

**THE PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY  
TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHTH STATED MEETING**

First Presbyterian Church  
4227 Broadway, Grove City, Ohio  
September 18, 2018

**GOD CALLS US THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER TO  
PLANT,  
GROW AND NURTURE VITAL, FAITHFUL COMMUNITIES OF CHRIST FOR SERVICE AND  
MINISTRY. IN RESPONSE, WE BUILD PARTNERSHIPS,  
COMMUNICATE WITH AND SUPPORT CONGREGATIONS, LEADERS, AND INDIVIDUALS,  
AND EMBODY CHRIST'S TRANSFORMING LOVE IN THE WORLD.**

**STATED MEETING**

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) held its two hundred forty-eighth Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church, 4227 Broadway, Grove City, Ohio, on Tuesday, September 18, 2018.

**I. THE PRESBYTERY IS CALLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Convening the Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by moderator ruling elder James Boggs and opened with prayer.

**A. Declaration of a Quorum and the Formation of the Roll**

The stated clerk, Sally Robinson, recognized the presence of a quorum. ["The presbytery may set its own quorum, but it shall not be fewer than three teaching elders who are members of the presbytery and three ruling elder commissioners from three different congregations." (G-3.0304)] She moved that the roll be as established by the written sign-in sheets. The motion was approved. (Attachment 1).

**B. Agenda**

Stated clerk Sally Robinson presented the agenda for the meeting. (Attachment 2).

**C. Greetings**

Host pastor Robert R. Tolar, Jr brought greetings from the First Presbyterian Church of Grove City.

**II. To Worship God**

The Presbytery worshipped God, with a sermon entitled "Finding Kindom" by Rev. Tom Hay based on Matthew 6:31-33. An offering was

taken for the Peace and Global Witness Special offering. The Lord's Supper was celebrated by Rev. Robert Tolar.

The congregation was gaveled back into order at 4:40 pm by Moderator James Boggs.

### **III. To Steward Christ's Work**

New ruling elder commissioners were introduced. Corresponding member Rev. Tom Hay was seated.

#### **A. Staff Reports**

Executive Presbyter Dr. Jeannie Harsh reported on her work and that of the Presbytery staff. She spoke about what makes us Presbyterian and the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 2022 in Columbus.

Stated Clerk Rev. Sally Robinson reported. Her detailed report may be found in the Consent Agenda.

#### **B. Appointments by the Stated Clerk**

The Stated Clerk announced that she made no appointments.

#### **C. Announcement of New Business.**

No new business was received.

#### **D. Consent Agenda**

Stated Clerk Sally Robinson presented the Consent Agenda for approval by the Presbytery (Attachment 3).

1. Review and approve the minutes from 247th Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Fredericktown, Ohio, May 15, 2018.
2. Review and approve the minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Ordination of Adam William Robert Anderson and his installation as pastor of Delaware Old Stone Presbyterian Church.
3. Review and approve the minutes of the Commission to Commission Ruling Elder Ann Moody as Commissioned Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Middleport, Ohio.
4. Approve the following changes in the roll of ministers:
  - a. Adam Anderson to Installed Pastor, Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Delaware
  - b. Desiree Youngblood to Minister at Large

- c. James Shuman, dissolution from First Presbyterian Church, Jackson
  - d. Rebecca Tollefson to Honorably Retired
  - e. Cynthia Burse to Honorably Retired
  - f. Don Hilkerbaumer to Transitional Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Vernon
  - g. Charlotte O'Neil to Contracted Pastor, Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church, Pickerington.
- 5.** Approve the Stated Clerks Report.

The consent agenda was approved by voice vote.

### **III. To Celebrate Christ's Mission**

#### **A. Greetings from General Assembly**

Rev. Tom Hay, Director of Assembly Operations, Office of the General Assembly, and Associate Stated Clerk brought greetings from the General Assembly. He invited the commissioners to the Big Tent celebration in Baltimore in July 2019.

#### **B. Report on Way Forward Committee**

Ruling Elder Jim Wilson reported on the work that the Way Forward Committee of General Assembly is doing to help the six agencies of the PC(USA) work together.

#### **C. Reports from General Assembly Commissioners**

(Attachment 4).

General Assembly Commissioners Roger Au, Jim Boggs, Mark Johnson, Carla Mavis, Justice Ofosuhenne, and Robert Tolar reported on their experience as commissioners at the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in Saint Louis.

#### **D. Report from Synod Commissioner** (Attachment 5).

Ruling Elder James Boggs reported on the most recent meeting of the Synod of the Covenant.

#### **E. Committee for Presbytery Nominations**

Elder Carla Mavis, Chair of the Presbytery Nominating Committee, brought the following names into nomination for Presbytery positions:

- 1) Vice Moderator: Rev. Mark Gauen
- 2) Commission for Church Professionals (class of 2021):
  - a) Rev. Sarah Juist
  - b) Rev. Liz Wagner

- c) Ruling Elder Liz Teitz
- 3) Commission for Congregational Life:
  - a) Rev. Jeff Schooley (class of 2021)
  - b) Rev. Dr. Jeri-Lynne Bouterse (class of 2021)
  - c) Ruling Elder Natalie Alter (class of 2021)
  - d) Rev. Adam Anderson (class of 2019)
- 4) Commission for Nurture and Outreach (class of 2021):
  - a) Ruling Elder Sharon Franklin
  - b) Rev. Les Sauer
- 5) Commission for Presbytery Operations (class of 2021):
  - a) Ruling Elder Bill Acklin
  - b) Ruling Elder Jim Hines
- 6) Coordinating Team (Member at-large, class of 2021):
  - a) Ruling Elder Jim Wilson
- 7) Committee on Representation (class of 2021):
  - a) Ruling Elder Perpetual Agyekum
- 8) Synod Commissioner (class of 2021):
  - a) Ruling Elder Jim Boggs

The Presbytery elected all of these individuals by voice vote.

#### **F. Administrative Commission on New Albany Presbyterian Church**

Elder Mark Johnson and Rev. Joel Esala, co-chairs of the administrative commission, brought a report to the Presbytery.

The Commission moved that the Presbytery:

- Declare that the congregation of New Albany Presbyterian Church be divided into two congregations of the PC(USA),
- Declare that the resulting congregation that wishes to be dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) be known as New Albany Presbyterian Church,
- Declare that the resulting congregation that wishes to remain a congregation of the PC(USA) be known as Rose Run Presbyterian Church,
- Assign the existing session, clerk of session, board of deacons, treasurer, and staff of New Albany Presbyterian Church prior to its division to the New Albany Presbyterian Church resulting from the division,
- Confirm the call of Rev. David Milroy's installed pastoral position to the New Albany Presbyterian Church resulting from the division,
- Authorize the Commission to act within the scope of the Plan of Division to divide assets between the two congregations resulting from the division,

- Authorize the Commission to administer the process of dividing the congregation, and
- Authorize the Commission to assume original jurisdiction of Rose Run Presbyterian Church for the purpose of installing a session and a board of deacons and for conducting church business until its session has been installed.

The Presbytery voted to approve this motion by voice vote.

The commission moved that the Presbytery:

- Find the EPC to be doctrinally consistent with the essentials of Reformed theology as understood by the presbytery,
- Find the EPC to be governed by a polity that is consistent in form and structure with that of the PC(USA),
- Find the receiving EPC presbytery (the Presbytery of the Alleghenies) to be of sufficient permanence to offer reasonable assurance that the congregation is not being dismissed to de facto independence.

The Presbytery voted to approve this motion by voice vote.

The Commission moved that the Presbytery dismiss the New Albany Presbyterian Church resulting from the division to the EPC, pending approval of its petition to be received by the EPC, the transfer of members into that congregation, and its execution of a definitive agreement with the Presbytery that incorporates the terms of the Plan of Division.

The Presbytery voted to approve this motion by voice vote.

The Presbytery adjourned for five minutes.

## **G. Commission for Church Professionals**

Rev. Ann Melick reported for the Commission.

The Commission has taken the following actions on behalf of the Presbytery:

- a. Concurred with the request of the congregation of the Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church, Pickerington, Ohio to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Minister of Word and Sacrament Desiree Youngblood effective June 30, 2018.
- b. Concurred with the request of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Ohio, to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Minister of Word and Sacrament James Shuman effective August 31, 2018.

- c. Approved an Investigating Committee appointed by the Moderator (Book of Discipline, D-10.0103).
- d. Approved Minimum Compensation Guidelines for 2019.
- e. Concurred with the request of the session of the First Presbyterian Church, Middleport, Ohio, to enter into a contract for temporary part time pastoral service with Commissioned Pastor Ann Moody for the period of one year.
- f. Concurred with the request of the session of the First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Gilead, Ohio to renew the Covenant for Contracted Pastoral Services part time with Minister of Word and Sacrament Sally Robinson for a period of six (6) months.
- g. Concurred with the request of the session of the First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, to enter into a Transitional Pastor contract part time with Minister of Word and Sacrament Don Hilkerbaumer for a period of one year.
- h. Concurred with the request of the Session of the Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church, Pickerington, to enter into a Covenant for Contracted Pastoral Services part time with Minister of Word and Sacrament Charlotte O'Neil for a period of five (5) months.
- i. Concurred with the session of the session of the Bremen Bethel Presbyterian Church of Bremen, Ohio to renew the Stated Supply Contract part time with Minister of Word and Sacrament Lawrence R. Hoffman for a period of one year.

