

**The Presbytery of Ohio Valley**  
**Docket for Assembly: August 24, 2024**  
**United Presbyterian Church, Bloomington**  
**Elder Beth Snyder, Moderator**  
**The Rev. Wendy VanderZee, Vice Moderator**  
**The Rev. Karen McDonald Smith, Stated Clerk pro tempore**  
**10:00am ET/9:00am CT**

Declaration of a Quorum

Call to Order

Opening Worship and Proclamation of the Word

Introductory Business

Welcome

Greetings from the Host Church

Introductions of New Members and Guests

The Rev. Tyler Brinks – First, Bloomington

Seating of Corresponding Members

The Rev. Sara Dingman, Synod of Lincoln Trails Executive

Consent Agenda

Stated Clerk's Report; Minutes of May 23, 2024; Docket; Treasurer's Report

Greetings from the Synod of Lincoln Trails

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

1. Examination of Jerusha Van Camp for Ordination  
to the Ordered Ministry of Minister of the Word and Sacrament

Report of the Committee on Ministry

1. Retirement Recognition of the Rev. Cheryl Montgomery
2. Minimum Compensation Recommendation for 2025

Report of the Presbytery Council

1. 2025 Assembly Dates
2. Per capita recommendation for 2025
3. Proposed Revisions to the Presbytery Design for Mission and Ministry
4. Confirmation of the election of the Rev. Scott Seay as Moderator of the Presbytery Personnel Committee and Elder Alicia Holt as Presbytery Council member-at-large

Lunch

Speak Out Session | Good News from the Pews!

Report of the Executive Presbyter

New Business

Memorial Moments for the Rev. David Rosen

Necrology

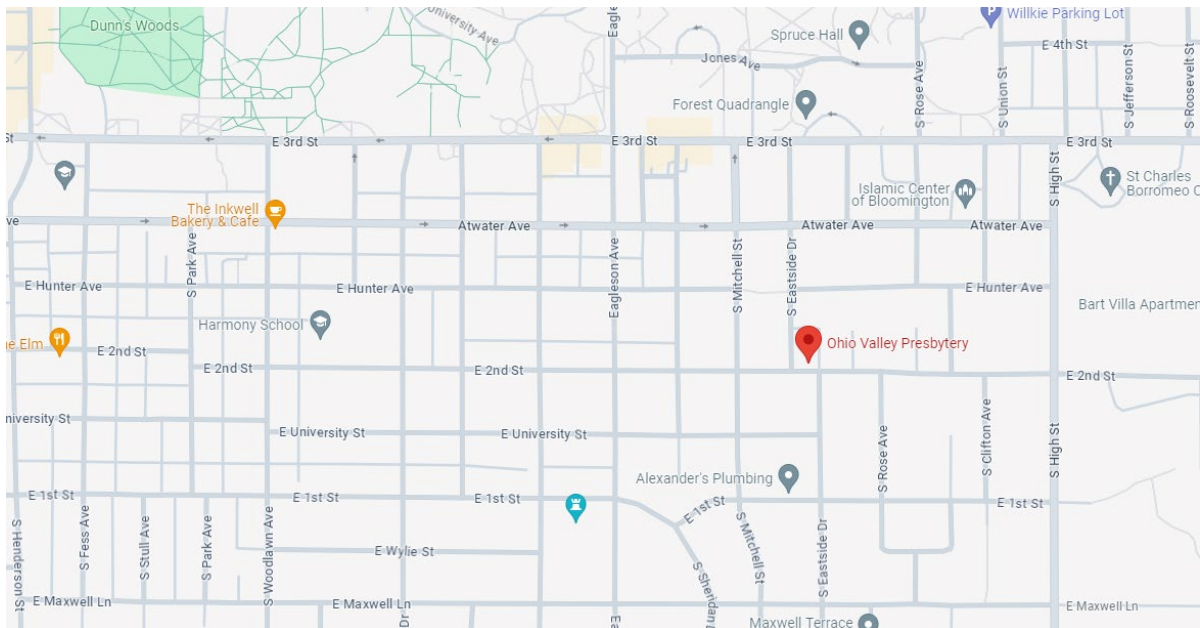
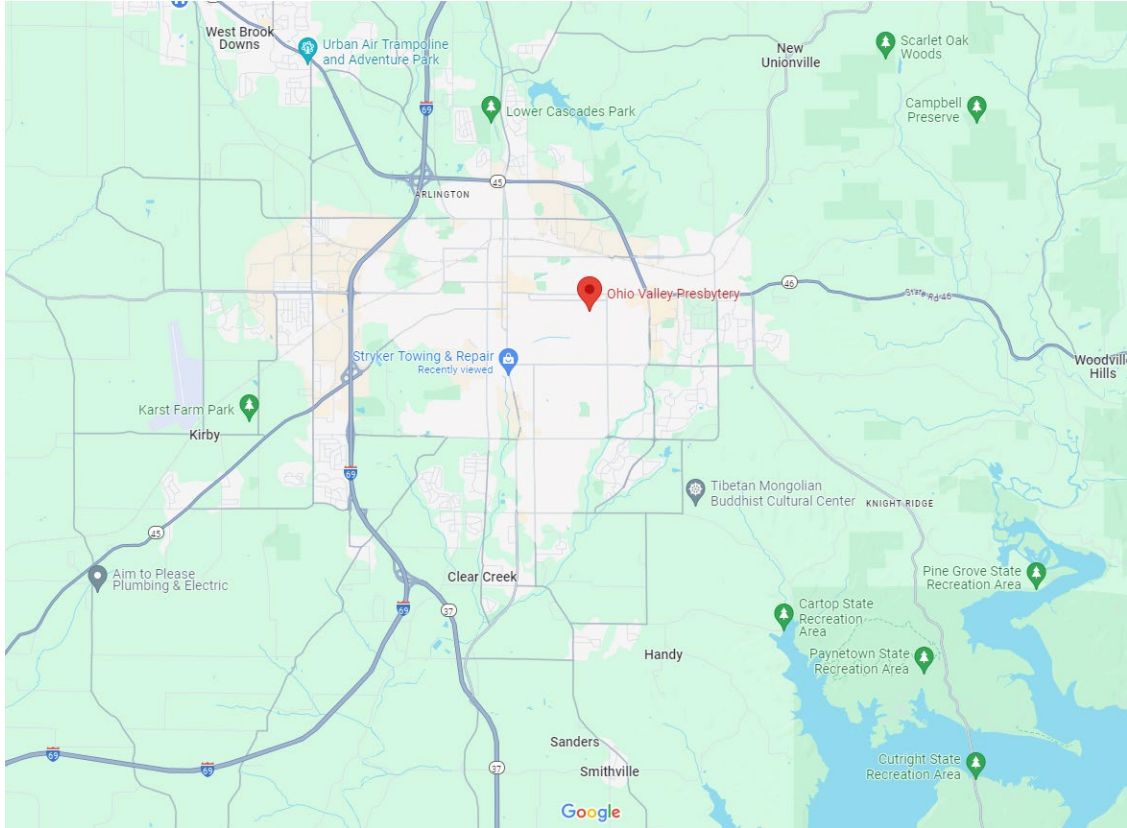
Prayers of the Presbytery

Invitation to the Offering

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Adjournment with Closing Litany

**Presbytery of Ohio Valley  
Driving Directions  
Bloomington, United Presbyterian Church  
1701 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 332-1850**



**Driving Directions**  
**Bloomington, United Presbyterian Church**  
**1701 E 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Bloomington, IN 47401**  
**(812) 332-1850**

*As a courtesy, the Presbytery attempts to provide driving directions and parking information (when known) to all the members attending the Assembly.*

*Due to the size of the presbytery, we are unable to include all possible routes to the meeting. Our directions begin with major routes into the city/town where the assembly will be held, and include more detailed directions for the streets closer to the meeting site. Use an online source or printed map to find the way from your starting point to the place where these directions begin.*

*Be aware that there are road construction sites which may affect travel. We have noted several sites on the main routes below (see the next page). For more information, see the Indiana Department of Transportation website for Road Restrictions and Closures:*

*<https://www.in.gov/indot/travel-conditions/restrictionsclosings/>*

**Parking at the Church**

Parking is located on the north side of the church (entrance off of Eastside Drive). Because this assembly occurs on a Saturday, there are NO restrictions on street parking. Carpooling is still **highly encouraged**. You may enter the building through the entrance off the parking lot.

