

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley
Docket for Assembly: August 22, 2026
Pyoca Camp & Retreat Center
Elder Rob Henson, Moderator
The Rev. Cheri Harper, Vice Moderator
The Rev. Dr. Scott Seay, Stated Clerk
10:00am ET/9:00am CT

Declaration of a Quorum

Call to Order

Opening Worship and Proclamation of the Word

The Rev. Cindy Cushman

Pastor, Corydon Presbyterian Church

Minister Commissioner to the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Introductory Business

Welcome

Greetings from the Host Site: Mr. Paul Fogg

Introductions of New Members and Guests

Seating of Corresponding Members

Consent Agenda

Clerk's Report; Minutes of May 21, 2026; Docket; Treasurer's Report

Report of the Presbytery Council

1. 2027 Assembly Dates

2. Per capita recommendation for 2027

Report of the Committee on Ministry

1. Retirement of the Rev. Thomas Davis

2. Minimum Compensation Recommendation for 2027

Report of the Mission and Witness Resource Committee

1. Celebrating the Monroe City Grant

2. Introducing the new Community Ministry Grant

Report of the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Commissioners Janet Huber Lowry and Cindy Cushman

Opportunity for Questions & Answers

Lunch

Speak Out Session | Good News from the Pews!

Report of the Executive Presbyter

Greetings from Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center

New Business

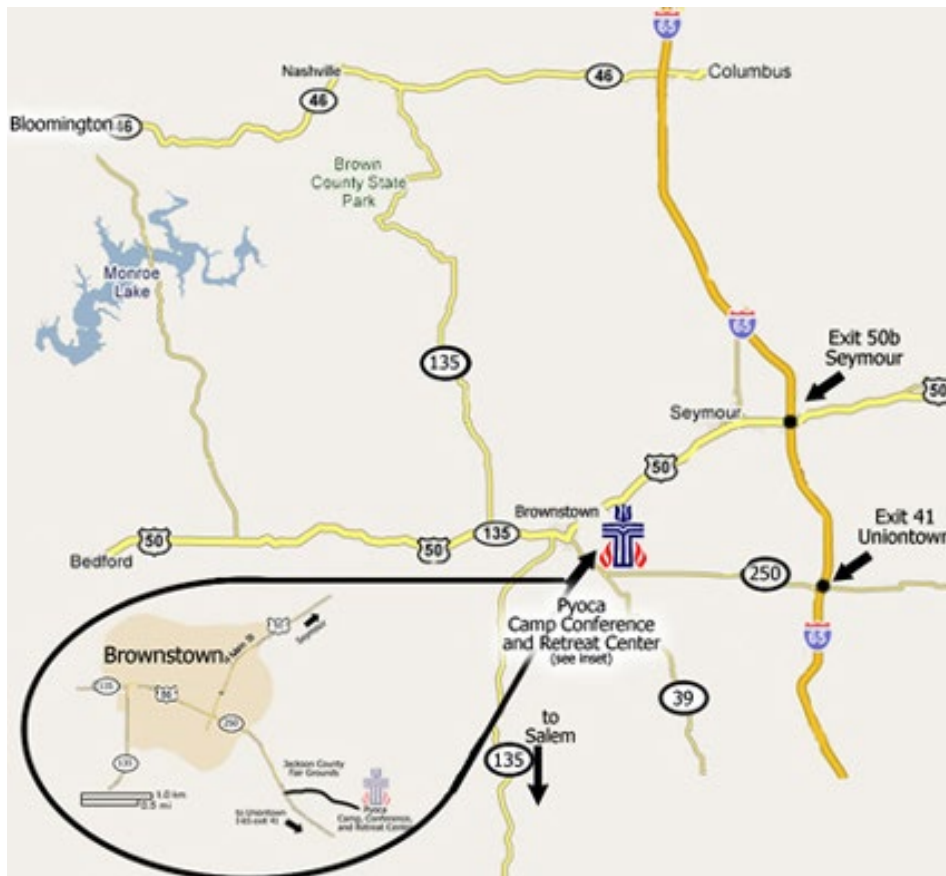
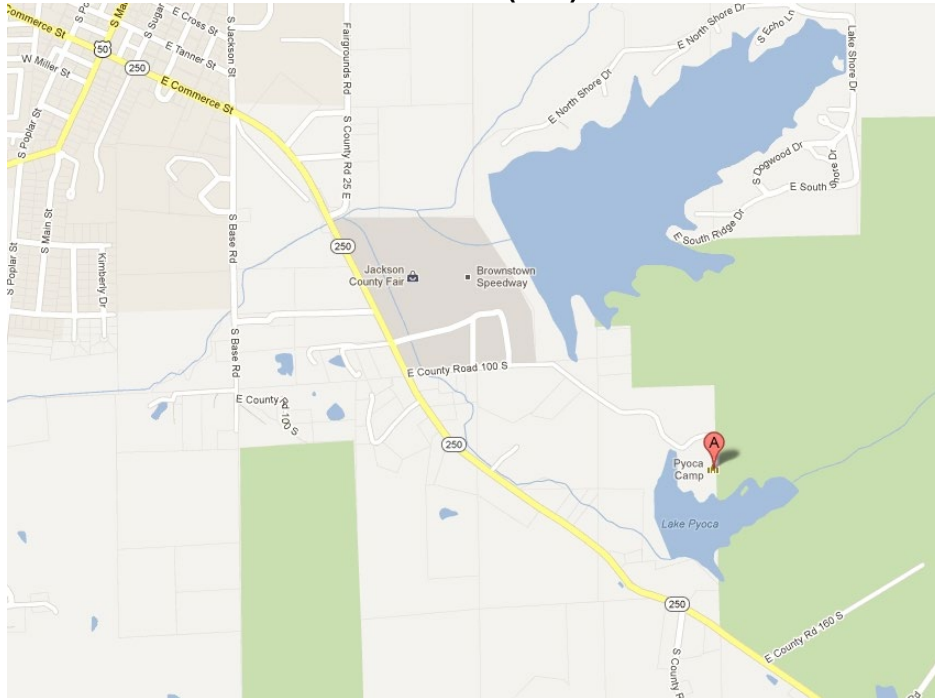
Prayers of the Presbytery