The Commission welcomed new Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Pastors.

The Commission presented for a first reading a revision of the Sexual Misconduct Policy (Attachment 6).

The Commission made the following announcements:

- 2019 Minimum Compensation Guidelines
- Church Professionals Retreat
- Boundaries 101 Training will be offered November 16 at the Presbytery Office.

#### **H. Commission for Congregational Life.**

Rev. Jeri-Lynne Bouterse reported for the Commission.

A Board has been established to administer grants from CCL congregational development funds.

The Commission is currently engaged with 18 congregations through their Transitions program and 3 congregations through support programs.

The Ramseyer Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Ghanaian Christian Men's gathering on October 6 and invited members of the Presbytery's congregations.

The Commission presented for a first reading revision of the Gracious Separation Agreement (see Attachment 7).

#### **I. Commission for Nurture and Outreach.**

Rev. Mary Gause, Chair of the Commission, made some announcements regarding programs being held by the Commission:

- The Regional Conference on Aging, October 12, 2018
- Triennium, July 16-20, 2019
- Youth Fall Rally, September 30, 2018
- Winter Retreat, February 22-24, 2019
- Westside Urban Ministries Coat Drive

#### **J. Commission for Presbytery Operations**

Dr. Robert Gustafson reported for the Commission.

He reported on actions taken by the Commission on behalf of the Presbytery:

- a. Approved sale of rental property by First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster
- b. Approved a PLP loan for the Groveport Presbyterian Church
- c. Approved extending the loan on the Home Road property for a period of one year.
- d. Received and approved the 2017 audit

The Commission presented for a second reading a policy on Sale of Church Property. (See Attachment 8). This policy was approved by the Presbytery by voice vote.

The Commission reported on the 2017 Audit (See Attachment 9). The Presbytery voted to receive this audit report by voice vote.

The Commission presented for a first reading the 2019 Budget.

The Commission moved a 2019 Per Capita value of \$35.75 total. (\$8.95 GA, \$3.25 Synod, \$23.55 Presbytery). The Presbytery voted to approve this by voice vote.

#### **IV. The Presbytery Embodies Christ's Love**

##### **Announcements**

- Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church is hosting a 3-day "Restore" Conference in October. More information is available on their website.
- Grove City Presbyterian is looking for a Youth Director.
- Glen Echo Presbyterian celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last Sunday.
- Brookwood Presbyterian Church will celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October. More details to come.

##### **Adjournment**

On motion, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the moderator at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Robinson  
Stated Clerk



## **Attachment 1: The Presbytery Roll**

<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Elder Commissioner</b>
Amanda	Elizabeth Tietz, CRE - P	
Amesville		
Athens Alexander		
Athens First	Robert Martin - P	Andrew Stuart
Bloomingsburg First		
Bremen Bethel	Lawrence R. Hoffmann, SS/HR - P	Judy Turner
Chillicothe First	Jason Link - P	
Circleville	Joel Esala - P	
Columbus Bethany	Michael Wilson - A	Lawrence Rollins
Columbus Broad Street	Amy Miracle - P	Betty Lou Stull
	Ann Palmerton - P	James Wilson
Columbus Brookwood	John Birkner - P	Ellen Bennett
	Amy House - P	
Columbus Christ	Pamela Patterson, CRE - P	Sharon Orbaker
Columbus Covenant	Tracy R. Keenan - P	Jim Hamilton
	Katherine Kinnison - P	
Columbus Crestview		
Columbus Eastminster		
Columbus Fairmoor	Patricia Moats - E	
Columbus Glen Echo	Leland Platt - P	Mark Gardener
Columbus Grace Community	Mathias Akih - A	
Columbus Highlands		Kathleen Isern
Columbus Hoge Memorial		
Columbus Indianola	Sydney V. Jackson - P	Ed Kinschner
Columbus Korean	Joon Won Lee - P	
Columbus Old First	Deb Bergmann, CRE-A	
Columbus Orimias Evangelical	Zegeye Hambissa, CRE - A	
Columbus Overbrook	Bill Gause - E	Meris Longmeier
	Mary Gause - P	
Columbus Ramseyer	Justice Agyemang Ofosuhen - P	Kwabena A. Agyekum
Columbus Shady Lane	Patricia Moats-E	Patricia A. Parry
Columbus St. Andrew	Roger Au Transitional/HR - P	Fred Vaughan
Columbus Westminster	Douglas Browne - P	Jim Benney
Delaware Concord	Virginia Teitt -P	
Delaware First	Deb Patterson - P	
Delaware Liberty	John Hart - P	
	Rebecca Hart - P	
	Kyle Doebl - P	

Delaware Old Stone	Adam Anderson - P	
Delaware West Berlin	Robert J. Gustafson, CRE - P	Jerianne Gooding
Dublin	Jennifer Eastman Hinkle - P	Graham Smith
Frankfort	Peggy Holcomb, CRE - A	
Frankfort Concord	Todd Thomas, CRE - A	
Fredericktown First	Todd Thomas	
Gahanna Mifflin	Christine Burns, CRE - P	
Gallipolis First	David L. Bubb - P	Richard Riegler
Galloway	Randy Terry SS - E	
Grandview Heights Boulevard	Thom Shuman - P	
Granville First	Preston Shealy - E	
	Karen J. Chakoian - A	
	Janice Hilkerbaumer - P	
	Trip E. Porch - P	
Greenfield Pisgah Mt. Pleasant		
Grove City	Robert R. Tolar Jr. - P	
Groveport	Christina Piper, CRE - P	Angie Vohsing
Harrisonville		
Hilliard	Robert G. Armstrong - P	Brad Patch
Homer	M. Stephen Merold SS, HR - P	
Iberia	Patricia A. Stout, SS, HR -E	
Ironton First	Carson J. Hunt, CRE - A	
Jackson First		
Johnstown	Kevin Heckathorn - A	
Kingston Mt. Pleasant	Barry Bennett, SS - A	
Kingston Whisler	Donald Frank, TS - A	
Lancaster First	Steven Garstad - A	Ed Pool
Lithopolis Bloom	Catherine Hill, CRE - E	
Logan First	Elizabeth Wagner - P	Linda Hayward
London First	Jeri-Lynne Bouterse - P	Steven Watters
	Marsha Sternad, CRE - E	
Marion Lee Street	Scott W. Schnapp, SS - P	
Marysville First	Jeffrey A. Schooley - P	Bruce Kinsey
	Richard Mickley, CRE - P	
McArthur		
Middleport First	James V. Synder, CRE- A	
Mt. Gilead	Sally O. Robinson - P	Charles S. Howland
Mt. Vernon	Don Hilkerbaumer - P	John Bibart
Nelsonville	Peter Galbraith - E	
New Albany	David H. Milroy -A	
Newark First	Steven Brand - A	
Newark Hanover	Sarah Juist - P	
Newark Second	Todd Tracy - P	Fred Pyle

Newark Woodside	Doug Taylor, TS - P	
Oak Hill Bethel	Linda Plummer, CRE - A	
Oak Hill Horeb	Linda Plummer, CRE	
Oak Hill Moriah		
Oak Hill Presbyterian	Linda Plummer, CRE	
Oak Hill Sardis		
Ostrander	Thomas Martin - E	
Pataskala First	Gary Brose - P	
Pataskala Jersey		
Pataskala Outville	L. Kae Merold, CRE - P	Alice Karen Hite
Pickerington Prince of Peace		
Plain City	Alice L. Phillips - P	
Portsmouth First	Bruce A. Kreutzer - E	
Portsmouth Second	Allison T. Bauer - A	
Reynoldsburg First		
Reynoldsburg Parkview	Nate L. Manzo - A	
Sedalia Midway		
Sunbury Condit	Ann Melick - P	
Utica	Terry Holobaugh, CRE - A	Nelson Blue
Washington Court House First	James Gray Marshall - P	
Washington Court House		
McNair		
Waverly First	Joseph Fields - P	Barbara Pettit
Wellston	John Pelletier, CRE - A	
Rushville Rushcreek		
Westerville Central College	Malcolm S. Davis - A	
	David Redding - P	
Westerville First	Mark L. Gauen - P	Bill McCormick
Wilkesville First	Ann Moody, CRE - A	
Worthington	Julia Wharff Piermont - E	Katherine Mead
	Thomas F. Rice - P	Sally Hough
	Elizabeth B. Rice - P	
	Wayne D. Morrison - E	

### **Minister Members at Large- Honorably Retired**

Alexander George  
Armstrong Robert J.  
Baker Gareth  
Bastin Dan E.  
Birdsall Judith  
Black Jane E.  
Bloom Karen  
Bogue Catherine  
Boone Rawley D.  
Boteler Mary Gene  
Bougher Phillip  
Briley Robert  
Burse Cynthia - P  
Campbell Martha  
Campbell William M.  
Carlisle Jonathan - P  
Clark Harold  
Clokey Donald  
Coberly Robert  
Draves Nancy  
Ellsworth Richard  
Fisher Evan D.  
Gifford Theresa C.  
Gray J. Robert  
Groat John M.  
Grove James - P  
Hare Frank E.  
Hays Richard  
Heffner Phyllis  
Henderson Bruce A.