**From I-69 (North and South):**

Take Interstate 69 to Exit 120 A (State Road 45/46 East). *[Next, see the Common Route below]*

**From IN-46 (the Northwest):**

Take State Road 46 East. You will cross over I-69/State Road 37 and State Road 45 will join State Road 46. *[Next, see the Common Route below]*

**From IN-45 (the Southwest):**

Take State Road 45 East to I-69/State Road 37 North. Take I-69 to Exit 120 A (State Road 45/46 East) *[Next, see the Common Route below]*

**Common Route from I-69 Exit 120 / IN-45/46 East**

Follow State Road 45/46 East past Indiana University. At 10th Street, State Rd 45 splits off to the left. Continue straight on State Rd 46. At the next light, turn right onto 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (CVS is on the corner). At the second light, turn left onto High Street (St. Charles Catholic Church is on the corner). At the next light, turn right onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. United Presbyterian Church is located on the northeast corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Eastside Drive.

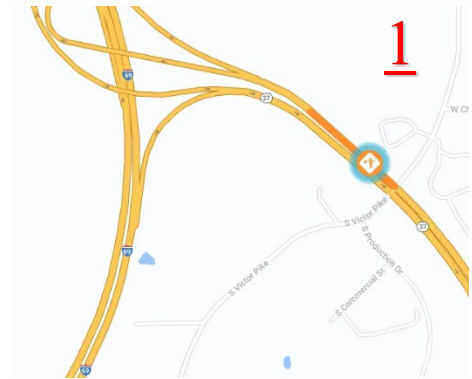
**From IN-46 (the East):**

Take State Road 46 West (becomes Third Street once you are in Bloomington). At the eighth light, turn left onto High Street (St. Charles Catholic Church is on the corner). At the next light, turn right onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. United Presbyterian Church is located on the northeast corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Eastside Drive.

## Major Road Construction Sites:

### **1. From the South, just before the IN-37 / I-69 merge:**

IN 37 northbound (1 mile north of the Smithville-Sanders area). The right lane is closed. Be aware of narrow lanes.

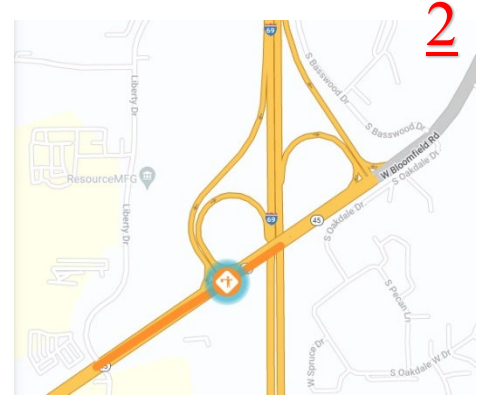


### **2. From the Southwest, IN 45**

IN 45 eastbound: Road Construction between Glen Oaks Industrial and I-69. The right lane is closed. Be aware of narrow lanes.

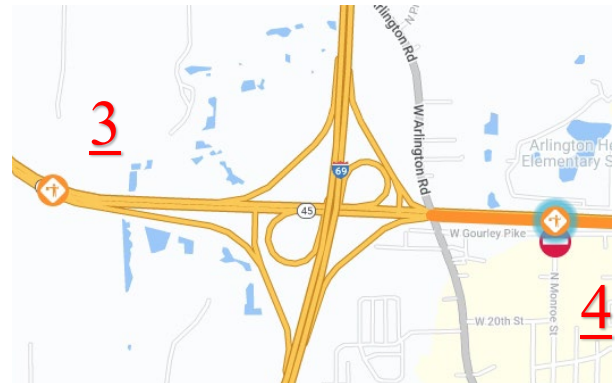
### **3. From the Northwest IN 46**

IN 46 in both directions: Between W Arlington Rd and IN 45; I-69 (1 mile west of the Bloomington area). Look out for construction work. One lane is closed.



### **4. At IN 45/46 and I-69**

IN 45/46 in both directions: Road construction. Between W Arlington Rd and N Kinser Pk (Bloomington). Inside (left) lane WB and EB is closed. Traffic will utilize the outside lane. Speed restrictions are in force. Speed limit 40 mph.



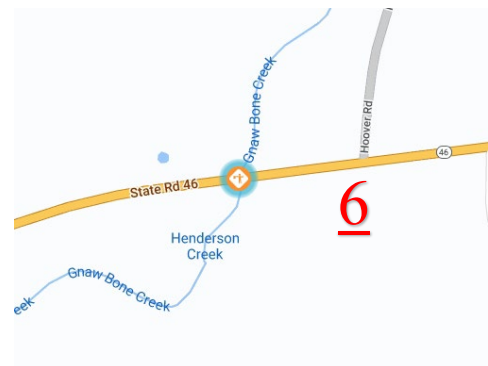
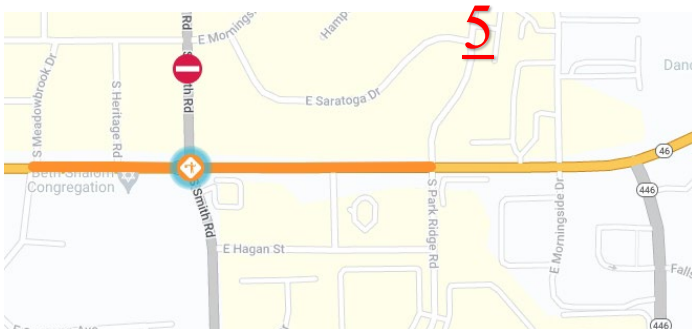
### **5. From the East IN 46 (In Bloomington)**

IN 46 / East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street: Road Construction is at the intersection of Smith Rd. and SR 46. Speed restrictions are in force. The right turn bay is closed. Speed limit 30 mph.

### **6. From the East IN 46 (before Nashville)**

IN 46 (Mile Point 79.7): Bridge construction. Between Camp Moneto Rd and Hoover Rd (3 miles east of the Nashville area). Lane closure for bridge work on State Road 46 over Gnaw Bone Creek approximately 6.4 miles east of Nashville. One lane road through work site maintained by temporary traffic signals. Be prepared to stop.

Indiana Department of Transportation website for Road Restrictions and Closures: <https://www.in.gov/indot/travel-conditions/restrictionsclosings/>



## **Stated Clerk's Report**

Elder Joe Kimmel

### **A. Teaching Elders Received since the May Assembly:**

- Tyler Brinks – Whitewater Valley Presbytery

### **B. Teaching Elders Dismissed:**

- None

### **C. Teaching Elder Deaths:**

- Irene Stuart - 05/18/2024
- David Rosen - 07/08/2024

**D. Annual Session Minutes Review:** Instructions and forms will be emailed to Session Clerks—sent by the end of August. The same procedures will be conducted as have been used the last two years. *For Clerks of Session who prefer an in-person meeting*, there will be an in-person meeting at the Paoli Presbyterian Church on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 10AM for the Review of Session Minutes.

**E. Business Entity Reminder:** Clerks of each Session complete/update their Church's Business Entity Reports with the Indiana Secretary of State's website every other year. Please check to see if this is the year for your needed update or if it is past due. To look up a church's status use the following link: <https://bsd.sos.in.gov/publicbusinesssearch>

### **F. Remaining Assembly date for 2024:**

- Thursday, November 21 (Zoom)

## Treasurer's Report

Elder Jean Brown

Presbytery of Ohio Valley, Inc.  
Condensed Statement of Revenues and Expenses (Actual vs Budget)  
January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024

	<u>Jan -June 2024</u>	<u>Annual</u>	<u>% of</u>
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
Per Capita	\$ 152,315	\$ 238,590	64%
Shared Giving (Unified Mission)	27,003	85,000	32%
Contributions	3,040	17,500	17%
Unrestricted Invest Inc & Trans	6,000	12,000	50%
Restricted Invest Inc & Trans	37,500	75,000	50%
	<u>225,859</u>	<u>428,090</u>	53%
<b><u>Expense</u></b>			
Staff Expense	141,710	281,829	50%
Ecclesiastical Expense	38,370	71,590	54%
Meeting Expense	1,471	4,000	37%
Administration & Office Expense	21,484	40,000	54%
Program Expense	14,316	32,000	45%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>217,350</u>	<u>429,419</u>	51%
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<u>\$ 8,509</u>	<u>\$ (1,329)</u>	

### **Fund Balances**

**As of June 30, 2024**

Church Legacy Funds	980,679
Monroe City Fund	122,071
Charlie Pye Fund for Excellence in Ministry	106,060
Restricted Funds (Specific Use)	29,521
Undesignated Net Assets	<u>1,442,393</u>
	<u>\$ 2,680,724</u>

If you would like a detailed statement or any other additional information, please contact Jean Brown at (866) 344-7853 or at [jean@presbyteryov.org](mailto:jean@presbyteryov.org)

