

**MINUTES
OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
OF THE PRESBYTERY OF MUSKINGUM VALLEY**

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 – 1:00 P.M.

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Wooster, Ohio

*Journeying with Jesus to touch the world—Empowered by the Spirit to:
Make Disciples, Nurture Our Faith, and Serve the Needs of Community*

The Presbytery of Muskingum Valley met for its special called meeting on Tuesday, January 10 in the Year of our Lord 2012 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Wooster, Ohio. A quorum was present:

Roll of Ministers Present

Church	Representative
Alliance First United	
Antrim	(CLP)
Ashland First	Mike Parker
Augusta Stillfork	
Bakersville	
Barlow	(CLP)
Bellville	Karin Wright
Belpre Pioneer	
Beverly	Tom O'Connor
Bloomfield	
Caldwell First	
Cambridge East Union	
Cambridge First	
Cambridge Mount Hermon	
Cambridge Unity	
Canton Calvary	
Canton Christ	Wendy Bausman, Dave DeVries
Canton Covenant	
Canton Reedurban	
Canton Westminster Community	
Carrollton First	Burt McGlawn
Carrollton United	
Clark Community	Burnetta Armour
Congress (Federated)	
Coshocton	Jon Carlisle
Creston	Alice Phillips
Cumberland Buffalo	(CLP)
Dalton	
Dennison First	
Dresden Madison	
Duncan Falls First	
Frazeyburg	
Fredericksburg	(CLP)
Freeport	

Fresno	
Hanoverton	
Hanoverton Bethesda	
High Hill	
Hopewell	Christopher Stewart
Lexington	
Loudonville First	(CLP)
Malta Deerfield	Barbara Morrison
Mansfield East Hills	
Mansfield Linden Road	Andy Gerhart
Marietta First	George Spransy
Massillon Central	
McConnelsville First	Barbara Morrison
Mechanicstown Corinth	
Millersburg First	Burnetta Armour
Minerva First	Ben George
Mount Perry	Diana Circelli
Muskingum	
Nankin (Federated)	Robin Craig
New Concord College Drive	
New Concord Westminster	
New Harrisburg	Elaine Dutton
New Lexington	
New Philadelphia First	
North Canton John Knox	Tom Houston
North Canton Northminster	Matt Skolnik
North Salem	
Norwich	
Nottingham	(CLP)
Old Washington First	(CLP)
Orrville First	
Perrysville First	(CLP)
Plymouth First	Linda Kaufman
Rittman Milton	Reford Nash
Rix Mills	(CLP)
Roseville	
Savannah	
Scroggsville	
Senecaville First	
Seville	
Sharon	
Shreve	Christopher Stewart
Uhrichsville First	
Veto	
Warsaw First	(CLP)
Watertown	
Wayne	
Waynesburg First United	

Wooster First	Bruce Ballantine
Wooster Westminster	
Zanesville Brighton	Suellen Skinner
Zanesville Central	
Zanesville Putman	
Zanesville Trinity	

*CLP – Commissioned Lay Pastor Representative

Roll of Retired Minsters Present

Hugh Berry	Virginia Birks
Keith Brown	Charles Cureton
Lewis Johnston	Ross Gooch
Sue Ann Schmidt	Richard Scherpenisse
Jack Visser	James Watt
Richard Wereley	-----

Roll of Members at Large Present

Barbara Bartholomew	Lynn Bozich-Shetzer
C. David Morgan	-----

Commissioned Lay Pastors Present

Church	Representative
Antrim	Merlin Wentworth
Barlow	
Belpre	
Cumberland Buffalo	Jim Gibson
Fredericksburg	Jack McClelland
Loudonville	Kathleen Walkerow
Nottingham	Jack McClelland
Old Washington	Merlin Wentworth
Perrysville	Kathleen Walkerow
Rix Mills	Jim Gibson
Warsaw First	(Excused)

