**Mission and Vision Statement**

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.

November 2012

**The Presbytery of Scioto Valley  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

249th Stated Meeting

Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church

2 West Hunter Street, Logan, Ohio 43138



[www. loganfirstpres.org](http://www.loganfirstpres.org)

General Notes for this Meeting

1. The offering for this meeting will go to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Please make checks payable to Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

1. Requests to include audio-visual presentations at the Presbytery Meeting should be addressed to the stated clerk, Sally Robinson at [statedclerk@psvonline.org](mailto:statedclerk@psvonline.org)
2. Contact Dagmar Romage at [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org) or 614-847-0565: To register an excused absence from the meeting; to reserve display space; to arrange for childcare at the meeting site, and to obtain a printed copy of the Commissioner Hand-Book.

**Driving Directions** to First Presbyterian Church, 2 West Hunter Street, Logan, OH

Tel: 740- 385-2242

From the north, take US Route 33 south to Logan. Take the State Route 93 exit (which is a left turn) downtown into Logan. State Route 93 becomes Mulberry Street. Turn left onto Hunter Street (fourth traffic light) and go 1 block to the church located at 2 W. Hunter Street, which is at the intersection of W. Hunter and N. Market Streets.

**STAY CONNECTED**

If you would like to join the email distribution list for the *Weekly E-Mail* News, the Presbytery digital newsletter go to [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org) and fill in the box in the left column, or email Dagmar at [dagmar@psvonline.org](mailto:dagmar@psvonline.org).

Follow the Presbytery on Facebook. [Like us on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/You.R.Presbytery) Search for **PSV Congregational Life.** Hit the Like button.

Look for forms, reports, and important web links at [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org) .

Contents

[Commissioners Orientation 4](#_Toc530987939)

[Guidelines for Participating in Presbytery Meetings 5](#_Toc530987940)

[Common Abbreviations and Acronyms 5](#_Toc530987941)

[The Presbytery of Scioto Valley(PSV) Stated Meetings for 2019 5](#_Toc530987942)

[Seeking to be Faithful Together: 6](#_Toc530987943)

[AGENDA 7](#_Toc530987944)

[CONSENT AGENDA 9](#_Toc530987945)

[Stated Clerk’s Report 11](#_Toc530987946)

[Review of Sessional Records from 2017 12](#_Toc530987947)

[Necrology Report of Ruling Elders who transitioned in 2017 15](#_Toc530987948)

[Commission for Presbytery Operations 18](#_Toc530987949)

[Treasurer’s Report 19](#_Toc530987950)

[2019 Proposed Budget 19](#_Toc530987951)

[Commission for Church Professionals 20](#_Toc530987952)

[SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT 22](#_Toc530987953)

[Commission for Congregational Life 30](#_Toc530987954)

[POLICY FOR GRACIOUS SEPARATION OF CONGREGATIONS 31](#_Toc530987955)

[Introduction 31](#_Toc530987956)

[Guiding Principles 32](#_Toc530987957)

[Additional Guidance 34](#_Toc530987958)

[Process 35](#_Toc530987959)

[Dismissing a Congregation 36](#_Toc530987960)

[Conclusion 38](#_Toc530987961)

[Dismissal Litany for Gracious Separation 39](#_Toc530987962)

[Commission for Nurture and Outreach 40](#_Toc530987963)