**2024 Per Capita 55**

		<b>Members</b>	<b>2024 Per Capita</b>	<b>Received as of 8/8/2024</b>	<b>% Paid</b>
Bedford	First	87	4,785	3,000	62.7%
Bloomfield	First	53	2,915	2,915	100.0%
Bloomington	First	319	17,545	8,773	50.0%
Bloomington	United	48	2,640	2,640	100.0%
Boonville	Hemenway Memorial	78	4,290	4,290	100.0%
Brazil	First	219	12,045	6,023	50.0%
Brownstown	Brownstown	32	1,760	1,760	100.0%
Canaan	Jefferson	6	330		0.0%
Cayuga	Cayuga	20	1,100	1,100	100.0%
Central	Valley City	14	770	770	100.0%
Charlestown	Community	20	1,100	1,100	100.0%
Clinton	United	34	1,870	1,870	100.0%
Columbus	Fairlawn	79	4,345	2,173	50.0%
Columbus	First	434	23,870	23,870	100.0%
Corydon	Corydon	72	3,960		0.0%
Dale	Dale	35	1,925	1,925	100.0%
Elizabeth	Church of the Covenant	28	1,540	1,540	100.0%
Evansville	Eastminster	232	12,760		0.0%
Evansville	First	293	16,115	9,400	58.3%
Evansville	First Avenue	32	1,760		0.0%
Farmersburg	First	12	660	660	100.0%
Fort Branch	First	53	2,915	84	2.9%
Greencastle	Greencastle	102	5,610	5,610	100.0%
Hanover	Hanover	49	2,695	2,695	100.0%
Henryville	Community	32	1,760	1,760	100.0%
Henryville	Mount Lebanon	20	1,100	1,100	100.0%
Jeffersonville	First	170	9,350	4,675	50.0%
Laconia	Rehoboth	47	2,585	2,585	100.0%
Laconia	United	13	715	715	100.0%
Leavenworth	Community	40	2,200		0.0%
Lexington	Lexington	69	3,795	3,795	100.0%
Livonia	United	34	2,070	1,870	90.3%
Madison	Madison	122	6,710	6,710	100.0%
Madison	Smyrna-Monroe	7	385	385	100.0%
Martinsville	First	58	3,190	3,190	100.0%
Mitchell	Mitchell	43	2,365		0.0%
Montezuma	First	15	825	825	100.0%
Mount Vernon	First	55	3,025	3,025	100.0%
Nabb	Nabb	11	605	605	100.0%
Nashville	Brn County Fellowship	43	2,365	2,365	100.0%
New Albany	Mount Tabor	75	4,125	4,125	100.0%
New Albany	St. John United	162	8,910		0.0%
New Washington	Trinity United	15	825	385	46.7%
North Vernon	Graham	16	880	880	100.0%
Paoli	First	42	2,310	1,155	50.0%
Patoka	Patoka	28	1,540	1,540	100.0%
Patoka	Union Bethel	10	550	550	100.0%
Petersburg	Main Street	51	2,805	2,805	100.0%
Princeton	Fairview	44	2,420	2,420	100.0%
Princeton	Princeton	67	3,685	3,685	100.0%
Roachdale	Roachdale	32	1,760	1,760	100.0%

**2024 Per Capita 55**

		<u>Members</u>	<u>2024 Per Capita</u>	<u>Received as of 8/8/2024</u>	<u>% Paid</u>
Rockville	Memorial	8	440	440	100.0%
Salem	Salem	43	2,365	2,365	100.0%
Scipio	Scipio	18	990	990	100.0%
Scottsburg	First	40	2,200	2,200	100.0%
Seymour	First	113	6,215	6,215	100.0%
Spencer	Spencer	63	3,465	3,465	100.0%
Sullivan	First	52	2,860	2,658	92.9%
Terre Haute	Central	202	11,110	11,110	100.0%
Terre Haute	Unity	52	2,860	2,860	100.0%
Vernon	Vernon	7	385		0.0%
Vevay	Caledonia	4	220		0.0%
Vincennes	Bethany	12	660	660	100.0%
Vincennes	Indiana	95	5,225	2,500	47.8%
Vincennes	South Side	7	385		0.0%
Vincennes	Upper Indiana	56	3,080	3,080	100.0%
Washington	Westminster	56	3,080	1,540	50.0%
		4,500	\$ 247,700	\$ 175,190	70.7%

**Shared Mission 2024**

		<u>Pledged</u>	<u>Received as of August 8, 2024</u>			
			<u>GA</u>	<u>Synod</u>	<u>POV</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bedford	First					0
Bloomfield	First					0
Bloomington	First				1,800	1,800
Bloomington	Korean					0
Bloomington	United					0
Boonville	Hemenway Memorial					0
Brazil	First					0
Brownstown	Brownstown					0
Canaan	Jefferson					0
Cayuga	Cayuga					0
Central	Valley City					0
Charlestown	Community					0
Clinton	United					0
Columbus	Fairlawn		473	158	945	1,575
Columbus	First		8,893	899	11,685	21,477
Corydon	Corydon					0
Dale	Dale					0
Elizabeth	Church of the Covenant					0
Evansville	Eastminster					0
Evansville	First		1,800	400	3,800	6,000
Evansville	First Avenue					0
Farmersburg	First					0
Fort Branch	First					0
Greencastle	Greencastle					0
Hanover	Hanover		550	250	1,200	2,000
Henryville	Community					0
Henryville	Mount Lebanon					0
Jeffersonville	First		550	200	2,250	3,000



## Shared Mission 2024

		<u>Received as of August 8, 2024</u>				
		<u>Pledged</u>	<u>GA</u>	<u>Synod</u>	<u>POV</u>	<u>Total</u>
Laconia	Rehoboth		150	25	325	500
Laconia	United					0
Leavenworth	Community					0
Lexington	Lexington					0
Livonia	United		1,500	423	1,923	3,845
Madison	Madison					0
Madison	Smyrna-Monroe		90	15	195	300
Martinsville	First					0
Mitchell	Mitchell					0
Montezuma	First		150	25	325	500
Mount Vernon	First					0
Nabb	Nabb		30	5	65	100
Nashville	Brn County Fellowship					0
New Albany	Mount Tabor					0
New Albany	St. John United					0
New Washington	Trinity United					0
North Vernon	Graham					0
Paoli	First					0
Patoka	Patoka					0
Patoka	Union Bethel					0
Petersburg	Main Street		600	100	1,300	2,000
Princeton	Fairview					0
Princeton	Princeton					0
Roachdale	Roachdale					0
Rockville	Memorial					0
Salem	Salem					0
Scipio	Scipio					0
Scottsburg	First		150	75	1,500	1,725
Seymour	First					0
Spencer	Spencer					0
Sullivan	First					0
Terre Haute	Central		3,143	963	4,375	8,480
Terre Haute	Unity					0
Vernon	Vernon					0
Vevay	Caledonia					0
Vincennes	Bethany					0
Vincennes	Indiana					0
Vincennes	Southside					0
Vincennes	Upper Indiana					0
Washington	Westminster		1,440	270	3,090	4,800
		<u>0</u>	<u>19,518</u>	<u>3,807</u>	<u>34,778</u>	<u>58,102</u>

## **Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

Elder Gary Crow, Moderator

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry is pleased to present Jerusha Van Camp to the August 24, 2024 Assembly for examination to the Ordered Ministry of Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

Jerusha professed the Christian faith and was baptized by the Gospel Temple Church in Carmi, Illinois, in 1982. She was received as a member of First Presbyterian Church, Evansville, Indiana, in 2011

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Oakland City University in 1997, and a Master of Divinity from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, in 2024.

Jerusha was enrolled as Inquirer May 14, 2019, and as a Candidate August 22, 2021. She completed her ordination exams by the Spring of 2024. Her final assessment was held June 5, 2024; at that time she was certified ready to receive a call.

Jerusha has been approved by the Committee on Ministry to be ordained to the Validated Ministry of “Pulpit Supply, Sacraments, and Church Governance,” a position created by the COM on November 10, 2021, and presented to the November 18 Assembly for the Presbytery’s information.

Jerusha’s Statement of Faith and Faith Journey may be found on the following pages.

Agenda for Jerusha’s Examination:

1. Opening Remarks and Introduction of the Candidate: Gary Crow
2. Introductory Statement: Jerusha Van Camp
3. Initial Questions of the Candidate: Gary Crow
4. Further Questions: The Presbytery, Moderated by Beth Snyder
5. Motion to Sustain the Examination: Gary Crow
6. Discussion and Vote: The Presbytery, Moderated by Beth Snyder
7. Concluding Matters

## **Faith Journey**

### **Jerusha Van Camp**

I grew up in a Christian home. My father was a pastor, and my mother was the church pianist. As a child, I was immersed in church. My father modeled Christian discipleship through his commitment to daily Scripture reading and prayer. We did not own a television, but we did have a radio. At the age of five, while listening to a children's Christian radio program, the Spirit drew me to follow Jesus. From that moment on, I lived with an inner awareness of the reality of God. I made my profession of faith and was baptized. By the time I was ten, I was sensing God's call to preach.

