



## The Presbytery of Scioto Valley

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Dear Clerks of Session and Pastors,

Greetings from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley's Commission for Congregational Life (CCL)! We hope this note finds you all doing well despite these cold days of January. As we start a new year in ministry together, I wanted to reach out as the new chairperson of CCL to share a bit about what the CCL is and how we might support your congregation and its ministries. While our work is primarily conducted in coordination with Clerks of Session, we want to keep pastors in the loop. Pastors have their own liaison on the Commission for Church Professionals.

As you probably know, the CCL is charged with supporting the ministries of our 87 congregations and their 13,000+ members. The primary way most congregations encounter CCL is when they are going through a pastoral transition. While helping congregations, sessions, and Pastor Nominating Committees work through the pastoral search process is a huge part of our work, we also are here to support your congregation in its day-to-day ministries.

Aside from transition work, CCL is here to provide church development assistance and congregational training and support. What does that look like? I'm glad you asked! By working with each congregation, the CCL wants to support the churches of the presbytery as we consider our mission in an ever-changing world. We hope to provide you with resources for intentional mission studies and for facilitating conversations about your congregation's future. We want to celebrate your milestones and joys, as well as mourn your losses and difficulties. We want to support new ministries and initiatives with funding, guidance, and prayer. We want to hear from our churches about what is working well and what isn't working well in your context. We hope to better understand how we might support your ministries through education, networking, and collaboration. We want to cheer you on and lift you up as you seek to be faithful to Christ's call to be the Church today!

All of these hopes and wishes can't come to fruition without building intentional relationships. As such, each congregation in our presbytery has a liaison on the CCL. Your church's liaison is the primary contact and bridge builder between your local congregation and presbytery. Each liaison is an elected official of presbytery and is specially called and equipped for this ministry. Within the coming weeks, you will hear from your CCL liaison so that you might begin the good work of communicating and relating to one another.

It is our greatest hope that our liaisons and congregations can begin building relationships **NOW** instead of waiting until times of transition or crisis. In order to make that happen, we must be diligent with intentional and timely two-way communication— from presbytery to our churches and from our churches to presbytery.

Together, we are the Presbytery of Scioto Valley. Together, we can build vibrant and vital congregations. Together, we are in ministry to the world as we share the Great Big Love of God! I look forward to seeing what God and God's people in Scioto Valley can do together this year!

Yours in ministry,  
Rev. Dr. Mark E. Parsons II  
Chair, Commission for Congregational Life