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Commissioners Orientation So, This Is Your First Presbytery Meeting!  As a new commissioner to the Presbytery, we welcome you! The information below is provided for your orientation to the presbytery meeting and its activities. The meetings of Presbytery are designed to provide opportunities for the community to worship and discuss issues together, as well as do the necessary Presbyter business. Please read the introductory items in the handbook. These items contain information about parking, childcare, directions to the meeting, how to make motions if you wish, and information on parliamentary process.  When you arrive, look for the registration area, which opens prior to the meeting or any pre-Presbytery forums. Commissioners will be asked to register their attendance by signing next to the church they are representing. Commissioners will receive a name badge which entitles them to voice and vote during the meeting. Visitors are also asked to sign in and receive a guest tag. There will also be a table with additional handouts not submitted in time to be published in the Commissioner Handbook.  There may be one or more pre-Presbytery forums which will usually begin one hour before the Presbytery meeting. The forums are small group opportunities to discuss topics coming before the Presbytery, to explore ministry tools, to share best practices, or to engage in the ministry of prayer for the Presbytery. There will be directions to the forums. Also available during the registration time may be a number of displays.  Presbytery meets from 3:30 to approximately 7:30 p.m. The meeting will begin with worship designed by the Presbytery worship committee. A worship bulletin will be in the registration area. There will be an offering which will be designated for one of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seasonal special offerings.  Following worship, the Presbytery moderator will   * convene the meeting and invite greetings from the host pastor, * ask the stated clerk if there is a quorum present, * ask for the introduction of new ruling elders, teaching elders, and corresponding members (members of other presbyteries, congregations, or organizations, * call for the adoption of the agenda for the meeting, and * ask the stated clerk if there is any new business not previously included in the published agenda.   Most of the business for the Presbytery to consider is contained in this handbook. The materials are divided into several sections for easy access. The sections are arranged according to the Commissions and reporting entities of the Presbytery, not the order of the agenda. The sections are:   * Consent Agenda -- items being reported to the Presbytery, including Commission actions concluded by standing rule on behalf of the Presbytery. (Any presbyter may ask that a Consent Agenda item be removed for discussion and action during the responsible Commission’s reporting time or at the end of the meeting.) | | |
| * Commission for Congregational Life * Commission for Church Professionals * Commission for Presbytery Operations * Commission for Nurture and Outreach * Coordinating Team | * Committee for Presbytery Nominations * Committee for Overtures and Amendments * Committee for Representation * Permanent Judicial Commission * Other Entities * Information | |
| Guidelines for Participating in Presbytery Meetings  1. When speaking at Presbytery, please use the microphone and speak to the Moderator not the assembly. 2. Introduce yourself, by stating your name and your church or your position. 3. The parliamentary authority is *Robert’s Rule of Order Newly Revised, 11th Edition* (2011), unless the *Book of Order* (Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Constitution Part II) or the Standing Rules of the Presbytery provide otherwise. 4. Motions presented by commissions or committees do not require a second. 5. Each speaker during debate has up to three minutes to address the issue to which they are speaking. The moderator may give a 30-second warning, so that speakers may conclude their remarks. 6. The moderator will normally alternate between speeches for and against the motion before the assembly. 7. The maker of the motion or commission/committee presenter may make the final speech. 8. Only enrolled commissioners (ruling elder commissioners, teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders, certified Christian Educators in active service, and ruling elders serving on commissions) are authorized to vote. Corresponding members are entitled to address the Presbytery. Visitors may be invited by the moderator to address the Presbytery. 9. Any substantive motion (new, amendment, substitute) made by a commissioner in the assembly must be given to the stated clerk in writing, at the time the motion is made. 10. Any new business must be placed in the hands of the stated clerk prior to the beginning of the meeting.  Common Abbreviations and Acronyms BOP Board of Pensions CCL Commission for Congregational Life CCP Commission for Church Professionals CNO Commission for Nurture and Outreach CPO Commission for Presbytery Operations CRE Commissioned Ruling Elder CT Coordinating Team FDN Presbyterian Foundation GA General Assembly HR Honorably Retired (teaching elder) PCUSA Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) PILP Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program PMA Presbyterian Mission Agency PSV Presbytery of Scioto Valley PWUM Presbyterian Westside Urban Ministry RE Ruling Elder TE Teaching Elder | | |
| The Presbytery of Scioto Valley(PSV) Stated Meetings for 2019 February 19, 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. – Worthington Presbyterian Church  May 21, 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. - First Presbyterian Church, London  September 17, 3:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. – Liberty Presbyterian Church, Delaware  November 19, 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. - TBA  Special meetings may be called at the request of, or with the concurrence of, two teaching elders and two ruling elders representing different churches. | | |
| Seeking to be Faithful Together: **Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement**   * In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will… * **G**ive them a hearing…listen before we answer (*John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13)*   **1 Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;**   * we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange, * we will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others.   **2 Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.**  **3 State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, to be sure we understand each other.**   * **S**peak the truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15)*   **4 Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus’ teachings.**  **5 Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people’s motives, intelligence or integrity;**   * we will not engage in name-calling or labelling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion.   **6 Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.**  Maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace (*Ephesians 4:3)*  **7 Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.**  **8 Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;**   * we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.   **9 Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:**   * urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously; * seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement; * be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience; * abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with these Guidelines.   **10 Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God’s grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.**  Adopted by the 204th General Assembly (1992) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for use by sessions and congregations | |