As a teenager, my constant awareness of God began to fade. I was becoming aware that things in life were not always what they should be. Certainty and stability were suddenly replaced with the unknown as life began to shift. When my grandmother died, my father was devastated. Shortly thereafter, he was fired from the thriving church that he helped build and grow. The hurt, loss, and rejection he felt, was experienced by our whole family. The church had been our home and community.

By the time I was seventeen, I had been deeply hurt by people within the church. I became disillusioned with my parents, who, in their hurt, had become distant and unapproachable. Despite this, I continued to serve in church ministry. I taught Sunday School, led youth group meetings, led worship, and even occasionally preached.

Internally, I was disconnected. I was closed off and only going through the motions. My focus was on fulfilling my parents expectations rather than discerning what I wanted my life to be or what God was asking of me. I married at the age of twenty and became a mother to three children. The marriage was abusive, and by the time I reached my thirties, I was deeply hurting and lost. I attended church faithfully and served on the church staff, but everything was hollow. I felt like God was disappointed in me and that I was too far gone for God's grace and love to reach me. I felt trapped in the life I had created, and I didn't know how to get out of it.

This was when my life imploded. The domestic abuse in my marriage escalated, and I was living in fear for my life. I begged God to save me and help me find a way out, but my options were limited. I didn't know about shelters for women and children. My family and the church had a vested interest in making sure I stayed right where I was. I was so defeated, and I wanted to die.

I was unhappily married with children and was pastoring my first church when I met my wife. For the first time in my life, someone saw me. To Kathryn, I was more than the sum of my roles and my responsibilities. I had been praying to God for help, and I believe God sent Kathryn in answer to my prayer. Her friendship and love for me began to help me see that my life had value, and that I mattered. I began to feel hopeful and found strength.

I went to a divorce attorney who referred me to a counselor, and I began to make plans to change my life. After a period of counseling, I got a divorce, and in the process, I lost my parents, my siblings, and any future relationship with my family of origin. I lost my faith community. I was alone in the world. I was traumatized. I was numb from living in survival mode for so many years of my life. I didn't know who I was or who God was to me anymore. I was wrestling with my sexuality, my spirituality, my human identity, and how to care for my children as a single parent. It was overwhelming. In the quiet of my life, God was there, but my theology told me that God would not accept me as a queer person, so I kept my distance from God.

I could not pray, and I wrestled with my need for God. I wrestled with my fear that God had rejected me. The isolation, loneliness, and lack of connection to God and a faith community took its toll on me. After some time, Kathryn and I began to look for a local LGBTQ affirming faith community. We visited First

Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana and found a faith community where we were welcomed, loved, and accepted. In worship, I repeatedly heard the words “in life and in death, we belong to God” from, *A Brief Statement of Faith*, and these words planted seeds of faith in my heart.

Over time, as I heard the gospel of God’s love for all people and found a home in this community of faith, I began to heal. I volunteered with the youth group, and when the position for Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator came open, I applied and was hired for the job. I continued to wrestle with my faith and my doubts. In 2014, during a pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland, I met with God on the abbey lawn and realized that despite my doubts, I could not deny the reality of God in my life. Nor could I deny that God’s presence was real and visible in my life and in my marriage to my wife. I knew that God had been with me throughout all of the struggles of my life and that being gay didn’t change that. When I realized that God fully accepted all the parts of me, it was then that I was able to recommit my life wholeheartedly to follow Christ.

As I opened up more and more to God, God continued to touch my life and heal my wounds. I wrestled with finding my place in the world as a middle-aged Christian lesbian. I struggled to forgive myself for the past and come to terms with the time I lost to a world of lies, abuse, and self hatred. The Holy Spirit began to stir me to action, reminding me of the call God had made to me when I was a child. Through a series of Holy Spirit inspired moments, I realized that God was still calling me to ministry and that all I had to do was say yes.

Even though I wanted to say yes to God, I wrestled with this call. I wrestled with guilt and shame from my past. I questioned whether or not I was worthy to accept God’s invitation to me. I questioned whether or not I was strong enough to face the persecution and rejection of others in the church because of my sexuality, and in the end, I knew that it didn’t matter. This was the moment to take a risk and embrace all that God had for me.

I began my seminary journey during the pandemic. I was experiencing the intense growing edge of learning to re-engage intellectually, academically, and juggle my family life and work. Kathryn and I went through the most difficult challenge we had ever faced as a couple. It was a time of great upheaval and change.

It was in the midst of this suffering and turmoil that I grew, and my personal discipleship and spiritual practice was transformed. Seminary spiritual formation classes reacquainted me with my love of Scripture, and returned me to a vital prayer life. What I learned about connecting with God and my own need for silence, solitude, rest, and time in nature, transformed my spiritual life returning me to the space where my connection with God was deep and real.

That spiritual formation work was the critical grounding piece that carried me through what was to come. I had just finished my second of three internships when the unthinkable happened. My teacher, mentor, and friend, Kevin Scott Fleming died. Then my friend and my brother, Elder Michael died. The loss of these two pillars in my life was cruel and left me heartbroken.

I did what I knew how to do in the middle of this crisis and I stepped into my role as a spiritual leader. I put aside my timidity and deference. I supported our bridge pastors, and cared for the congregation in its grief and trauma. The congregation looked to me for continuity and confidence. I did everything I could to provide reliable, non-anxious, compassionate support for the congregation while encouraging them and modeling trust in God.

In the wilderness years of my past, buried under my guilt and shame, I had forgotten who I was in Christ and the power of the gifts God has given me to lead. As I cared for First Pres in their grief, I remembered the ways God had used my gifts and spiritual authority in the past. I embraced the

liberation and freedom of God's grace to equip me for the task at hand. Embracing this perspective allowed me to dip into the deep well of God's presence and love in my life and find my way forward. It empowered me to shake off all of my reservations and follow God's lead with confidence and abandon.

When I think about where I am now and where I started as a five-year-old little girl who fell in love with Jesus, I think my life has come full circle. When I was five, it was me and God, together. Today, it is me and God, together. My connection with God is deep and strong. I live in wholeness and gratitude. I know that God has called me and equipped me, and I am ready. I look forward to the future with joy and expectation. Through everything I have experienced, I know that no matter what challenges and blessings the future may bring, my foundation and my source is the God who makes all things new.

## **Statement of Faith**

### **Jerusha Van Camp**

I believe in God, who is the Creator and sovereign power over all realms. In love, God created humanity in God's own image. I believe that Jesus Christ, is the Son of God, and the incarnation of God's love. I believe Jesus experienced human life in all of its beauty and sorrow, so that he could empathize with humanity in every way. I believe that Jesus came to show humanity an alternative to brokenness and alienation from God and one another, through his life, death, and resurrection. I believe that Christ's redemption is for all of creation and that humanity has been entrusted by God to care for everything God has made.

The cross of Jesus expresses the depth, the width, and height of God's sacrificial love for all humanity. Moreover, Christ, by his cross, defeated the power of sin and death in order to restore and renew all things towards the divine purpose and plan for the cosmos.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit that are given to the church. I believe that the Holy Spirit is active in the world, providing guidance, ministry to the broken, discomfort to the comfortable, and stirring the church to be transformed into the image of Christ.

I believe in the mystery of the Trinity, and of the oneness of God's self expressed in the individual persons of God, the Father, Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe that the essence of the Trinity models connection and a life lived in relationship and communion with one another.

I believe that Scripture points us to God and offers believers nourishment, and guidance in life and living. I believe that Scripture bears witness to God's work in the world throughout time, through experiences of the Jewish people, and the testimony of the early church.

I believe that all are welcome to partake of the grace and love of God in Jesus Christ at the Lord's Table. It is the receiving and partaking of the elements at the Lord's table that we experience Trinitarian hospitality and receive sustenance and renewal.

I believe that through baptism, believers and their children are accepted and claimed by God, become a part of the universal church, and share in mutual support and love within a community of faith.

I believe that the church is the body of Christ, and bears witness to God's way of life through congregational worship, the preaching and hearing of the Word, the celebration of the Sacraments, and through its inclusive Trinitarian hospitality and community. The church manifests God's will in the world through the ministry of presence, caring for the poor, the marginalized, the outcast, and by working for justice and equity for all people.

