



MVP Ministers, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Ruling Elder Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and other voting members of Presbytery:

Grace and Peace to you!

**Our upcoming MVP Stated Meeting via Zoom begins on
Tuesday, February 18 at 10:00 a.m.**

No registration for this presbytery meeting is needed.

On the 18th, simply click the link below to join the meeting. If you are experiencing difficulty on that day, our Zoom Troubleshooter is Rev. Cathi King – cell 734-306-3585

ZOOM LINK FOR February 18 STATED MEETING:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2898292553>

We are excited about our annual virtual Stated Meeting, which allows us to stay safe in winter weather, while gaining ability to invite special guests. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Stated Clerk Dean McGormley (734-497-8069), or the MVP Office.

Blessings and Joy!
Matt Meinke
General Presbyter
Maumee Valley Presbytery
(cell) 609-216-0093
matt@maumeevp.org

MAUMEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Stated Meeting

ZOOM MEETING
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

9:30 ZOOM CHECK IN BEGINS FOR PRESBYTERY MEETING

10:00 GETTING ORGANIZED

Doug Holmes

Moderator Carol opens the meeting with prayer The Moderator calls the meeting to order and determines a quorum is present.

Adoption of the Docket

Dean McGormley

ON MOTION: To approve the docket.

Seating of Corresponding Members

ON MOTION to seat as corresponding members: Luke Choi, Board of Pensions

ON MOTION to grant privileges of the floor to

10:10 WORSHIP (Part one of three parts today) (no attachments)

10:25 CAUTION OMNIBUS MOTION

FOLLOWING ARE ALL THE MOTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON TODAY. THE CLERK WILL MOVE THE ENTIRE LIST IN ONE MOTION. **IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS ANY OF THESE MOTIONS BEFORE VOTING, THE MODERATOR WILL ASK WHAT NEEDS TO BE “PULLED” FROM THE OMNIBUS MOTION IT ONLY TAKES ONE PERSON TO REQUEST THAT AN ITEM BE “PULLED”**

ON MOTION THAT THE FOLLOWING BE APPROVED:

FROM THE CLERK

A To approve Minutes from November 19, 2024 with one addition to excused roll.

FROM CENTRAL SUPPORT

B To approve the listing of the church and property next to it by the Celina Frist Presbyterian Church.

To approve the meeting times and locations for MVP in 2025

To approve end of year financial reports as presented (attachment 5)

FROM LEADERSHIP COMMISSION/COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

C To grant a waiver to Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Toledo allowing an elder to serve more than six consecutive years on session per G-2.0404

10:35 NOMINATIONS (cannot be part of Omnibus Motion as there must be a time for nominations from the floor.)

ON MOTION to elect Bill Sturgeon (RE Upper Sandusky) to serve one year term (2025) on Central Support Commission

10:40 REPORTS FOR COMMISSIONS AND CENTRAL SUPPORT AND MVP LEADERS

LEADERSHIP

Report (Attachment 3)

Doris Chandler

Presentation by Rev. Julie Kling

Reporting on Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery:

Announcements:

Thank you to the congregation leaders who have sent in their AR-3 forms with pastor, CRE and temporary supply contract information; to be approved by Presbytery at the May meeting. If you have not had a chance to get that report into the Presbytery office, please do so as soon as possible.

Comings and Goings

Comings:

Goings: Retirement to be honored at May meeting live

CENTRAL SUPPORT

Central Support (Attachments 4 & 5)

Carol Burnworth

COMMISSION ON CONCLUDING CHURCHES

Ed Bettendorf

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION TO FPC MONTPELIER

Doris Chandler

11:15 WORSHIP (Part two of three parts today)**11:30 FROM DISCIPLESHIP COMMISSION**

Report (5min) (attachment 6)

Amy Remaklus

12:00 TWENTY MINUTE LUNCH BREAK**12:20 INSTALLATION OF VICE MODERATOR (Attachment 7)**

Doug Holmes

NECROLOGY—Remembering Elder who Died in 2024 (Attachment 8)

Matt Meinke

12:40 FROM MISSION COMMISSION

Report (attachment 9)

Leo Pech

FROM New Worshipping Communities Commission

Jason Armstrong

1:00

Presbytery Moderator (5 min)

Doug Holmes

General Presbyter - (10min) (attachments 10, 11)

Matt Meinke

Board of Pensions (10min)

Luke Choi

1:30 WORSHIP (Part Three of three parts today)

1:45

ALL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OVERTURES**PRESENTED FOR VOTE BY OMNIBUS MOTION**

THE CLERK WILL MOVE THE ENTIRE LIST IN ONE MOTION. HE WILL THEN READ A BRIEF SYNOPSIS OF EACH OVERTURE. **IF YOU WISH TO DISCUSS ANY OF THESE OVERTURES BEFORE VOTING, PLEASE RESPOND WITH ONE WORD "PULL"**

The moderator or clerk recognize the request to remove the overture from the omnibus motion and will continue reading the remainder of the overtures. Upon the conclusion of the reading of the overtures, all overtures not pulled will be voted on ad a single motion. The overtures pulled will be discussed and voted on at the May meeting of MVP. *IT ONLY TAKES ONE PERSON TO REQUEST THAT AN ITEM BE "PULLED"*