Roll of Ministers Excused

Dennis Allison (HR)	Cathy Arble (HR)
Wayne Barnard (HR)	Stuart Barr (HR)
Edward Barrett (HR)	Donald Bartow (HR)
James Bean (HR)	David Binau (HR)
William Briggs (HR)	James Collier (HR)
Joanne Cox (HR)	Jack Dawson (HR)
John Dryer (HR)	Dudley Field (HR)
Ralph Fogal (HR)	Ralph Green (HR)
David Hartzfeld (HR)	Bill Johnson (HR)
David Kearns- Preston (HR)	Harold Keesee (HR)
Cloyd Kress (HR)	John Lane (HR)
William McClelland (HR)	Carroll Meyer (HR)
Robert Millspaugh (HR)	Roger Naftzer (HR)
Thomas Neff (HR)	Douglas Patton (HR)
James Rila (HR)	Donal Rossire (HR)
John Russell (HR)	Kenneth Shafer (HR)
Elizabeth Sykes (HR)	Tait, Gordon (HR)
Ellen Thomas (SS)	Timothy Thomas (CLP)
Herbert Thomson (HR)	-----

Elder Commissioners Present

Church	Representative
Alliance First United	David Puterbaugh
Antrim	
Ashland First	
Augusta Stillfork	
Bakersville	Joyce Bahmer
Barlow	
Bellville	
Belpre Pioneer	
Beverly	
Bloomfield	
Caldwell First	
Cambridge East Union	
Cambridge First	Connie Humphrey
Cambridge Mount Hermon	
Cambridge Unity	Nancy Umberger
Canton Calvary	
Canton Christ	
Canton Covenant	
Canton Reedurban	
Canton Westminster Community	
Carrollton First	Sam Ralston
Carrollton United	
Clark Community	

Congress (Federated)	
Coshocton	Becky Lerch
Creston	David Apel
Cumberland Buffalo	
Dalton	
Dennison First	
Dresden Madison	
Duncan Falls First	
Frazeburg	
Fredericksburg	Don Rhamy
Freeport	
Fresno	
Hanoverton	
Hanoverton Bethesda	
High Hill	
Hopewell	
Lexington	
Loudonville First	
Malta Deerfield	
Mansfield East Hills	
Mansfield Linden Road	Charles Kerg
Marietta First	Dave Rogers, Cathy Piekarski
Massillon Central	
McConnelsville First	
Mechanicstown Corinth	
Millersburg First	
Minerva First	
Mount Perry	
Muskingum	
Nankin (Federated)	
New Concord College Drive	
New Concord Westminster	(Excused)
New Harrisburg	Fred Boggs
New Lexington	
New Philadelphia First	
North Canton John Knox	Jarry Persinger
North Canton Northminster	
North Salem	
Norwich	
Nottingham	
Old Washington First	
Orrville First	
Perrysville First	Kathy Adams
Plymouth First	
Rittman Milton	
Rix Mills	
Roseville	
Savannah	

Scroggsville	
Senecaville First	
Seville	John Drotos
Sharon	
Shreve	Sandra Butterbaugh
Uhrichsville First	
Veto	
Warsaw First	
Watertown	
Wayne	Larry Amstutz
Waynesburg First United	
Wooster First	Dorothy Brown
Wooster Westminster	Nahida Gordon
Zanesville Brighton	
Zanesville Central	
Zanesville Putman	
Zanesville Trinity	

Staff Members Present

General Presbyter	Debbie Rundlett
Transitional Stated Clerk	Paula Lane
Administrative Assistant	Shauna Engeldinger
Financial Assistant	Barb Schie

MVP Council Elder

Church	Representative
Massillon Central	Bob Porter

Corresponding Members

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Visitors

Bakersville	Dennis Bahmer
Cambridge First	Gail Grabow
Cambridge Unity	Charlotte O'Neil, Cindy Krause
Fredericksburg	Joyce Rhamy
North Canton Northminster	Lynda McGinnis
New Harrisburg	Leonard Hutson
Wooster Westminster	Cinny Gooch, Donald Gordon

The Moderator, Rev. Diana Circelli, called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. with prayer. The body recognized elders and ministers attending for the first time.

Worship was led by First Call Cohort.