Hitt MaryJane  
Hoffhine Judith  
Huntley Reid D.  
Johnson Gordon  
Johnson William T.  
Jones Timothy  
Kongshaug Oluf  
Kuckuck John W.  
Leety William  
Lewicki, Deborah - E  
Manos John J. - P  
Mason Edna C.  
McGloshen Thomas H.  
Mehaffey George O.  
Mehler Jim  
Meyer Carroll  
Miller Laurence E.  
Mori Thomas J.  
Moser Keith D.  
Moxley Irvin S.  
Mykrantz Jane P.  
Nagy Francis R.  
Nutt Rick  
Obetz Robin W.  
Parham, Ward  
Pendell W. Donald  
Ping Charles J.  
Puckett Kathryn A.K.  
Pursell Jack Lewis - P  
Ramsey Charlsie - P

Reed Arthur  
Riedel Richard  
Robinson Sally - P  
Salmon Robert  
Sauer Leslie - P  
Sauer Sharon - E  
Schmidt Beverly  
Schutte Kristin - P  
Seitz Jean N.  
Sensenbrenner Edward  
Simcox Leland J.  
Smith Rudolph W. - P  
Smith Warrenner Susan - E  
Stansbery Leslie E.  
Stull John  
Swift Donald D. - E  
Taggart Julian  
Terry Elizabeth - E  
Tollefson Rebecca - E  
Vickers Don F.  
Weiss Carol R.  
Weiss Wayne F.  
Wendt, Alan D.  
Whybrew Lyndon E.  
Wickliff Larry  
Worthen J. David  
Yang Hyung Choon  
Zingg Otto M.

### **Member-at-Large**

Bolinger Joan  
Braswell Scott  
Dryburgh Dallas M.  
Eldridge William J.

Faulkner David R.  
Fulton Bethany  
Jones Keith  
Kim Myong Sun - P

Quist John W.  
Redding Marion  
Turick Jennifer  
Youngblood Desiree - P

### **Validated Ministry-Other Service**

Baker Judy  
Baughman Charlene  
Callison Greg - E  
Corzine, Emily  
Harsh Jeannie  
Holder Rich Cynthia - P

Jaynes Jeffrey P.  
Kim Paul H.C.  
Ludwig Michael - E  
Maurath Elisabeth - P  
Marshall Ann - P  
Mercadante Linda

Peterson-Jung Karen  
Pierce Mark  
Shields Mary E.  
Woods Michael - E  
Yochum Margaret - E

### **Ruling Elders serving on Commissions**

Bill Acklin - P  
Natalie Alter  
Bob Bethge  
Jim Boggs - P  
Kathi Bubb - P  
Carol Evans

Richard Glass - P  
Robert Gustafson - P  
Jim Hamilton - P  
Susan Imel - P  
Mark Johnson - P  
Bill Lucas

Carla Mavis - P  
Deb Russell  
Marquell Segelken - P  
Keith Williams - P  
Karen Zent

### **Staff**

Jeannie Harsh - P  
Dagmar Ramage - P

### **Certified Christian Educator**

Kathi Bubb - P

### **Christian Educator/Candidate**

Julie Johnson Oswalt - P

### **Corresponding Members**

Thomas Hay

Guests: 8 - A detailed list is available upon request.

<b>Voting Presbyters</b>	<b>On Roll</b>	<b>Present</b>
Ministers serving a congregation	68	40
Stated/Temporary Supply	10	4
Honorably Retired Ministers	89	10
Validated Ministry	17	3
Members-at-Large (not serving)	12	2
Inactive Members	1	
<b>Ruling Elders</b>		
Representing Churches	109	34
Ruling Elders serving on Commissions	19	7
Commissioned Ruling Elders	21	7
<b>Attendees Without Vote</b>		
Certified Christian Educator		1
Christian Educator/Candidate		1
Staff		2
Corresponding Members		1
Guests		8
<b><u>Total Attendance</u></b>		120

## **Attachment 2: The meeting agenda as approved**

THE PRESBYTERY IS CALLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT – 3:30 P.M.

Convening the Meeting

- A. Declaration of a Quorum and Formation of the Roll – Sally Robinson
- B. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda
- C. Greetings from Host Pastor – Rev. Robert R. Tolar, Jr.

TO WORSHIP GOD

The Word will be preached by the Rev. Tom Hay, Director of Assembly Operations, Office of the General Assembly. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion and receive the offering on behalf of the Peace & Global Witness Special Offering.

TO STEWARD CHRIST'S WORK

Introduction of Guests, New Commissioners, Seating of Corresponding Members

A. Staff Reports

Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter  
Sally Robinson, Stated Clerk

B. Appointments by Stated Clerk

Assistant Clerks, (To be named prior to meeting)

C. Announcement of New Business

(Please present New Business items to the stated clerk before the convening of the meeting. Items will be discussed after the scheduled agenda items.)

D. Consent Agenda Commissioner Handbook Part A

(The Consent Agenda contains items that the Stated Clerk and Commission chairs think may be adopted without debate. Any presbyter may request that an item in the omnibus Consent Agenda motion be removed for separate discussion and action. Removed items will be scheduled during the responsible Commission or Committee's reporting time or at the end of the meeting.)

To Celebrate Christ's Mission

A. Greetings from General Assembly – the Rev. Tom Hay

B. Report on Way Forward Committee -- Jim Wilson

C. Reports from General Assembly Commissioners

D. Report from Synod Commissioner -- Ruling Elder James Boggs

E. Nominating Committee – Carla Mavis

F. New Albany Administrative Commission – Mark Johnson, Joel Esala

BREAK

- G. Commission for Church Professionals – Ann Melick
- a. Welcoming new Ministers of Word and Sacrament and CP's
  - b. First Reading – Revision of Sexual Misconduct Policy
  - c. Announcements

- H. Commission for Congregational Life – Jeri-Lynne Bouterse
- a. Announcements
  - b. First Reading – Gracious Separation Agreement Revisions

- I Commission for Nurture and Outreach – Mary Gause
- a. Announcements

- J. Commission for Presbytery Operations – Robert Gustafson
- a. Report of Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery
  - b. Second Reading – Sale of Church Property Policy
  - c. Report of 2017 Audit
  - d. First Reading of 2019 Budget
  - e. Report on 2019 Per Capita

TO EMBODY CHRIST'S LOVE

- A. Announcements, Invitations, Joys, and Concerns for the Community
- B. Closing Prayer and Benediction



### **Attachment 3: The Consent Agenda**

1. Review and approval of minutes from 247<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Fredericktown, Ohio, May 15, 2018.
2. Minutes of the Administrative Commission for the Ordination of Adam William Robert Anderson and his installation as pastor of Delaware Old Stone Presbyterian Church.

The following Commission of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley convened with prayer on June 30, 2018 at 12:30 p.m. to approve the ordination of Adam William Robert Anderson and his installation as Pastor for Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Delaware, OH. Motion made and seconded to ordain and install Adam.

The following commissioners were present:

- Rev. Charlsie Ramsey, Moderator, Scioto Valley Presbytery
- Richard Mickley, Commissioned Pastor, First Presbyterian, Marysville
- Rev. Dr. Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter, Scioto Valley Presbytery
- Rev. Don Hilkerbaumer, Honorably Retired Pastor, Scioto Valley
- Stefanie Osborne, Ruling Elder, Boulevard Presbyterian Church
- Steve Hills, Ruling Elder, Boulevard Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Preston Shealy, Pastor, Boulevard Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Gregg Townsend, Pastor, First Presbyterian, North East, PA
- Greg Mennsen, Ruling Elder, Old Stone Presbyterian
- Wendi Kay, Ruling Elder, Old Stone Presbyterian
- Rev. Emily Corzine, Associate Minister, First Congregational UCC

A motion was made and seconded to seat corresponding Members:

- Gregg Townsend, Pastor, First Presbyterian, North East, PA

There was a motion and second to approve & proceed with the ordination and installation service as presented and to dismiss the commission following the benediction.

The Commission reviewed the order of service, seating, and the logistics of the service.

Meeting adjourned with prayer at 12:40 p.m. June 30, 2018.

The ordination and installation were completed in the worship service that followed.

The ordination/installation sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Tim Jones, Honorably Retired Pastor, Scioto Valley

The charge to the installed pastor was given by Rev. Dr. Tim Jones

The charge to the congregation was given by Rev. Don Hilkerbaumer

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Charlsie Ramsey, Moderator PSV

3. Minutes of Commission to Commission Ruling Elder Ann Moody as Commissioned Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Middleport, Ohio.

The following Commission of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley convened with prayer at 2:50 p.m. on July 1, 2018, to approve the commissioning of Ruling Elder Ann S. Moody at First Presbyterian Church of Middleport.