1:55 MOTIONS REMOVED FROM THE OMNIBUS MOTION FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

ON MOTION that the meeting be adjourned with prayer

MEETING ADJOURNED WITH PRAYER

The next regular meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery will be Tuesday, May 20 at Van Wert First, beginning at 3:00 p.m

Attachments:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Zoom Invite</i> | 7. <i>Installation of V Moderator</i> |
| 2. <i>Docket</i> | 8. <i>Necrology</i> |
| 3. <i>Leadership Report</i> | 9. <i>Mission Report</i> |
| 4. <i>Central Support Minutes</i> | 10. <i>General Presbyter Report</i> |
| 5. <i>Financials</i> | 11. <i>Ordination Milestones</i> |
| 6. <i>Discipleship Report</i> | |

**Leadership Commission
Report to Presbytery
February 18, 2025**

Recommendations to Presbytery for vote:

1. Recommend to presbytery the nomination of Bill Sturgeon (RE Upper Sandusky) to serve one year term (2025) on Central Support Commission
2. Recommend* to presbytery to grant a waiver to Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Toledo allowing an elder to serve more than six consecutive years on session per G-2.0404 of the Book of Order.
**Eastminster requested exception to Book of Order G-2.0400 based on the following rationale: The pool potential leaders is shrinking. Presently unable to elect full contingent of 9 ruling elders and 9 deacons for the last two years. Eastminster expects to reorganize leadership structure to address shrinking membership.*

Actions taken on behalf of presbytery:

1. Approved the following Ruling Elders to serve communion when invited by the sessions of their home church: Agnes McKinstry (Fairgreen, Toledo), Fred Nordhoff (Fairgreen, Toledo), Chris Roebuck (Fairgreen, Toledo), Dave Healy (FPC Findlay), Dave Mast (FPC Findlay), Greg Kuhlman (FPC Findlay), Josh Bahny (FPC Monroe), William Taylor (FPC Fremont), Marta Vielhaber (Firelands, Port Clinton), Dave Moore (Firelands, Port Clinton), Caroline Collins (Christ, Toledo), and Comfort Ofori-Akyeah (Christ, Toledo). On 11/16/2024 these ruling elders completed Communion Training with the Rev. Bob Butcher.

2. Approved to transfer Rev. David Aber, HR to New Castle Presbytery, effective December 31, 2024 per their request.

3. **Approved** the appointment of Bruce Brown to serve as moderator of Defiance FPC effective January 1, 2025, if the way be clear.

4. **Approved** the renewal of 2025 Contract between Nancy Berkheiser and FPC West Unity with the following modifications: 1) pursuant to 2025 MVP minimum compensation standards change number of hours worked to 19; 2) rewrite the first paragraph of contract to include: a) 30 day notice of termination by either party and b) review of contract by CRE, session and Leadership Commission prior to renewal.

5. **Approved** the 2025 contract between Bruce Brown and First Presbyterian Church of Napoleon.

6. **Approved** the 2025 contract between Bill Treadway and First Presbyterian Church of Waterville.

7. **Approved** the validated ministries of the following minister members of Maumee Valley Presbytery for the calendar year 2025:

a.) The Rev Julie Kling, Instructor at Terra State Community College, Fremont, OH. (Julie is also Pastor at First United Presbyterian Church, Pemberville, OH)

b.) The Rev William Middleton (Navy Chaplain since 1995)

c.) The Rev Susan Rowland Miller, on staff of Habitat for Humanity, Perrysburg, OH

d.) The Rev Amy Remaklus, Director of Toledo Campus Ministry, University of Toledo, OH, as well as pastor at Ottawa Presbyterian Church

e.) The Rev Stephen Speakman, director of CPE and chaplain, Mercy St Vincent Hospital, Toledo, OH

f.) The Rev Matthew Zuehlke, pastor at ELCA Zion Church, Gibsonburg, OH

8. **Approved** invitation of Rev. Cathi King to be appointed as a supervisor to work with RE Scott Eliot until such a time as it is recommended to the Leadership Commission that Scott is ready to assume moderating the session of First Presbyterian Church of Adrian.

9. **Approved** upon receiving the report of the Exam for Fit Team of the Leadership Commission at the January 23, 2025 LC meeting, the Leadership Commission unanimously confirmed that the Exam for Fit of Cole May is not sustained. Cole May is not eligible to serve as pulpit supply for Bluffton Presbyterian Church. Communication of this action will be sent to FPC Bluffton PNC; Cole May; FPC Bluffton Moderator, Clerk of Session and session of FPC Bluffton; Jim Cooper, Liaison; and Matt Meinke, General Presbyter. Attached to this communication will be a copy of page 31 of the Manual of Operations of Maumee Valley Presbytery concerning pulpit supply and extended pulpit supply; and a copy of the Constitutional Questions for Ruling Elders, as set forth in W-4.0404 the Book of Order 2023-2025, The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II.