Offering

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Adjournment with Closing Litany

**Presbytery of Ohio Valley
Driving Directions
Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center - Brownstown, Indiana
886 East County Road 100 S, Brownstown, IN 47220
1-866-251-2267 or (812) 358-3413**



Presbytery of Ohio Valley
Driving Directions
Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center - Brownstown, Indiana
886 East County Road 100 S, Brownstown, IN 47220
1-866-251-2267 or (812) 358-3413

For a map image of the location, use a web browser to navigate to the [POV Churches](#) page and click on the map image, then choose Pyoca from the list.

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. The directions we provide begin with major routes into the city/town where the assembly will be held, and include more detailed directions regarding the streets closer to the meeting site. Please use an online source or printed map to find the way from your starting point to the place where these directions begin. The POV website has all church locations marked on Google Maps to assist you.

There may be construction or detours that would affect normal routes of travel. To be prepared for this possibility, it is wise to have a map, Google map printout, or GPS navigation available, just in case. You can also check the Indiana Department of Transportation website for Road Restrictions and Closures: <https://www.in.gov/indot/travel-conditions/restrictionsclosings/>

Pyoca is located in Brownstown, Indiana, approximately 15 miles west of Seymour, IN.

Construction Note: Between Highway 50 (Seymour) and the Ohio River, I-65 will have periodic lane restrictions/closures in both directions.

For those traveling on I-65:

- Take US 50 exit west at Seymour.
- Travel west approximately 15 miles on US 50 to Brownstown and turn left (south) on 250.
- Go one mile, and then turn left at the Pyoca sign, immediately past the Jackson County Fairgrounds.
- Continue to follow the drive until you come to the main lodge.