The following Commission Members were present:

- The Rev. Dr. Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter, PSV
- Commissioned Kae Merold, Pastor, Pataskala Outville Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Betsy Terry, Minister, Gallipolis First Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Randy Terry, Minister, Gallipolis First Presbyterian Church
- James Boggs, Moderator of PSV
- Judy Crooks, Ruling Elder, Clerk of Session, Middleport Presbyterian Church
- Jo Ann Wood, Ruling Elder, Clerk of Session, Wilkesville Presbyterian Church
- Richard Vaughn, Ruling Elder, Session, Middleport Presbyterian Church

The Commission took action to invite and seat as corresponding members the following persons:

- The Rev. Dr. John Franklin, Honorably Retired

The commission reviewed the order of service, seating, and the logistics of the service. There was a motion and a second to proceed with the commissioning service as presented and to dismiss the commission following the benediction. The motion was unanimously approved after finding everything in order to proceed. The commission meeting was adjourned with prayer at 2:55 p.m. The commissioning was completed in the worship service that followed. The commissioning sermon was preached by Rev. Randy Terry. CP Kae Merold delivered the Charge to the Commissioned Pastor and Rev. Dr. Jeannie Harsh delivered the Charge to the Congregation.

Respectfully submitted, James H. Boggs, Moderator

4. Changes in Roll of Ministers

- Adam Anderson to Installed Pastor, Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Delaware
- Desiree Youngblood to Minister at Large
- James Shuman, dissolution from First Presbyterian Church, Jackson
- Rebecca Tollefson to Honorably Retired
- Cynthia Burse to Honorably Retired
- Don Hilkerbaumer to Transitional Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Vernon
- Charlotte O'Neil to Contracted Pastor, Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church, Pickerington.

5. Stated Clerk's Report

- a. Appointment of Assistant Clerks (TBA)
- b. Pursuant to the *Rules of Discipline* D-10.0303, the Investigating Committee formed by the Moderator at the stated meeting of the presbytery on May 15, 2018, found no cause to file charges and is therefore dissolved with our thanks and gratitude for their service as of this stated meeting of the presbytery, September 18, 2018.
- c. Investigating Committee

At the request of the Stated Clerk, having received a written statement of an alleged offense, the Moderator appointed an investigating committee, Rules for Discipline, D-10.0103.

On behalf of Presbytery, this Investigating Committee was approved by the Commission on Church Professionals on August 5, 2018:

Teaching Elders: Rev. Dr. Malcolm Davis, Westerville Central College  
Rev. William Gause, Columbus Overbrook

Ruling Elders: CP Christine Burns, Fredericktown First  
William Acklin, Granville First  
Beth Malchus Stafa, Columbus Broad Street

This Investigating Committee is dissolved as of August 31, 2018, when the accused renounced jurisdiction of the presbytery.
- d. Pursuant to the *Book of Order* G-2.0509 and *Rules of Discipline* D-3.0106, former Minister of Word and Sacrament James Shuman has renounced jurisdiction of the PC(USA), effective August 31, 2018, during a disciplinary investigation. A written renunciation was received by the Stated Clerk as of August 31, 2018.

## **Attachment 4: Reports from General Assembly Commissioners**

### **223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**



#### **PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY COMMISSIONERS**

Elder Jim Boggs, Pataskala First

Elder Mark Johnson, Prince of Peace

Minister Robert Tolar, Grove City First

Minister Justice Ofosuhene, Ramseyer

Elder Carla Mavis, Circleville

Minister Roger Au, St. Andrew

From James H. Boggs

On Thursday, June 14, 2018 Rev. Dr. Jeannie Harsh, Rev. Robert Tolar, Rev. Justice Ofosuhene, Pastor Carla Mavis and James Boggs met at Overbrook Presbyterian Church and traveled together to Terre Haute, Indiana. After spending the night in Terre Haute, we arrived in St. Louis and checked in to our hotels on June 15. Assembly Registration opened at 10am followed by a visit to the computer center for directions on connecting to PC-BIZ for use during committee meetings and assembly. The day ended with a "Taste of St. Louis" dinner and opportunity to meet the candidates for Moderator and Co-Moderator.

Saturday opening worship focused on a "Social Justice" theme repeated in every worship service for the rest of the convention. The day included lunch and our first meeting in plenary. The day concluded with the election of Moderator and Co-Moderator.

On Sunday, June 17 I worshiped at Third Presbyterian. The lunch that followed allowed time with members who explained how their summer camp scholarships for lower income families had revived Third Presbyterian. Returning to the convention center, we met in plenary, enjoyed dinner with the Pension Board, and attended assigned committee meetings. I was assigned to the Social Justice Committee.

For the next two days I sat through some rather lengthy, but lively, discussions and recommendations for consideration by the assembly. Committee meetings began at 9:30am and continued into the late evening hours with short breaks for meals. The one exception on my schedule was an early Tuesday morning breakfast with Dr. Ary Fernandez, Moderator of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church of Cuba. I have served under a Methodist mission program in Cuba but was interested in learning about our Presbyterian presence in the country.

From Wednesday to Sunday morning we meet in plenary. The agenda was always full and on several occasions the meetings ended near midnight. Rev. Jeannie Harsh went out of her way to make the experience as fun as possible. There was always something sweet or entertaining to brighten our day before plenary. I would also like to thank my roommate Rev. Tolar for his fellowship and honest evaluations of issues before the assembly.

From Mark Johnson

The 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (2018) was a whirlwind of activity from the time I arrived in St. Louis on June 15 until I returned to the airport on June 23. The focus of the activity was the committee meetings and the plenary sessions, yet there was so much more to the General Assembly than overtures and reports. The worship services were uplifting, inspiring, and necessary to keep our focus on what was truly important during our work. Throughout the week the presence of the

Spirit was evident, as the commissioners and many other participants sought to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ in their words, decisions, and actions. Because so much happened during the week and because other summaries of GA 223 exist, I will share very briefly a few of the items that come to mind as being of significance

- Many youth advisory delegates were upset that the commissioners voted against them in electing co-moderators of the GA. A resolution (Item [03-23]) to give advisory delegates full vote in the moderator elections was referred to the Office of the General Assembly.
- One afternoon several hundred Presbyterians left the comfort of the America's Center where the GA was being held for the one-mile walk to the St. Louis City Justice Center to participate in a "bail out" and bring attention to the injustices of the cash bail system.
- One of the issues that came to my committee, Mission Coordination, involved the Doctrine of Discovery. The doctrine has its basis in Christianity and was used to claim the land of the Native Americans. The resolution, Item [10-13], that passed included:
  - Urge the session of each congregation, as well as each mid council, COTE-member seminaries, Presbyterian Women's groups, and other organizations to confess their complicity and repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.
  - Encourage mid councils to begin their meetings with an acknowledgment of whose land they are meeting on and that greetings to the assembly include a welcome from those Indigenous peoples currently living on the land.
- Another issue that came to Mission Coordination was to inventory the condition of and repairs needed for 95 Native American churches. Churches or presbyteries seeking mission projects would then be able to see the materials and the skilled and unskilled labor that would be required to complete repairs on each of the churches.
- The 223<sup>rd</sup> GA commends the "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," written by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to the church for study, as a resource that provides prophetic witness that inspires, challenges, and educates both church and world, and furthermore, to begin the process outlined in G-6.03 to include it in the *Book of Confessions*.
- The assembly approved a commissioner's resolution, Item [07-07], requesting that the PC(USA) develop a covenant relationship with GMIM, a Reformed denomination in Indonesia. This resolution resulted from a collaboration involving parties from both the PC(USA) and GMIM, including several members of our presbytery.
- The assembly increased the GA per capita from \$7.73 in 2018 to \$8.95 in 2019.

From Rev. Robert Tolar, Jr. (Pastor of FPC, Grove City)

The Choluteca Bridge in Honduras (pictured below) was built to withstand any storm. After a hurricane, this bridge was the only thing left standing. It was a source of pride! Yet, the river shifted, and the bridge now stands as a relic: unusable and no purpose.



**"Let the PC(USA) not be a structure no longer needed."**

(Not moving in our ministries & views on the world and

There were many votes & actions from General Assembly including (but not limited to)... faith)

- Condemning gun violence in the U.S.
- Encouraging the end of racism.
- Looking at divestment from companies using & making

fossil fuels.

- Restructuring the national top six agencies.
- Setting aside money to focus on mental health issues in the church
- Approving the 2020 Presbyterian Mission Agency Budget of \$70,531,957.
- Seeing hundreds of Presbyterians marching in the streets to post bail for 36 pre-screened people. These people did not have the money to post bail, thus separating families, losing jobs, etc.
- Raising per capita of 10% to 15% (For the General Assembly)

### **My *personal opinions* and *insights* about the 223<sup>rd</sup> G.A.**

We covered so many ministry efforts & ideas, I suspect very few will be seen/used in local congregations. (I rather do 10 things well than 99 things poorly)

1. The GA is "formed" with such a diverse group of people that it does NOT reflect the PC(USA)... in its majority. As a result, special ministries & interests had MUCH power and authority in directing our larger church's ministry.
2. Many dollars were spent on "inclusion of all people" without realizing the LOSS of OTHER people, presently in (or exiting) our pews, who are dismayed because they see such decisions as side-issues or against the authority of scripture. We have seen this process with the exodus of hundreds of congregations from OUR larger PC(USA).