Believers embody a daily awareness of God's work in their lives and in the world. The church pursues a deeper understanding of who God is through discipleship and an intentional commitment to growth and spiritual maturity. A commitment to spiritual practice forms the heart of the believer towards God and is essential to Christian life. A vital life of prayer is at the center of all Christian practice.

## **Presbytery of Ohio Valley Validated Ministry of Pulpit Supply, Sacramental Ministry, and Governance**

Approved by the Committee on Ministry 11.02.2021

Rationale: When there is a vacancy in pastoral leadership – particularly in smaller congregations – sessions often find it difficult to fill the pulpit with a Minister of the Word and Sacrament who can celebrate the Sacraments. Similarly, the presbytery must appoint a minister member of the presbytery to serve as moderator of session and to moderate congregational meetings. Pastors in certain geographic areas of the presbytery are often overworked to meet these needs. This position would be eligible as an ordainable call with the approval of the Committee on Ministry.

### Those eligible would be:

- A Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the PC (USA)
- A Member of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, or willing to be received with COM approval
- Not otherwise serving in pastoral leadership
- Successfully completed a criminal background check
- Willing and available to offer pulpit supply for at least two to three Sundays a month
- Willing and available to be appointed as Moderator of Session for up to two congregations
- Accountable to the COM leadership (Co-Moderators, Executive Presbyter, and Stated Clerk) by submitting reports of their activity quarterly, or as requested
- Approved by the Committee on Ministry to serve in this validated ministry

Compensation at or above the presbytery minimum and IRS mileage for pulpit supply and governance will ordinarily be borne by the session. The Executive Presbyter, at her discretion, may apply appropriate presbytery funds to help offset some of the costs.

## **Committee on Ministry Report**

The Rev. Alan Finnan and the Rev. Cindy Cushman, Co-Moderators

Summary of COM actions, **May 16, 2024**, through **July 30, 2024**.

### **FOR INFORMATION**

At the **June 11, 2024**, meeting, the Committee on Ministry took the following action:

1. Approved the **Rev. Cheryl Montgomery's** request to be designated by the Presbytery as Retired as of August 31, 2024

By electronic vote on **June 27, 2024**, the Committee on Ministry electronically took the following action:

1. Regarding the **Rev. Tyler Brinks**:
  - a. Approved the match between Tyler Brinks and the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, for the position of Associate Pastor
  - b. Approved establishing the pastoral relationship between Tyler Brinks and the First Presbyterian Church of Bloomington, effective the first date of service
  - c. Recommended that Tyler Brinks be received as a member of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley effective the first date of service

By electronic vote on **July 16, 2024**, the Committee on Ministry electronically took the following actions:

1. Regarding the **Rev. Mary Beth McCandless**:
  - a. Approved the match between Mary Beth McCandless and the First Presbyterian Church of Evansville, for the position of Pastor
  - b. Approved establishing the pastoral relationship between Mary Beth McCandless and the First Presbyterian Church of Evansville, effective the first date of service
  - c. Recommended that Mary Beth McCandless be received as a member of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley effective the first date of service
2. Regarding **Jerusha Van Camp**:
  - a. Certified the match between Jerusha Van Camp and the Validated Ministry of Preaching, Sacraments, and Church Governance as an ordainable call
  - b. Recommended that Jerusha be presented by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to be examined for ordination on the floor of presbytery



At the **July 30, 2024**, meeting, the Committee on Ministry took the following action:

1. Approved the following pastoral agreement:

a. **First Presbyterian Church of Greene County and the Rev. Hana Elliott** serving as Stated Supply

Period	Hrs./wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont.Ed.	Pension
09/03/2024 to 09/02/2025	Part-time, approx. 30hr/wk	\$25,000	\$25,000	Vch.IRS rate	2 weeks incl. 2 Sundays	5 weeks incl. 5 Sundays	\$2,000	Yes

**FOR ACTION**

1. That the Presbytery of Ohio Valley grant the status of Retired to the Rev. Cheryl Montgomery, effective August 31, 2024.
2. That the Presbytery of Ohio Valley set the following standards for 2025 minimum compensation for pastors and commissioned pastors (representing an increase of 3.0%).

**PRESBYTERY OF OHIO VALLEY**  
**2025 MINIMUM ANNUAL COMPENSATION STANDARDS**  
 Recommended by COM—July 30, 2024  
 Approved by Assembly—

<b><i>2025 Standards</i></b>	<b>Without Manse: Cash Salary— includes Housing Allocation<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>With Manse: Cash Salary &amp; Manse Value at 30%<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Salary For Ordained Ministers</b>	<b>\$56,784</b>	<b>\$43,580 &amp; \$13,205</b>
<b>Salary For Commissioned Pastors (75%)</b>	<b>\$39,749</b>	<b>\$30,576 &amp; \$ 9,173</b>

<sup>1</sup> Housing allowance must be determined in advance and the amount shown in the terms of call or other contract and recorded in the minutes of session or congregation.

<sup>2</sup>To calculate Cash Salary portion of a 30% Manse Value, divide Total Cash Salary including Manse amount (above example for ordained ministers being \$56,784) by 1.3 to get the Cash Salary portion.

*In addition, congregations are encouraged to add a SECA (self-employment tax) offset of 7.65% of total effective salary.*

**PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES**

The following amounts will be made available to the minister, for reimbursement of professional expenses through the presentation of vouchers.

- Vouchered Auto Mileage – Reimbursed at current IRS rate (Note: As of January 1, 2024, value is **67.0 cents/mi**)
- Continuing Education (cumulative over 3 years to sum of annual amounts): **\$1200** (ordained pastors and commissioned pastors); however, it is strongly recommended that up to **\$2,000** be offered to cover 2 weeks of tuition, room and board, travel

**VACATION, LEAVE, HOLIDAYS Accruals per year**

- Vacation **One month including 4 Sundays**
- Sick **10 days** (cumulative up to 120 days; lost at end of employment)
- Study Leave **Two weeks including 2 Sundays** (cumulative to 6 weeks over 3 years)
- Holidays **New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and two personal holidays**

**BOARD OF PENSIONS (BOP) BENEFIT PLAN**

Employing organizations will pay regularly in advance to the board responsible for benefits a sum equal to that requisite percent of effective salary (salary + housing or 30+% of salary, utilities, and any deferred compensation) which may be fixed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) including pension, medical coverage, and death and disability benefits. For pastors working over 20 hours per week, who are not members of the Board of Pensions, a comparable amount will be paid to their denomination’s plan or other mutually-agreed-upon retirement program.

The Board of Pensions has adopted a new benefits plan for 2025 that no longer requires congregations served by installed pastors to cover health insurance for spouses and children. A more flexible plan is being offered that gives congregations the option to offer family coverage, although coverage may be more costly. For more information, visit the Board of Pensions website at: <https://seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org/2025-plan-changes/dues-packages>

Medical coverage for pastors and their families continues to be both a value and an expectation for congregations served by installed pastors, as well as those whose pastors are serving in non-installed positions for at least 20 hours a week. *Minimum pastoral compensation in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley includes health insurance coverage for pastors and families, to be paid by the congregation.* Terms of call for installed pastors and pastoral agreements for temporary pastors will include a statement indicating how this coverage will be provided. Possibilities may include insurance provided by a spouse’s employment or purchased through the market place.

It is not the intent of this policy to create a hardship for congregations or pastors. The Presbytery, working through its Committee on Ministry and Presbytery Staff, is committed to helping congregations and pastors navigate these changes.