Announcements:

Thank you to congregational leaders, who have submitted the AR-3 form. These forms will be approved at the May 20, 2025 presbytery meeting. If you have not yet had the opportunity to submit the AR-3 form, please do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Chandler, Moderator with LC members

Julie Kling, Ann Wasson, Joel Youkers Jessie Commeret, Jo Salvage, Jeff Schooley, Roberta Bella, Lance Wiesmann

Central Support Minutes

January 21, 2025 at 12:30pm via Zoom

ZOOM ROOM

Roll: Carole Burnworth RE Central Support Moderator; Doug Holmes, TE, Presbytery Moderator; Nan Clancy, RE, Presbytery Vice Moderator; Ed Bettendorf, RE,

Dar Bevelhmyer, RE(2026); Peter Haff, RE(); Russ Herman RE (2027); Rose Jones TE (2026); _____ (2025)

Matt Meinke, TE, General Presbyter, Ex Officio; David Bartley, TE, Treasurer, Ex Officio; Dean McGormley, TE, Stated Clerk, Ex Officio;

Call to Order with Prayer – Moderator of Central Support Carole Burnworth

Clerk's Report – Dean McGormley

October 2024 minutes were published in the November Presbytery packet

PCUSA overtures for Feb Presbytery meeting. All overtures will be presented as an omnibus motion allowing time for commissioners to pull any overture to be discussed and voted upon at a later meeting in person. The remaining motion, not pulled, will be passed in one vote.

Treasurer's Report - David Bartley hopes to have end of year reports ready for the February meeting

Moderator's Report – Doug Holmes

2025 Meetings of Maumee Valley Presbytery

Feb. 18	Virtual meeting at 10am; NWC Commission as host and providing worship
May 20	First Presby Church of Van Wert at 3pm
Sept 16	Cadmus Presbyterian Church (Adrian/Cadmus, MI) at 3pm
Nov 18	First Presby Church of Perrysburg at 10am

Vice Moderator's Report – Nan Clancy is getting on board with obligations of the Vice Moderator.

Docket Planning for February Zoom Presbytery meeting – Dean & Doug—No reports have been submitted as yet, so little planning was done at this time. Necrology will be separate from the planned worship service.

General Presbyter's Report – Matt Meinke welcomed our new members to Central Support who were introduced to the group. Also reported that the Journal Clerk position has not yet been filled and the work is being accomplished by Matt and Dean. Deciding if we need a new job description. Times are stressful in the office these days as Belinda and family are dealing with many medical issues.

Delinquent Per Capita Task Force Report – Ed Bettendorf nothing new to report at this time

Task Force for Grand Rapids and Bucyrus – Ed Bettendorf nothing new to report at this time

Ed Bettendorf did report on the sale of the Erie church manse to the township. They are meeting and hopefully voting tonight.

STAFFING OF CENTRAL SUPPORT SUB GROUPS

Nominating Committee – Doug Holmes and Nan Clancy will serve but need a chair.

Personnel Team – Rose Jones and includes Ron Boyd

Budget and Finance – David Bartley, Matt Meinke and Carol Burnworth

Trustee/property – Ed Bettendorf, Russ Herman, Dar Bevelhymer

From: Rev. Amy Remaklus, amyremaklus@yahoo.com; (419) 890-9145

Date: January 28, 2025

Subject: Discipleship Commission Report

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY:

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERY:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

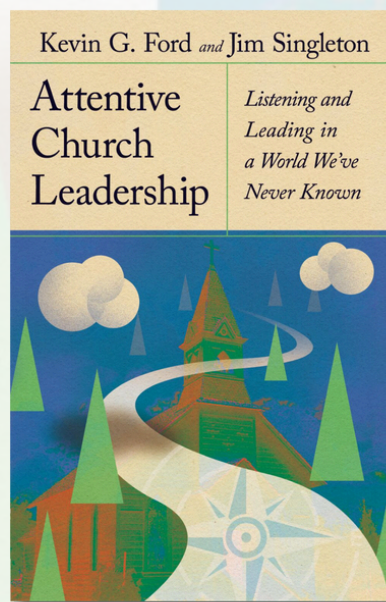
1. **Attentive Church Leadership event** March 1, 2025 – Clint Tolbert
2. **Spiritual Formation** – Pamela Short
3. **Kirkmont Summer Camps** – Dave Bartley
4. **Youth Triennium** July 28-31 2025 – Theme “As If We Were Dreaming”
 - a. High schoolers and their youth workers
 - b. Worship, recreation, Bible study, outreach, and faith formation
 - c. @ the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, Kentucky
 - d. Our official registrar will determine the cost; cost will include registration for the event, transportation, housing, meals, and other supplies for the event
 - e. <https://presbyterianyouthtriennium.org/>
5. **Boundary Training - see attachment**
 - a. Future Presbytery event being planned
6. **CRE Program Resources**
 - a. [Pathways to Online Courses](#)
 - b. Registration is open 2023-2024 Academic Year.
 - c. 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.
7. **Preparation for Ministry**--Sara Hodsdon

Listening and Leading in a World We've Never Known

The changes around us present daunting challenges to the church, and we minister in places we have never been before. But there are no one-size-fits-all solutions because every church needs to attend to its specific situation and calling. We need to listen for not only what to do but also what not to do. In a world screaming in a thousand directions for our focus, it's essential for us to become attentive to God, our congregation, and our community. The book, *Attentive Church Leadership*, co-authored by Rev. Jim Singleton, addresses these issues.