The efforts of "inclusion" are directing us away from other vital ministries (Ex: evangelism, spiritual growth, knowledge of scripture, etc.)

3. Many of our G.A. leaders are racial minorities, women, LGBTQ+, etc. As a white male pastor, at times I felt very uneasy speaking against some of the items up for vote.

4. The focus of the GA has taken a shift towards addressing social justice. I know this is a challenge in our country and world. But should it be our main thrust? I'm unsure.

5. It appeared some (many?) of the commissioners were unprepared. They did not remotely understand all the information in front of them. 538 people (some prepared & some not) directing an entire denomination is asking a lot...especially if the people do not know all the details AND how those details will affect the entire church.

**I see much hope for our PC(USA) if we continue to pray for it and ask God to guide us.**

From Justice Ofosuhene

To God be all the glory for the great He has done and would continue to do in our lives.

This brief report is about 2018 General Assembly that was held from June 15th to 24th at St. Louis. Together with Jeannie Harsh, Carla, Jim and Robert, we ride in Jeannie's truck.

I am going to limit myself to few observations and those things that really touched my heart as a pastor.

The General Assembly is one of the life time spiritual journey that I think every member of the church should experience. I truly found fulfillment at this year's assembly- from the songs, preaching, plenary and more importantly, the committee work. (I served on Committee 14 - Theological and Church Growth Issues)

Offering at the official opening service was meant for those in prisons who don't have the money for counsel and therefore are separated from their loved one and families and the jobs

Election of Moderator or Co Moderators

GA elected Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlman after four rounds. Their induction into office was followed right after the election

One other thing that is worth mentioning is the opportunity given to everyone to make his or her point. All voices were heard during the Assembly plenaries. Culturally, where I come from, elders are normally allowed to talk at meetings but here, the young people and advisory delegates were allowed to make submissions. To that, I think is a good thing to mention.

The last point I want to raised is the Solidarity of the Presbyterians at St. Louis when we marched to the local prison. The "Reclaiming the Prophetic Voice of the PCUSA" for social, racial and economic justice was at peak at the assembly.



Hundreds of inmates who were unable to pay for their release were assisted by the church.

From **Carla Mavis**

I would like to thank those of you who put your trust and faith in us as GA Commissioners. The tasks we undertook and the plans we endorsed are intended to uplift and support a church that is very much alive and active throughout the world.

I served on the committee for Peacemaking, Immigration, and International Issues, Speakers were brought to us from many parts of the world to share their fears, dreams and hopes for peace in many areas where violence is prevalent. It was especially touching to me, for a mother from El Salvador explained why they send their young sons to America alone. The risk and pain of losing your child is so great and sure that they are willing to sacrifice having them close as opposed to having them killed. Sending them to America gives them hope that they will be able to live to see adulthood. Our committee approved a mission co-worker for El Salvador. While it is a small step it is a welcome step to help those in need.

Worship, plenaries, committee meetings filled the days and there was little time to see any sights. On Sunday morning, I attended a church in a suburb of St. Louis, my experience there was less than exciting. We need to reach out to anyone who comes through our doors and not ignore them. This will be us in four years and we need to set a better example than what I experienced.

The work we did and the decisions that were made were not done in haste nor were they done to satisfy any one group. Committee work was lengthy and often debated heavily. With Parliamentarians at every committee, Robert's rules were put to the test many times. I learned much about procedure and the structure of our church.

My overall experience was one of much respect and gratitude for those who give of their time and passion to continue the PC(USA). From the YAAD's to the Commissioners, and the Stated Clerk, everyone had only the utmost respect for the business at hand. As I became more aware of how the church reaches around the country and the world, I was amazed that my per capita was being used to fund so many projects and missions that are truly making a difference in the lives of God's people.

Each one of your Commissioners were very thoughtful and dedicated to the tasks at hand. We are more than willing to share with your congregation more about the experience when invited.

It was truly an awesome, inspiring and faithful experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Thanks for the memories!!!

## What Happened at General Assembly? By Roger Au

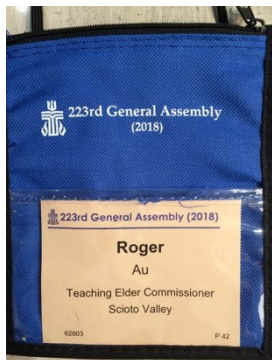
Like the confluence of rivers that join there to create the mighty Mississippi River, Presbyterians and their ecumenical and interfaith guests streamed into St. Louis, Missouri, on June 15, 2018 for the 223rd General Assembly of the PCUSA. There on the western side of the great arch, our gathered voices sang the powerful words of Mary Louise Brindle's new hymn, "Draw the welcome circle wider. Gather friends and strangers in. Formed of holy breath and stardust, born of God we all are kin." With prayer and conversation, bold action and deep discernment, the gathered commissioners, staff and overture advocates sought to live into a renewed vision of "Kindom" building for the 21st Century. The V shaped communion table and wide font placed in the middle of flowing tapestries bore witness to the diverse voices that would converge at our common family table and the living water we hoped would nourish our witness as we returned to our congregations.



The flood of information regarding the proposed actions of the assembly began to trickle into my inboxes (both virtual and real) in January, shortly after I was elected by Scioto Valley Presbytery along with Jim Boggs, PSV moderator and ruling elder; Carla Mavis and Mark Johnson, ruling elders; and Justice Ofosuhenne, pastor of Columbus, Ramseyer Presbyterian Church and Robert Tolar, pastor of Grove City, First Presbyterian Church to serve as commissioner to the Assembly. In the months leading up to the Assembly, our denomination's magazine, *The Outlook*, provided a good overview of the issues before us, including among many others, a potentially significant increase in the per capita apportionment for congregations, proposed divestment from fossil fuels, a reordering of denominational structure, paid parental leave, and denominational advocacy for the oppressed and marginalized in our local communities and around the world.



Commissioners to the Assembly and Advisory Delegates (Young Adults, Theological Students, Ecumenical Partners and Mission Co-workers) are assigned by computer to one of fourteen committees. On each committee, 60 commissioners and advisory delegates read volumes of material in preparation for the important business before them and spend hours at the assembly in prayerful discernment regarding each overture, before it is amended, approved or disapproved to be moved to the full body for action. Comprehensive information on the many actions of the 223rd General Assembly can be found at <https://ga-pcusa.org>. Commissioners are encouraged to vote their conscience, not to vote as a representative of any particular constituency.



I was assigned to the General Assembly Procedures Committee. Our committee dealt with 23 issues, the majority of which had to do with amendments to the Standing Rules of General Assembly. Approving the Budget and coming up with a recommendation for GA per capita was probably the primary area of discussion. Discussion of per capita kept us in Committee until 1:30 a.m. Saturday morning. The Committee's recommendation of \$8.95 for 2019 and 2020 was approved by the Plenary the next morning as one of its final matters of business. I was especially impressed with the thoughtful engagement of the Young Adult Advisory Delegates, young people between the ages of 17 and 23, representing every presbytery, who read all the papers the commissioners read, sat in all the committees we sat in, and who led us with wisdom and passion. As one YAAD said, "We are not the future of your church; we are the now of our church."

One of the first actions of the Assembly is to elect our Moderator for the next two years. This year, after four ballots in a close race, we elected Co-Moderators Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlman. Cintron-Olivieri, a ruling elder and teacher of English as a second language, is a native of Puerto Rico and a member of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.



Kohlman is Minister of Word and Sacrament serving as a mid-council executive in the presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England. Their election and leadership highlight the important partnership of teaching and ruling elders in the PCUSA. Vilmarie's facility with both English and Spanish, along with one action of my committee to provide for translation of materials to and from other languages, were reminders to me of the broadening circle of voices that contribute to our denominational discourse. Vilmarie and Cindy ran their campaign for the co-moderator position on a platform of gratitude. We have much to be grateful for in a denomination that is proclaiming in word and deed, the expansive welcome of God and compassionate heart of God for all people.



Our gathering in St. Louis was not only informed by the confluence of rivers flowing through and the narrative of western expansion arching over the city, but also by the 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in nearby Ferguson, Missouri. As a denomination, we have felt called to speak and act in response to the ongoing injustice of racism and poverty and to the epidemic of gun violence in our nation.

As part of the Hands and Feet Campaign, championed by our Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson participants in the assembly collected over \$50,000 in offering at the opening worship service and delivered that offering on Tuesday afternoon to the City Justice Center to pay cash bail for people being held in jail for minor offenses.



According to local advocates, "inability to pay cash bail has been a driving force in the increase in mass incarceration over the last 15 years, resulting in job loss, mounting fines and child custody issues." (Rick Jones, The News, General Assembly Newspaper, Day 5, p. 8). While some marched, others participated in an outreach project to feed the homeless, and others continued our work in committee. All of this—acts of worship, acts of deliberation and discernment, acts of mercy and acts of resistance—are the call of the church in this time as we grow to embody a renewed vision of the "Kindom" of God.

On Saturday afternoon, one week after we gathered for opening worship, we gathered again for worship and communion, to be sent out, to share what we had learned and what we had done, to live into images that had been set before us and the decisions we had made, to be the Kindom of God.

