

Muskingum Valley Presbytery

PARISH ELDERS - MINUTES - 5/20/19

Members Present: (Moderator) Jeff Bergeson, Rich Holmes, Eldon Trubee, Sally Walker, Darla Revennaugh, Chris Stewart Ex-Officio: Matt Skolnik Via Zoom: David Smith Excused: Chair, Mark Unrue

Call to Order: Moderator, Jeff Bergeson opened the meeting with prayer at 10am.

Devotions: Rich Holmes led with Matthew 6:25. Over-functioning leads to anxiety and anxiety leads to over-functioning. How do you break the cycle? Practice keeping your Sabbath! Turn off the phone. Establish healthy boundaries. Stop worrying about tomorrow. God is in the present. We need to be in the present also.

Upon MSA – Minutes from March 18, 2019 meeting. APPROVED as amended

Upon MSA – Terms of Calls listed: APPROVED

Tim Pollock (CRE) with Bloomfield PC

Brittany L. Hesson with Minerva First

Deborah E.H. Bowsher with Trinity Zanesville - if the way be clear

Addendum to Karen Crawford's TOC with Coshocton

Healthy Boundaries Mandatory Training - Training dates and locations were:

March 11, 2019 at Ashland First Presbyterian Church, Ashland, OH.

March 20, 2019 at Unity Presbyterian Church, Cambridge, OH.

March 25, 2019 at Uhrichsville First Presbyterian Church, Uhrichsville, OH

April 3, 2019 at Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Zanesville, OH

April 8, 2019 at Pioneer Presbyterian Church, Belpre, OH

April 10, 2019 at Central Presbyterian Church, Massillon, OH,

April 24, 2019 at the MVP Mission Center, New Philadelphia, OH

Everyone was given a copy of the list of attendees.

Matt feels that the Healthy Boundaries participation rate was phenomenal. Matt will fashion a letter for folks who did not attend. Also a letter for those who did attend, that they will be recognized at the September 2019 Stated Meeting.

Upon MSA: To present to Presbytery, to require Healthy Boundaries Training for those SERVING IN A PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP per Book of Order G:2.0504, and in a VALIDATED MINISTRY per Book of Order G:2.0503a. APPROVED

Upon MSA: To add Mike Mystic, Dan Callahan & Jim Story to pulpit supply. APPROVED

Parish Reports:

Ashland/Richland/Wayne - Eldon Trubee

Ashland First, Bellville, Congress Community, Creston, Dalton, East Hills, Lexington, Linden Road, Milton, Orrville First, Plymouth First, Savannah, Seville, Wayne, Westminster -Wooster, Wooster First

- Bellville - has the right of first refusal on Bob Hauser's old house.
- Orrville - Eldon spoke with Ken Walther. They may be selling a part of their property.
- Wooster Westminster - still waiting on green card for Enikö.
- Linden Road - Matt has been in touch with them.

Carroll - Vacant (no PE)

Alliance First United, Bethesda, Carrollton First, Carrollton United, Corinth United, Hanoverton, Minerva First, Scroggsfield United, Stillfork

- Hanoverton and Bethesda - Tom Allmon staying until June.
- Minerva First - has issued a call to Brittany Hesson - Matt Skolnik, Joe Svancara, Jim McCurdy and Mark Unrue approved her to proceed with the call as a designated pastor to Minerva First.

Minerva First's congregational meeting was held on April 28th. Brittany's ordination service will be held in the Western Kentucky Presbytery on June 8th. Installation has not yet been scheduled.

- Carrollton First is coming to the end of their search process.
- A Parish Elder is needed for the Carroll Parish - Matt will talk to Nominating.

Coshocton/Holmes – Chris Stewart

Clark Community, Coshocton, Fresno, Loudonville First, Millersburg First, Perrysville First, Warsaw First

- Clark Community's MIF was reviewed. They are a missional church. The Clark Elementary School next door to the church is closing, which is a sad thing for them. Some suggestions were made for changes to their MIF. Will validate once in its final form.
- Coshocton is doing fine.
- Loudonville/Perrysville - In process for Kathleen Walkerow's upcoming retirement.
- Millersburg First - In the process of looking for candidates.
- Warsaw First - LuAnn West no longer there - using Pulpit Supply.

