

**The Presbytery of Ohio Valley**  
**Docket for Assembly: March 8, 2012**  
**First Presbyterian Church - Martinsville, Indiana**  
**Elder Mike Beaver, Moderator**  
**Rev. Lawrence Jackman, Stated Clerk**

Consent Agenda

Report from Council

COM

CPM

Bills and Overtures

Stewardship

Treasurer

Mission Partnership

Executive Presbyter

Speak Out

Report from Administrative Commissions

PYOCA

New Business

Prayer Partners

Prayers of the Presbytery

Adjourn

## **What You May Expect Presbytery of Ohio Valley Assembly March 8, 2012**

**Hospitality**—Every time we are in Assembly we get to enjoy a different congregation’s unique form of “Hoosier Hospitality”. This meeting it is the Martinsville First Presbyterian that will be hosting the gathering. The relatively new pastor is the Rev. Carol Fisher. The congregation has been practicing the art of caring for others for just shy of 171 full years.

**Overtures Discussed** – Overtures to the General Assembly are a little complex. Everything starts at a very local level. So, from the presbyteries an action or change is suggested for the whole church. If the request is simply for an action, it goes from Presbytery to GA and then is dealt with. If the proposal is a change in something constitutional, the finished product comes back to the presbyteries to be ratified. Two of our sessions are asking our presbytery too agree on overtures being sent to General Assembly from two other presbyteries. We will have an opportunity to discuss those items and weigh in on issues two of our sessions see as quite important.

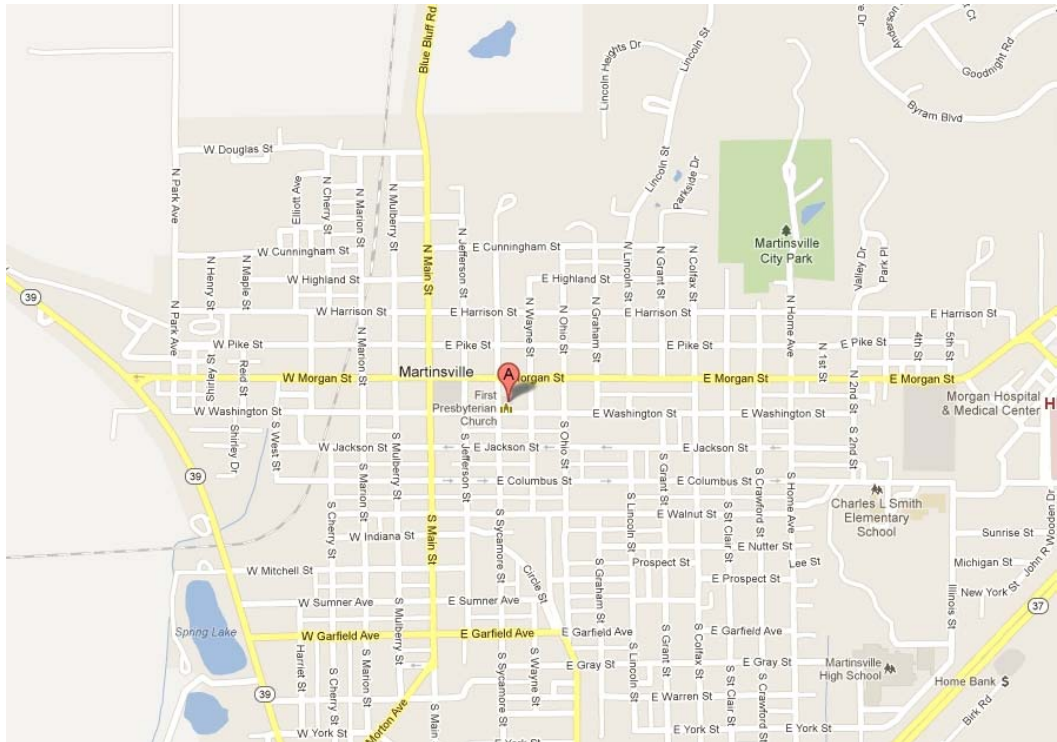
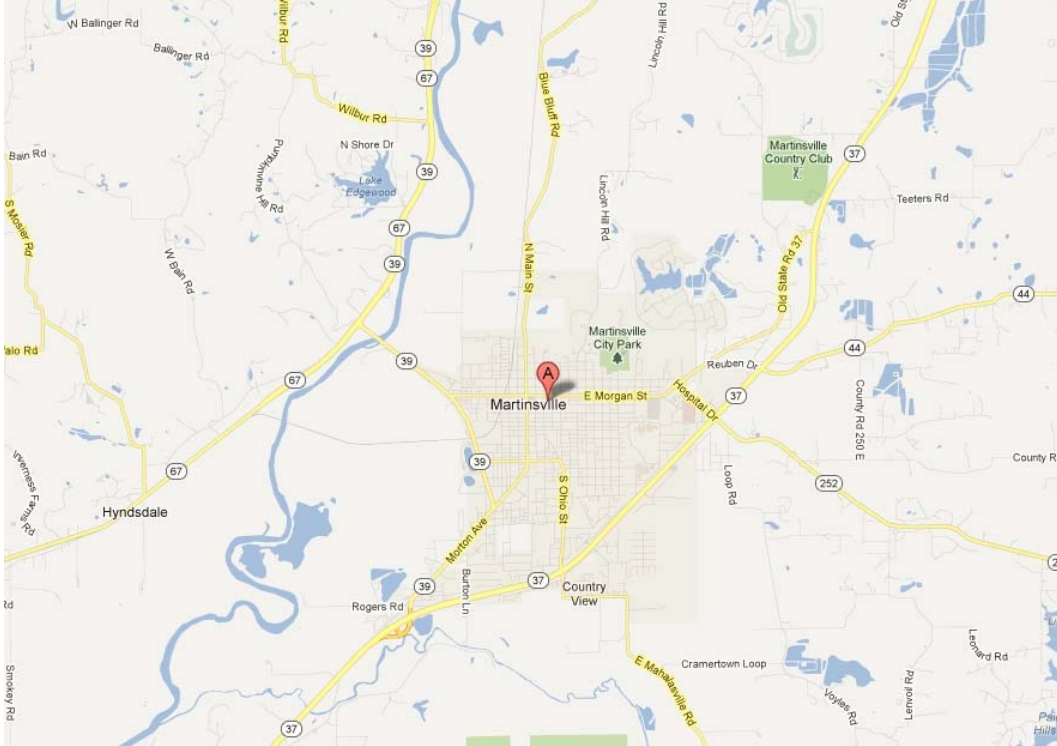
**Speak Out and Sharing** – As always there are opportunities to share with each other through mechanisms like the speak-out time. It is an opportunity to hear what others are doing in the presbytery. Through the prayer requests, also, we listen to each other about the joys and needs of each other.

