

PRESBYTERY OF CINCINNATI
STATED MEETING
Knox Presbyterian Church
November 14, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The Rev. Robert Young, moderator, convened a stated meeting of the Presbytery of Cincinnati at Knox Presbyterian Church, in Cincinnati, Ohio on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 4:59 p.m. with an introduction to the first of the “Five Solas” of the Protestant Reformation, which were highlighted throughout the meeting.

FORMATION OF THE ROLL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The roll was formed as presbyters and guests registered (attachment). Informed by the stated clerk, the moderator declared a quorum was present.

OPENING PRAYER AND HYMN

Following the opening prayer led by the moderator, the presbytery sang *How Great Is Our God*, led by the worship band of the host church.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PRESBYTERS AND GUESTS

Members of the presbytery introduced and welcomed new presbyters and guests.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

MOTION PREVAILED to seat the Rev. Donald McKim (HR, Presbytery of the Mid-South) and the Rev. Douglas Portz (Pittsburgh Presbytery), as corresponding members.

WELCOME

The Rev. Adam Fronczek (pastor, Knox) extended greetings on behalf of the hosting congregation and provided a brief snapshot of its ministry.

AGENDA

MOTION PREVAILED to adopt as presented the agenda of “worshipful work” in which the presbytery's work of discernment, decision making, and fellowship is conducted within the context of worship.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION PREVAILED to approve the consent agenda, which included the following reports and action items contained therein:

- Minutes and Roll
- Interim Stated Clerk
- Minutes of the Presbytery Council
- Committee on Ministry, Part 1

MINUTES AND ROLL
(action approved in consent agenda)

ACTION

APPROVED the minutes and roll of the September 12, 2017 stated meeting of the presbytery as distributed.

INTERIM STATED CLERK
The Rev. Erwin Goedicke
(motions approved in consent agenda)

ACTION

Administrative Commissions

MOTION: that the presbytery dismiss with thanks the commissions that installed the Rev. Debra Whaley as pastor of Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church

The administrative commission appointed by Moderator Young for the purpose of installing the Rev. Debra Whaley as pastor of Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church met at the church on Sunday, October 29, 2017. Elder Bob Young presided and opened the meeting at 2:00 pm with prayer. The roll of the commission was formed:

- Elder Steve Bruening (Mt. Washington)
- Elder Carol Burnett (Sycamore)
- The Rev. James Goff (Williamsburg)
- The Rev. Kelsey Hawisher-Faul (Heritage)
- The Rev. Nancy Kahaian (General Presbyter)

The following were seated as corresponding members:

- The Rev. Mary Ellen Azada (San Gabriel Presbytery)
- The Rev. Jeff Gaines (San Francisco Presbytery)

The commission proceeded to the service. Having affirmed the constitutional questions, the Rev. Debra Whaley was duly installed. The meeting of the commission was adjourned with the blessing at the end of worship.

MOTION: that the presbytery dismiss with thanks the commission to install the Rev. Greg Kennedy as pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church.

The Administrative Commission appointed by Moderator Young for the purpose of installing the Rev. Greg Kennedy as pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church met at the church on Sunday, November 12, 2017. Elder Bob Young presided and opened the meeting at 2:30 pm with prayer. The roll of the commission was formed:

- The Rev. Murphy Ashley (Carmel)
- The Rev. Ed Goode (Wyoming)
- The Rev. Nancy Kahaian (General Presbyter)
- The Rev. Nancy Ross-Zimmerman (Northminister)
- Elder Waylene Severin (Winton Hills)
- Elder Doug Smucker (Northminster)
- Elder Sue Werner (Norwood)

The Commission proceeded to the service. Having affirmed the constitution questions, the Rev.

Greg Kennedy was duly installed. The meeting of the commission was adjourned with the blessing at the end of worship.