Harrison/Tuscarawas - Sally Walker

Dennison First, Freeport, New Philadelphia First, Nottingham, Uhrichsville First

- All is well with the churches in this Parish. Ministers are very committed.
- Matt will be visiting Freeport & Nottingham.

Guernsey/Muskingum - Jeff Bergeson

Antrim, Bloomfield, Buffalo, Cambridge First, College Drive, East Union, High Hill, Mt. Hermon, North Salem, Old Washington First, Rix Mills, Senecaville First, Unity, Westminster - New Concord

- Buffalo & Rix Mills - Jim Gibson doing better. Slowly getting back on his feet.
- College Drive - Anne Weirich retiring in October. PNC is working.

Morgan/Perry/Zanesville - Darla Revenaugh

Brighton, Central-Zanesville, Deerfield, Dresden-Madison, Duncan Falls First, Frazeyburg, McConnellsville First, Norwich, Putnam, Roseville, Trinity

- Deerfield - Suellen had recommended Ed Stern to moderate. They may have him preach.
- McConnellsville - Has a moderator in place.
- Frazeyburg - Matt is meeting with them on the 21st.
- Putnam - Herb Perry is not well. Dialysis several days a week.
- Trinity Zanesville - Matt and Mark met with their candidate, Deborah Bowsher from Sandusky. She was Ordained in 2010.
- The new parish group that has named themselves the "New Path" (Brighton, Central Zanesville, Deerfield, Dresden-Madison, Duncan Falls First, McConnellsville First, Putnam & Roseville) Tara is now the facilitator of the group. They have a secretary and a public relations person. They shared mission statements from each church and are getting to know one another.

Stark - Rich Holmes

Calvary, Central-Massillon, Christ Canton, Church of the Covenant, Hopewell, John Knox, Northminster, Reedurban, Shreve

- John Knox - Rich and a group met with Michael Smith who is being called as the Designated Pastor and interviewed him.
- Reedurban - Matt will be meeting with them soon.
- Christ PC - Will be celebrating 200th Anniversary in 2021. Have 4 youth attending Triennium. Had several youth Confirmed recently. Wrapping up an initial phase for a Capital Campaign to make the church more easily accessible.
- Shreve - Exploring the possibility of selling the house and property that the church owns.
- Hopewell - Worshiped at Shreve because their water well needs repaired. Will be getting that fixed soon.
- Calvary - Mike Baker's last day was 4/21/19. Their organist has also left. They have approached Rich about a yoked situation. Jeff will talk with their Session about future possibilities.

Washington/Noble – David Smith:

Barlow, Beverly, Caldwell First, Marietta First, Pioneer, Sharon, Watertown

- Barlow & Pioneer - doing fine.
- Beverly & Caldwell - Frustrated that they haven't had more success in their search process.
- Sharon - No news. Small congregation with 3 people.
- Watertown - John Harra has Parkinson's. The congregation helps him function.
- Marietta First - Good things are happening. Children's & youth ministries very active. Working on budget challenges.

Upon MSA: Brittany Hesson, Deborah Bowsher and Michael Smith have had clearance interviews and are cleared for fit by Parish Elders. APPROVED.

The next Parish Elders meeting will be August 19, 2019. Location to be determined.

Review of Terms of Call Forms - update these forms to be more user friendly.

Discuss the process of forming a PNC for churches who have pastors retiring. There needs to be a formal conversation with Sessions about the process.

Devotions for the next meeting will be given by Chris Stewart.

Next Presbytery meeting will be Saturday, September 14th, 2019 10:00 am at Camp Wakonda.

Cross Cultural Training: Reclaiming Pentecost will be held at Camp Wakonda on Sept. 13th, 2019.

Upon MSA - adjournment of the meeting - APPROVED. Jeff Bergeson closed the meeting in prayer at 12:52pm.