

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News July 30, 2020

www.psvonline.org

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

Mission and Vision Statement

**"Inspire, Strengthen, And Challenge Congregations
For Christ's Mission"**

**Presbytery Calendar
Staff Information
Prayer Concerns**

AUGUST CALENDAR

Monday, August 3

12:30 pm

PSV Commission for
Church Professionals
(CCP)

Zoom Meeting

3 pm

PSV Commission for
Congregational Life
(CCL)

Zoom Meeting

Thursday, August 6

1 pm

PSV Nominating
Committee Zoom
Meeting

Reverend Sarah Juist, Pastor, Hanover PC

*Reflections on Serving as a Commissioner to the 224th
General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

We Have Not Done The Work...

A reflection on General Assembly #224

I've spent the better part of a month reflecting, ruminating, and occasionally ranting about what I saw, heard, and experienced as a commissioner to the 224th GA. Some of it is beautiful, some of it frustrating, some of it blatantly horrifying. You can find a list of the decisions made and reports submitted on several



Sarah Juist

denominational pages, so I won't use this space to re-hash those details. But, as I've reflected, what stands out the most is the seeming disconnect between the denominational leadership and staff - who are clearly committed to the anti-racist work the Spirit is calling us to in this chaotic world - and the rest of our beloved denomination, which is all over the map in terms of the work we're willing to do and the conversations we're willing to have. Early this week, I drove more than 500 miles to attend my brother's wedding and spent long enough in the car to listen all the way through the book, *Me And White Supremacy*, by Layla F. Saad. The book is set up as a 28-day journey toward deeper anti-racism work, but it's not focused outward, upward, or across the political aisle - instead, it focuses your energy and attention inward, to dig up, examine, and redirect your own unconscious bias in order to undermine the roots of white supremacy. As I listened, it became clear: while we have (rightfully) asked

Monday, August 10

3 pm

PSV Commission for
Presbytery Operations
(CPO)

Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, August 18

4 pm

Presbytery Special
Meeting on Zoom

Two Business Items:

-Elect Elder Jim Wilson
as the PSV Temporary
Stated Clerk through
12-31-2020

-Elect Elder Bob
Gustafson as the PSV
Temporary Treasurer
through 12-31-2020

PSV Coordinating Team
(CT) Zoom Meeting



PRESBYTERY STAFF

Rev. Dr. Jeannie Harsh
Executive Presbyter
jeannie@psvonline.org

Dagmar Romage
Administrative Assistant
dagmar@psvonline.org

John Wyckoff
Financial Assistant
accounting@psvonline.org

our denomination to be anti-racist, most of us have not engaged this work on that personal level.

This was incredibly obvious during General Assembly sessions. We elected a Black & Native American co-moderator team (Rev. Gregory Bentley and Elder Elona Street-Stewart) who are both working diligently for the dignity, inclusion, and empowering of communities of color in our denomination and in the world.

Less than a week later, when moderating a conversation on the report from the Committee On Theological Education, one commissioner addressed Rev. Bentley in a blatantly heated and disrespectful manner - and when asked to repeat himself, rather than take a breath and apologize, doubled down and repeated himself with vigor.

Our beloved Stated Clerk, the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, has served for four years with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love - and so much more. And yet, when he was unanimously recommended to the assembly by the Stated Clerk nominating committee for a second term, one commissioner asked: "what experience does this candidate have?"

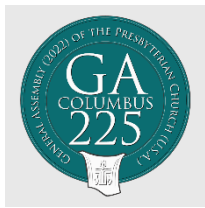
When the Native American Coordinating Council presented their report and recommendation that presbyteries and synods set aside funds to help repair church buildings on Native American lands, one commissioner asked whether those were truly vital congregations - raising a question about whether they 'deserve' outside funds.

The only times a commissioner asked about financial implications for a project or recommendation were those that explicitly benefitted people of color.

The assembly decided, at least three times, that we did not have the time or energy to make a statement, edit a statement, or hear the report of the task force formed specifically for this purpose, to recognize the particular plight of Black women and girls in our society. For further examples of the ways this assembly offered harm to Black, Native American, and other communities of color, I invite you to read this statement written and signed by at least sixteen former moderators of the General Assembly: <https://medium.com/@breyeschow/a-common-statement-on-racism-advocacy-for-black-women-and-girls-and-the-224th-general-assembly-9dcff36516ea>

(The Presbytery Office remains closed, but Presbytery Staff continue to be available by email and phone.)