***Streaming through the arching gateway in a bright celestial throng.***

***Saints from ages gone before us, lead the joyous banquet song.***

*(Draw the Welcome Circle Wider, words by Mary Louise Bringle, commissioned for the 223rd General Assembly of the PCUSA)*

## **Attachment 5: Report from Synod Commissioner**

Report on Meeting to the Synod of the Covenant  
August 3, 2018  
By James Boggs

The Meeting of the Synod was held at the First Presbyterian Church of Maumee, Ohio. The meeting was called to order with prayer at 10 a.m. A quorum established, the agenda was adopted, and worship was conducted.

From 10:20 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the 11 Presbyteries in our Synod were invited to give reports on statistics and events, some reports were given verbally with a written outline and a few were presented by Power Point. I made no report for Scioto Valley.

After lunch, reports on the actions of GA were presented. By far the most important discussion concerned the final report by the Administrative Commission for the Presbytery of Mackinac. This included an extensive "booklet" on the process of Conflict Management. The report focused on a division within the Coordinating Council of the Mackinac Presbytery, but was presented as a tool for resolution of similar problems. That being said, some raised concerns about the specific content mentioned in the report (about the Mackinac Presbytery problem), I kept a copy of the report to review at a later time.

Late afternoon reports were given by:

1. The Stated Clerk of the Synod on the Review of Presbytery Minutes and a report from the Ohio Council of Churches.
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Committee on the Representation and Inclusiveness — This report was not received without some discussion about COR's inability to keep minutes of their meetings. Action of the Synod was challenged by a past Presbytery representative to the Synod.
4. Leadership Committed
5. Synod Executive

Nothing was mentioned about the action of GA to form a Commission to review the actions of the Synod.

The meeting was closed in prayer a little after 3:00 p.m.

## **Attachment 6: Sexual Misconduct Policy**

DRAFT

### THE PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT

(Adopted May 18, 1999 and Amended September 17, 2002, November 18, 2003,  
April 18, 2006, and June 8, 2007, and xx/xx/2018)

#### I. INTRODUCTION

As God who called you is holy,  
be holy yourselves in all your conduct.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tend the flock of God that is your charge,  
not under compulsion but willingly'  
not for sordid gain but eagerly.  
Do not lord it over those in your charge,  
but be examples to the flock.

\* \* \* \* \*

You know that we who teach  
shall be judged with greater strictness.  
(I Peter 1:15; 5:2; James 3:1, NRSV)

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley states its position that when sexual misconduct occurs, it is:

- an offense against the law of God;
- a dishonoring of the gospel of Jesus Christ;
- a serious breach of the fellowship which the Holy Spirit builds in the church;
- a violation of professional ethics;
- a misuse of the power of position or person;
- in many applicable circumstances, a violation of secular law;
- a violation of the trust of a person seeking the ministry of the church.

#### II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley that all members, non-member employees, volunteers, and officers of the Presbytery are to maintain the integrity of the ministerial, employment, and professional relationship at all times. Sexual misconduct is not only a violation of the principles set forth in Scripture, but also of the ministerial, pastoral, employment, and professional relationship. It is never permissible or acceptable. Therefore, it is the policy of the Presbytery to address immediately and fairly any allegation of sexual misconduct against any employee, member or officer of the Presbytery, recognizing the presumption of innocence which exists in our system of civil law and church discipline.

### III. PURPOSE AND APPLICATION

The purposes of this policy are:

1. to prevent, and minimize sexual abuse within the Presbytery of Scioto Valley;
2. to safeguard the church's members, staff, and the community from abuse through any form of sexual misconduct;
3. to seek justice by assuring effectiveness of the church's administrative, investigative, and judicial process in determining truth, protecting the innocent, and dealing with both the accused and the accuser in a prompt and compassionate manner;
4. to promote proper healing of all persons and congregations where sexual misconduct has occurred.

This policy is adopted by Presbytery of Scioto Valley for use in its governance, and as guidance for its member churches.

### IV. DEFINITIONS

Sexual Misconduct is the comprehensive term used in this policy to cover the following:

- **Inappropriate sexual conduct** may include language, visual contact, touching or other behavior judged by the person to be injurious to his or her physical or emotional health.
- **Child sexual abuse includes**, but is not limited to, any contact or interaction between a child (under 18) and an adult when the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the adult person or of a third person. The behavior may or may not involve touching. Sexual behavior between a child and an adult is always considered forced whether or not consented to by the child.
- **Sexual abuse** as defined in the Book of Order: "Sexual abuse of another person is any offense involving sexual conduct in relation to (1) any person under the age of eighteen years or anyone over the age of eighteen years without the mental capacity to consent; or (2) any person when the conduct includes force, threat, coercion, intimidation, or misuse of ordered ministry or position" (Book of Order, D-10.0401c).
- **Rape or sexual contact** by force, threat, intimidation, or coercion
- **Sexual harassment** is unwelcome sexual advance, verbal or physical conduct, or display of sexually related material when:
  - o submission is explicitly or implicitly made a condition of future employment, service or care;
  - o such conduct could reasonably be expected, because of its content, context, or pervasiveness, to affect morale or performance of the individual or others involved in the situation; or
  - o persons in the work setting claim to find the material offensive.



- **Sexual malfeasance** is defined by the broken trust resulting from sexual activities within a professional ministerial relationship that results in misuse of office or position arising from the professional ministerial relationship.
- **Misuse of technology** includes use of technology that results in sexually harassing or abusing another person, including sending and/or receiving suggestive messages and images to or from persons with whom one has a ministerial relationship. It is never appropriate to view pornography on or using church property. When images viewed or sent include a person under the age of eighteen, it is considered child abuse and falls under mandatory reporting provisions. There is never an expectation of personal privacy when using technological equipment owned by a church or church entity or within the context of ministry.

## V. PROCEDURE UPON RECEIPT OF A REPORT OF MISCONDUCT

The Presbytery will not ignore allegations of sexual misconduct. Because of the serious nature of any allegation of sexual misconduct, any or all of the formal procedures of Presbytery and the Book of Order will be invoked. A written statement submitted in accordance with D-10.0102 received by any employee or officer of the Presbytery must be referred immediately to the Stated Clerk for processing.

For the following procedures to be used, the accused must be a member, non-member employee, volunteer, or officer of the Presbytery. In such a case, the Presbytery declares its intention to deal clearly and fairly with the alleged sexual misconduct when experienced by any person while involved in any professional or volunteer relationship with the Presbytery. Due to the serious nature of an allegation, it cannot be kept in total confidentiality. It will, however, be handled with appropriate discretion.

### A. Reporting an Incident of Sexual Misconduct

#### 1. Reporting Obligations of Members, Officers and Employees

Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Lay Pastors, Ruling Elders and Deacons are reminded of their obligations as set forth in the Book of Order (G-4.0301) to report information they receive regarding alleged sexual misconduct. A Minister of Word and Sacrament or Commissioned Lay Pastor who feels an obligation to clergy confidentiality must determine whether there is "imminent risk of bodily harm," and report accordingly, unless the victim is a minor or adult lacking capacity for consent (see below). In all cases of clergy confidentiality, the counselee shall be urged to self-report.



## **2. G-4.0302. Mandatory Reporting of Abuse of a Minor or Adult Lacking Capacity for Consent**

Any member of this presbytery engaged in ordered ministry, any presbytery employee, or any certified Christian educator employed by this presbytery's congregations, shall report to ecclesiastical and civil legal authorities knowledge of harm, or the risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity when (1) such information is gained outside of a confidential communication as defined in G-4.0301, (2) she or he is not bound by an obligation of privileged communication under law, or (3) she or he reasonably believes that there is risk of future physical harm or abuse.

In addition, it is the policy of the Presbytery that all members, non-member employees, volunteers, and officers of the Presbytery who receive information that sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity to consent has been committed by any other employee, officer, member or volunteer of the Presbytery shall immediately notify local law enforcement and Children's Services officials, as well as the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk. Any employee who receives information that sexual molestation, abuse or harassment has been committed by any other employee, officer, member or volunteer of the Presbytery, regardless of the age of the victim, shall immediately report that information in writing to the Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk.

Whenever a member or officer of the Presbytery has any information suggesting an incident of sexual misconduct has occurred, such information shall be reported immediately in writing to the Stated Clerk. If the allegations involve the Stated Clerk the incident shall be reported to the Executive Presbyter, who shall serve as acting stated clerk for purposes of carrying out the responsibilities described herein.

## **3. Responsibilities of the Stated Clerk**

Upon receipt of any allegations of sexual misconduct, the Stated Clerk (or the Presbytery Executive acting as the Stated Clerk) shall immediately take all steps necessary to cause an investigating committee to be created pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Discipline and the Standing Rules of the Presbytery. If the allegations received allege an offense of sexual abuse toward any person under the age of eighteen, or who it is alleged lacked the mental capacity to consent, the Stated Clerk shall further report the allegations to the moderator and clerk of the Permanent Judicial Commission in order that a determination may be made whether the accused should be placed on a leave of absence until resolution of the allegations.