Authorization to celebrate the Lord's Supper

MOTION: that the presbytery authorize the celebration of the Lord's Supper by the following groups during 2018 Presbytery Council and groups appointed by Council:

**Committee on Ministry
Presbyterian Youth Council/Presbytery Youth Connection
Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery
Presbytery mission trip teams.**

If one of these groups celebrates the sacrament, a PC(USA) teaching elder shall preside and report the celebration to the presbytery via the stated clerk.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
The Rev. James Goff, chair
(received in consent agenda)

INFORMATION

The Committee on Ministry has taken the following actions on behalf of the presbytery:

RENEWED the covenant for the Rev. **Linda McClanahan** to serve as stated supply pastor and moderator of the session of **Christ Presbyterian Church** from November 22, 2017 through December 31, 2018. This agreement may be terminated upon 30 days written notice by the stated supply pastor or the session with the concurrence of the COM.

Terms:

Effective Salary

Salary \$13,000
Housing \$13,000
Medical Deductible \$3,200

Vouchered Reimbursable Expense Allowances

Auto mileage at IRS maximum rate Actual
Continuing education \$1,000

Other Terms

Pension/Major Medical Dues-Post retirement rate of 12% effective salary
Vacation 4 weeks
Study Leave 2 weeks

DESIGNATED the Rev. Cynthia Mason as honorably retired effective October 31, 2017.

DISMISSED the Rev. Mary Gene Boteler (HR) to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley.

APPOINTED

- the Rev. **Amy Snow** as moderator at **Reading-Lockland Presbyterian Church** effective November 1, 2017
- the Rev. **Ed Kahl** as moderator of **Mowrystown Presbyterian Church** effective October 4, 2017.

Boundaries Training

COM sponsored the presbytery-required boundaries training in August and November. All minister members complied with the presbytery's policy.

Elder Preaching Institute

COM sponsored a preaching institute for ruling elders. Participating ruling elders preached in pulpits throughout the Presbytery on October 8 and 15, including Pleasant Plain, Northwest Community, Williamsburg, Greenhills Community, Hillsboro, Beecher, Eastminster, and Georgetown. A subcommittee of COM was appointed to evaluate participating ruling elders for possible inclusion within the presbytery's pulpit supply list.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Ebenezer Yebuah (pastor, Kennedy Heights) led the presbytery in a unison prayer of confession, assurance of pardon, and the sharing of Christ's peace.

FAIRFAX ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

Elder David Legg, Chair

After reviewing the report of the administrative commission (APPENDIX A), the presbytery took the following action:

DISSOLVED the Fairfax Presbyterian Church, effective November 14, 2017 (as requested by a vote of the congregation); further, AUTHORIZED the Interim Stated to Clerk

- to receive session records and maintain them in the appropriate manner
- grant letters of dismissal to members whose names are still on the roll up to one year after the congregation has been dissolved,
- communicate with the Office of the General Assembly and the State of Ohio that Fairfax Presbyterian Church has been dissolved and ceases to exist as a not-for-profit corporation.

NECROLOGY REPORT

In observance of All Saints Day, the names of ruling elders and teaching elders who died in the past 12 months were read out by the moderator and vice moderator followed by a prayer of thanksgiving for their lives and faithful service.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Elder Barbara Jean Havens (CRE, Eastern Area Council) led the presbytery in affirming the Church with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

GENERAL PRESBYTER'S REPORT

The Rev. Nancy Kahaian

The assembly participated in a playful review of the work of the Presbytery through a game of Jeopardy.

BOARD OF PENSIONS IN THE PC(USA)

The Rev. Doug Portz

The Rev. Doug Portz (BOP Regional Representative for Synods of the Covenant and the Trinity and Senior Consultant) reported on the good news of the health of the Board of Pensions and reductions in certain member dues, on process changes regarding enrollment, and highlighted the document “A Theology of Benefits” on the BOP website.

MEAL AND TABLE FELLOWSHIP

Following a prayer of thanksgiving for dinner by the Rev. Jana Reister (Knox), the assembly recessed to share fellowship and a meal provided by the host congregation.

