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

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 10:00 AM

Zoom meeting

**THE ROLL**

**Minister Members**

**Present**

Bartley, Dave, HR

Bella, Roberta

Brown, Bruce

Chandler, Doris

Clancy, Nan

Commeret, Jessica

Desterhaft, Janice

Emery, Thomas

Gay, Jeanne, HR

Hodsden, Sara

Holmes, Douglas

Hruaia, J H Vanlal

Kim, Jin Seung

McClean, Alex, HR

McGormley, Dean, HR

McGormley, Ellen, HR

Meinke, Matt

Miller, R. James, HR

Pech, Leo

Rivera-Torea, Kathryn

Schooley, Jeffrey

Short, Pamela, HR

Steensma, Thomas, HR

Tolbert, Clint

Treadway, Kathryn

Wessler, Kenneth

Zuehlke, Matthew

**Excused**

Aber, David, HR

Bell, George, HR

Brewer, Jr., Clair, HR

Burnett, William, HR

Butcher, Robert, HR

Chorle, Kenneth, HR

Clendenin, Ruth Ellene

Cooper, Mark, HR

Esterly, Barbara, HR

Gallant, Melinda, HR

Good, David, HR

Hodsden, James

Hoff, Rick, HR

Johnson-Paine, Cathy

King, Cathi

Kivlin, Keith, HR

Ladd, Dennis, HR

Leckrone, Donald, HR

Lemon, Jack, HR

Merold, Steve, HR

Mills, Harold, HR

Murr, Barry, HR

Nutting, Cheryl, HR

Pannabecker, Donald, HR

Pitt, Gavin, HR

Remaklus, Amy

Resseguie, James, HR

Rowland Miller, Susan

Saunders, Gary, HR

Saunders, Mary, HR

Schwartz, Tom, HR

Smith, William, HR

Sweet, Barry, HR

Wasson, Ann

Young, David, HR

Zuehlke, Beth, HR

**Absent**

Brundage, Chris

Hodsden, James

Kling, Julie

Metcalf, Darcy

Pistoria, Tomas

Rife, Richard

Ross, Sarah

Speakman, Stephen

Stecker, Michelle

Williams, Alicia

**Ruling Elder Commissioners**

**Present**

Adrian, First, Scott Elliot

Bluffton, Lori Schmidt

Bowling Green, First, Anne Moser

Celina, First, Doris Glass

Findlay, First Jessica Caper

Fostoria, First, Jim Shreck

Fremont East Side, Ann Weiler

Fremont First, William Taylor

Huron First, Phillip Hopkins

Maumee First, Sherry Stiles

Milan, Donald Loving

Montpelier, First , Pat Creek

Montpelier West Bethesda, Michael Cox

Ottawa, Beth Myers

Peberville First, Jim Jones

Perrysburg First, Kathy Jarosz

Port Clinton, Firelands, Marta Vielhaber

Sandusky First, Norma Wible

Tiffin First, Ken Krieger

Toledo Eastminster, Mike Kowalec

Van Wert, First, Bill Knoll

Waterville First, Dave Woodward

Toledo Collingwood, Mary Weil

**Excused**

**Absent** *(no commissioner present)*

Adrian, Cadmus

Antwerp, First United,

Britton, Raisin,

Bryan, First

Bucyrus, First

Cecil

Celina, First,

Defiance, First,

Delphos, First United

Dola

Erie, First,

Findlay, Enon Valley

Findlay, Faith

Findlay, First

Findlay First,

Fostoria, First,

Galion First,

Grand Rapids, First

Huron First,

Kenton, Trinity United

LaSalle First

Lima Faith,

Lima Market Street,

Marseilles

McComb, First

Monroe, First

Montpelier, First,

Norwalk First

Pemberville First,

Shelby First

Tecumseh

Toledo Christ

Toledo Christ

Toledo, Fairgreen,

Toledo, Hanmi Covenant

Tontogany

Upper Sandusky

Van Buren

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

**Present**

Armstrong, Jason, Maumee

Bettendorf, Ed, Firelands, Central Support

Burnworth, Carole, Eastminster, Former Moderator

Choi, Luke, BOP

Hopkins, Jeaneane, Past Moderator

Jones, Rose, CP

Juhasz, Jen, CCE, Christ Presbyterian Church

Kirkconnell, Leslee, CCE, Findlay First Presbyterian Church

Louden-Hanes, Marie

Manon, Lora, CP

Myers, Chas, Past Moderator

Palmer, Christine, Collingwood, Christian Educator

Taylor-Brehm, Janet, Inquirer

**Excused**

**Absent**

Berkheiser, Nancy, CP

Fogle, Julie, CP

Pennington, Mike CP

Tolhurst, Harry, CP

**Visitors**

Bickerstaff, Ken, Adrian First

Eddings, Jeff, Pittsburgh Presbytery

Hardwick, Chip, Synod of the Covenant

King, Belinda, MVP

Kuhlman, Sheri. Toledo Collingwood

Stallkamp, Melissa, Milan

**GETTING ORGANIZED The meeting was called to order with prayer on zoom at 10:03AM by Moderator** Rev. Doug Holmes. A quorum was declared.