For those traveling east on U.S. 50:

- Upon entering Brownstown, go straight at the red light (where U.S. 50 turns left) You will now be on 250.
- Continue for one mile, and then turn left at the Pyoca sign, immediately past the Jackson County Fairgrounds.
- Continue to follow the drive until you come to the main lodge.

Stated Clerk's Report

The Rev. Dr. Scott Seay

I. Constitutional Matters

Since the last stated meeting on May 21, 2026, the Stated Clerk has carried out routine duties under authority granted by G-3.03 of the *Book of Order* and by the Presbytery of Ohio Valley. **No constitutional irregularities** requiring Presbytery action are reported.

II. Records Review

A. Dissolved Congregations

Additional records of **one dissolved congregation** have been reviewed and sent to the Presbyterian Historical Society: Bethany Presbyterian Church, Spencer, Indiana – Founded: March 20, 1820. Dissolved: December 15, 2021.

B. Review of Session Records

If you have not already done so, please return completed **Session Records Review** forms for 2025 to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley office to the attention of the Stated Clerk.

III. Ministerial and Membership Changes

The following **changes to the rolls** of presbytery are reported:

A. Teaching Elders

1. Received: Sung Soo Hong by ordination on May 22, 2026
2. Dismissed: Cheryl Montgomery to Presbytery of Florida on July 14, 2026
3. Status changes: Thomas Davis by reinstatement on August 11, 2026
4. Deaths: None Reported

B. Commissioned Pastors / Ruling Elders

1. Received: None Reported
2. Dismissed: None Reported
3. Status changes: None Reported
4. Deaths: None Reported

IV. Congregational and Pastoral Matters

A. Churches with Significant Anniversaries Upcoming

Church	Founded	Anniversary
Boonville, Hemenway Memorial	01 Jan 1866	160
Dale, Dale	08 May 1841	185
Evansville, First	01 Jan 1821	205
Henryville, Community	01 Apr 1961	65
Livonia, Livonia United	16 Feb 1816	210
Madison, Smyrna-Monroe	01 Jan 1941	85
Martinsville, First	23 Jul 1841	185
Patoka, Patoka	04 Jan 1871	155
Petersburg, Main Street	01 Jan 1821	205
Vincennes, Indiana	01 Jan 1806	220
Washington, Westminster	01 Jan 1811	215

V. Judicial Matters

There are **no judicial cases** pending before the Presbytery of Ohio Valley.

VI. Reminders

A. Remaining Assembly Dates for 2026

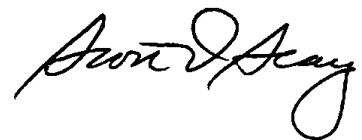
1. November 19 (by Zoom)

B. Contacting the Stated Clerk

You are warmly invited to **contact the Stated Clerk** with questions and concerns. Please do so by using the contact information in the signature line below or by scheduling a Zoom consultation through the Stated Clerk page on the Presbytery website:

<https://www.presbyteryov.org/clerk.htm>.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Dr. Scott D. Seay, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Ohio Valley
(866) 344-7853, ext. 2 or (317) 701-0207 (cell)
scott@presbyteryov.org

Treasurer's Report

Jean Brown

Presbytery of Ohio Valley, Inc.

Condensed Statement of Revenues and Expenses (Actual vs Budget)

January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026

	Jan -June 2026	Annual	% of
	Actual	Budget	Budget
<u>Revenue</u>			
Per Capita	\$ 159,552	\$ 253,638	63%
Shared Giving (Unified Mission)	52,251	85,000	61%
Contributions	1,991	17,750	11%
Unrestricted Invest Inc & Trans	8,500	17,000	50%
Restricted Invest Inc & Trans	37,500	75,000	50%
	<u>259,794</u>	<u>448,388</u>	58%
<u>Expense</u>			
Staff Expense	149,087	296,660	50%
Ecclesiastical Expense	33,663	77,011	44%
Meeting Expense	812	5,000	16%
Administration & Office Expense	25,946	42,000	62%
Program Expense	12,192	31,750	38%
Total Expense	<u>221,700</u>	<u>452,421</u>	49%
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$ 38,094</u>	<u>\$ (4,033)</u>	

