

Presbytery of Scioto Valley (PSV) Mid-Week E-News August 20, 2020

www.psvonline.org

The Presbytery OF SCIOTO VALLEY

Mission and Vision Statement

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

Presbytery Calendar

AUGUST

Tuesday, August 25

1 pm

PSV Commission for Nurture and Outreach (CNO) Zoom Meeting

Monday, August 31

12:30

PSV Commission for Church Professionals (CCP) Zoom Meeting

3 pm

PSV Commission for Congregational Life (CCL) Zoom Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, September 1

3 pm

PSV Commission for Presbytery Operations
CPO

August 18 Special Presbytery Meeting on Zoom

Temporary Stated Clerk and Treasurer Elected

Over 80 PSV pastors and elders joined in Tuesday's Special Presbytery Meeting on Zoom. PSV Moderator Mark Gauen smoothly moderated Scioto Valley's first Zoom Presbytery Meeting.



PSV Moderator Mark Gauen

Special Presbytery Meeting Highlights of the Meeting were the election of Elder Jim Wilson as Temporary Stated Clerk and Corporate Secretary for the Presbytery, and Elder Robert Gustafson as the Temporary Treasurer for the presbytery. Both terms will expire on December 31, 2020. Moderator Mark Gauen opened the meeting with prayer and an explanation and adoption of the special rules for this electronic meeting for this specified purpose. Both men were nominated unopposed and elected through affirmation. We thank both of them for their willingness to serve the presbytery in this time in these key roles and the commissioners expressed their gratitude. The meeting was a small taste of the way the September Stated Meeting will be held and will help that meeting to go smoothly by seeing what can be clarified for that larger virtual gathering. After adjournment, Vice Moderator Kae Merold closed in prayer. Thanks also go out to Reverend Doug Browne for his technical expertise and wise guidance.

**Sunday,
September 6**
Season of Peace
Begins
Visit pcusa.org to learn
about resources.

**Monday,
September 7**
Labor Day

**Sunday,
September 13**
Christian Education
Week Begins

**Tuesday,
September 15**
3:30 pm
PSV Presbytery
Meeting on Zoom

Keep in Prayer...
Lois Sensenbrenner,
wife of Ed
Sensenbrenner, HR
Minister. Lois is home
and receiving therapy
for continued healing.

**A Prayer for
Outdoor Worship...**
by Christine Burns

The beauty of the day
is a gift, glorious
beyond words. It is a
rare and wonderful
time for us, sitting in
this place and
celebrating the
freedom to be in

Raising Racial Awareness Program News...

Elder Kathi Bubb, Commission for Nurture and Outreach

Last Thursday the presbytery finished a three week Raising Racial Awareness program, with over 50 people and 18 churches participating. All were challenged and inspired by the readings and videos. Many of those involved are interested in continuing to explore how we can raise our racial awareness, as well as becoming more involved in action against racism. Members of the presbytery are encouraged to participate in the Week of Action from the PC(USA). This endeavor is structured to provide a public witness that facilitates education, visibility, and action that reinforces our PC(USA) statements and policy around the support of eradicating racism and acknowledging that God loves all Black lives. By joining together as national staff and the greater church, we hope to provide faithful leadership in the area of justice, love, and equality within our denomination and communities. Check out more information: here <https://www.pcusa.org/weekofaction/>. Watch for what our presbytery will be offering next.

News From the PC(USA) Board Of Pensions (BOP)

Each year the BOP sets a time for selecting benefits for the coming year. The Employer Agreements are now available on Benefits Connect at pensions.org/2021benefits. The Board of Pensions has designed the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) so employers have the flexibility to choose from a variety of benefits options that best meet the needs of the organization and the employees. Once your church has signed their Employer Agreements, Open enrollment for benefits will run from October 26 to November 13.

There are changes and new benefits that make it possible for churches to enroll their pastors who are not installed. The new *Minister's Choice* package, available in 2021, offers savings for non-installed ministers working at least 20 hours per week. Minister's Choice is a new benefits package that provides important financial protection for ministers. Coverage under the Minister's Choice Plan includes the Defined Benefit Pension Plan, Death and Disability Plan, Temporary Disability Plan, and Employee Assistance Plan. Minister's Choice also expands access to assistance and education programs now available only through Pastor's Participation. Employer cost for Minister's is 10 percent of effective salary. For more information, visit the Board of Pensions website. <http://www.pensions.org/>

communion with God and one another. It has not been an easy time for your people, O God, but we have endured and thrived, lifted up by you daily. We pray, we praise, and we listen to hear your Word in the midst of the symphony of nature; too wonderful for words to describe. Let us hear you in the fresh air and the damp grass. Lord, today we give you thanks and praise! Amen.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) News...

