

**EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY**  
**STATED MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 13, 2024**

Eastminster Presbytery met at University Church in Kent, OH with some participants joining via Zoom on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Moderator TE Paul Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:05pm, declared that a quorum was present according to the presbytery's bylaws (four teaching elders who are members of the Presbytery and four ruling elder commissioners from four different congregations in the Presbytery), and offered an opening prayer. The moderator and stated clerk were present.

The presbytery then proceeded to the installation of RE John Graves as Moderator and TE Annie Parker and Vice Moderator. Having reaffirmed their faith and answered all of the questions affirmatively they were installed to their offices. RE John Graves was given the Moderator's stole and gavel and he began to preside over the meeting sharing a few thoughts on his invitation for the presbytery to focus on evangelism in 2024.

The Moderator then invited TE Aaron Meadows, pastor of University Church, to bring a few words of welcome from the congregation.

The Moderator then ceded the gavel to Vice Moderator TE Annie Parker who invited new members, first-time commissioners, and corresponding members to introduce themselves. She then returned the gavel to Moderator RE John Graves to preside over the rest of the meeting.

Stated Clerk, TE Barry Chance, then explained the logistics of the hybrid meeting and the presbytery did vote to declare that pancakes are superior to paczki for a Mardi Gras feast.

**Consent Agenda**

The following motions of the Consent Agenda prevailed:

1. To receive the minutes of the November 14, 2023, Stated Presbytery meeting as printed in the packet.
2. To seat those corresponding members who have registered with the stated clerk.
3. To grant an excused absence to those members who have made a request to the stated clerk.
4. To approve the Docket as printed.
5. To grant a waiver to Northminster Presbyterian Church (Cuyahoga Falls) for the limitations of terms of service for ruling elders and deacons (G-2.0404).
6. To amend the bylaws to reflect that the boundaries of Eastminster Presbytery are as follows:

The geographic district of the Presbytery of Eastminster consists of the counties of Columbiana (the townships of Butler, Center, Elkrun, Fairfield, Hanover, Knox, Middleton, Perry, Salem, Unity, and West), Mahoning, Portage, Summit (excluding the townships of Macedonia City,

Northfield Center, Northfield Village, Reminderville Village, Richfield, Sagamore Hills, Twinsburg, and Twinsburg City), and Trumbull, all in the state of Ohio.

**Report of the Stated Clerk**

The Stated Clerk reported that the 2022 minutes of the following congregations have been read and approved since the last presbytery meeting:

1. The following 2022 minutes have been read and approved by the Stated Clerk:

<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Exceptions</b>	<b>Sexual Misconduct Policy</b>	<b>Child/Youth Protection Policy</b>
Firestone Park	3	YES	YES
First- Mineral Ridge	0	YES	YES
Hungarian	3	NO	NO
New Lisbon	0	YES	YES
Northminster	4	YES	YES
Petersburg	1	YES	YES

The following congregations did not submit their 2022 minutes for review in 2023:

Goodyear Heights, Oak Hill, United-Cuyahoga Falls, Northminster, Hubbard, North Benton, North Jackson, First-Youngstown, & Gibson Heights

He further reported that the 2023 minutes of the following congregations have been read and approved since the last presbytery meeting:

<b>Congregation</b>	<b>Exceptions</b>	<b>Sexual Misconduct Policy</b>	<b>Child/Youth Protection Policy</b>	<b>Harassment Policy</b>	<b>Anti-Racism Policy</b>
Firestone Park	5	YES	YES	NO	NO
Hudson	5	YES	NO	NO	NO
University	3	YES	YES	NO	NO
Northminster	3	YES	YES	NO	NO
North Springfield	0	YES	YES	NO	NO

The Stated Clerk noted that according to Article 2.4 of the bylaws the Chair of the Presbytery Council shall be President of the Corporation; the Stated Clerk shall be Secretary and Resident Agent, and the Treasurer shall be Treasurer of the Corporation. The Corporate Officers for 2024 are therefore:

President: TE Paul Anderson  
 Secretary & Registered Agent: TE Barry Chance  
 Treasurer: RE John Pogue