Fund Balances

As of June 30, 2026

Church Legacy Funds	934,229
Monroe City Fund	571
Restricted Funds (Specific Use)	32,860
Undesignated Net Assets	<u>2,027,840</u>
	<u>\$ 2,995,500</u>

Charlie Pye Fund for Excellence in Ministry	\$ 88,461
Supporting Hoosier Churches Grant	\$ 343,114

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

2026 Per Capita 61

			2026	Received	%
		Members	Per Capita	as of	Paid
				8/6/2026	
Bedford	First	83	5,063	3,085	60.9%
Bloomfield	First	48	2,928	2,928	100.0%
Bloomington	First	326	19,886	9,943	50.0%
Bloomington	United	46	2,806		0.0%
Boonville	Hemenway Memorial	70	4,270	4,270	100.0%
Brazil	First	140	8,540	4,270	50.0%
Brownstown	Brownstown	39	2,379	2,379	100.0%
Canaan	Jefferson	6	366		0.0%
Cayuga	Cayuga	19	1,159	1,159	100.0%
Central	Valley City	14	854	854	100.0%
Charlestown	Community	18	1,098		0.0%
Clinton	United	16	976	976	100.0%
Columbus	Fairlawn	77	4,697	4,697	100.0%
Columbus	First	433	26,413	26,413	100.0%
Corydon	Corydon	68	4,148	4,148	100.0%
Dale	Dale	35	2,135	2,135	100.0%
Elizabeth	Church of the Covenant	28	1,708	1,708	100.0%
Evansville	Eastminster	232	14,152	7,076	50.0%
Evansville	First	274	16,714	9,750	58.3%
Evansville	First Avenue	32	1,952		0.0%
Farmersburg	First	9	549	549	100.0%
Fort Branch	First	53	3,233		0.0%
Greencastle	Greencastle	105	6,405	6,405	100.0%
Hanover	Hanover	43	2,623	2,623	100.0%
Henryville	Community	24	1,464	1,464	100.0%
Henryville	Mount Lebanon	19	1,159	1,159	100.0%
Jeffersonville	First	150	9,150	4,575	50.0%
Laconia	Rehoboth	47	2,867	2,867	100.0%
Laconia	United	13	793	793	100.0%
Leavenworth	Community	40	2,440		0.0%
Lexington	Lexington	68	4,148	4,148	100.0%
Livonia	United	30	1,830	1,830	100.0%
Madison	Madison	135	8,235		0.0%
Madison	Smyrna-Monroe	5	305		0.0%
Martinsville	First	63	3,843	3,843	100.0%
Mitchell	Mitchell	43	2,623		0.0%
Montezuma	First	12	732	732	100.0%
Mount Vernon	First	48	2,928	2,928	100.0%
Nabb	Nabb	11	671	671	100.0%
Nashville	Brn County Fellowship	38	2,318	2,318	100.0%
New Albany	Mount Tabor	73	4,453	4,453	100.0%
New Albany	St. John United	93	5,673		0.0%
New Washington	Trinity United	15	915	532	58.1%
North Vernon	Graham	19	1,159	1,159	100.0%
Paoli	First	46	2,806	1,155	41.2%
Patoka	Patoka	28	1,708	1,708	100.0%
Patoka	Union Bethel	10	610	610	100.0%
Petersburg	Main Street	47	2,867	2,867	100.0%