**Picturing the Future of the Church** – Several groups and committees in the presbytery have begun to explore the future by asking some critical questions about our future. In the context of part of our worship time, we will have opportunity to share with each other our visions for our church. The impact of this conversation on the smaller groups has been profound and very affirming. We are pulling together a vision of a future that is both realistic and powerful. We are thinking about a future in which we can accomplish great things for the church.

**Commission Updates**—the Presbytery has several commissions at work now. A commission is a group that simply acts for all of us. We always get updates on what those groups have done acting for us.

**Committee and Work Group Reports**— There are several committees and work groups actively working on our mission as a presbytery. Several of these groups will report.

**Presbytery of Ohio Valley  
Driving Directions  
First Presbyterian Church  
240 E Washington St, Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-3282**



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The church is located at the corner of Sycamore and Washington Streets, one block east of the downtown square. The best parking options are along both sides of Washington Street.

From Hwy 37 (north or south): Turn at stoplight at intersection of 37 and 252 onto Hospital Drive (left if northbound on 37, right if southbound). Turn left at the T onto Morgan Street and go west about a mile to Sycamore Street. Turn left onto Sycamore and left again onto Washington. Park on either side.

From Hwy 67 (north or south): Turn onto Hwy 39 at stoplight (right if northbound on 67, left if southbound). Cross bridge and turn left at stoplight onto Morgan Street. Continue on Morgan through the downtown square. Turn right onto Sycamore, one block past square, and then left onto Washington. Park on either side.

## **Clerk's Report**

The Rev. Lawrence Jackman

### **Overtures to the General Assembly**

There are currently 70 or more published Overtures that are moving from Presbyteries to the next General Assembly. Several deal with G 2.0104 which address the Ordination Standards. Several address the issue of marriage in W. 4.09000.

One Overture stipulates an immediate Investigating Committee in cases which involve allegations of sexual abuse. Certain judgments of viability of an assertion would no longer be subject to any determination except that of an IC.

One amendment proposed allows for church councils to create defined standards (theological and behavioral) for membership. One proposed amendment expands the concept of affinity defined presbyteries.

One amendment proposes the Belhar Confession in the Book of Confessions.

Overture 022 from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities has been endorsed by the Session of the Madison Church and they are asking the Presbytery to concur in the overture. The overture addresses a prior GA's action on persons with disabilities. The overture mandates steps to implement the prior actions of the General Assembly.