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

**ON MOTION: To approve the docket. Approved.**

**ON MOTION: To seat as corresponding members: Luke Choi, Western Reserve Presbytery; Chip Hardwick, Miami Valley Presbytery, and Jeff Eddings, Pittsburgh. Approved.**

Recognition of First Time Commissioners

The presbytery joined in Opening Worship, presented by Jason Armstrong and the New Worshipping Communities Commission. Three scriptures from Acts. Acts 2:1-4

**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.**

**ON MOTION THAT THE FOLLOWING BE APPROVED:**

**FROM THE CLERK**

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

**FROM CENTRAL SUPPORT**

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**

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

**APPROVED.**

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

Support Commission. **Approved.**

**Report of Leadership Commission** – Doris Chandler, moderator of Leadership Commission gave their report, drawing attention to the written report and informational items in attachment 3. She opened for questions, and spoke about the situation in Bluffton and the Exam for Fit not being sustained for a particular candidate. Doris noted the recent retirements and desire to recognize those in May.

Julie Kling from the Vision Team led a presentation: Discernment: God is in our Midst.

The following **actions were taken on behalf of presbytery were reported:**

**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.

**Report of Central Support Commission** was given by Carole Burnworth. She welcomed Bill Sturgeon and four teams to organize their work this year. She mentioned opportunities to join any of those teams as at-large member, or ad hoc. Upcoming meetings of presbytery were highlighted.

The December 2024 Financials were shared.

**Report of Commission on Concluding Church Ministries** was given by chair Ed Bettendorf. Ed briefly reported on Erie Presbyterian Church and possibility of sale with Erie Township, postponement of vote, public hearing held by them, and based on that have now listed property with Wagley Group. Ed clarified that CCCM may act on prior vote on presbytery, or bring new one if new buyer is identified.

**Report of the Administrative Commission to FPC Montpelier** was given by Doris Chandler, chair of the commission highlighting some of the work of her AC, Jessie Commeret, Marsha Carr, and Carl Jacobs. Listening sessions held with Session and pastor as well as others. Challenges identified. Doris reported the numerous session meetings. Work continues. No final recommendation at this time.

**Worship continued**, with Bruce Brown and Jeff Eddings from Pittsburgh Presbytery leading us. A video was shared, Father, Let Your Kingdom Come from Porter’s Gate. Acts 9 was read and Jeff Eddings from 1001 New Worshipping Communities preached to the presbytery. Breakout groups were held about scales falling from our eyes.

**Report of Discipleship Commission** was given by Vanlal Hruaia. Various members of the committee highlighted their work:

Attentive Church Leadership event on March 1 – Clint Tolbert

Kirkmont Summer Camps – Dave Bartley as well as ReKindle Retreat in fall. Flyer soon.

Youth Triennium – Registrar Jen Juhasz

Boundary Training opportunities were announced.

CRE Program Resources were shared.

Sara Hodsden on behalf of the Preparation for Ministry Team, announced that Jason Armstrong has been certified ready to seek a call.

**After a twenty minute lunch break**, the presbytery reconvened at 12:15pm.

Spiritual Formation updates from Pamela Short. Discipleship Commissions report complete.

Rev. Doug Holmes led the presbytery in the installation of Vice Moderator Nan Clancy.

Matt Meinke led the presbytery in the 2024 Necrology Report.

**Report from Mission Commission -** Leo Pech led the report. Jen Juhasz shared about the Build-a-Bed that is happening on the 22nd. Leslee Kirkconnel reported on the Clean up buckets.

**Report of New Worshipping Communities Commission.** Jason Armstrong gave the report of the commission, noting the approval of Lance Wiesmann for training. Meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Jason asked the presbytery” Who are the dreamers in your congregation? Who is called to serve Jesus in this way?

**Report of the Presbytery Moderator** by Doug Holmes. He shared that the presbytery is his church family, and the change that happened in his life two weeks ago. Doug shared a prayer request for his family, namely his son.

**Report of General Presbyter.** Matt Meinke reported on Immigrant Resourcing, the changes happening at the PCUSA Office in Louisville regarding mission co-workers, noted many pastoral care issues, and celebrated some ordiversaries.

**Report of Church Consultant Luke Choi, Board of Pensions. Luke spoke** on the Shared Ministry Program, Minister Debt Relief Update, Benefits Regional Summit, and Tax Resources.

**Report of Synod of the Covenant**

Chip Hardwick reported on what the Synod is doing to support churches, including Equipping Leaders, for CRE Zoom training. The one on Leadership as Process is now on their YouTube channel. Another on March 12 from 9-noon. Child Protection options at the Synod. Chip also highlighted the Cultivating the Gift of Preaching and the Lectionary Discussion Group.

Worship (Part three of three) continued, led by Melissa Stallkamp who read Acts 10:9-13 and spoke on. Going where we are prohibited to go. Bruce Brown closed our worship time in prayer, and we all prayed the Lord’s Prayer.

**General Assembly Overtures**

ACCORDING TO ANNOUNCED PROCEDURE, THE CLERK MOVED THE ENTIRE LIST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION 2026 AS AN OMNIMUS MOTION. The following items were pulled from the Omnibus motion:

24-A ; 24-C ; 24-H ; 24-I

**The omnibus motion was moved. The following proposed amendments to the constitution were approved.**

**24-B**

**24-D**

**24-E**

**24-F**

**24-G**

**24-J**

**24-K**

**24-L**

**24-M**

**Approved.**

**At 1:41pm, a motion to adjourn was made. Second. So ordered. Doug closed us with prayer.**

Next stated meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery was announced: **Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at FPC Van Wert, Ohio at 3pm.**

Respectfully submitted, Attested,

Matt Meinke Dean McGormley

Acting Journal Clerk/General Presbyter Stated Clerk