King for their work behind the scenes; the 10th Orddiversary of Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley was also recognized.

After announcing our next stated meeting, September 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Christ Presbyterian Church in Toledo, Ohio, **Moderator Carole Burnworth adjourned the meeting with prayer at 7:33 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Attested,

Mary Beth McCandless
Journal Clerk

Matt Meinke
Acting Stated Clerk

The next regular meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery will be Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at Christ Presbyterian Church, Toledo, OH, beginning at 3 p.m.

Attachments:
TBD