2026 Per Capita 61

			2026	Received	%
		Members	Per Capita	as of	Paid
				8/6/2026	
Princeton	Fairview	45	2,745	2,745	100.0%
Princeton	Princeton	63	3,843		0.0%
Roachdale	Roachdale	27	1,647		0.0%
Rockville	Memorial	9	549		0.0%
Salem	Salem	37	2,257	751	33.3%
Scipio	Scipio	18	1,098	1,098	100.0%
Scottsburg	First	33	2,013	2,196	109.1%
Seymour	First	103	6,283	6,283	100.0%
Spencer	Spencer	70	4,270	4,270	100.0%
Sullivan	First	41	2,501		0.0%
Terre Haute	Central	170	10,370	10,370	100.0%
Terre Haute	Unity	52	3,172	2,989	94.2%
Vernon	Vernon	7	427		0.0%
Vevay	Caledonia	4	244		0.0%
Vincennes	Indiana	95	5,795	3,000	51.8%
Vincennes	Upper Indiana	57	3,477	3,477	100.0%
Washington	Westminster	53	3,233	2,217	68.6%
		4,175	\$ 254,675	\$ 174,575	68.5%

Shared Mission 2026

		Received as of August 6, 2026				
		Pledged	GA	Synod	POV	Total
Bedford	First					0
Bloomfield	First		210	35	455	700
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		250	56	469	775
Columbus	Fairlawn		960	160	2,080	3,200
Columbus	First		9,243	957	12,443	22,644
Corydon	Corydon					0
Dale	Dale					0
Elizabeth	Church of the Covenant					0
Evansville	Eastminster					0
Evansville	First		563	94	1,219	1,875
Evansville	First Avenue					0
Farmersburg	First					0
Fort Branch	First					0
Greencastle	Greencastle					0

Shared Mission 2026

		Received as of August 6, 2026				
		<u>Pledged</u>	<u>GA</u>	<u>Synod</u>	<u>POV</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hanover	Hanover					0
Henryville	Community					0
Henryville	Mount Lebanon					0
Jeffersonville	First		600	200	2,200	3,000
Laconia	Rehoboth		150	25	325	500
Laconia	United					0
Leavenworth	Community					0
Lexington	Lexington					0
Livonia	United		1,413	399	1,812	3,623
Madison	Madison		150	25	325	500
Madison	Smyrna-Monroe					0
Martinsville	First					0
Mitchell	Mitchell					0
Montezuma	First		300	50	650	1,000
Mount Vernon	First					0
Nabb	Nabb					0
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					0
Princeton	Fairview					0
Princeton	Princeton					0
Roachdale	Roachdale					0
Rockville	Memorial		165	28	358	550
Salem	Salem					0
Scipio	Scipio				25,000	25,000
Scottsburg	First		150	75	1,125	1,350
Seymour	First					0
Spencer	Spencer					0
Sullivan	First					0
Terre Haute	Central		3,413	963	4,375	8,750
Terre Haute	Unity					0
Vernon	Vernon					0
Vevay	Caledonia					0
Vincennes	Indiana					0
Vincennes	Upper Indiana					0
Washington	Westminster		1,080	180	2,340	3,600
		0	18,646	3,245	56,975	78,867

Report of the Presbytery Council

The Rev. Susan McGhee, Moderator

For Presbytery's Information

The Presbytery Council met July 14, 2026, by videoconference:

1. Elected Rev. Cheri Harper to fill an unexpired term on the Presbytery Personnel Committee
2. Confirmed Guidelines for Assembly Speak-Out Sessions, clarifying that those who may “speak out” during this time are those who have privilege of voice (Minister Members, Commissioned Pastors, Elder Commissioners, other Ruling Elders who serve by virtue of office, and Corresponding Members).
3. Approved a recommendation from the Mission and Witness Resource Committee concerning criteria for the new Community Ministry Grant:
 - a. The new Community Ministry Grant will be much like the Monroe City Grant
 - b. The maximum grant will be \$7,500 and no more than 50% of the total cost.
 - c. The grant may be eligible for renewal for up to two years
 - i. Year 2: up to 50% of original grant
 - ii. Year 3: up to 25% of original grant
 - d. There is no minimum grant request.
 - e. Costs for personnel or construction are not ordinarily approved, but may be under certain circumstances.
4. Agreed to recommend that 2027 Assemblies be held Saturday, February 27; Thursday, May 20; Saturday, August 21; and Thursday, November 18