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| **The Presbytery of Scioto Valley Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**  249th Stated Meeting  Tuesday, November 27, 3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.  First Presbyterian Church, 2 W. Hunter Street, Logan, OH |
| Moderator: Elder James Boggs |
| **Mission and Vision Statement**  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.  November 2012 |
| The Commission Handbook is available online at [www.psvonline.org](http://www.psvonline.org)  “Supplemental Reports” refers to papers available the day of the meeting in the Registration area  NEW BUSINESS items are to be presented to the stated clerk prior to the convening of the meeting. |
| AGENDA **The Presbytery Is Called By The Holy Spirit – 3:30 p.m.**    **Convening the Meeting**   1. Declaration of a Quorum and Formation of the Roll – Rev. Sally Robinson 2. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda 3. Greetings from Host Pastor – Rev. Elizabeth R. Wagner   **To Worship God**  The Word will be preached by Moderator Elder Jim Boggs. We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, hear the Necrology report from 2017, install the incoming moderator and vice-moderator and receive the Joy Gift offering.  **To Steward Christ’s Work**  Introduction of Guests, New Commissioners, Seating of Corresponding Members   1. Staff Reports   Rev. Dr. Jeannie Harsh, Executive Presbyter  Rev. Sally Robinson, Stated Clerk   1. 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.)*   1. Consent Agenda   Commissioner Handbook  *(The* Consent Agenda *contains items that 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 and will be scheduled during the responsible Commission or Committee’s reporting time or at the end of the meeting.)*  **To Celebrate Christ’s Mission**   1. Report from Synod Meeting November 1-2, 2018 – Rev. Leland Platt 2. Report on the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy – Rev. Rick Nutt 3. Commission for Presbytery Operations – Dr. Robert Gustafson, CRE 4. Report of Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery 5. Financial Report to date 6. Second Reading of 2019 Budget 7. Meeting of the Corporation for the purpose of electing 2019 officers.   B R E A K   1. Commission for Church Professionals—Rev. Ann Melick 2. Report of Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery 3. Welcoming of New Ministers of Word and Sacrament 4. Examination for Candidacy – Rev. Todd Tracy   Kelsey Holderman  Steven Hong   1. Recognition of Honorable Retirements   Rev. Rebecca J. Tollefson  Rev. Sydney V. Jackson  Rev. Marion Redding   1. Second Reading – Revision of Sexual Misconduct Policy 2. Announcements 3. Commission for Congregational Life – Rev. Dr. Jeri-Lynne Bouterse 4. Report of Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery 5. Second Reading – Gracious Separation Agreement Policy 6. New Albany Administrative Commission – Elder Dr. Mark Johnson 7. Commission for Nurture and Outreach – Rev. Mary Gause 8. Report of Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery 9. Announcements 10. Nominating Committee – Elder Carla Mavis 11. Coordinating Team – Elder Richard Glass   **To Embody Christ’s Love**  Announcements, Invitations, Joys, and Concerns for the Community  Closing Prayer and Benediction**.** |
| Next Presbytery Meeting  3:30 p.m. – February 19, 2019  Worthington Presbyterian Church |

# CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Review and approval of minutes** from 248th Stated Meeting at the First Presbyterian Church of Grove City, Ohio, September 18, 2018.
2. **Dissolution of Investigating Committee**
   1. The Investigating Committee formed by the Moderator at the stated meeting of the Presbytery on February 20, 2018, after a thorough investigation, found no reason to file charges (D-10.0202a), and so is dissolved with our thanks and gratitude for their service as of this stated meeting of the presbytery, November 27, 2018.

# Stated Clerk’s Report

1. Review of Presbytery Minutes by the Synod of the Covenant

The minutes of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley for 2017 were read April 30- May 1, 2018, at the Synod Office in Maumee, Ohio. They were approved with exception. There was no report of the review of Session minutes or records. This is rectified in this report, item C.