TE Barry Chance moved on behalf of the presbytery Council that the section 5.0602-5.0603 be struck from the Manual of Operations and replaced with the following:

#### *5.0602 Commission Powers of the Committee*

The Administrative Ministry Committee has commission powers to act with the full authority of the Presbytery in the following ways:

- a. Receiving, holding, encumbering, managing, and transferring property, real or personal, subject to the mission priorities of the Presbytery.
- b. Accepting and executing deeds of title to such property.
- c. Holding and defending title to such property.
- d. Receiving and authorizing any requested action for the acquisition, disposal, encumbrance or leasing of the real property of any particular church. (G-4.0206)

All actions taken with this commission power shall be reported to the next Presbytery meeting and recorded into the minutes as actions of the Presbytery.

#### *5.0603 Responsibilities of the Committee*

- a. Reviewing the budget expenditures regularly and reporting these to the Council as a Financial Report.
- b. Reporting to the Presbytery annually on the assets and financial status of the Presbytery. A full financial review of all financial books and records shall be conducted every year by a public accountant or committee of members versed in accounting procedures. Reviewers should not be related to the treasurer(s). Terminology in this section is meant to provide general guidance and is not intended to require or not require specific audit procedures or practices as understood within the professional accounting community. G-3.0113
- c. Reviewing and maintaining the adequacy of the insurance for all Presbytery owned and managed property.
- d. Receiving and reviewing the status of incorporation, property deeds, insurance coverage and annual financial reviews of all the Presbytery's congregations.
- e. Reviewing and reporting the status of all mortgages and loans of particular congregations and the Presbytery.
- f. Coordinating with the Committee on Ministry the purchase or sale of manses.
- g. Implementing and overseeing all provisions of the Personnel Policies of the Presbytery.
- h. Reviewing annually the work of all Presbytery staff and the Stated Clerk

#### *5.0604 Overview*

The Administrative Ministries Committee is to keep an up-to-date Overview as an appendix to this Manual.

The motion to amend the Manual of Operations was approved.

The Stated Clerk thanked the 37 Clerks of Session who completed their Annual Statistical reports by the deadline and invited the two remaining clerks to contact him so that Eastminster can have 100% reporting this year. Finally, he shared a few words of thanks and reflection as he marks his one-year anniversary serving as General Presbyter & Stated Clerk of Eastminster Presbytery and wished everyone a happy Mardi Gras!

### **Report on the Synod of the Covenant**

RE Mary Ann Bromley shared a report on the last meeting of the Synod of the Covenant and then shared a video from Matt Aragon Bruce, the Director of the Cultivating the Gift of Preaching Initiative.

### **Report of the Treasurer/Administrative Ministry Committee**

Treasurer, RE John Pogue, gave the report of the Administrative Committee and noted the following actions taken by the committee since the last presbytery meeting with the commission powers granted to it:

- A. The committee approved a grant of \$3,000.00 to the Akron Firestone Park Presbyterian Church to support its food program.
- B. The committee approved the sale of a lot by the First Presbyterian Church of Barberton.
- C. The Committee approved a grant of \$15,000.00 for the Hub, a new worshipping community sponsored by the Columbiana Presbyterian Church.
- D. The Committee approved the 2022 Financial Review of Presbytery finances per the action of Presbytery at its November meeting.
- E. The Committee approved a 3-year moratorium on mortgage payments for the mortgage the Vine holds on its former building

### **Committee on Ministry**

RE Carol Gesacion noted the following actions taken by the committee since the last presbytery meeting with the commission powers granted to it:

Approved the following terms of service/call:

- Six-month contract between the TEs Frank and Trina Lewis and First Presbyterian Church in Salem
- Twelve-month contract between the Rev. Steve Broache (UCC) and New Lisbon Presbyterian Church
- Twelve-month contract between the TE Bonnie Dutton and First Presbyterian Church in Hubbard
- The sabbatical leave agreement between the TE Nelson and First Presbyterian Church of Columbiana & First Presbyterian Church of East Palestine

- The sabbatical leave agreement between TE Paul Anderson and Poland Presbyterian Church

Approved the following changes to the rolls of the presbytery:

- Transferred TE David Aber to the Presbytery of Maumee Valley effective August 4, 2023.
- Transferred TE Martin Radcliff to the roll of retired ministers effective January 15, 2024.
- Transferred TE Stephen Stelle to the roll of retired ministers effective April 15, 2024.
- Transferred TE Frances Fischer to the roll of retired ministers effective July 1, 2024.
- Transferred TE Victor Wan-Tatah to the roll of retired ministers with an effective date to be determined.

