



A recap of the...

FEBRUARY 18, 2023 PRESBYTERY GATHERING

The Presbytery of Cincinnati gathered on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at Northminster Church. 81 voting members were present, along with 14 non-voting attenders (corresponding members, staff, and visitors), representing 39 of our 65 congregations. The minutes of the meeting are available upon request. Here are some highlights:

The Presbytery reported a number of **ACTIONS** through its committees and commissions, and took additional actions at this gathering:

Amended the Presbytery Bylaws to add the President of the Trustees as a voting member of Council, and reduce the number of At-Large members from 6 to 4

Approved or renewed calls and covenants for pastoral leadership of:

- The Rev. **Sara Jane Nixon**, associate pastor, **Crestview**, and enrolled her as a member of the presbytery
- The Rev. **Terry Webster**, stated supply, **Richwood**
- Elder **Norine Behm**, commissioned pastor, **Cherry Fork**
- Elder **Timothy Sakelos**, commissioned pastor, **Calvary**

Approved mission studies for the **Christ, Batavia, and Venice** congregations, and **approved the MIF** for **St. John's Westminster Union Church**

Granted term limit extensions for Ruling Elders of 2 congregations

Voted on a second set of the 33 proposed amendments to the Book of Order from the 225th GA: Affirmative: Amendments F, G, H, I, J, K, L, O, P, Q, R, S

(The full text of these amendments can be found at:

<https://www.pcusa.org/resource/ga225-proposed-amendments-constitution/>)

Designated The Rev. **Tim McQuade** as **Honorably Retired** as of April 1, 2023

Appointed Moderators for several sessions and meetings of congregations

Approved the plan of merger of the **Blue Ash** and **Montgomery** churches, scheduled to take place after the upcoming Easter Sunday

Concurred with the request of Calvin Presbytery Church to dissolve the congregation, effective June 1, 2023

Received an offering for the presbytery's New Worship Community, **Third Way Peace Fellowship**.

The Presbytery also shared for **INFORMATION**:

The list of former presbytery moderators who are ruling elders, and who plan to continue attending presbytery gathering as voting members in 2023

The 4th Quarter Financial Report of the Presbytery Operating Budget

The work of the Synod of the Covenant, and the report of the January Synod Assembly

An update of the work of the Presbytery Leadership Taskforce, looking at future staffing models of the presbytery.

The Presbytery joined together in **ACTS OF WORSHIP AND EDUCATION** through:

An opening time of worship led by the **Northminster Modern Worship Band**

Expressions of gratitude to God for work done through the presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly

A panel presentation describing **the work of deeper understanding and action towards racial equity**, being done at Heritage Presbyterian Church, Knox Presbyterian Church, and by the Racial Equity and Multicultural Justice team (REMJJN) of the presbytery, including **the upcoming “Freedom River Pilgrimage” on Saturday, May 13**, a visit of key historical sites of the Underground Railroad, which are part of our local Presbyterian history

A presentation from **Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary** by its president, Dr. Alton Pollard III, and dean, Dr. Deborah Mumford, about the ways in which the seminary can be a resource for continuing education and equipping for pastors

A litany of celebration of the life and ministry of **Calvin Presbyterian Church**, which included a slide show of photographs of the congregation through the years

Four **workshops**, open to commissioners and anyone else, on:

- Burnout Recovery: Unlocking the Stress Cycle – Skills and Conversations
- Mental Health and the Church
- Communication strategies to share your churches vision for Christ
- Pursuing Earth Care: a Role for Churches

The next Presbytery Gathering is Tuesday, May 9, 6:00 PM, at Indian Hill Church.