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley Presbyterian Women (PW) Summer Gathering scheduled for August 22, 2020 is cancelled.



The 225th General Assembly of the PC(USA), will be held on July 2-9, 2022 in Columbus, Ohio. Scioto Valley's Committee on Local Arrangements (COLA) has created a come to Columbus welcome video that will be available soon.

While we dealt with technology, and time constraints, and my dog was howling in the background of the largest Zoom call I've ever participated in, what I learned at General Assembly, more than anything else, is this: **trickle-down anti-racism, like trickle-down economics, is a myth - and a dangerous one.**

We cannot expect General Assembly, or the Presbytery, our Sessions or even our pastors to do this work for us. Until each and every member decides to engage their own anti-racist journey, we will not achieve the unity, the shalom to which Christ calls us.

Guidance to Congregations Considering Re-Opening

Elder James A. Wilson, PSV Temporary Stated Clerk

As congregations consider returning to in-person worship or re-opening their buildings, Sessions must be mindful of both their legal and fiduciary duty to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk of spreading Covid-19 infections by worship or other church activities and their ordination vows to "watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service" (W-4.0404b) and "give[s] full expression to the rich diversity of the church's membership" (G-3.0103). This includes assessing whether a plan promotes expanding those who can worship or has the effect of excluding individuals whose risk factors prevent participation in in-person worship. In carrying out these obligations, we strongly urge Sessions to consider the following guidance for congregational safety:

<https://psvonline.org/publication/guidance-to-congregations-considering-reopening-james-a-wilson/>

"RAISING RACIAL AWARENESS" Presbytery-wide
4-Week Conversations Thursdays, Noon and 7 pm
Sponsored by the PSV Commission on Nurture and Outreach

Join friends and colleagues across the Presbytery in the conversation on "**RAISING RACIAL AWARENESS**".

This four-week presbytery-wide conversation on race based on daily readings and videos began on Thursday, July 23. The group of over 50

people meets together on Zoom at noon or 7 pm on the next three Thursdays and can also discuss the daily readings on a closed Facebook page. For more information or to sign up for this continuing program, contact Kathi Bubb at kathibubb@gmail.com.



A 4-WEEK, PRESBYTERY-WIDE CONVERSATION ON RACE

THURSDAYS VIA ZOOM MEETING
JULY 23 - AUGUST 13
@ 12:00PM OR 7:00PM



KEEP IN PRAYER

Lois Sensenbrenner, spouse of the Rev. Ed Sensenbrenner (HR). Lois suffered her third stroke on July 12 and is currently recovering at the Mt. Carmel Rehabilitation Facility in Westerville.

The Memorial Service for Reverend Tom Martin has been postponed.

Date and time will be announced.

Prayers for the Family of the Reverend Jack Watson. Jack, former member of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley and retired pastor of the Bethel Presbyterian Church, died on Monday.

Granville First Presbyterian Church is seeking a Temporary Senior High Youth Coordinator

First Presbyterian Church in Granville, Ohio, is calling a person to fill the position of Temporary Senior High Youth Coordinator through May 2021. If you are interested, or know of someone, please see the following link for more information <https://www.granpres.org/openinterimposition>.

Interested parties should email a cover letter and resume to Ellen Clark, Director of Christian Education and Faith Formation at eclark@granpres.org.

A Creative Opportunity for Churches to Reach Out...

By Reverend Neil MacQueen

Are you interested in opening up a part of your church building this fall during the weekdays to tutor small groups or individual children? If so, please contact Neil MacQueen, email: neilmacqueen@gmail.com, or see the links below.

Church, Parents, and Learning Pods discussion, ideas, and resource links are available at rotation.org!

<https://www.rotation.org/topic/how-can-churches-help-parents-with-schooling-challenges>

PLANNING FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL...