She reminded Clerks of Session to submit their 2024 terms of service/call for their pastors if they have not already done so. Finally, she invited TE Herb Goetz to share a few words about TE Marty Radcliff as the presbytery celebrates his retirement after 41 years of ministry!

### **Council Report**

TE Paul Anderson, Moderator of Council, noted that there is a vacancy on the Committee on Nominations and Representation in the Class of 2026. On behalf of the Council he nominated RE Beth Loresch (United Presbyterian Church in Cuyahoga Falls) to fill that vacancy. The Moderator opened the floor for nominations, there being none, the presbytery proceeded to elect RE Beth Loresch.

The Moderator of Council then noted that the date and time of the August 13, 2024 presbytery meeting has been set for 3pm at Petersburg Presbyterian Church with dinner at Bessemer Presbyterian Church and a time of fellowship at the at the Mohawk Coffee House. He shared his hope that everyone would attend as we celebrate and highlight the innovative ministries that these congregations are doing together.

### **Resource Committee**

TE Dan Schomer awarded the congregations with the top four contributors by per capita to the Peace & Global Witness Offering a miniature peace pole. Those congregations are Allenside Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church in Salem, University Church in Kent, and First Presbyterian Church of Hudson.

He invited the presbytery to place the following events on their calendars:

April 17-18 - Pastors' Retreat at Villa Maria

May 21 – Suicide Intervention Workshop at FPC-Mineral Ridge

October 2-3 – Pastor's Retreat at Villa Maria

Finally, he directed the presbytery's attention to the Beaver Creek Camp report for information about summer camp in 2024.

### **Worship**

The presbytery then proceeded to a break after which they were led in worship by TE Ben Graves (Presbytery of the Western Reserve) and TE Debby Dockstader with TE Aaron Meadows presiding at the Sacrament of the Lord's Table and the Rev. Kolya Koretskyy, formerly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine, preaching on Acts 17:22-34. The presbytery collected an offering of \$620 to support the Refugee Resettlement Ministry of University Church in Kent.

### **Adjournment and Benediction**

TE John Graves pronounced the benediction and adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14 at 9am at United Presbyterian Church in Cuyahoga Falls.

Submitted by,

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Barry W. Chance, Stated Clerk

Approved:

**Eastminster Presbytery  
Roll Report 2024**

<b>Teaching Elders</b>	<b>Note</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>November</b>
Anderson, Paul		P			
Angelini, Betty	R				
Banner, Ray	R				
Barney, Marvin	R	E			
Baxter-Andrews, Shelby		P			
Black, David		P			
Bowald, Larry		P			
Boyette, Charles		A			
Chance, Barry		P			
Cowden, Rusty	R				
Cramer, Meta	R	E			
Cramer, Steve	R	E			
Del Nagro, Robbin	R				
Dockstader, Debby		P			
Douglass, Jan	R				
Dutton, Bonnie	R	P			
Fischer, Francie		E			
Fischer, Paul	R				
Francis, Susan	R	P			
Fruit, Richard	R				
Garrison, Roman		A			
Goetz, Herb		P			
Griffeth, Carolyn	R				
Hrach, Joseph	R				
Jackson, Ross	R				
Joachim, David	R				
Krone, Reinhold	R				
Lewis, Frank	R	P			
Lewis, Katrina	R	P			
Mager, Nick	R				
Maynard (Pitts), Stacie		P			
McCurdy, Chris		P			
Meadows, Aaron		P			
Medford, Matthew	R				
Merritt, Mark	R				
Moats, Patricia		P			
Nash, Reford	R	P			
Nelson, Fritz		P			