1. Rules of Discipline D-5.0206.b

*The stated clerk of the council body shall keep a current roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years. The names shall be arranged alphabetically within classes beginning with the most recent class. Whenever the permanent judicial commission reports its inability to obtain a quorum, the stated clerk shall immediately select, by rotation from that roster, a sufficient number of former members of the permanent judicial commission to constitute a quorum. The stated clerk shall report the roster annually to the council.*

Current Members

(Key: M – Minister of Word and Sacrament; E – Ruling Elder)

Class of 2023 Kimball Carey (E)

Patricia Moats (M)

Justice Ofosuhene (M)

Class of 2021 Alice K. Hite (E)

Patti Nussle (E)

Richard M. Wallar (E)

Class of 2019 Acheampong Boamah (E)

Amy House (M)

John S Jones (E)

Past Members

Class of 2017 Todd Book (E)

Mark Stephen Merold (M)

JoAnn Titus (E)

Class of 2015 Charlotte O’Neil (M)

Margaret Ann Samuels (E)

James A. Wilson (E)

Class of 2013 Judith M. Hoffhine (M)

Ginny Shanda (E)

Rudolph W. Smith (M)

## Review of Sessional Records from 2017

| **Church** | **Date Reviewed** | **Without Exception** | **With Exception** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Amanda |  |  |  |
| Amesville/Stewart New England |  |  |  |
| Athens Alexander | 8/13/2017 | Y |  |
| Athens First |  |  |  |
| Bloomingburg First | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Bremen-Bethel | 8/6/2017 | Y |  |
| Chillicothe First |  |  |  |
| Circleville | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Columbus Bethany | 9/17/2017 |  | Y |
| Columbus Boulevard |  |  |  |
| Columbus Broad Street | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Columbus Brookwood | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Columbus Christ | 8/5/2017 | Y |  |
| Columbus Covenant | 11/28/2017 | Y |  |
| Columbus Crestview | 9/17/2017 |  | Y |
| Columbus Eastminster | 8/6/2017 |  | Y |
| Columbus Fairmoor | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Columbus Glen Echo | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Columbus Grace Community Fellowship |  |  |  |
| Columbus Highlands | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Columbus Hoge Memorial | 8/5/2017 | Y |  |
| Columbus Indianola |  |  |  |
| Columbus Korean |  |  |  |
| Columbus Old First |  |  |  |
| Columbus Oromia Evangelical |  |  |  |
| Columbus Overbrook | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Columbus Ramseyer |  |  |  |
| Columbus Shady Lane | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Columbus St. Andrew | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Columbus Westminster | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Delaware Concord | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Delaware First | 9/17/2017 |  | Y |
| Delaware Liberty | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Delaware Old Stone | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Delaware West Berlin |  |  |  |
| Dublin | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Frankfort |  |  |  |
| Frankfort Concord |  |  |  |
| Fredericktown First | 9/24/2017 |  | Y |
| Gahanna Mifflin | 9/24/2017 |  | Y |
| Gallipolis First | 8/13/2017 |  | Y |
| Galloway |  |  |  |
| Granville First | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Greenfield Pisgah Mt. Pleasant | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Grove City First |  |  |  |
| Groveport |  |  |  |
| Harrisonville |  |  |  |
| Hilliard |  |  |  |
| Homer | 9/24/2017 |  | Y |
| Iberia | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Ironton First |  |  |  |
| Jackson First | 8/13/2017 | Y |  |
| Johnstown |  |  |  |
| Kingston Mt. Pleasant |  |  |  |
| Kingston Whisler |  |  |  |
| Lancaster First | 8/5/2017 | Y |  |
| Lithopolis Bloom | 8/5/2017 | Y |  |
| Logan First | 11/28/2017 | Y |  |
| London First | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Marion Forest Lawn |  |  |  |
| Marion Lee Street |  |  |  |
| Marysville First | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| McArthur | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Middleport First | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Mt. Gilead | 9/24/2017 | Y |  |
| Mt. Vernon |  |  |  |
| Nelsonville First | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| New Albany Presbyterian |  |  |  |
| Newark First | 9/24/2017 |  | Y |
| Newark Hanover | 8/5/2017 | Y |  |
| Newark Second | 8/5/2017 | Y |  |
| Newark Woodside |  |  |  |
| Oak Hill |  |  |  |
| Oak Hill Bethel |  |  |  |
| Oak Hill Horeb |  |  |  |
| Oak Hill Moriah | 8/13/2017 | Y |  |
| Oak Hill Sardis | 8/13/2017 | Y |  |
| Ostrander | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Pataskala First |  |  |  |
| Pataskala Jersey |  |  |  |
| Pataskala Outville | 8/5/2017 | Y |  |
| Pickerington Prince of Peace | 11/28/2017 | Y |  |
| Plain City |  |  |  |
| Portsmouth First | 8/13/2017 | Y |  |
| Portsmouth Second |  |  |  |
| Reynoldsburg First |  |  |  |
| Reynoldsburg Parkview | 8/5/2017 |  | Y |
| Sedalia Midway | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Sunbury Condit | 9/24/2017 | Y |  |
| Utica | 9/24/2017 |  | Y |
| Wash. C.H. McNair | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Washington Court House | 11/28/2017 | Y |  |
| Waverly First | 9/25/2017 |  | Y |
| Wellston First |  |  |  |
| West Rushville/Rushcreek | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Westerville Central College | 9/17/2017 | Y |  |
| Westerville First | 9/17/2017 |  | Y |
| Worthington | 11/28/2017 |  | Y |
| Wilksville First | 8/13/2017 | Y |  |
| **Number of Congregations** | | **35** | **27** |