Christian Educators' Zoom Conversation August 4, 3 pm, Leader: Elder Kathi Bubb

Good morning, educators!! I imagine that many of you are losing sleep over how to do educational ministry this fall. Never fear - APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) is here!! They are offering a zoom conversation on "Planning Fall Sunday School" next Tuesday, August 4 at 3 pm ET. Click on "Interested" on the APCE FACEBOOK page <https://apcenet.org/event/planning-fall-sunday-school-8-4/>

This will be instead of our scheduled educators' zoom gathering on Thursday, August 6. HOWEVER, we would be delighted to schedule a gathering the following week to share some of what we've learned and ask other questions of each other - just let us know.

If you haven't seen it yet, you might check out another APCE article Planning For Online Children's Sunday School This Fall - Curriculum Update

https://apcenet.org/2020/07/26/planning-for-online-childrens-sunday-school-this-fall-curriculum-update/?fbclid=IwAR0Gf3MNcHgS7H7CYsZ7FD8f75nzR-k6QSnZ_722kdn7IKJ75SYIHxI2o5U

Please continue to check out the FB page Church Educators Presbytery of Scioto Valley to post articles, information, and questions. Share this information with all of the educators in your life!

An Invitation and a Gift from the Twin Cities Area Presbytery...

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area has produced a worship service as a gift to any congregation to use at any time that might be helpful in offering the pastor and leaders a break in worship planning and leadership. See the link below to access this worship service.

This service has been designed for August 2 and will be led by Chaplain Kate O'Brien Soltau; a reflection on the Word will be brought by the Rev. Gregory Bentley, pastor of Friendship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, Alabama, and co-moderator of the 224th General Assembly. It can be downloaded here:

August 2 Worship Service

Download video: **<https://vimeo.com/jakfoto/download/440208527/71230307a1>**

Link to YouTube: **<https://youtu.be/NV4rWfECzUQ>**

**Closed captioning for this service is still in progress.*

PSV CONGREGATIONS ARE BECOMING MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATIONS...

Congratulations to the 9 congregations of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley who have applied for and have been designated as Matthew 25 churches within the PC (USA). These congregations have answered the call to accept the Matthew 25 invitation. Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, you can help your church and our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious.



The 9 PSV congregations who have already committed to be Matthew 25 congregations are:

West Berlin Presbyterian Church in Delaware, First Presbyterian Church in Waverly, Overbrook Presbyterian Church in Columbus, First Presbyterian Church in Athens, First Presbyterian Church in Grove City, Plain City Presbyterian Church, Condit Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church in London and Broad Street Presbyterian Church in Columbus. Additional congregations are in the process of affirming this call along with

the Presbytery. This call commits congregations and the presbytery to work towards Building Congregational Vitality, Identifying and Dismantling Structural Racism, and Eradicating Systemic Poverty.

Go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/matthew-25-sign-up-my-congregation> and complete an application to sign up your church. Join others in our presbytery and across the denomination in a common purpose to bring alive the commitment to "serve the least of these" in our communities and around the world.

The NEW 2020-21 Presbyterian Planning Calendars have arrived!

This 16-month calendar starts with September 2020 and ends with December 2021. It contains many planning aids for pastors and other church leaders. This popular calendar includes lectionary information for Sundays and special days, liturgical days, liturgical colors, resource information for PC(USA) programmatic emphases, updated synod, presbytery and Presbyterian Mission Agency staff directories, a color fold-out synod/presbytery and world maps. The cost is \$10 each.

For information, or to get your calendars, contact dagmar@psvonline.org

PASTORS OF PSV WEEKLY CHAT MEETING ON ZOOM

Reverend Ann Melick, Presbytery Commission for Church Professionals

Join our online chats on Thursdays to give and receive encouragement and practical advice during this unusual and changing time of ministry. To join this gathering of our pastors at 1 pm each Thursday. To

join: <https://zoom.us/j/588789104?pwd=cDBEUm8yYnNIS0RUK3dwZG5KVFMvZz09>

Meeting ID: 588 789 104, Password: 463317, One tap
mobile+13126266799,588789104#

Stated Meetings of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) in 2020

September 15, 2020, 3:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.

November 17, 2020, 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

For the latest news and information from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley and its churches, visit www.psvonline.org. Telephone: 614-847-0565 or 800-244-7207; Fax: 614-847-4359

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley
(PSV), 4131 North High Street, Suite B, Columbus, OH 43214