The Presbytery Council met August 11, 2026, by videoconference:

1. Agreed to recommend that the Presbytery set the 2027 Per Capita at \$63.00

For Presbytery Action:

1. That the following dates be set for 2026 Assemblies:

- + Saturday, February 27
- + Thursday, May 20
- + Saturday, August 21
- + Thursday, November 18

2. That the Presbytery of Ohio Valley set the 2026 per capita at \$63.00 (see below)

2027 Recommended Per Capita: \$63.00

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.

The following items comprise the presbytery's "per capita budget":

Stated Clerk	100% of cost
Treasurer	100% of cost
Ecclesial Expenses	100% of cost
Insurance	
Outside Accounting	
General Assembly Expense	
Moderator's Expense	
Assembly Expenses	
Presbytery Council	
Committee on Ministry	
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	
General Assembly per capita (\$13.04 - an increase of \$1.78)	
Synod of Lincoln Trails per capita (\$3.81 – no increase reported as of yet)	
Commissions	
Office & Admin Expenses	25% of cost
Admin Associates	40% of cost
Executive Presbyter	50% of cost

Estimated 2027 per capita budget \$263,535.00

A per capita of \$63.00 will result in a gap of \$11,220. Factors that contribute to this gap include: an increase in expenses, a decrease in membership (usually from churches reviewing their rolls), and congregations that do not pay their per capita in full or in part (in 2025, eleven churches fell into this category).

The Presbytery Council has chosen not to recommend a per capita amount that would close this gap. Rather, we have made a commitment to explore other funding models and consider ways to strengthen stewardship efforts across the presbytery, which is part of what our recent Lilly grant is intended to help us address.

We bring this recommendation to the Assembly for its consideration, and encourage good conversation about money and funding, and are grateful for Presbytery's consideration.

Committee on Ministry Report

The Rev. Cindy Cushman and Elder Alan Harder, Co-Moderators

FOR INFORMATION

At the **July 14, 2026**, meeting, the Committee on Ministry took the following actions:

1. Approved the following pastoral agreements:

- a. **First Avenue Presbyterian Church of Vincennes and Larry Sanders** serving as ecumenical supply

Period	Hrs./wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont.Ed.	Pension
04/20/2026 to 12/31/2026	Part time – 16 hrs/wk	\$19,396	N/A	Vch. IRS rate-est. \$2,600	2 weeks incl. 2 Sundays	1 month incl. 4 Sundays	\$400	No

- b. **First Presbyterian Church of Scottsburg and the Rev. Karen McDonald Smith** serving as stated supply

Period	Hrs./wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont.Ed.	Pension
08/16/2026 to 08/15/2027	Part time –50% per quarter	\$17,000	\$13,000	Vch. IRS rate	2 weeks incl. 2 Sundays	4 weeks incl. 4 Sundays	\$1,500	Yes

At the **August 11, 2026**, meeting, the Committee on Ministry took the following actions:

1. Approved the following pastoral agreements:

- a. **Brown County Presbyterian Fellowship Church of Nashville and the Rev. Dr. Scott Seay** serving as stated supply

Period	Hrs./wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont.Ed.	Pension
1/01/2026 to 12/31/2028	Part time – 20 hrs/wk	\$30,180.80	N/A	Vch. IRS rate-est. \$9,600	2 weeks incl. 2 Sundays	1 month incl. 4 Sundays	\$1,200	No

- b. **Brown County Presbyterian Fellowship Church of Nashville and the Rev. Mac Bellnar** serving as assistant pastor

Period	Hrs./wk	Salary	Housing	Auto Mi.	Study L	Pd.Vac	Cont.Ed.	Pension
01/01/2026 to 12/31/2026	Part time – 10hrs/wk	\$14,000	N/A	Vch. IRS rate-est. \$1,000	2 weeks incl. 2 Sundays	4 weeks incl. 4 Sundays	\$500	No

FOR ACTION

1. That the Presbytery of Ohio Valley designate the Rev. Thomas Davis retired, per G-2.0503c
2. That the Presbytery of Ohio Valley set the following standards for 2027 minimum compensation for pastors and commissioned pastors (representing an increase of 3.25%).