## Necrology Report of Ruling Elders who transitioned in 2017

**Congregation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Ruling Elder**

Athens, First William Creighton II  
 Nicolas Dinos  
 Lyle McGeoch   
 Ruth Nostrant  
 Ruth Richey  
 Martha Scott

Albany, Alexander James McHarg   
 Willa Willard

Circleville Franklin Estes

Columbus, Bethany Thelma Brown  
 Mary Winbush  
 Margaret Prillerman

Columbus, Brookwood Charles Walz

Columbus, Covenant Robert Bartels  
 Philip Hall  
 Elizabeth Livingston  
 Dan Rashe  
 Rachel Timmons  
 David Ulry

Columbus, Crestview Shirley Fairchild  
 Mary Kay Shivley

Columbus, Fairmoor Mary S. Sheldon

Columbus, Hoge Memorial Patricia Newman  
 William Dorn

Columbus, Overbrook Judith Sanford  
 Edsel Cotter  
 Martha Boydston  
 Jane Shaffer  
 William Gray  
 Ruth Froede

***Necrology Report of Ruling Elders who transitioned in 2017 (2)***

**Congregation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ruling Elder**

Columbus, St. Andrew Mary Elizabeth Jones

Delaware, First Rex Norman Sprague  
 Lois Kime Smith  
 Doris Cannon

Delaware, Liberty Hope North

Dublin Jean Meadows Life

Greenfield, Pisgah-Mt. Pleasant Earl Monroe

Grandview Heights, Boulevard Mary Lou Wright  
 Ruth Smith  
 Mary Harris  
 Paula DeWeese

Granville, First Fran Bellman  
Ruth Burgoon  
Rainey Taylor  
Kathleen Wallace  
Calvin Prine  
Sally Wiper

Groveport Michael Sutton

Iberia Donald Sipes

Ironton, First Edna Kazee  
Ken Barber

Jackson, First Richard A. Shupe

Lancaster, First Leonard Hajost  
 Charles Bruce Haning  
 Paul Robert Wenger  
 Daniel Ochs  
 Jerry Wysong

London, First Richard Gerard  
 Donald Shoemaker  
 Helen Roddy

Mt. Gilead, First Eileen Gladden

***Necrology Report of Ruling Elders who transitioned in 2017 (3)***

**Congregation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ruling Elder**

Newark, First Eugene Lee Galbraith  
 Georgia Porter  
 Helen Marie Pryor  
 Paul W. Weekly  
 Russell Eugene Snelling