EVALUATE AND IMAGINE TEAM

Elder Bill Bogdan, member

The presbytery heard an update on the work of the team, which included a video of responses from members of the team to the question “Why are you a Presbyterian?”

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

The assembly moved to the sanctuary. Following the singing of the hymn, *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* and the reading of Scripture from Ezekiel 37:1-6 and Romans 8:28-30, the Rev. Donald McKim, spoke on 5 relevant themes of the theology of John Calvin, “Can These Dry Bones Live”, and afterwards entertained questions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Robert Northcutt

ACTION

MOTION PREVAILED to elect the following persons presented by the Nominating Committee for the positions indicated, there being no nominations from the floor:

Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly

Edward Goode	TE	Wyoming
Madeline Bronhaugh	RE	Carmel
Robert Young	RE	Blue Ash
Deborah Uchtman	TE	Bethel-Murdoch

Young Advisory Delegate to the 223rd General Assembly

Margaret Heidenreich Covenant-First Presbyterian Church

Committee on Ministry

Michelle Bacon TE Montgomery class of 2020 first term

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Elder Robert Heidenreich, President

ACTION

MOTION PREVAILED to approve the updated and revised Statement of Investment Management and Spending Policy (APPENDIX B).

INFORMATION

Financial Statements

- The YTD Statement of Revenue and Expenses (January – October 2017) was presented.
- A CPA review of financial statements from 2015 and 2016 was completed.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

The Rev. Lisa Stenner, Chair

ACTION

MOTION PREVAILED to approve the 2018 proposed budget, (Attachment C), which includes approval of the 2018 per capita assessment of \$30.68 (an increase of \$0.23 from 2017, reflecting the same increase in General Assembly per capita).

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Rev. James Goff, chair

ACTION

RENEWED the covenant for the Rev. **Dana Stout** to serve as stated supply pastor at **Hopewell Presbyterian Church** and installed pastor at **First Presbyterian Church of Aurora** as a yoked congregation (full-time) with the following terms, to be effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. First-Aurora is responsible for 75% contribution to the total compensation/benefits of the terms, and Hopewell is responsible for 25% contribution. This agreement may be terminated upon 30 days written notice by the pastor or the session with the concurrence of the COM.

Terms:

Effective Salary

Salary	\$30,000
Housing	\$12,657
Medical Deductible	\$ 0

Vouchered Reimbursable Expense Allowances

Auto mileage at IRS maximum rate	Actual
Continuing education	\$2,000

Other Term

Pension/Major Medical Dues	
Vacation	4 weeks
Study Leave	2 weeks

RENEWED the covenant for Rev. **Donald Smith** to serve part-time as Stated Supply for an additional 35 days beginning January 1, 2018 at **Norwood Presbyterian Church**. With the concurrence of the presbytery, and the following terms:

Effective Salary

Salary	\$0
Housing	\$2,500
Medical Deductible	\$ 0

Vouchered Reimbursable Expense Allowances

Auto mileage at IRS maximum rate	Actual
Continuing education	\$0

Other Terms

Pension/Major Medical Dues	
Vacation	0.5 weeks
Study Leave	0 weeks

RENEWED the agreement for Elder **Barbara Jean Havens** (member, Christ) to serve part-time (24 hours/week) as commissioned ruling elder in pastoral service of the **Eastern Area Council**,

which includes the following congregations: Cherry Fork, Georgetown, Hillsboro-First, Mowrystown, Red Oak, Sardinia, Seaman, West Union-First, Winchester. The renewal begins January 1, 2018 and extends through December 31, 2020. Further, continue the Presbytery's authorization to authorize her to perform the following functions for the congregations: Administer the Lord's Supper when invited by the session of a congregation that is listed as a member of the Eastern Area Council; administer the Sacrament of Baptism when invited by the session of a congregation that is listed as a member of the Eastern Area Council; have voice and vote at Presbytery meetings. In addition, she may be appointed as the moderator of a session of an EAC congregation when deemed necessary by the Committee on Ministry. She will serve as a resource person for Eastern Area pastors, CREs, congregations and the Eastern Area Council. With the concurrence of the presbytery, this agreement may be terminated by the EAC or Elder Havens with 30 days' written notice. The Presbytery may terminate the relationship at any time.