OTHER MINIMUM COMPENSATION

- Occasional pulpit supply – for approved *Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Pastors, Seminary Students, & Ruling Elders:*
  - Congregations of 100 members or more **\$175 plus mileage**
  - Congregations under 100 members **\$150 plus mileage**
  - Additional Services on same day **\$ 50**
- Moderating a session or congregation by invitation: **\$100 plus mileage**
- Wedding: **\$150 plus mileage**
- Funeral **\$125 plus mileage**

## **Report of the Presbytery Council**

The Rev. Susan McGhee, Moderator

### **For Presbytery's Information**

**The Presbytery Council conducted an electronic vote June 27, 2024, and took the following actions:**

1. Approved a Monroe City Grant of \$7,000 to the Corydon Presbyterian Church towards the purchase of a commercial refrigerator and freezer for its weekly feeding program

**The Presbytery Council met July 30, 2024, by videoconference and took the following actions:**

1. Acting as a Commission of the Presbytery, appointed the Rev. Alan Finnan as moderator of session for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Washington, effective 08.26.24
2. Acting as a Commission of the Presbytery, appointed the Rev. Larry Langer as moderator of session for Princeton Presbyterian Church, effective 08.26.24
3. Acting as a Commission of the Presbytery, appointed the Rev. Susan McGhee as moderator of session for United Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, effective 09.01.24
4. Acting as a Commission of the Presbytery and upon recommendation from the Nominating Committee:
  - a. Elected the Rev. Scott Seay to serve as moderator of the Presbytery Personnel Committee
  - b. Elected Ruling Elder Alicia Holt to serve as an at-large member of the Presbytery Council
5. Agreed to recommend that 2025 Assemblies be held Saturday, February 8; Thursday, May 22; Saturday, August 23; and Thursday, November 20.
6. Agreed to recommend that per capita for 2025 be set at \$55.00, reflecting no change from 2024
7. Agreed to recommend a revised presbytery design and committee structure to the August 24 assembly

### **For Presbytery Action:**

1. **That the actions of the Presbytery Council electing Scott Seay as serve as moderator of the Presbytery Personnel Committee and Alicia Holt to serve as an at-large member of the Presbytery Council be confirmed.**
2. **That the following dates be set for 2025 Assemblies:**
  - a. Saturday, February 8 (likely by Zoom)
  - b. Thursday, May 22 (likely in-person)
  - c. Saturday, August 23 (likely in-person)
  - d. Thursday, November 20 (likely by Zoom)
3. **That the Presbytery of Ohio Valley set the 2025 per capita at \$55.00 (see below)**
4. **That the Presbytery endorse and adopt the revised design and committee structure (see below)**

## **2025 Recommended Per Capita: \$55.00**

Background: Presbyterians have a form of government built upon shared authority and mutual accountability as we seek together to find and represent the mind of Christ. Per Capita dollars provide the primary means for elected members to gather at Presbytery assemblies, Synod assemblies, and the biennial General Assembly. In addition, Per Capita funds the constitutionally required functions of each body.

Besides providing for the means for us to gather to discern the mind of Christ, Per Capita in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley supports: 100% of the compensation for the Treasurer and Stated Clerk, 75% of the compensation for the Administrative Associate for IT Support, 50% of the compensation for the Administrative Associate for Office Support, 50% of the compensation for the Executive Presbyter, 25% of administrative and office expenses, and 100% of ecclesiastical expenses (including expenses for assemblies, administrative commissions, and entities such as the Trustees, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry that perform constitutionally required work).

We anticipate that the Synod of Lincoln Trails Per Capita will remain at \$3.81. General Assembly Per Capita for 2025 will be \$10.84, an increase of \$1.04 from 2024. In 2024, the Presbytery's portion of Per Capita was \$41.39, with a total of \$55.00.

**The Presbytery Council recommends that the 2025 Per Capita Giving be set at \$55.00, reflecting no change from 2024.** The Council is aware that the \$55.00 amount does not fully fund the constitutionally required functions of the Presbytery. In addition, this recommendation absorbs the increase in General Assembly Per Capita, thus reducing the amount available for use by the Presbytery from \$41.39 to \$40.35.

Why are we making this recommendation? Here are a few of the reasons:

- As we look at our financial situation this year, the Council believes that we can handle the gap between what we will receive in Per Capita and what we need to spend in order to support the work of the Presbytery as it supports the work of its congregations.
- With the changes in the Board of Pensions Benefits Plan and increases in providing health insurance to pastors with spouses and/or children, we want to demonstrate our concern for congregations potentially facing increased costs.
- We intend to use this time to explore in depth the financial resources of the Presbytery, consider a variety of funding models, and develop a strategy for the use of our resources to support our congregations as they seek to bear witness to the sovereign activity of God in the world and serve as communities of faith, hope, love, and witness.

The Presbytery Council makes this recommendation from a place of gratitude, generosity, and hope. We believe that God is up to something good in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley and in our congregations, and that God will provide the resources we need to be faithful to who God calls us to be and what God calls us to do.

## **Presbytery of Ohio Valley Design and Committee Structure Background Information and Executive Summary of Proposed Revisions**

The Presbytery's "Design for Mission and Ministry" was adopted in 2014 and amended in May 2015. In the intervening years, the Presbytery Council made a few provisional changes to the Design (such as folding the work of the POV Academy Committee into that of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry in 2018). In 2019, the Evangelism & Congregational Witness Committee (ECW) and the Congregational Mission & Vitality Committee (CMV) began to work together and consider the possibility of merging.

Then Covid hit. Many projects that were on the horizon were put on hold. With all that we had to do to navigate our way through these last few years, little time or energy was left to resume conversations about committee merger. In addition, the responsibilities of recommending and approving grants for ministry and mission (which is a major part of the ECW Committee and the CMV Committee) was assumed by the Council in order to streamline the process of getting funds to where they were most needed.

As we began to find and chart our way forward, the Presbytery Council acknowledged that it was time to look once more at how the Presbytery of Ohio Valley can best be organized (or "designed") to fulfill its mandate from F-1.0304, to assist and support "the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness."

The proposed Design is the work of a task force consisting of the executive presbyter, presbytery moderator, stated clerk, standing committee moderators, and the personnel committee moderator. It was presented to the Presbytery Council July 30, and comes now to the full Presbytery.

The attached document is annotated to identify the changes that are proposed. Here is a summary:

1. The work of the POV Academy Committee to manage and direct the process of preparing ruling elders to be certified ready to receive a pastoral commission (to become Commissioned Pastors or CREs) has officially been folded into the responsibilities of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
2. A new committee, the Mission and Witness Resource Committee, combines much of the work of the Evangelism & Congregational Witness Committee and the Congregational Mission & Vitality Committee.
3. Responsibilities that belonged to one entity or office have been re-assigned to others (these are noted in the body of the document that follows).
4. The composition and membership of a few of the entities have been amended (these are noted in the body of the document that follows).
5. Language has been updated in keeping with the Book of Order and Church Leadership Connection.

## The Presbytery of Ohio Valley: Design for Mission and Ministry

*From the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), G-3.0301: The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304).*

---

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley adopts this design for mission and ministry, seeking to be faithful to the Scriptures and Confessions of the Church, as well as to the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, the Form of Government, the Directory for Worship and the Church Discipline of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We recognize that our structures are provisional in nature, and that their purpose is to give us a framework in which we can be both faithful and effective as we serve our member congregations, the larger church, and the mission field into which God sends us.

The design that follows:

- identifies the formal entities of the Presbytery, setting forth their primary responsibilities and authority, including those areas in which commission powers are granted;
- suggests possibilities for other networks and partnerships; and
- provides a brief description of the major responsibilities of the offices of Presbytery Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and Immediate Past Moderator.

This design is not intended to say everything that can be said about these entities, networks, and offices, nor does it set describe *how* they will do their work. We hope that this design will help give shape to the work we are called to do together. Above all, we hope that our presbytery will continue to explore new ways to be responsive to the great good news of Christ Jesus.

Glory to God in the Church and in Christ Jesus, from generation to generation, forever!

---

## Presbytery Council

**Membership:** The moderators of each of the standing committees of the Presbytery, the moderator of the Personnel Committee, four at-large members representing the geographical diversity of the presbytery, the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, and immediate past Moderator of the Presbytery, the Stated Clerk, Treasurer (if that person is a ruling or teaching elder; otherwise, the Treasurer serves as an advisory member with voice but not vote → explains what happens when the treasurer is not a presbyter), and Executive Presbyter (who shall serve as moderator)

**Responsibilities** (\* indicates a commission power):

Attend to the orderly and faithful functioning of the Presbytery, and guide the Presbytery in strategic planning and process

Work with Presbytery committees and staff to develop and maintain positive, supportive connections with POV congregations

Act for and on behalf of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley as needed between regular Assemblies \*

Prepare an annual budget and present it to Assembly for approval

Authorize non-budgeted expenditures and act as needed, in other areas of budget administration \*

Provide for appropriate adult leadership and oversight for the Presbyterian Youth Triennium and other youth events

Authorize the celebration of sacraments for worshipping communities in the absence of a session \* (moved here from Evangelism and Cong Witness Committee)

Appoint moderators of session for congregations without a pastor \* (moved here from a special commission of the EP, Stated Clerk, and moderators of COM & POV)

Provide for coordination and collaboration among presbytery committee and other entities

Act on requests for grants and loans from presbytery funds

Receive overtures to presbytery, synod or general assembly, and make recommendations for presbytery action, in consultation with synod and/or general assembly commissioners as appropriate

Provide for a Disaster Response Team to develop and implement a disaster response plan (new)

Nominate, for Presbytery election, persons to serve on the Presbytery Nominating Committee

Participate in staff evaluation and review through its Personnel Committee



**Board of Trustees** (a standing committee of presbytery).

**Membership:** Three elected members, teaching elders and ruling elders, to a term of no more than three years, renewable to a total of no more than six consecutive years. The Presbytery Treasurer, Stated Clerk, and Executive Presbyter shall serve ex-officio without vote. The Stated Clerk shall serve as the Secretary of the Board.