Newark, Hanover Gene Smith

Newark, Second Norma L. Bartlett

Ostrander Ron Hutchisson

Pickerington, Prince of Peace Janice Graver  
 Don Boyd

Portsmouth, First Barbara MacDonald

Reynoldsburg, Parkview William Bond Coulter

Sedalia, Midway Reynold Slaughter Jr.   
 Joseph Emerich

Sunbury, Condit James Albert Bargar

Washington Court House, First Marcia Bauman

Waverly, First Don Kerry

Westerville, Central College William Argo

Worthington Viola Anderson  
 Ruth Coons  
 Juanita Harrison  
 Harvey Minton  
 Braxton Tewart  
 Sue White

# Commission for Presbytery Operations

**Report on the Actions and Recommendations of the**

**Commission on Presbytery Operations**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Name | E mail | MWS/RE | Term |
| 2018 | William C. Acklin | wacklin@windstream.net | RE | 1st |
| 2018 | Bill Lucas | lucasb766@aol.com | RE | 1st |
| 2018 | Preston S. Shealy | Boulevardpastor@aol.com | MWS | 2nd |
| 2019 | Bob Gustafson | gustafson15@gmail.com | RE | 2nd |
| 2019 | Kristin Schutte | pastorkristin06@yahoo.com | MWS | 2nd |
| 2019 | Karen Zent | kmzent@aol.com | RE | 1st |
| 2020 | Sydney V. Jackson | skipjackson@indianolapres.org | MWS | 2nd |
| 2020 | Roger Au | rogerau@aol.com | MWS | 2nd |
| 2020 | Jim Hamilton | Jim.Hamilton55@gmail.com | RE | 1st |

*Pursuant to the authority granted by* The Book of Order, *“Form of Government” Chapter 3, (G-3.0307), Presbytery Standing Rule G-1, and Presbytery action, the Commission has taken the following actions:*

1. Report of Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery
2. Approved taking the Presbytery payment of $25,000 as part of separation agreement with New Albany Presbyterian Church from the Church Development Funds
3. Approved an independent evaluation of the Concord PC Home Road property
4. Approved the request of the Marysville Presbyterian Church to purchase and renovate property across the street from the church and approved a PLP loan for this purpose of $250,000.
5. Approved the sale of Concord Presbyterian Church Home Road property as presented in the contract for $192,500.
6. Financial Report to Date
7. Second Reading of the 2019 Budget
8. Meeting of the Corporation to elect 2019 officers

Financial Reports are included in the following supplemental documents:

## Treasurer’s Report

**October 2018**

Consolidated Balance Sheet

Detailed Balance Sheet

Consolidated Fund Activity Report

Treasurer’s Report for Operating Fund

Congregation Mission and Giving Per Capita Report

## 2019 Proposed Budget

Second Reading

# Commission for Church Professionals

**Report of the Actions and Recommendations of the**

**Commission on Church Professionals**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Name | E mail | MWS/RE | Term |
| 2018 | Sarah Juist | pastorsarahj@gmail.com | MWS | 1st |
| 2018 | L. Kae Merold | pastorkae@rrohio.com | MWS | 2nd |
| 2018 | Liz Wagner | firstprespastor@midohio.twcbc.com | MWS | 1st |
| 2019 | Mathias Akih | akigeh@yahoo.com | MWS | 2nd |
| 2019 | Ann Melick | annie@melick.net | MWS | 1st |
| 2019 | Carol Evans | willie.evans25@gmail.com | RE | 2nd |
| 2020 | Robert E. Martin | rmartin@athensfpc.org | MWS | 2nd |
| 2020 | Todd Tracy | tddtrcy@gmail.com | MWS | 2nd |
| 2020 | Deb Russell | 740-851-3633 | RE | 1st |

Pursuant to the authority granted by *The Book of Order,* “Form of Government” Chapter 3, (G-3.0307), Presbytery Standing Rule G-1, and Presbytery action, the Commission has taken the following actions:

1. Changes in Roll of Ministers

* Sydney Jackson from Indianola Presbyterian Church to Honorably Retired.
* Marion Redding from Member-at-Large to Honorably Retired.
* Elizabeth Maurath from member-at-large to McNair Memorial Presbyterian Church, Washington, Court House, Ohio
* Edwin Brinklow from Lake Michigan Presbytery to Transitional Pastor, Indianola Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio
* Shelley Wiley from Maumee Valley Presbytery to Transitional Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Ohio

1. Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery:
2. Concurred with the request of the session of the First Presbyterian Church, Waverly, Ohio, to renew the Transitional Pastor contract part time with Minister of Word and Sacrament Joseph Fields for a period of one year.
3. Concurred with the Session of the Galloway Presbyterian Church, Galloway, Ohio, to renew the part time Supply Contact of Minister of Word and Sacrament Thomas Shuman for a period of one year.
4. Concurred with the Session of the McNair Memorial Presbyterian Church, Washington Court House, Ohio, to enter into a part time Supply Contract with Minister of Word and Sacrament Elizabeth Maurath for a period of six months.
5. Concurred with the request of the Session of the Indianola Presbyterian Church, Columbus, Ohio, to enter into a full-time Transitional Contract with Minister of the Word and Sacrament Edwin A. Brinklow for a period of one year. Rev. Brinklow has been received into Scioto Valley Presbytery from Lake Michigan Presbytery.
6. Concurred with the request of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Ohio, to enter into a full-time Transitional Contract for a period of one year. Rev. Wiley has been received into Scioto Valley Presbytery from Maumee Valley Presbytery.
7. Received the Rev. Steven Garstad into Scioto Valley Presbytery from Cincinnati Presbytery.
8. Examination for Candidacy – Rev. Todd Tracy

* Kelsey Holderman
* Steven Hong

1. Recognition of Honorable Retirements

* Rev. Rebecca Tollefson recognized by Rev. Ann Palmerton
* Rev. Skip Jackson recognized by Rev. Charlotte O’Neil
* Rev. Marion Redding recognized by Rev. David Redding

1. Second Reading – Sexual Misconduct Policy
2. Announcements

## SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT

***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:

* I**nappropriate 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.
* **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:
  + submission is explicitly or implicitly made a condition of future employment, service or care;
  + 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
  + 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, RulingElders 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 report 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.

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**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.

***VI. UPDATING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT POLICY AND PROCEDURE STATEMENT***

Annually, the Commission on Church Professionals, in consultation with the Commission on Congregational Lifeshall 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 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:

# Commission for Congregational Life

**Report of the Actions and Recommendations of the**

**Commission on Congregational Life**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Name | E mail | MWS/RE | Term |
| 2018 | Jeff Schooley | fpcjeff82@gmail.com | MWS | 1st |
| 2018 | Jeri-Lynne Bouterse | jl@bouterse.com | MWS | 1st |
| 2018 | Natalie Alter | Natalie.alter@dla.mil | RE | 1st |
| 2019 | Allison Bauer | revatbauer@yahoo.com | MWS | 1st |
| 2019 | Marquell Segelken | dsegelke@columbusrr.com | RE | 1st |
| 2019 | Tom Rice | [trice@worthingtonpresbyterian.com](mailto:trice@worthingtonpresbyterian.com) | MWS | 1st |
| 2020 | Bob Armstrong | bob@hilliardpres.org | MWS | 2nd |
| 2020 | Mark Johnson | maj@prismnet.com | RE | 1st |
| 2020 | Charlotte O'Neil | revcharlotte@sbcglobal.net | MWS | 2nd |

*Pursuant to the authority granted by The Book of Order, “Form of Government” Chapter 3, (G-3.0307), Presbytery Standing Rule G-1, and Presbytery action, the Commission has taken the following actions:*

1. Actions Taken on Behalf of Presbytery
2. Formed an Administrative Commission appointed by the Moderator for the purpose of closing the Homer Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2018, at their request. The members include Honorably Retired Minister of Word and Sacrament Charlsie Ramsey, Ruling Elder, Pataskala First, Moderator Jim Boggs, Ruling Elder, Homer Church, Deborah Schiller, Ruling Elder, Fredericktown Church, Art Dremann, and Ruling Elder, Glen Echo Church, Bill Lucas.
3. Second Reading – Gracious Separation Agreement policy
4. Announcements