When the Stated Clerk receives a written statement of an alleged offense from a person who is not a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that contains sufficient information to allow investigation and to suggest that an

offense has been committed, the Stated Clerk shall follow the provisions of D-10.0103, report that an offense has been alleged, and refer the statement immediately to an investigating committee.

In addition, the Stated Clerk shall notify:

1. Insurance carriers to the extent the Presbytery's insurance policies require such notice be given;
2. Appropriate local, state, or federal authorities if the allegations involve the abuse of a minor child or other criminal behavior, and the Stated Clerk is unable to confirm that such reports have not been made.

#### **4. Responsibilities of Commission on Church Professionals and the Commission on Congregational Life**

(a) When the Commission on Church Professionals (CCP) and/or the Commission on Congregational Life (CCL) receives information of conflict within a congregation or session as the result of rumors or the disclosure of allegations of sexual misconduct:

- The CCL, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter, should contact the pastor and session and/or congregation (if a congregation is involved) in order to determine what resources are necessary to meet the session or congregation's needs.
- A representative (s) from CCL should make clear that it is not an investigating committee. Any person who indicates that they have evidence or information regarding an alleged offense should be referred to the Stated Clerk.
- CCL should seek to ensure that all involved understand the disciplinary process and the Presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy.
- They further should seek to ascertain whether conflict exists within the session or congregation and develop a plan for addressing such conflict to the extent possible while the disciplinary process proceeds.
- If the accused seeks pastoral care, representation or assistance, he or she should be referred to the Executive Presbyter and/or CCP.

(b) When an alleged victim requests pastoral or counseling assistance from the Presbytery:

- CCP and/or the Executive Presbyter should evaluate how pastoral or counseling services can best be provided to the alleged victim, and his/her family.

(c) When a Minister of Word and Sacrament agrees to or is placed on a leave of absence during the pendency of charges of sexual misconduct:

- CCL and/or the Executive Presbyter should contact the session in order to determine what resources are necessary to meet the session and congregation's needs. CCL should seek to ensure that the short and middle term pastoral needs of the congregation are filled.

- CCL should further seek to ascertain whether conflict exists within the session or congregation and develop a plan for addressing such conflict to the extent possible while the disciplinary process and leave of absence proceeds.
- (d) When a Minister of Word and Sacrament renounces jurisdiction or dies while charges of sexual misconduct are pending:
- CCL should contact the session in order to determine what resources are necessary to meet the session and congregation's needs.
  - CCP or CCL, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter, should seek to contact the accuser and/or alleged victims and family and determine what resources are necessary to meet their needs (e.g. referral to counseling, advocacy) for as long as necessary.
  - If CCP or CCL determines that further information gathering is necessary to secure the healing of the congregation or alleged victims, it may engage in such information gathering or recommend that the Presbytery appoint an administrative commission to gather such information, but shall make clear to all that the purpose of such information gathering is to secure the resolution of conflict and healing of the congregation and victims, and not to determine the guilt of the accused.

## **5. Record Keeping**

CCP and CCL shall keep careful records of their proceedings, including accounts of actions, minutes of deliberations, and conversations with all affected persons, copies of the initial report, correspondence, and copies of reports to the governing body or entity. They will maintain the records until the matter has been resolved. At that time, the records shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk where they will be marked "confidential" and securely stored. There shall be no separate or duplicate records kept of the material that has been turned over to the governing body as a result of CCP or CCL work.

## **VII. UPDATING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT**

Annually, the Commission on Church Professionals, in consultation with the Commission on Congregational Life shall designate a task force to see that this Policy and Procedure Statement is in compliance with all constitutional requirements of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and all requirements of the laws of the State of Ohio. Any necessary changes shall be reported to CCP for submission to the Presbytery for approval.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure Statement.

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of "The Presbytery of Scioto Valley Sexual Misconduct and Procedure Statement," last amended by the Presbytery xxxx xx. 2018.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Attachment 7: Gracious Separation Agreement Revisions**

PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY  
Commission for Congregational Life

### **POLICY FOR GRACIOUS SEPARATION OF CONGREGATIONS FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY**

Approved by the Presbytery

November 15, 2011

Addendum Added May 15, 2012

Revised September 5, 2018

#### **Introduction**

As Christians, as the Church, we embody Christ in the here and now. We celebrate Christ's resurrection. We rejoice in the living, Triune God. Our hands, our hearts, our minds, and our spirits become the vessels, the instruments, that God calls and uses to share God's blessings and love with each other and the whole of creation.

*"On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member that there may be no dissension with the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Cor. 12:22-27)*

*"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities but is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Cor. 12:4-7)*

When disagreement, sometimes vehement, pulls at the community, God is still with us. As God's children, we are gathered up and asked to extend forgiveness and strive for reconciliation. We are to share with one another the gift of grace, which we have been so generously and freely given. We are to turn the other cheek. The merciful and the peacemakers will be and are blessed.

We, individually and corporately, stand in the need of grace. Differences that are untended can become chasms that divide us. As Presbyterians, we have struggled for decades with certain theological and biblical teachings, and we realize that persons of strong faith and understanding can differ in their understandings of Scripture and in ministry practice. These differences can divide us. We hope that what we hold in common—namely, faith in the living God, Father, Son, and Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; a deep and rich shared history; and a

dedication to the great ends of the church—will sustain us in communion with one another. We have much to learn from one another. The Spirit is always at work within us, calling us to listen in all humility to one another. We fervently pray to sustain the connectional nature of the faith community called the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *"With God, all things are possible."* (Matthew 19:26)

If a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) desires to leave the denomination, God weeps for and with us as the body of Christ. The body's gifts are separated from each other; both the congregation and the denomination suffer the loss. To reconcile and to heal is our deepest hope and prayer.

Being members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and brothers and sisters in Christ, we are called to reconciliation and unity. A congregation's request to separate from a presbytery and denomination is of great import and must be considered with compassion, thoughtfulness, and prayer. Our hope is that there may be a way to continue together. We in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley stand with open hands and hearts, always ready to seek a path to reconciliation.

Together, we are the body of Christ; we are God's Church; we are the instruments of the Holy Spirit. As a presbytery, we pray for unity, but commit ourselves to working with our congregations through any separation in the name of the God, who so graciously loves us and gives the gift of life to us as a denomination, as churches, and as individuals.

Gracious separation requires mutual good faith and recognition of the constitutional principles that bind a congregation to its presbytery. Taking unilateral actions to separate a congregation from its presbytery violates an officer's ordination vows and is inconsistent with the invocation of this policy. All actions of members, sessions, and presbyteries shall conform to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Accordingly, nothing in this document attempts to limit or supersede the Constitution. The Book of Order provides the guiding principles under which we operate

#### Guiding Principles

- Our denomination is a connectional church. The particular congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) wherever they are, taken collectively, constitute one church, called the church. [F-3.0201]
- Powers not mentioned in the Constitution are reserved to the presbyteries. [F-3.0209]
- Presbyteries have the authority to divide, dismiss, or dissolve congregations. [G-3.0303]
- The presbytery can dismiss a congregation only to another Reformed body. According to Item 07-13, approved by the 218th General Assembly (2008), the dismissing presbytery must determine that the organization of the

receiving presbytery is conformed to the doctrines and order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The presbytery may not delegate this task. Presbyteries should consider such questions as whether the receiving presbytery is

- doctrinally consistent with the essentials of Reformed theology as understood by the presbytery;
  - governed by a polity that is consistent in form and structure with that of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);
  - of sufficient permanence to offer reasonable assurance that the congregation is not being dismissed to de facto independence.
- When a congregation is interested in exploring dismissal to another Reformed body, there is often a division in the congregation that may have developed over a period of years. The *Book of Order* addresses the issue of the property of a congregation in schism:

*If there is a schism within the membership of a congregation and the presbytery is unable to effect a reconciliation or a division into separate congregations within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the presbytery shall determine if one of the factions is entitled to the property because it is identified by the presbytery as the true church within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This determination does not depend upon which faction received the majority vote within the congregation at the time of the schism. [G-4.0207]*

- Before considering dismissal, the presbytery must determine whether a loyalist faction exists that is "sufficient in [number] and dedication to continue a church in its connectional relationship within this denomination." (*Strong and Bagby v Synod of Mid-South, PCUS, 1976, pp. 92-99*)
  - "Furthermore, the assumption that only loyalist minorities of directly affected congregations have interests requiring protection in this context is also wide of the mark." (*Strong and Bagby v Synod of Mid-South, PCUS, 1976, pp. 92-99*)
- All church property is held in trust for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (the Trust Clause). [G-4.0203]
    - The Trust Clause "requires an individual determination of the facts and circumstances related to dismissal of any church rather than a set formula." (*NYC Presbytery v. McGee et al, GA PJC 221-08, 2014*)
    - When considering dismissal, "an 'individual assessment and valuation of the church's unique situation, finances, history, spiritual needs and financial needs'" is required. (*NYC Presbytery v. McGee et al, GA PJC 221-08, 2014*)

- When considering dismissal, the witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the community must be considered. The presbytery may choose to retain the property for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its continuing ministry in the community.
- A congregation must have written permission from the presbytery
  - To sell or encumber any of its property.
  - To lease any property for more than five years. [G-4.0206]
- It is the duty of the presbytery, each congregation, and each Presbyterian to follow the biblical model of conciliation and mediation rather than seek judicial solutions to church disagreements. [D-1.0103]

#### Additional Guidance

Presbyteries are required to consider questions concerning church property in light of the unique circumstances of each situation. They are called to use good judgment and all appropriate resources to the glory of God.