The hosting and mission volunteer ministry of PDA which provides volunteer host sites has decided it must suspend all PDA Volunteer Hosting Operations through 12/31/20. When the time is safe, PDA will be ready for thousands of volunteers to stay at dozens of host sites and donate millions of dollars and hours of volunteer labor. Homes will be rebuilt, and families will be made whole. More information about PDA's COVID-19 response is available at: <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/covid-19/>

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#

PSV Commission for Congregational Life (CCL) Technology GRANTS...

The CCL Technology grants will be available through August. As our congregations were thrust into the world of virtual worship with the inception of COVID-19, many of us were completely unprepared for the task of Zooming or streaming worship. It's probably something you had talked about doing, someday, and suddenly someday appeared without warning. And now you are doing it trying to piece things together to keep up the progress. You might need some electronic stuff to make this all work moving ahead. If you are a congregation who needed to purchase technology equipment to keep up with streaming to friends in many places, CCL is ready to help with the purchase of technology equipment. The Technology Support Grant, offered by the Presbytery Commission for Congregational Life (CCL), has allocated funding for up to \$500 reimbursement grants to any church in the Presbytery for purchased materials that assist pastors and congregations in reaching out to members through technology during the COVID-19 Crisis. Items can be purchased anytime between March 8 and August 31, 2020. Time is running out, so get your requests in soon. You can send receipts to the Presbytery Office or email to dagmar@psvonline.org with a description of why you purchased the items. If you have questions, email Adam Anderson, chair of Congregational Life: pastor@oldstone.org.

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY TRAINING AVAILABLE FOR PASTORS, OCTOBER 12-16

Transitional Pastors are Especially Needed at this Time!!!

Transitional Leaders are a very important part of every congregation's journey through change. The change may be from one pastor to another, or even a time of critical questions about the future mission and ministry of the congregation. Transitional ministry is much more than just being a placeholder. It is in that journey of change that pastors trained in the art of transitional ministry are especially important and able to help a congregation see a positive and exciting future in the midst of changes.



Our presbytery, like many others, currently has many churches that are, or will soon be, between pastoral leadership.

If you are interested in learning more about training as a Transitional Minister, please go to this link: <https://www.transitionalministryeducation.net/>

The Synod of Lakes and Prairies is offering a Week 1 training in October. You can find information about this transitional ministry training and register at the following link: <https://synod-of-lakes-and-prairies.events.idloom.com/the-art-of-transitional-leadership2020>

PCUSA SPECIAL OFFERING NEWS...Peace and Global Witness Offering in September

The Special Offerings of the PC(USA) are celebrations of specific ways God has been made known to us. Each is connected to a season of the church year and mandated by the General Assembly to help the whole Church join together in response to God's grace. They represent the largest, collective way Presbyterians come together to work for a better world. The Offerings actively engage congregations in ministries of compassion, justice, Christian formation, education, peacemaking, and global witness. The Peace and Global Witness Offering is promoted during A Season of Peace (September) and received on World Communion Sunday (the first Sunday in October).

In God's house, there are people of every background. In God's house, there are people of every race, age and gender. In God's house, people who are different from each other in almost every way live together and seek ways to bring about Christ's peace in every part of our lives. We speak out and claim the truth in Second Thessalonians, "May the God of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways." *Extend your peace to us, O Christ, that we might build places of kindness and generosity, reconciliation and compassion. May our gifts join our voices in blessing all of creation with your justice and peace, at all times, in all ways. Amen*

Explore Special Offerings:

<https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/>

SYNOD OF THE COVENANT UPDATES ON GRANTS...*Chip Hardwick, Interim Executive SOC*

Scholarship applications will be reviewed beginning 8/31/20 and New Covenant and Racial Ethnic Grants beginning 10/1/20. (Note: These are not deadlines; they are beginning points.)

If you dig into the applications for the Racial Ethnic or New Covenant grants, you'll see that we have added a letter of endorsement from the EP, GP, or Stated Clerk (if there is no EP or GP). The Grants Committee's hope is that this will build a stronger relationship and connection between you and your congregations, and the Synod and you. Rev. Charles B. Hardwick, Ph.D., Interim Synod Executive Synod of the Covenant, Presbyterian Church (USA), 309-530-4578 or synod.covenant@gmail.com

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/>

PSV CONGREGATIONS ARE BECOMING MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATIONS...

Congratulations to the growing number of 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. 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

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

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

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

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