MINISTRY, RELATIONSHIP AND STRUCTURE

Pastor Andy Gerhart, chair of Administration opened with discussion of 2012 budget. Pledge Update: 13 leaders have pledged \$11,000 including Council members; 13 churches have pledged \$18,000. The floor was then open to discussion for the 2012 budget. The annual meeting of the corporation and discussion of the 2012 budget will be at the stated meeting of the presbytery on Saturday, May 19th. Richard Scherpenisse opened with a question about the deficit being at \$90,000 from December 31, 2011.

Motion to consider giving One Great Hour of Sharing to be given monthly – Administration will review this at their next meeting.

Motion to approve 2012 budget, motion was seconded, motion carried.

Elder Paula Lane, transitional stated clerk opened with discussion of the Westminster Overture. Move to adoption of special rules. The motion was seconded, motion carried.

PROPOSED SPECIAL RULES FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE OVERTURE FROM WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH/WOOSTER AT THE MEETING OF MUSKINGUM VALLEY PRESBYTERY ON JANUARY 10, 2012

General Principles

Presbyters are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. Decisions shall be reached in councils by vote, following opportunity for discussion and discernment, and a majority shall govern. *The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity F-3.0204-03.0205*

“The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has adopted *Robert’s Rules of Order* as its standard guide to practice in conducting its meetings. *Robert’s Rules of Order*, while an effective program for conducting business and political meetings, is a wholly secular program. It is not a program that seeks to discern God’s will. It was created by a military general as a way of creating a standard procedure for debate in order to conduct meetings in a more effective and efficient manner. It is rooted in the desire to channel the human tendency to fight, rather than in the spiritual yearning to seek God’s truth and will.” *Reverend Graham Standish (June 2008)*

1. A 5-minute opening presentation will be given by a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church.
2. Following the opening presentation the Moderator will call for a period of silent prayer and reflection.
3. The floor then will be open for questions and comments from presbyters addressed from a single microphone to the Moderator. Each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes.
4. The discussion period will be scheduled for 45 minutes and may be either extended or ended earlier by a 2/3 vote of the presbyters.
5. Following the end of discussion, the Moderator will call for a period of silent prayer during which each presbyter is encouraged to listen for the guiding voice of Jesus Christ as he/she discerns God's will regarding action on the overture.
6. The vote will be by paper ballot distributed to each presbyter entitled to vote. The ballots will be counted by 2 tellers appointed by the Moderator. Following announcement of the vote, the Moderator will offer a prayer.

Elder Nahida Gordon from Wooster Westminster presented. Motion to have the following Overture to be voted upon, the motion was seconded, motion carried.

The floor was open to commissioner discussion. The following approached the microphone having three minutes to speak: Lynn Shetzer, Dave Puterbaugh, Merlin Wentworth, Robin Craig, Virginia Birks, Reford Nash, Kathy Adams, Matt Skolnik, Dave DeVries, Robert Meyers, an elder from North Canton John Knox, and Dorothy Brown. Move to discussion to rest, the motion was seconded, motion to close the discussion.

Voting for the Westminster Overture was taken by a ballot system. The Westminster Overture was voted in favor – 37, against – 23. A total of 60 ballots were collected from Muskingum Valley Presbytery clergy members, elder commissioners, commissioned lay pastors and council elders.

Elder Bob Porter, chair of Nominating committee presented the following nominations for election at the January 10, 2012 presbytery meeting:

- Rev. Dr. William Darrell Holmes, Pastor, Reedurban Presbyterian Church as Minister Commissioner to the 220th General Assembly.
- Rev. John R. Lane, H. R. as Alternate Minister Commissioner to the 220th General Assembly.

- Elder/CLP Timothy Thomas, Warsaw Presbyterian Church as Elder Commissioner to the 220th General Assembly.
- Elder Barbara Tartir, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Wooster as Alternate Elder Commissioner to the 220th General Assembly.
- Anthony Devolld, Old Washington Presbyterian Church as Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 220th General Assembly.
- Kayla Cowden, The Presbyterian Church of Coshocton as Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 220th General Assembly.
- Elder Tim Pollock, Area III representative to the Mission Coordinating Council for a three- year term.

With no further business, the presbytery voted to adjourn at 3:35PM. The Moderator led us in prayer.

The next stated meeting will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 9:30 A.M. at The Presbyterian Church in Coshocton.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Lane, Transitional Stated Clerk