**Responsibilities:** (\* indicates a commission power)

Act for the Presbytery in matters pertaining to “The Presbytery of Ohio Valley, Inc.” \*

Act on requests by a congregation for a mortgage or other encumbrance of property \*

Execute deeds and other transfer of property on behalf of the Presbytery \*

Co-sign, as appropriate, loan applications for congregations through the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program \*

Assist and advise as requested on matters pertaining to church property

Provide for the management of presbytery investments

Provide for necessary insurance for the presbytery.

Receive and review requests for loans from congregations, and refer them to Council for action.

Designate one or more of its members to execute legal documents. \*

## **Committee on Ministry** (a standing committee of presbytery)

**Membership:** Twelve elected members, teaching elders and ruling elders, to a term of no more than three years, renewable to a total of no more than six consecutive years

**Responsibilities:** (\* indicates a commission power) – language updated to reflect current process

Act on matters related to calling installed pastors and entering into agreements with temporary pastors, commissioned pastors, and other contracted pastoral staff, including, but not limited to:

- + Authorize, at a time it deems appropriate, the formation of a pastor nominating committee or search committee following the departure of a pastor \*
- + Resource and guide the work of pastor nominating committees and search committees \*
- + Approve congregational profiles (such as the Ministry Discernment Profile) prior to their use in the search process \*
- + Provide guidance and permission on the merits, suitability, and availability of those being considered to serve in a pastoral relationship, and, at a time it deems appropriate, clear the way for the session to call a congregational meeting (in the case of installed pastors) or to act on pastoral agreements (in the case of temporary pastors) \*
- + Establish pastoral relationships as agreed upon by congregations or sessions \*
- + Review and act on agreements for pastoral services, counseling with pastors and sessions \*

Act on matters relating to the dissolution of pastoral calls:

- + Provide for and guide the process for the dissolution of pastoral calls when necessary \*
- + Dissolve pastoral calls when there is concurrence between pastor and congregation \*
- + Review and bring to the presbytery for action matters related to the dissolution of pastoral calls when there is not concurrence between pastor and congregation.
- + Provide for a minister member of presbytery to moderate congregational meetings per G-2.0903 (Dissolution of pastoral relationships at the request of the congregation) \* (moved here from a special commission of the EP, Stated Clerk, and moderators of COM & POV)

Act on matters related to presbytery membership, by receiving and dismissing minister members who are in good standing \*

Act on requests for validated ministries and approve ordainable calls \*

Recommend, for presbytery action, minimum requirements for compensation and benefits for pastors in installed or temporary pastoral relationships, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service, certified Christian educators, and certified associate Christian educators

Maintain a pulpit supply list

Provide for a Sexual Misconduct Response Team (moved here from the Presbytery Council)

Provide assistance and counsel in the event of conflict within congregations

## **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** (a standing committee of presbytery)

**Membership:** Six elected members, teaching elders and ruling elders, to a term of no more than three years, renewable to a total of no more than six consecutive years.

**Responsibilities** (\* indicates a commission power): – language updated to reflect current process

Manage and direct the process of preparation for the Ordered Ministry of Minister of the Word and Sacrament \*

Review and counsel with Inquirers and Candidates at all levels of preparation.

Authorize and manage such third-party evaluations as may be required, including psychological evaluations and background screening. \*

Admit persons to Inquirer status and present them to Presbytery. \*

Admit persons to Candidate status and present them to Presbytery for confirmation. \*

Upon request from the Committee on Ministry, evaluate the preparation of ministers from other denominations seeking membership.

The following moved here from the former POV Academy Committee:

Manage and direct the process of preparation for those considering/seeking to serve as a Commissioned Pastor

Certify ruling elders who have completed their education and satisfied any additional requirements, and whose gifts are suitable for commissioning, and endorse such individuals to the Committee on Ministry \*

Approve opportunities for continuing education in order to maintain eligibility for current or future service as a commissioned pastor

Maintain records of those who have been certified as eligible to be commissioned, receive and record their annual continuing education reports, and maintain contact with those who keep their continuing education current

---

## **Committee on Representation**

**Membership:** The Moderators of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, the Nominating Committee, and the Presbytery Council

**Responsibilities:**

Assist the presbytery in the organization, which includes the diversity of the Presbytery itself.

Counsel with the Nominating Committee and report to the full presbytery on matters of appropriate representation.

**Mission and Witness Resource Committee** (a standing committee of presbytery) → a new committee combining many of the responsibilities that once belonged to Congregational Mission and Vitality Committee and Evangelism and Congregational Witness Committee

**Membership:** Six elected members, teaching elders and ruling elders, to a term of no more than three years, renewable to a total of no more than six consecutive years.

**Responsibilities:**

Cultivate within the congregations of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley a faithful response to opportunities for mission and ministry within the local and global community

Connect congregations to resources in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Synod of Lincoln Trails in support of congregational mission and witness

Collect and share stories of congregational mission within the presbytery

Encourage, nurture and resource existing congregations in their efforts to spread the good news, make disciples, and offer hospitality to those who may be seeking a community of faith or wishing to deepen their spiritual lives

Receive, review, and refine grant requests from congregations desiring to partner with the presbytery in ministry to their communities and make recommendations to the Presbytery Council for disbursement

Encourage collaboration among or between congregations for mission, social justice, and peacemaking projects

Recommend to the Presbytery Council the distribution of the presbytery's portion of the Peacemaking Offering

Explore and refine our presbytery's evolving relationship with Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center, in light of Pyoca's corporate status and in keeping with any covenants between the two entities, recommending any modifications to the Presbytery Council

Explore opportunities for mission partnerships between the presbytery and other agencies

## **Nominating Committee** (a standing committee of presbytery)

**Membership:** Six elected members, teaching elders and ruling elders, to a term of no more than three years, renewable to a total of no more than six consecutive years.

### **Responsibilities:**

Nominate to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley for its election:

- + The Moderator and Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley
- + Moderators and members of Presbytery Committees, and other entities
- + Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegates to the Synod of Lincoln Trails and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- + Readers of Ordination exams and leadership in other entities of the larger church as requested
- + Other leaders, as requested by the Presbytery or its Council

Nominate corporate officers to The Presbytery of Ohio Valley, Inc., for its election

Consult with the Committee on Representation concerning principles of inclusion, non-discrimination, and balance in nominations

Consult periodically with the moderators of Presbytery Committees and other entities to determine needs for membership

---

## **Personnel Committee** (a committee of the presbytery council)

**Membership:** A Moderator elected by the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, the Moderator and immediate past Moderator of the Presbytery, the Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, **the President of the Board of Trustees** (added to represent the corporate arm of the presbytery), and two additional members elected by the Presbytery Council

### **Responsibilities:** – language updated to reflect current process

Review annually the work of all paid Presbytery staff and paid elected officers of the Presbytery and to report the results to the Presbytery through the Presbytery Council

Review the work of the Stated Clerk and the Treasurer prior to the expiration of their terms, and make recommendations to the Presbytery Council regarding the advisability of re-election.

Review the staff position descriptions and to update them as necessary

Make recommendations for changes in staff compensation for budgetary purposes

Recommend to the Presbytery through the Presbytery Council the dismissal of elected staff for cause

Assist in conflict management among staff, in accord with the Personnel Policies and the Constitutional Standards of the PC(USA).

Provide assistance and guidance as needed to the Executive Presbyter who serves as Head of Staff.

Review and refine, as necessary, the Personnel Policies of the Presbytery

## **Stewardship Committee** (a standing committee of presbytery)

**Membership:** Three elected members, teaching elders and ruling elders, to a term of no more than three years, renewable to a total of no more than six consecutive years.

### **Responsibilities:**

Provide for the development of a stewardship program within the life of the Presbytery.

Provide interpretation of the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) including local, presbytery, synod and General Assembly.

Provide guidance and assistance to congregations in areas related to stewardship.

**Interpret opportunities for mission and ministry through the Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**  
(moved here from the Congregational Mission and Vitality Committee)

---

## **Commissions of the Presbytery**

**A Permanent Judicial Commission** consisting of **nine** (a number had not previously been specified) teaching and ruling elders in as equal number as possible is elected by the Presbytery and functions as set out in the Church Discipline section of the Book of Order.

**Administrative Commissions** are created by the Presbytery as needed and are charged to act as Presbytery in specific matters according to the provisions of G-3.0109b. Administrative Commissions to Ordain Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and/or Install Pastors, Co-Pastors and Associate Pastors are appointed by the Moderator of Presbytery, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter and the person being ordained and/or installed.