Rev. Singleton will be offering a leadership workshop based on the principles in his most recent book

**Saturday, March 1 from 10am - 3pm
at First Presbyterian Church of Maumee
200 East Broadway Street, Maumee, Ohio 43537**



Rev. Jim Singleton

**RSVP by February 24 at
<https://www.firstpresmaumee.org/events-2025/>
\$15 registration fee (includes a boxed lunch) paid at the door.**

Question? - contact Pastor Clint Tolbert 419-893-0223 or ctolbert@firstpresmaumee.org

This workshop is hosted by:





Kirkmont Center 2025 Summer Camps

Quilt & Crafts Camp I

June 1-6
Ages 18+

PYC Jr. Camp

June 15-21
Completed Grades 3-6

You & Me Camp

July 12-13
Ages 3-17 with an Adult

Beginners Camp

June 8-11
Completed Grades K-3

Quilt & Crafts Camp II

July 13-18
Ages 18+

Camp Rejoice

July 6-12
Completed Grades 3-12

PYC Sr. Camp

June 15-21
Completed Grades 7-12

Alumni Camp

September 5-7
Ages 18+

Kirkmont Center
6946 Co. Rd. 10
Zanesfield, OH 43360

info@KirkmontCenter.org
(937) 593-2141

Registration & Details:

Registration is now open at KirkmontCenter.org! Please contact us with any questions or concerns.

In 2025 the Spiritual Formation Team offers
Four Opportunities for Rest, Reflection, and Restoration
See MVP website to register: maummeevp.org
Scholarships available: email matt@maummeevp.org

One day retreats in Spring and Fall:

Saturday, April 5, 2025 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, 1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont Ohio

The cost of the retreat is \$15.00 which covers lunch.

Rev. Bob Butcher will provide a brief time of centering
and then you are welcome to walk in creation.

Saturday, September 20, 2025 10:00 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch

Toledo Museum of Art

Dr. Marie Loudon-Hanes will lead us in viewing selected art pieces.

Cost: Admission to the museum is free,

There is a \$10.00 charge for parking per vehicle

Lunch at the TMA café, cost varies by your order

42 Hour Retreats in Spring and Fall

April 27-29, 2025

Sunday 7:00 p.m. through Tuesday 1:00 p.m.

Lial Renewal Center, 5908 Davis Road Whitehouse, Ohio

Rev. Rebecca Bosarge, speaker: A Sacred Spring, "Come Away with Me"

October 12-14, 2025

Sunday 7:00 p.m. through Tuesday 1:00 p.m.

Lial Renewal Center, 5908 Davis Road Whitehouse, Ohio

Pastor Tom Polker, leader

A Silent Retreat.

Tom Polker will provide centering input,
for an otherwise silent experience.

The following details apply to both of the 42 hour retreats:

Cost: basic retreat \$25.00 for all sessions and all meals

Lodging:

\$35.00 per night for private room with shared bathroom

\$40.00 per night for private room and private bathroom

Registration contact:

jencpctoledo@gmail.com

Fee per participant*: \$199
for programming, meals, &
T-shirt; travel & housing are
additional costs

Pre-event: Meet the MVP
delegation, fundraise, build
community

***HIGH SCHOOLERS ONLY**

**Dreams play an important
part in the biblical
narrative. They serve as
reminders that we are not
alone; God sees us and is
with us.**



*No if we
were Dreaming*

July 28 - 31
Louisville, KY

Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2025

BEARING WITNESS AT THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER



Sunday, February 9th 11:30am

Join us as we welcome Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Schooley, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Bowling Green, to share insights and reflections from his trip to the U.S./Mexico border in April 2024. We will learn about U.S. refugee policies, hear Rev. Schooley reflect on what he saw, and hear the prayer requests of those seeking asylum. Immigration is certainly a political issue at present, but before it is a political issue, it is a humanitarian one that is worthy of every Christian's attention and care. This talk will be less about politics and more about our unique opportunity to love our neighbors to the south.



Boundary Training Options for Pastoral Leaders

Trainings listed below are approved Boundary Trainings for Maumee Valley Presbytery

All pastoral leaders are required to complete one of the following trainings every three years

Other trainings may be taken; prior approval needed from Discipleship Commission

1) Synod of the Covenant sponsored Boundary Training Led by Leaderwise

Online via Zoom

6 hrs – usually 3hrs on two subsequent days

www.synodofthecovenant.org or www.leaderwise.org/sotc

Limited availability, subsidized by MVP and offered free to pastoral leaders

FREE

2) Boundary Training offered by Leaderwise – “Not Your Average Boundaries Training”

Online via Zoom

Similar trainings as above, contracting/scheduling individually w/ Leaderwise

www.leaderwise.org/workshops-programs

\$89

3) In-Person Boundary Training offered by MVP

FaithTrust Institute: Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201

Offered about every other year. 6 hrs.

Minimal cost, includes lunch.