PRESBYTERY OF OHIO VALLEY
2027 MINIMUM ANNUAL COMPENSATION STANDARDS
 Recommended by COM—August 11, 2026
 Approved by Assembly—

<i>2027 Standards</i>	Without Manse: Cash Salary— includes Housing Allocation¹	With Manse: Cash Salary & Manse Value at 30%²
Salary For Ordained Ministers	\$60,387	\$46,451 & \$13,936
Salary For Commissioned Pastors (75%)	\$45,290	\$34,839 & \$10,451

¹ 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.

²To calculate Cash Salary portion of a 30% Manse Value, divide Total Cash Salary including Manse amount (above example for ordained clergy being \$60,387) 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 July 1, 2026, value is **76.0 cents/mi**)
- Continuing Education (cumulative over 3 years to sum of annual amounts): **\$1200** (ordained clergy 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, beginning in 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 **\$200 plus mileage**
 - Congregations under 100 members **\$175 plus mileage**
 - Additional Services on same day **\$ 50**
- Moderating a session or congregation by invitation: **\$150 plus mileage**
- Wedding: **\$150 plus mileage**
- Funeral **\$125 plus mileage**

Report on the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) **June 27–July 2, 2026**

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), meeting in Milwaukee under the theme “Persevering Toward Wholeness,” combined worship, legislative action, public witness, and fellowship. The Scripture lesson that guided the Assembly in its work was “and the leaves of the tree shall be for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2). Stated Clerk Jihyun Oh called commissioners to approach contentious issues—including Israel-Palestine, Christian nationalism, and denominational change—with prayerful discernment while preserving the spirit of mutual respect that characterized the previous Assembly.

Before the in-person Assembly convened in Milwaukee, commissioners met by Zoom videoconference from June 22–24 in eleven committees to consider and refine the business that would come before the full Assembly. Our presbytery was represented on two of these committees: the Rev. Cindy Cushman served on the Climate and Environmental Justice Committee, and Elder Janet Huber Lowry served on the General Assembly Operations Committee. These committees met over lunch in-person on the 26th before the Assembly business sessions began.

The Assembly opened with an expanded Community Day designed to build relationships among commissioners, advisory delegates, congregations, and ministry partners. Participants visited ministry exhibits, attended educational events, and joined a public “Healing Not Harm” march against gun violence through downtown Milwaukee. Organizers also highlighted multilingual accessibility through expanded Spanish and Korean interpretation and celebrated the completion of the denomination's four-year unification of the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency into Presbyterian Life & Witness. Rev. Felipe Martinez, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Columbus, served as co-moderator of the Unification Commission throughout this process.

Sunday offered opportunities for worship throughout Milwaukee-area congregations and public witness. Stories highlighted congregations welcoming visitors, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship events on war and peace, ministries to senior adults, and the continuing vitality of local churches. Historical reflections recalled Milwaukee’s role in Presbyterian history, including the election of the first woman elder in 1930 at Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church and Lois Stair as the first woman GA moderator in 1971. The Assembly also responded to humanitarian needs by announcing Presbyterian Disaster Assistance relief efforts following devastating earthquakes in Venezuela. Technical problems during one evening plenary required commissioners to vote by show of hands rather than electronically, but business proceeded efficiently.