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### **Requests to Concur**

The Session of Madison Presbyterian Church, Madison, IN, voted on February 6, 2012, to ask the Presbytery of Ohio Valley to concur with the Overture from Detroit Presbytery on Instructing the General Assembly to Take Action to Implement the PCUSA's Approved Policy on Inclusion of People With Disabilities.

The session of First Presbyterian Church Columbus requests that the presbytery concur with an overture from Sacramento Presbytery. The overture addresses the question of ordination standards.

### **Resignations**

A resignation has been received from Teaching Elder Byron Bangert from the Committee on Ministry and from Moderator of the session at the Mitchell Presbyterian Church. Pat Morrison resigned from the Committee on Ministry. Eric Erickson has resigned from PYOCA Advisory Board. Mike Beaver has resigned from the Lay Academy Committee.

## **Trustee's Report**

Elder Rob Peters

### **LOAN APPROVAL**

A loan request from Mt Tabor Church was recommended for approval by the trustees to council. Mt. Tabor's weekday programs require transportation and the church bus must be replaced. The request is for \$28,000 as a loan at 4% for a period of 60 months. The loan was approved by council and referred back to trustees with the directive that any closing costs being a part of the loan.

## INSURANCE REVIEW

The Trustees will be in contact with any congregations which have failed to report their insurance coverage and carrier. Congregations should not only carry insurance appropriate to exposure, but also should explicitly include the presbytery as a “named insured” on their policy.

## **Report of the POV Mission Council**

The Rev. Susan McGhee, Moderator

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

**The Mission Council held an electronic vote on February 1, 2012, and took the following actions:**

1. Acting as a Commission of Presbytery, elected the following persons to fill vacancies on the Committee on Ministry: The Rev. Dennis Davenport (class of 2013) and the Rev. Carol Fisher (class of 2012), and on the POV Academy Committee: the Rev. Carol Barrett (class of 2012)

**The Mission Council met on February 13, 2012, at Mitchell Presbyterian Church, and took the following actions:**

1. Began with worship, holy reading, and small and large group reflection to help guide our work throughout the day.
2. Received reports of Presbytery officers, staff, committees, work groups, and other entities.
3. Acting as a Commission of Presbytery, elected Eric Erickson to fill a vacancy on the POV Academy Committee and John Erickson to fill a vacancy on the Pyoca Advisory Board.
4. Upon nomination by the Committee on Ministry Moderator, Stated Clerk and Executive Presbyter (in accordance with the POV Sexual Ethics and Boundaries Policy), elected the following persons to the Sexual Misconduct Response Team: Rev. Wendy VanderZee, Elder Joe Kimmel, Elder Debbie Laitien, and Elder Lyn Kyle.
5. Moved \$10,000 from the Legacy Funds into an account for start-up costs for the New Church Development Administrative Commission.
6. Received and approved a request from the Church Transformation Team to increase the number of members from three to six, the additional three persons will be elected by the Mission Council.
7. Approved a proposal to increase the amount of office space for the Presbytery at United Church, Bloomington.
8. Approved a request from the Pyoca Advisory Board for an additional one-time grant of \$5,000.
9. Approved a request from the AIDS Task Force to offer voluntary HIV/AIDS testing at the June Assembly.

10. Authorized the expenditure of up to \$2,500 from Transformation Funds to help fund a Tri-Valley Leadership Conversation, "A Glimpse Beyond Ourselves: A Time to Connect, Converse, and Conspire."
11. Adopted the following policy for the sale of goods and publications at Presbytery Assemblies: "Ordinarily, goods and publications shall not be sold by congregations or pastors at Presbytery Assemblies. Sessions may print fliers announcing the sale of such goods and publications, and may make them available in the registration area."

### **For Presbytery Action**

1. That requests from Teaching Elders to labor inside or outside the bounds of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley for non-continuing service (e.g., weddings, occasional preaching, etc.) be handled by any two of the following three persons: the Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk and Committee on Ministry Moderator.
2. That the Presbytery of Ohio Valley adopt the following process for moving from a temporary pastoral relationship to an installed pastoral relationship:

Per G-2.0504, persons serving in a temporary pastoral relationship are ordinarily not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor. In the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, teaching elders who have been serving in a temporary pastoral relationship with a congregation for at least five consecutive years may be eligible to serve as the installed pastor of that congregation. In such instances the following process shall ordinarily be followed:

- The Session communicates to the Committee on Ministry its desire to make the change from a temporary relationship to an installed relationship.
- The Committee on Ministry will meet first with the pastor regarding the session's request, and will then meet with the session.
- Following a review of all matters related to the installed relationship and terms of call, the Committee on Ministry will determine if the session will be authorized to call a congregational meeting to consider the requested change. Ordinarily, this congregational meeting shall take place no sooner than three months from the date of the session's initial request.
- If the congregation votes in the affirmative, the Committee on Ministry shall consider whether to bring a motion to the presbytery for its approval. A super-majority of three-fourths of the members of presbytery present and voting at the meeting is required for the motion to be approved. (G-2.0504c)
- If the congregation does not vote in the affirmative, the Committee on Ministry shall counsel with the pastor and the session concerning the future of the pastoral relationship.