## **Other networks / partnerships**

In addition to the formal committee and commission structure of the Presbytery, networks and partnerships may be created around such commonalities as geographical proximity, churches or pastors of churches of a similar size, pastors serving in transitional ministries, long-term pastors, newly ordained pastors, congregations wishing to share in joint projects (such as youth ministry, spiritual formation or mission to the community). Some networks may be ongoing, while others are formed for a specified amount of time as need and opportunity arise. Networks may request funds through the Presbytery Council to support their mission and ministry.

## **Moderator of Presbytery**

Moderate Presbytery Assemblies

Appoint Commissions to Ordain Teaching Elders and/or Install Pastors, Co-Pastors and Associate Pastors, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter and the person being ordained and/or installed, and serve as the Moderator of these Commissions when able

In consultation with the Stated Clerk and Executive Presbyter (or Committee on Ministry Leadership should either need to be recused) - *added to suggest best practice* - appoint an Investigating Committee when an allegation has been made against a minister member of the Presbytery, or in other matters over which the Presbytery has jurisdiction

Serve as a member of the Presbytery Council, as well as other entities as requested or set forth in Presbytery policy

## **Vice-Moderator of Presbytery**

Serve as a member of the Presbytery Council, as well as other entities as requested or set forth in Presbytery policy

In the absence of the Moderator, serve as Moderator of Commissions to Ordain Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and/or Install Pastors, Co-Pastors and Associate Pastors

Assist in the preparation of the Lord's Supper for Assemblies

## **Immediate Past Moderator of Presbytery**

Serve as a member of the Presbytery Council, as well as other entities as requested or set forth in Presbytery policy

In the absence of the Moderator or Vice-Moderator, serve as Moderator of Commissions to Ordain Teaching Elders and/or Install Pastors, Co-Pastors and Associate Pastors.

Moderate meetings of the Presbytery Council in the absence of the Council Moderator

## **Report of the Executive Presbyter**

The Rev. Susan McGhee

### **Visit of the Rev. Anthony Larson, Co-Moderator of the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PC(USA)**

1. 09.14.24: Serve as corresponding member of the Administrative Commission to Ordain Jerusha Van Camp to the Ordered Ministry of Minister of the Word and Sacrament – First, Evansville (pending successful examination by the August 24 Presbytery Assembly)
2. 09.15.24: Preach at First, Columbus, in celebration of their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary – First, Columbus
3. 09.16.24: Preach and speak at a special Presbytery Convocation – First, Bloomington (10:00 am – 2:00 pm ET) This convocation is open to any and all in our presbytery. A baked potato bar lunch is provided at no cost to participants (this is your congregation's per capita and shared mission dollars at work). To help us plan, please register using this link <https://www.presbyteryov.org/news/event-registration>

### **Comings and Goings in the Presbytery**

1. Hello to the Rev. Tyler Brinks as Associate Pastor of First, Bloomington (08.19.24)
2. Goodbye to the Rev. Cheryl Thorne, who is beginning a new call in the Albany Presbytery
3. Goodbye to the Rev. Cheryl Montgomery upon her retirement, effective 08.31.24

### **Remaining Healthy Boundaries Training Opportunities** (many thanks to the Synod of Lincoln Trails for financial support!)

1. Zoom, September 18 - 19 @ 1:00pm – 4:00pm Eastern Time
2. Zoom, October 1 - 2 @ 9:00am – 12:00pm Eastern Time
3. In-person, Tuesday, August 21 @ 9:00am – 4:00 pm Central Time  
Westminster Presbyterian Church (830 Annie Glidden Road, DeKalb, IL 60115)
4. In-person, Wednesday, August 21 @ 9:00am – 4:00 pm Central Time  
Park Ridge Presbyterian Church (1300 W Crescent Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068)

**Board of Pensions Changes:** The Board of Pensions benefits plan for 2025 no longer automatically provides health insurance coverage for the spouses and children of pastors enrolled in the plan. Family coverage is available at an additional cost, which may be more expensive. To read more about the 2025 dues structure, please follow this [link](#). These changes have, understandably, been a source of concern for congregations and pastors; the Committee on Ministry and I are committed to helping you navigate these changes.

The 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the General Assembly adopted a resolution to “Ask the Association of Mid Council Leaders (AMCL) to select five Mid Council Leaders to work with the Board of Pensions to explore adjustments to be made to medical dues plans for Pastors and Spouse or Families to help alleviate the burden on small congregations and present options for medical coverage for pastoral leaders needing family, spousal, or child coverage in 2026 and beyond.” As the incoming President of AMCL, I will be leading this five-member team to work with the Board.

**Upcoming Time Away:** August 25–28 (to officiate at the graveside service for my aunt in Roanoke, Virginia)  
September 20–29 and November 24–27 (vacation days)



A Celebration of the Saints  
 Ruling and Teaching Elder Necrology  
 January 1 – December 31, 2023

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Elder Ordination Date</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
<u>Bloomington, First</u> Dorothy “Dotti” Riggins		08.23.2023
<u>Charlestown, Community</u> Donald H. McCreary	00.00.1972	01.06.2023
<u>Columbus, Fairlawn</u> Kirk Beckstein	08.02.2015	02.23.2023
<u>Evansville, First</u> Dan Wagemann Jack Schriber	01.26.2023 02.02.1992	10.06.2023 09.15.2023
<u>Greencastle, Greencastle</u> Catharine Walton Susan Lorimer		06.29.2023 06.01.2023
<u>Hanover, Hanover</u> Maria Theresa Walker Coghil	12.23.2002	09.04.2023
<u>Henryville, Community</u> Reva W. Dietrich	06.03.1973	01.09.2023
<u>Jeffersonville, First</u> Frances Loena Sellmer	05.20.1990	01.07.2023
<u>Livonia, Livonia United</u> Cecil McCracken	02.04.1962	10.26.2023
<u>Madison, Smyrna-Monroe</u> Carol Bell	12.30.1990	02.11.2023
<u>Montezuma, First</u> Malcolm Moore		05.03.2023
<u>Nashville, Brown County</u> Bill Boyle		01.11.2023
<u>New Albany, Mount Tabor</u> Ralph Voss Virgil “Fritz” McCauley	01.20.2002 02.01.1998	12.25.2023 12.26.2023

<u>Petersburg, Main Street</u>		
Ronald K. Wilson	11.13.1977	04.02.2023
Rosemary Weathers	11.14.1976	06.23.2023
Vance Hays	12.30.1984	10.19.2023

<u>Roachdale, Roachdale</u>		
Helen Miller		01.19.2023
Lola Crosby		12.26.2023
Martha Boruff		04.10.2023

<u>Rockville, Memorial</u>		
Janice Rohe		08.21.2023

<u>Seymour, First</u>		
Dana Bolinger	08.11.1991	08.04.2023

<u>Terre Haute, Unity</u>		
Dawn Chapman		11.30.2023
Kathryn Modesitt		10.04.2023

<u>Ministers of the Word &amp; Sacrament</u>	<u>Ordination Date</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Eugene Gladney	01.10.1982	12.26.2023
William May	09.01.1952	10.27.2023

Glory to you, O God, for you have woven radiant garments for the Resurrection.

Blessings to you, O Christ, for you were clothed with them at your rising.

Praise to you, O Holy Spirit, for you keep them in love for all the saints.

## 2024 PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other over a two-year span. Sharing prayers with each other works! Here's how you can help:

By the tenth of the month preceding the month for your church (i.e., by January 10 for churches listed for February), please send a paragraph or two telling a little about your church or organization – size and activities, location and neighborhood, special programs, history, and anything else that would help others in the presbytery get a better sense of who and where you are. Also send us any joys you'd like to share or prayer requests for your church activities or programs. **If your church is in a parish, we'd also appreciate information on the benefits you feel parish membership has brought to the parish churches.**

Email your information to [office@presbyteryov.org](mailto:office@presbyteryov.org). Call 866-344-7853 for more information.

August 25	*Nabb	November 3	Community, Leavenworth
September 1	First, Farmersburg	November 10	Presbytery of Ohio Valley Staff
September 8	Disaster Assistance	November 17	Lexington
September 15	First, Fort Branch	November 24	Livonia
September 22	Retired Ministers living in POV	December 1	Madison
September 29	Greencastle	December 8	Hanover College
October 6	Hanover	December 15	POV Chaplains and others in Specialized Ministries
October 13	First, Jeffersonville	December 22	4 <sup>th</sup> Advent (Christmas anticipated)
October 20	Rehoboth, Laconia	December 29	Peace on Earth
October 27	United, Laconia		