Nutt, Brian		A			
Park, Ikyu	R				
Parker, Annie		P			
Parker, Elmarie		E			
Parker, Scott		E			
Radcliff, Marty	R	P			
Ray, James	R				
Rice, David	R	P			
Ritchie, John		P			
Rito, Bradley		E			
Robbins, Kori		P			
Rodgers, Adam		P			
Roseman, Sue		P			
Ruppert, Mark	R	P			
Schmidt, Sue Ann	R				
Schomer, Dan	R	P			
Shriver, David	R				
Spear, Donald	R				
Stelle, Stephen		P			
Thompson, Mark	R				
Tweedle, Matthew		A			
Warner, Payne		P			
Wan-Tatah, Victor	R				
Wilds, Mark	R				
Ziem, Christine	R				
<b>Commissioned Pastors</b>					
McCollum, Donna		P			
Bromley, Marry Ann		P			
<b>Ruling Elders Enrolled as Members</b>					
Cole, Ruth		P			
Gesacion, Carol		P			
Graves, John		P			
Pogue, John		P			
<b>Congregations</b>					
Akron					
	Allenside		Cumpston, Treassa		
	Firestone Park		Ereth, Megan		
	Goodyear Heights		A		



	New Covenant		A			
	North Springfield		Klainer, David			
	Oak Hill (1)		A			
	Oak Hill (2)		A			
	Westminster (1)		Works, Alec			
	Westminster (2)		Morrison, Marta			
Barberton			Bacon, Barbara			
Boardman						
	Westminster (1)		Hamilton, James			
	Westminster (2)		A			
Canfield (1)			A			
Canfield (2)			A			
Columbiana			Scullion, Nancy			
Copley			English, Edie			
Cuyahoga Falls						
	Northminster		Sidebotham, Lisa			
	United (1)		A			
	United (2)		A			
East Palestine			A			
Girard			A			
Hubbard			A			
Hudson			Tinker, Diana			
Kent			Bastian, Andrew			
Kinsman			A			
Lake Milton			Nelson, Kim			
Lisbon			Ramsey, Jane			
Mineral Ridge			Konsol, Andy			
North Benton			A			
North Jackson			A			
Petersburg			A			
Poland						
	Heritage					
	Poland (1)		McPherson, Della			
	Poland (2)		A			
Salem (1)			A			

Salem (2)			A		
Sebring			A		
Vienna			A		
Warren					
	Calvary		A		
	Champion		Holt, Anna Marie		
	Covenant		A		
	First		Musgrove, Alexis		
Youngstown					
	First		A		
	Gibson Heights 2nd		A		
	Hungarian		Nemeth, Diane		
	Wickliffe		A		
<b>Corresponding Members</b>					
Acri, Jack		DOC	A		
Broache, Stephen		UCC	E		
Choi, Luke		W. Reserve			
Graves, Ben		W. Reserve	P		
Hardwick, Chip		Miami Valley			
Leslie, Nathan		Shenango	A		
Meyer, William		DOC	P		
<b>Staff</b>					
Eliser, Diane			P		
Eliser, Rachel			P		
Wiebe, Bryce			P		
<b>Guests</b>					
Batters, Thomas		University	P		
Bender, Judi		Retired CRE	P		
Graves, Penny		University	P		
Koretska, Natasha		University	P		
Koretskyy, Kolya		University	P		
Long, Nathan		Candidate	P		
Loesch, Beth		United-CY	P		
McCarter, Patty		University	P		
McEwen, JoAnn		University	P		
Riley, Dale		University	P		

Riley, Ruby	University	P			
Samoilenko, Olga	University	P			
Scott, Patti	United-CY	P			
Shepherd, Mike	FPC-Y	P			
Ward, Ann	University	P			
Yaniglos, Stacia	University	P			
<b>Summary</b>					
Teaching Elders		28			
Commissioned Ruling Elders		2			
Ruling Elder Commissioners		19			
Ruling Elders Enrolled as Members		4			
Total Voting Members		53			
Corresponding Members		2			
Guests		16			
Staff/Tech Support		3			
Total Attendance		74			