Terms:

Annual Compensation

Salary \$8,750
Housing \$8,750

Vouchered Reimbursable Expense Allowances

Auto mileage at IRS maximum rate	Actual
Continuing education	\$1,000
Professional Expenses	\$100

Other Terms

Vacation 4 weeks
Study Leave 2 weeks
Mentor: the Rev. Nancy Kahaian

Dissolution of congregation

APPROVE the request of the Session of the **Norwood Presbyterian Church** for an administrative commission to dissolve the congregation. Pending the action of the presbytery, the moderator will be asked to appoint an administrative commission to assist the session and congregation with the process of dissolution, with a report of that commission to be presented to the presbytery at its February 2018 stated meeting.

Transfer of Membership

APPROVE the request of the Rev. **Junie Ewing** to be dismissed to membership in the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, effective December 1, 2017

Appointments

DESIGNATED the **Rev. Nancy Kahaian** to serve as Moderator of the **Carmel Presbyterian Church**, effective December 1, 2017.

INFORMATION

Boundaries Training

COM sponsored presbytery-required Boundaries Training in August and November and all Teaching Elders and CREs serving member congregations of the Presbytery have complied with the policy.

Elder Preaching Institute and Pulpit Supply

A Subcommittee of the COM (TE Ed Kahl, TE Chuck Myser, RE Joanne Widmer) are continuing a review process with eligible students from the 2017 Ruling Elder Preaching

Institute for possible inclusion on the Pulpit Supply List of the Presbytery for a limited and/or provisional basis with the possibility of renewal.

Facilitating Healthy Pastor-Parish Relationships

The COM will sponsor a workshop with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Institute and their Executive Director Richard Blackburn on the topic of “Facilitating Healthy Pastor-Parish Relationships”, on Friday evening, March 23 through Saturday afternoon, March 24. Location TBD.

Current and Future COM

COM begins its meetings with Bible study led by the COM Moderator and includes training at each meeting. 2018 liaison relationships are being established with letters to be sent to sessions after the December COM meeting. 2018 major initiatives include review of COM procedures and policies with the goal of completing a COM Handbook; strengthen the review process for Stated Supply contracts, behavior based interview training for fitness/entrance examinations; review of the CRE compensation standards, and creating an curriculum/practicum experience in the Presbytery for pastors to strengthen their practice of ministry (voluntary participation).

THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Rev. James Goff led the presbytery in prayer for various members and churches of the presbytery and for the world, concluding with the Lord's Prayer. The Rev. Michelle Bacon (pastor, Montgomery) and the Rev. Kevin Waters (pastor, Pleasant Plain) presided at the Lord's Supper. An offering was received and designated for the Christmas Joy Offering. During communion the choir of the host congregation sang the hymns *Feed Us*, *Lord* and *Come to the Table of Grace*, and during the offering the choir offered a truly celestial rendition of *Amazing Grace*.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

The following documents were distributed without comment.

- Biography of guest preacher, the Rev. Donald McKim
- Per Capita giving report as of October 31, 2017
- Report of commissioner Becky Lindsay of Synod meetings held in June and August.
- Flyer from Presbyterian Youth Connection of planned summer trips
- Schedule and locations of 2018 stated meetings of the presbytery

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION PREVAILED to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. with prayer led by the vice moderator and the singing of *For All the Saints*.

NEXT MEETING: The presbytery will reconvene at 9:00 AM on Saturday February 24, 2018 at Madeira-Silverwood Presbyterian Church.

Attachments

Roll

Appendix A: Report of the Administrative Commission for Fairfax Presbyterian Church

Appendix B: Statement of Investment Management and Spending Policy

Appendix C: Presbytery of Cincinnati 2018 Proposed Budget

The Rev. Erwin Goedicke, Interim Stated Clerk