- All property (including real and personal property, accounts, and investments) held by congregations or by the presbytery is held in trust for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The presbytery cannot ignore, abdicate, or delegate its stewardship responsibilities. The presbytery has the sole discretion to determine the terms and conditions of dismissal, should that be necessary.
- A congregation that seeks to utilize this policy acknowledges that it is subject to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including the Trust Clause, unless and until it is dismissed by the presbytery.
- Any attempt to modify a congregation's articles of incorporation, bylaws, regulations, or deeds to facilitate actions that are contrary to the Constitution shall disqualify a congregation from using this policy to gain dismissal to another Reformed body.
- Neither a session nor a congregation may act unilaterally to separate from the presbytery or the denomination. Yet, the Constitution allows a proper request to explore dismissal. Any actions taken by a session or congregation to vote to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are out of order unless requested by the presbytery. Although a congregation or session may engage in a discernment process to determine whether its members wish to discuss requesting dismissal to another Reformed body, such discernment must be accompanied by a clear communication that neither the session nor the congregation may act unilaterally to separate from the presbytery or the denomination. If a session determines that a significant portion of the congregation is interested in further exploring dismissal, the presbytery shall be advised and shall be permitted to participate in the discernment process from that point forward.
- Only the presbytery has the authority to dismiss one of its congregations to another Reformed body. The presbytery will not dismiss a congregation to a



Reformed body that does not acknowledge that only the presbytery has the power to dismiss a congregation to it.

- Before any actions are considered, the presbytery must consult with the leadership and membership of the congregation and assist in presenting information that is true, fair, and balanced.
- In the case of a schism within the congregation, the presbytery may consider dividing the congregation. This division would allow one of the resulting congregations to remain a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the other one to be dismissed to another Reformed body. An appropriate division of property would be part of the plan for dividing the congregation.
- It is the responsibility of everyone to seek a peaceful resolution of all differences and to achieve reconciliation where possible. These actions further the six "Great Ends of the Church" [F-1.0304]. Civil litigation will be avoided unless it is deemed to be the only way to defend the Constitution.

### Process

When the session of a congregation notifies the Commission for Congregational Life or the executive presbyter that the congregation is experiencing schism or is in a state of dissatisfaction so that it is considering separation from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (the Presbytery) will take the following actions:

1. At the request of the Commission for Congregational Life and with the approval of the Presbytery, the moderator of the Presbytery will appoint an administrative commission to work with the congregation. The commission will be charged
  - a. to establish communication with the staff and the congregation,
  - b. to establish communication with other parties having a stake in the future of the congregation,
  - c. to work to understand the congregation's concerns and actions, and
  - d. to make any recommendations that it deems necessary to the Presbytery for further action.
2. Powers granted to the administrative commission, unless otherwise specified, include the authority
  - a. to convene boards and committees of the congregation, including its session;
  - b. to interview pastors, staff, leaders, and members of the congregation;
  - c. to interview other parties having a stake in the future of the congregation;
  - d. to review pertinent church records;
  - e. to call congregational meetings and to provide a moderator and clerk for such meetings;
  - f. to recommend to the Presbytery any action concerning the division or dissolution of the congregation or the dismissal of the congregation to

- another Reformed body and to recommend an appropriate disposition of all property that the congregation holds in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and
- g. to request other powers, as necessary.
3. The commission shall have the authority to consult with presbytery, synod, and General Assembly staff. It may retain legal counsel and consult with appropriate committees and commissions of the Presbytery in order to do its work.
  4. Failure of a congregation, session, or pastor to cooperate fully with the administrative commission shall constitute a rejection of the process of gracious separation.
  5. The commission will usually complete its job in nine months but may petition the Presbytery for additional time.

### Dismissing a Congregation

If the Presbytery determines that it will dismiss a congregation to another Reformed body, it must determine the disposition of the property (real and personal) that the congregation holds in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If the Presbytery has determined that the congregation is in schism and has divided the congregation with the intent of dismissing one of the resulting congregations to another Reformed body, the plan for dividing the congregation will include the details of how to divide the property.

When no viable “true church within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” [G-4.0207] or continuing ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in the community exists, the departing congregation will be dismissed with the property that it holds in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), subject to the following conditions:

- The Trust Clause requires all property (including personal property, accounts, and investments held by a congregation) to be for the “use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).” The Presbytery is bound by this requirement. Yet, the departing congregation may be overly burdened by paying the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) full compensation for the value of the property. In this case, a lesser payment may be appropriate to allow the departing congregation to continue its ministries and missions without undue hardship.
- The Presbytery desires to act graciously toward the departing congregation as it balances various, sometimes conflicting, interests and responsibilities. When the departing congregation will be dismissed with property, the administrative commission will negotiate clear and specific terms. The terms of the agreement will tangibly recognize the congregation’s and Presbytery’s history of ministry together and will bless one another for their future ministries.

Although every case must be assessed individually, these guidelines will help the administrative commission during its assessment:

- Because congregational records are property of the denomination, the records will be brought up-to-date and relinquished to the Presbytery to be reviewed and retained.
- Consideration will be given to any denominational grants made to the congregation, either to plant the congregation or to further its mission and ministry.
- Denominational loans will be repaid prior to release.
- If the congregation is not current in its payments of per capita, it will reimburse the Presbytery for the per capita that the Presbytery paid on its behalf to the Synod of the Covenant and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) within the last five years.
- Subject to all the previous conditions regarding the terms of the property agreement (including the desire to avoid undue hardship), the following absolute minimums will apply:
  - 5 times the current years assessed per capita
  - 5% of total assets (cash, investments, property, and equipment)
  - 20% of the prior year's actual offerings

The setting of such minimum terms shall not be interpreted as a standard for compensation upon dismissal and shall in no way relieve the Presbytery from its constitutional obligation to assess reasonable compensation for property held in trust.

- Reasonable terms of payment will be negotiated (such as being paid over three years with a five-year maximum). Those terms must ensure that the departing congregation's payment is properly secured prior to its departure.
- Dismissal will only be made to another Reformed body that recognizes that only the Presbytery can authorize dismissal of a congregation from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Past actions by a Reformed body in receiving a congregation not properly dismissed by the Presbytery will preclude dismissal to that body absent acts of repentance and compensation by such a Reformed body.

When determining the terms under which it will approve dismissing a congregation to another Reformed body, these minimums in no way bind the Presbytery or attempt to supersede its constitutional obligation to assess the full value of the assets, real and personal, held by the congregation in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

## Conclusion

It is the goal of this policy and of the Presbytery to work with its constituent congregations in peace for the glory of God.

*"Where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."  
– Matthew 18:20*

## **Attachment 8: Policy on Sale of Church Property**

Policy on Sale of Church Property  
Adapted by Scioto Valley Presbytery, September 18, 2018

[Responsibility of Commission for Presbytery Operations]

### 1)Rationale

"The property of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), of its councils and entities, and of its congregations, is a tool for the accomplishment of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world" (Book of Order (BoO) G-4.02). "All property held by or for a congregation, a presbytery,...is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)" (BoO G-4.0203) and "whenever a congregation is formally dissolved by the presbytery, or has become extinct.." such property "may be sold or disposed of as the presbytery may direct..." (BoO G4-02.05). Furthermore "a congregation shall not sell, mortgage, or otherwise encumber any of its real property and it shall not acquire real property...without written permission of the presbytery..." (BoO G-4.0206). However, the Book of Order lacks guidance to Presbyteries regarding the use of funds by churches from sale of property when the church remains in operation, other than the application of G-4.0203 to all assets of a congregation. The purpose of this policy is to guide the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) with regard to the use of funds from the sale of church property by a continuing congregation.

### 1) Conditions for Approval

If a congregation is NOT formally dissolving or become extinct, a Plan for Sale of any property including a Plan for Utilization of the Funds from the sale must be presented to and approved by the Commission for Presbytery Operations (CPO) prior to proceeding with any sale. Conditions for approval of a plan include:

- a) funds generated from the sale must be placed in a separately identifiable account, separate from other funds of the church. This must allow for the accounting for all income and expenditures for this account.
- b) A plan must be in place for utilization of the funds consistent with the mission of the church. This may include:
  - i) Reinvestment in real property to support the current and future mission of the church
  - ii) Support of normal, non-personnel operating expenses of the church (i.e. worship space or other program rental, maintenance or improvement of other real estate)
  - iii) Ministry or mission(s) of or designated by the church and endorsed by Presbytery.

2) Reporting

Churches establishing such funds shall report annually, to CPO through the Treasurer of the Presbytery, regarding income and expenses for the fund until such time as the fund is dissipated.

3) If following the establishment of such a fund, the congregation is formally dissolved by the Presbytery or becomes extinct, the fund shall become property of the Presbytery.

## **Attachment 9: Presbytery Audit Report**

On file at [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org)