4) Any UCC Northwest Ohio Association approved Boundary Training event

Offered yearly - www.nwoa.org

5) CongregationU – Clergy Ethics and Congregational Boundaries

Online – 2 hr course

On demand/anytime/on own - congregationu.com/course-clergy-ministerial-ethics

You are responsible for downloading certificate and sending to Dean for course credit

\$29

(There is also an Abuse Prevention Training for \$29 that is a good option for all church leaders - congregationu.com/course-abuse-prevention-boundary-awareness)

Boundary Training Options for Congregational Leaders



Trainings listed below are suggested options for churches in Maumee Valley Presbytery

The Book of Order requires boundary training every three years for elders/leaders, but how that training is done is up to each session and its adopted rules. (G-3.0106)

If you offer training, consider partnering and offering it to other PCUSA churches in your area.

1) Utilize Maumee Valley Presbytery's Healthy Boundary PowerPoint

Created by local Presbyterians, GP Matt Meinke, Lisa Allgood (EP, Cincinnati), and two corporate HR leaders, this Powerpoint is designed for you or someone at your church to lead your Elders and Deacons in boundary training. Includes case studies/time for discussion. Customize the training to fit your Session's needs. Matt suggests recruiting an elder not on Session (perhaps a teacher!) to come train all the current leaders, breaking it up into 3 sections, and completing 1/3rd of the training each year, or offering the whole training each year to new leaders as they rotate onto Session or Deacons.

Available at mattmeinke.com/resources

FREE

2) Boundary Training offered by Leaderwise – “Board Boundaries Training”

Online via Zoom

www.leaderwise.org/workshops-programs

\$89 per person

3) Lead your Session in the FaithTrust Institutes: Healthy Boundaries 101 or 201

Downloadable PDFs, videos posted on YouTube. Includes free Teacher's Guide, free PDF workbooks in English and Spanish.

www.faithtrustinstitute.org/healthy-boundaries

FREE

4) CongregationU – Abuse Prevention Training

Online – 2 hr course

On demand/anytime/on own

congregationu.com/course-abuse-prevention-boundary-awareness

Downloadable certificate that can be sent to the clerk for course credit

\$29 per person

FROM: Moderator
DATE: February 1, 2025
SUBJECT: Installation of New Vice Moderator

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Gal. 3:27–28, Eph. 4:1–6

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

**The great ends of the church are
the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
the maintenance of divine worship;
the preservation of the truth;
the promotion of social righteousness;
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.**

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility.

Nan, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways which serve Christ. God has called you to particular service in the life of Maumee Valley Presbytery. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

QUESTIONS TO THE OFFICERS ELECT

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

QUESTIONS TO THE PRESBYTERY

Do we, members of Maumee Valley Presbytery confirm the call of God to *Nan*, to serve as Vice Moderator, in the service of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you support and encourage her in this ministry?

We will.

INSTALLATION PRAYER

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading *Nan* to this time and place. Establish her in your truth, and guide her by your Holy Spirit, that in your service she may grow in faith, hope, and love, and be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Let your Spirit rule your church, so that we may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.

CHARGE

Col. 3:17

Nan, you are now installed to service as Vice Moderator in Maumee Valley Presbytery. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

BLESSING

1 Thess. 5:23

May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Alaume Valley Presbytery
Necrology Report February 2025
 (includes some 2024 reported deaths from 2023)

Minister Members

Rev. Dr. Stanley Walters	03/05/2024
Rev. David Koch	07/18/2024
Rev. Ralph Middleton	08/11/2024
Rev. John "Jack" Hess	09/15/2024

Adrian First United Presbyterian Church

John Saunders	04/03/2024
Maxine Diller	04/20/2024

Antwerp First United Presbyterian Church

Bonnie Marie Carr	10/24/2024
-------------------	------------

Blissfield Presbyterian Church

R. Kirk Bettis	01/13/2024
Edward Petee	08/14/2024
Margaret "Peggy Nieman	12/01/2024

Bluffton Presbyterian Church

Owen Ziessler	11/23/2024
---------------	------------

Bowling Green First Presbyterian Church

Paul Nusser	08/02/2024
-------------	------------

Bryan First Presbyterian Church

Don Shrider	06/13/2024
-------------	------------

Celina First Presbyterian Church

Janyce E Peck	06/02/2023
---------------	------------

Clyde First Presbyterian Church

Donna Shaver	06/02/2024
Susan Whiley	11/11/2024
Peggy Dinan	11/30/2024

Defiance First Presbyterian Church

John Stevenson	12/02/2024
----------------	------------

Delphos First Presbyterian Church

Penny Florine West	05/23/2024
--------------------	------------

Findlay Faith Presbyterian Church

Gerald I Rader	08/27/2024
----------------	------------

Findlay First Presbyterian Church

Eugene Kelsey	01/15/2024
Eugene Hall	04/02/2024
Michael Lindamood	08/22/2024
Carroll Kerr	12/07/2024