## POLICY FOR GRACIOUS SEPARATION OF CONGREGATIONS

**Commission on Congregational Life**

**FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO VALLEY**

Approved by the Presbytery

November 15, 2011

Addendum Added May 15, 2012

Revised May 24, 2018

**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* PJC221-08, *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* PJC221-08, *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 thanseek 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
   1. to establish communication with the staff and the congregation,
   2. to establish communication with other parties having a stake in the future of the congregation,
   3. to work to understand the congregation’s concerns and actions, and
   4. to make any recommendations that it deems necessary to the Presbytery for further action.
2. Powers granted tothe administrative commission, unless otherwise specified, include the authority
   1. to convene boards and committees of the congregation, including its session;
   2. to interview pastors, staff, leaders, and members of the congregation;
   3. to interview other parties having a stake in the future of the congregation;
   4. to review pertinent church records;
   5. to call congregational meetings and to provide a moderator and clerk for such meetings;
   6. 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
   7. 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 year’s 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 willbe 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 congregationsin peace for the glory of God.

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

## Dismissal Litany for Gracious Separation

*Led by the Administrative Commission for the New Albany Presbyterian Church*

*Moderator invites members of the congregation to be dismissed and the administrative commission to come forward.*

**Chair or Member of the Administrative Commission**

The Church of Jesus Christ is constantly changing. Today we mark a time of transition for our presbytery as the New Albany Presbyterian Church is dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

(A brief statement about the congregation to be dismissed is shared.)

Moderator:Let us pray for the saving presence of our living Lord in this presbytery and the whole church.

**People: Be present, Lord.**

Moderator:Let us pray for the mercy of the Lord: For work begun but not completed,

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Moderator:For wounds not healed,

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Moderator:For relationships that have, at times, been strained,

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

Moderator:Let us give thanks for our journey together in this presbytery: for friendships made, for joys celebrated, and for times of nurture and growth,

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Moderator:For wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given and promises kept,

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Moderator:For our companionship in Jesus Christ, and for the love of God which has sustained us,

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Dismissal – Moderator**

Do you, the members of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, release the New Albany Presbyterian Church from membership in our presbytery?

**We do with thanks to God for their ministry among us.**

Do you, representing the New Albany Presbyterian Church congregation recognize and accept the completion of your membership in the Presbytery of Scioto Valley?

**We do with thanks to God for our ministry together.**

**Prayer –** Chair or Member of the Administrative Commission

Loving God, Alpha and Omega, you are both beginning and end. Our endings are our beginnings, and our beginnings are rooted in your love. Whether near or far, we are held close by your love, and kept safe from any lasting loss. Let our time together end with your blessing. Touch all memories with your grace and peace. Help us to live with courage and gladness in the future you present to us. In every time and place may we offer you our highest and our best. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia. Amen.

# Commission for Nurture and Outreach

**Report on the Actions and Recommendations of the**

**Commission on Nurture and Outreach**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Name | E mail | MWS/RE | Term |
| 2018 | Les Sauer | lessauer@hotmail.com | MWS | 1st |
| 2018 | Anne Marshall | annecsmarshall@gmail.com | MWS | 1st |
| 2018 | Susan Imel | susanimel1@gmail.com | RE | 2nd |
| 2018 | Rebecca Tollefson | rtollefson@ohcouncilchs.org | MWS | NA |
| 2019 | Kathie Bubb | kathibubb@gmail.com | RE | 2nd |
| 2019 | Steve Brand | firstnewark@gmail.com | MWS | 2nd |
| 2019 | Joel Esala | circlevillepastor@gmail.com | MWS | 1st |
| 2020 | Peter Galbraith | pcgalbraith@gmail.com | MWS | 2nd |
| 2020 | Mary Gause | mgause@overbrookchurch.org | MWS | 1st |
| 2020 | Brian Edwards | bedwards@worthingtonpresbyterian.com | RE | 1st |

*Pursuant to the authority granted by The Book of Order, “Form of Government” Chapter 3, (G-3.0307), Presbytery Standing Rule G-1, and Presbytery action, the Commission has taken the following actions:*

1. Report of Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery
2. A motion was made and seconded to approve $2,000.00 Neighborhood Mission grant for the Johnstown Presbyterian Church, indicating that the church could request an additional $1,000.00 if the needs proved to be beyond that amount. The motion passed.
3. The Christmas Joy Gift offering will be received at the November presbytery meeting.
4. Announcements