On Monday, Rev. CeCe Armstrong and Rev. Tony Larson, co-moderators, began skillfully and efficiently leading the Assembly through an unusually heavy docket of business that occupied the next four days. Commissioners approved an optional Church Leadership Connection feature allowing congregations to indicate openness to calling LGBTQIA+ pastors and authorized a broad new study of sexuality and family. They adopted measures strengthening the church’s response to racism and white supremacy, approved support for gender-affirming health care, and received a report from the Stated Clerk on the restructuring and dissolution of Presbyterian World Mission. The Assembly also honored the Rev. J. Oscar McCloud, celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the Jinishian Memorial Program, encouraged Young Adult Advisory Delegates in their calling, and heard Robert P. Jones call church leaders to confront Christian nationalism with both urgency and hope.

Tuesday continued the Assembly's focus on worship and discernment. An ecumenical service led by the Rev. Dr. Kevin Vandiver, an ELCA pastor and faculty member at Virginia Theological Seminary, called Presbyterians to become agents of reconciliation in a divided world, while the biennial Women of Faith Breakfast honored Blanca Estrella Otaño-Rivera, Selma Jackson, and Adele Langworthy for lives of justice, compassion, and faithful service. Meanwhile, commissioners continued lengthy deliberations over the future of World Mission and other major policy matters. A video tribute honored Rev. Margaret Towner, who in 1956 became the first woman ordained in the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, one of the predecessor denominations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

By Wednesday, the Assembly had devoted extensive attention to the future of Presbyterian World Mission. Commissioners approved the creation of a seven-member commission to review the restructuring process and recommend improvements for governance and accountability. A report from the commission is due to the 229th General Assembly in 2030. The action reflected the Assembly's desire both to acknowledge the pain surrounding the restructuring and to provide an independent review before determining further steps. The necrology report honored Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who joined the Church Triumphant since the last Assembly, including a video tribute to Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly from 1996 to 2008, who eventually retired in the bounds of our presbytery.

The final day of the Assembly brought the church's major business to a close. Commissioners adopted a \$90.5 million budget for 2027 and a \$97.9 million budget for 2028, with additional appropriations approved for actions taken during the Assembly. They also voted to return to a fully in-person General Assembly in 2030, while directing Presbyterian Life & Witness to study future assembly formats and report recommendations in 2028. Significantly they overwhelmingly selected San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the site of the 228th General Assembly in 2028. Before concluding its work, the Assembly elected the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and the Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer as its new co-moderators on the first ballot, and they will serve through the end of the 228th General Assembly. Significantly, Rev. Sue Trigger, pastor of Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church, New Albany, was elected to serve as co-moderator of the General Assembly's Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy.

Throughout the week, recurring themes included worship as the foundation for governance, racial justice, reconciliation, Christian unity, public witness against violence, hospitality, and the conviction that faithful discernment requires both honest disagreement and a continuing commitment to remain one church.

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley will receive a report from our commissioners at the August 22 Assembly. An online educational session reviewing the major actions of the General Assembly will be offered in early 2027. Following that opportunity for study and discussion, the presbytery will consider and act on the Assembly's constitutional amendments and other items requiring presbytery approval at its February 2027 Assembly.

Rev. Susan McGhee, Executive Presbyter
Rev. Dr. Scott D. Seay, Stated Clerk

Rev. Cindy Cushman, Commissioner
Dr. Janet Huber Lowry, Commissioner

2026 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. Call 866-344-7853 for more information.

August 23	Nabb *	November 1	Community, Leavenworth
August 30	First, Farmersburg	November 8	Presbytery of Ohio Valley Staff
September 6	First, Fort Branch	November 15	Lexington
September 13	Disaster Assistance	November 22	Livonia
September 20	Greencastle	November 29	Madison
September 27	Retired Ministers living in POV	December 6	Hanover College
October 4	Hanover	December 13	POV Chaplains and others in Specialized Ministries
October 11	First, Jeffersonville	December 20	4 th Advent (Christmas anticipated)
October 18	Rehoboth, Laconia	December 27	Peace on Earth
October 25	United, Laconia		

* *Southern Hills Parish*