Fostoria First Presbyterian Church

Lois Zoll	01/02/2024
Jim Bailey	03/15/2024
Rosemary Smith	12/06/2024

Fremont East Side Presbyterian Church

Roy "Gene" Eugene Yeager	12/11/2024
--------------------------	------------

Fremont First Presbyterian Church

Judge Harry Sargeant	03/17/2023
----------------------	------------

Galion First Presbyterian Church

Elaine Forry	03/02/2024
--------------	------------

Huron First Presbyterian Church

Gene Darby	01/24/2024
Jeanne Schafer	03/31/2024
Bill Roose	12/24/2024

LaSalle First Presbyterian Church

Barbara Carr	07/26/2024
--------------	------------

Maumee Valley Presbytery
Necrology Report February 2025
 (includes some 2024 reported deaths from 2023)

Maumee First Presbyterian Church

David Saunders	04/06/2024
William Bonser	05/20/2024
Jean Harler	11/23/2024

Monroe First Presbyterian Church

Fred Loy	06/01/2023
Maria de Jonge	10/04/2023
Linda Kay Prolea-Gawle	12/09/2023
Kathryn Lee	03/25/2024
Cheryl Elder	04/04/2024
Gary Bogedain	07/15/2024
Suzanne Bondie	12/27/2024

Montpelier First Presbyterian Church

Robert Crowe	08/23/2024
William Koons	08/25/2024
Shirley A. Smith	09/12/2024
James Cheadle	09/24/2024
Spencer Meloun	10/30/2024

Napoleon First Presbyterian Church

James Johnston	03/26/2024
----------------	------------

Norwalk Presbyterian Church

James Collins	01/06/2024
Virginia Poling	02/26/2024

Ottawa Presbyterian Church

Katrina Riepenhoff	03/15/2024
--------------------	------------

Palmyra Community Presbyterian Church

Ruby Kopka	12/10/2024
Nora Morgan	12/30/2024

Perrysburg First United Presbyterian Church

Joseph Brainard	06/05/2024
-----------------	------------

Port Clinton Firelands Presbyterian Church

Robert Reynolds	07/10/2024
-----------------	------------

Sandusky First Presbyterian Church

Barbara Semans	02/02/2024
Kathleen Kraus	09/08/2024

Tecumseh First Presbyterian Church

Sharell Gehrke	.8/28/2024
Joel Winter	11/12/2024

Tiffin First Presbyterian Church

Terry (Sheldon) Lyon	06/25/2024
----------------------	------------

Toledo Collingwood Presbyterian Church

Malcolm Kantner	02/01/2024
-----------------	------------

Upper Sandusky First Presbyterian Church

Pamela Haff	05/10/2024
Herbert Hale	09/26/2024

Van Wert Presbyterian Church

Vern Pontsler	07/22/2024
---------------	------------

Waterville First Presbyterian Church

Rodger Herringshaw	01/28/2023
Jeanne Johnston	12/15/2023
Frank "Bud" Walbolt	03/07/2024

West Unity First Presbyterian Church

Dolores Anne Stuckey	03/07/2024
Carmie N Keller	05/18/2024
Spencer Albert Melon	10/30/2024
Frank Eugene Perkins	12/19/2024

From: Cathi King
Date: 1 Feb 2025
Subject: Mission Commission

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY:

1. None
- 2.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRESBYTERY:

1. None
- 2.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Jennifer Juhasz will speak during Mission rpt on the "Build a Bed" project.
2. PDA MVP trip Cathi will speak with Cameron Stevens about.
3. Looking for local Spanish speaking ministries
4. Peggy Lobb has more info on "Clean UpBuckets"

General Presbyter Report

February 2025

For our Common Life:

1 Revs. Cathy Johnson and Ann Wasson retire

Cathy has been a Chaplain for the Adrian Dominican Sisters up in Adrian, Michigan for quite some time. We celebrate with her as she moves into retirement, which began at the end of December. Ann retired as Pastor of FPC Defiance at the end of 2024. I look forward to the May meeting when we can more fully celebrate their many years of ministry

2 Immigrant Resourcing

The PCUSA has long been committed to advocacy and support of immigrants. On January 21, 2025 the Department of Homeland Security issued a statement rescinding previous guidance regarding Protected Areas. It has created a number of questions and concerns. For congregations concerned for immigrant members and immigrant ministries:

- 1) Teresa Waggener works at PCUSA in Louisville and is an attorney in our Office of Immigration Issues in Louisville. She has been very busy trying to equip those congregations interested in this important work. The PCUSA website has many resources and much guidance. I encourage you to explore that before you pick up the phone to try to contact her.
- 2) There have been a number of webinars recently, with more planned. I am on the lookout for the ones tailored for Michigan and Ohio law. I will pass those along when they become available.
- 3) For more information about how to care for members and loved ones at risk, go [here](#).
- 4) For more information about sanctuary ministries, and standing with families at risk of separation, click [here](#).
- 5) A recording of an immigration rights webinar put on by the Immigration Legal Resource Center is [here](#).
- 6) Learn more about the impact of rescinding the Sensitive Locations Memos and its impact on schools, churches and nonprofits by going [here](#).
- 7) If there are concerns at a local level about private spaces/sanctuary spaces, each church needs to contact their attorney to make sure they know their rights.



This is a challenging time to be the church, and I will continue to advocate and resource all of you as we venture into the future that God has planned for us.

3 Big Changes at the National Office

Our national church office is undergoing significant changes. I recently received word from our Stated Clerk Jihyun Oh going to all Mid Council Leaders regarding some of those changes, and have attached the News Article that relates to her correspondence. In it she speaks of the significant budget challenges ahead with declining resources at the national office and the painful reality of personnel changes in the PCUSA related to World Mission, including a reduction of World Mission staff from it. She also shares a new vision for global engagement that reaffirms a commitment to global mission and ecumenical engagement while also aligns with financial sustainability. It was a tough letter to read. But I understand the difficult decisions being made given the state of our denomination and funding patterns as they exist. My prayer is for this renewing vision of which she speaks. I also know you may have questions after reading this News release, as I have questions. I will be taking all our questions to our Stated Clerk Jihyun Oh, the Deputy Executive Director for Mission Program Sara Lisherness, and/or Mienda Uriarte, Director of World Mission.

4 **Ordiversaries** — Every year we mark those celebrating 5 and 10 year anniversaries (e.g. 10, 35, 40, 50, etc.). You will find that attached. Please let me know of any corrections. Sometimes the national registry has holes in their information.

5 Deaths & Necrology

The Rev. Alton J. Myers, age 90, died Tuesday, January 21, 2025 in Defiance, Ohio. Alton was an honorably retired minister member of Maumee Valley Presbytery.

Alton was ordained by Scioto Valley Presbytery on April 17, 1977 after graduating from Dubuque University with a Masters in Theology. Alton was a second career pastor, having taught as a Math and Sciences teacher at Payne and Antwerp Schools, earlier receiving a Bachelor's degree from Defiance College and a Master's from Bowling Green State University. His career in ministry spanned several churches in Ohio and Indiana. After retiring from United Presbyterian Church in Neoga, Illinois, Alton came back to Maumee Valley in 1997.

While serving Maumee Valley in retirement, Alton served on the Justice Committee. He was also a published author, writing historical fiction regarding the Thirty-Year religious war in Europe.

Alton is survived by his cousins Rachel Kulp of Gentry, Arkansas, Elizabeth Morris of Lebanon, Ohio, and Lewis Myers of Defiance.

There was a memorial service at Schaffer Funeral Home in Defiance on Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 1:00pm, with visitation from 11am-1pm.

Details can be found at the [full obituary](#).

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. They will rest from their labors, and their deeds follow them. Revelation 14:13

Interim Unified Agency of the PC(USA) announces shift in approach to global ministry engagement
New plan further integrates missional and ecumenical partnerships within U.S. and around the world

Rick Jones
Presbyterian News Service
February 4, 2025

LOUISVILLE

Leaders in the Interim Unified Agency have taken the next step in reimagining Christ's global ministry work through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). This week, IUA staff were notified of the changes that will move global ministry to a new approach designed to build stronger connections with faith communities around the world.

"For years, we have been hearing from our global and ecumenical partners and diaspora communities that the world and the church are changing and the ways we engage with one another need to keep shifting," said the Rev. Jihyun Oh, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of the IUA. "This approach continues our commitment to partnership and takes the next step of moving from sending missionaries to being more equal ministry partners in the world. We have been shifting in that direction for decades and are taking another significant step this year. We do this as part of the global Church participating in God's ongoing mission in the world, in us, and in our partners. The hope is that this approach will help us be more nimble in responding to the ongoing shifts in the world and in the church while continuing to foster deeper and broader relationships with faith communities worldwide."

Under the new plan, a select group of staff, who are currently serving as mission co-workers and in administrative roles within World Mission, will transition into a new role as Global Ecumenical Liaisons. The Liaisons will be deployed internationally and across the United States to serve as a connecting and ambassadorial resource with PC(USA) partners around the world. The new role will require working closely with congregations, mid councils and new worshiping communities that are partnered with worldwide ministries. They will also serve as facilitator support for partner programs, relationships, and activities, and will implement local, regional and/or global strategies.

"This is a renewing vision for how we engage in the U.S. and around the world. That means we are creating new positions with gifts, skills and abilities to meet the shifting patterns of global mission engagement," said Sara Lisherness, Deputy Executive Director for Mission Program in the IUA. "It honors the amazing maturation and spiritual leadership of the Protestant and Reformed church all over the world."

"We further hope that those who love and support PC(USA)'s global missional and ecumenical engagement will take time to learn about and support this approach," Lisherness added. "The legacy of God's world engagement through the PC(USA) is massive and filled with blessings, profound courage and faithfulness, as well as missteps and harm," she said. "This new approach won't be perfect," she underscored, "yet we are confident it will demonstrate a deeper mutuality with our global partners."

The shift also means all World Mission staff positions will be revised, and some will be concluded. The new model means a reduction in the number of people who are deployed internationally. The World Mission ministry is currently composed of 79 staff. The redesigned area will have 44 staff ministering together in a renewed way.

“This is an opportunity for a new vision and financial sustainability to align,” said Tamron Keith, Associate Director for World Mission Finance. “We have been assessing our financial history and forecasting with the help of actuarial consultants for five years now, and it is clear that we need to take this step proactively now, or we will likely need to react to a bigger crisis in the near future.”

The Rev. Mienda Uriarte, Director of World Mission, underscored that “mission co-workers are eligible for service in the new ecumenical liaison roles. Individuals who are not selected to serve in these roles may also apply for other open positions within the Interim Unified Agency.”

Regarding those whose positions may be concluded, Uriarte lamented, “These are our colleagues, co-workers, friends. Many have served for years, decades even. We pray for and care about their well-being and future.”

Any person whose position will be concluded is provided with six months of their salary and benefits in addition to another week of salary and benefits for every year of service to the PC(USA) up to 20 additional weeks. Human Resources staff also provide vocational transition support for those who want it and financial support to seek that vocational transition support from elsewhere.

“The prayer, consultation, analysis and process with which we in the IUA, particularly those in World Mission, alongside the governing bodies of the Unification Commission and A Corp Board, have sought to discern God’s will is significant. We have also tried to approach this process with care for the staff who serve within the IUA, but know that not everyone has felt that,” said Oh.

The plans for these shifts have been reviewed and supported by the Unification Commission. The board of the PC(USA) A Corporation, the employer of record, also prayerfully considered and approved the rationale and process for making these changes from an HR perspective earlier in January.

Oh said that continued reform is needed for the denomination, for the role it has played in the past, to build and sustain long-term mutual ministry partnerships, adding that significant advances in transportation, technology and communication have improved the church’s ability to connect on the global stage. Many existing mission co-workers already operate from this approach. The renewed approach will extend that way of serving to all of the Global Ecumenical Liaisons.

“Unification has allowed us to reimagine many ministries that were divided between the former Presbyterian Mission Agency and Office of the General Assembly, and that includes global-ecumenical and interfaith ministries,” she said. “The partner relationships that we have built over the years continue to be highly valued, and we look forward to moving toward deeper mutuality in our partnerships.”

Over the past year, Oh has worked closely with both OGA and PMA leaders to address the changing international landscape, including the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, former President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency; the Rev. Bronwen Boswell, former Acting Stated Clerk of the Office of the General Assembly; Lisherness, the Deputy Executive Director for Mission Programs; and Uriarte, Director of World Mission, among others.

“This was not a decision that was made quickly or without careful consideration. The decision to transform World Mission is based on information we have gathered and counsel we have received from

our global partners and mission personnel over the last 20 years. While the former labels and vocabulary terms are going away, the ministry and mission are being enhanced,” said Uriarte. “The newly envisioned roles are designed to transform our ecumenical witness worldwide, strengthening global and interfaith relationships through strategic, supportive engagements.”

“Our international commitment will focus on regional engagement, linking mid councils and congregations with partner churches in other parts of the world,” said Uriarte. “We look forward to sharing a deeper dive into how these changes and redesigned positions will work with those who are interested in the very near future.”

Oh says the new ecumenical approach presents opportunities and challenges.

“We affirm our commitment to the unity of the Church, and the ecumenical challenge for today moves beyond that initial vision of unity to the Church’s participation in God’s healing and wholeness for God’s beloved world,” she said. “This broader goal of Christian ecumenism requires us to ask how we can be partners with others in answering and acting on this call to ministry together.”

“We recognize that what we’re sharing with you in this interview doesn’t answer all the questions the readers may have or completely paint the picture of how this will work,” said Oh. “We are committed to sharing more about this approach in the coming days and months as we learn our way into it and make adjustments along the way. We also hope that this learning and adjusting will involve feedback and imagining with the denomination more broadly.”

“The days leading up to these changes included a lot of online inquiries and comments by people who love this denomination and want us all to live up to our vision and values,” Uriarte noted. “We have done that to the best of our capacities at each step of the way during these several years of learning, reflection and now, action. Thank you for your care and concern. We also thank those who recognize the sensitivity with which we had to move prayerfully, discerningly, and intentionally through the process because of our care and commitment with our mission personnel who have served so faithfully and well.”

Expect some additional backgrounding about the new approach, how it will be lived out and how it rises to the occasion of the shifting world circumstances in the coming days.

For inquiries or comments, please email feedback@pcusa.org.

Ordination Milestones/Anniversaries in 202570 Years

Clair Herbert Brewer (6/15/1955-Cleveland)

55 Years

Keith Kivlin (6/10/1970-Scioto Valley)

Thomas Steensma (9/13/1970-Detroit)

50 Years

Kenneth Wessler (6/8/1975-Western Reserve)

35 Years

Barbara Esterly (2/18/1990-Maumee Valley)

Dottee Kaiser (5/31/1990-Church of God, Anderson Ind)

30 Years

Leonel Pech (3/10/1995-?)

Christopher Brundage (3/19/1995-Nevada)

William Middleton (6/18/1995-Maumee Valley)

25 Years

Alicia Williams (10/1/2000-Maumee Valley)

20 Years

Clinton Tolbert (5/22/2005-Wabash Valley)

Catherine King (8/28/2005-Detroit)

15 Years

Janice Desterhaft (5/2/2010-South Louisiana)