## **Committee on Ministry Report**

The Rev. Deborah Fortel, Moderator

### **Summary of COM Actions Taken from November 11, 2011 through February 11, 2012**

At the February 11, 2012 meeting the Committee on Ministry:

1. Reviewed the process and changes in the process for PNCs and the COM liaisons with congregations in transition. Background checks will be made and reviewed by the Executive Presbyter and the Stated Clerk on all persons who are final candidates to be called to a congregation as pastor or to be contracted with a session as a temporary supply pastor.
2. Voted to establish a baseline of affirmative votes that would ordinarily make it advisable for a pastor to accept a call to a congregation. If fewer than 85% of the members of the congregation present and voting approve the call, the COM will counsel with the pastor and the PNC concerning the advisability of accepting the call.
3. Considered a process for moving a teaching elder from a temporary to an installed position and forwarded it to the Mission Council for consideration.
4. Approved the minutes of the November 10, 2011 stated COM meeting.
5. Approved contracts as follows:
  - a. **Trinity United Presbyterian Church of New Washington, Indiana, and Rev. Michelle Bartel** serving as Temporary Supply Pastor, from 11/2/11 to 11/2/12. **Duties include:** 1. Conduct weekly services of worship. 2. Participate and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Provide pastoral care, conduct funerals, weddings, baptisms, special services and new member training as can be scheduled. 4. Moderate session and facilitate shared leadership development with the congregation with the pastor. **Terms:** Approximately 20 hours/week; Housing Allowance of \$21,137; Mileage vouchered at IRS rate (approx. \$3500); Study Leave of 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays; Vacation of 1 month, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education vouchered at \$750; Participation in the Board of Pensions (approx. \$9,018); Retirement Fund of \$1,800.
  - b. **Central Presbyterian Church of Terre Haute, Indiana, and Alan Nisbet Harder** serving as Ruling Elder Commissioned to Pastoral Service, from 1/1/12 to 6/30/12. **Duties include:** 1. Conduct services of worship. 2. Participate and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Completing ongoing mentoring and 16 hours of continuing education annually. 4. Administering Holy Sacraments. 5. Officiating at weddings and funerals. 6. Providing support to committees and commissions of the church. 7. Making pastoral visitations. **Terms:** Approximately 17 hours/week; Housing Allowance of \$5,297; Mileage vouchered at IRS rate; Study Leave of 1 week; Vacation of 2 weeks; Continuing Education vouchered at \$400; Sick Leave of 1 week.
  - c. **Graham Presbyterian Church of N. Vernon, Indiana, and Rev. Michael E. Bean**, serving as Temporary Supply Pastor from 1/1/12 to 12/31/12. **Duties include:** 1. Conduct weekly services of worship. 2. Participate in and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Administer sacraments. 4. Moderate session. 5. Pastoral calling. **Terms:** Approximately 20 hours/week; Salary of \$3,658; Housing Allowance of \$6,000; Mileage

vouchered at IRS rate; Study Leave of 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays; Vacation of 1 month, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education vouchersed at \$250; Participation in the Board of Pensions (approx. \$9,018); Retirement Fund 403b of \$2,400.

- d. **Laconia United Presbyterian Church of Laconia, Indiana, and Sharon Kutz-Mellem**, as Ruling Elder Commissioned to Pastoral Service, from 1/1/12 to 12/31/12. **Duties include:** 1. Conduct weekly services of worship. 2. Participate in and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Complete mentoring and 16 hours continuing education annually as required by COM. **Terms:** Approximately 10 hours/week; Housing Allowance of \$8,070; Mileage vouchersed at IRS rate (approx. \$3500); Study Leave of 3 weeks, including 3 Sundays; Vacation of 1 month, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education vouchersed at \$150.
  - e. **Valley City Presbyterian Church of Laconia, Indiana, and Sharon Kutz-Mellem**, as Ruling Elder Commissioned to Pastoral Service, from 1/1/12 to 12/31/12. **Duties include:** 1. Conduct weekly services of worship, including children's message, bulletins, help with Sunday School when necessary. 2. Participate in and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Conduct elder/deacon/new member instruction. 4. Moderate Session and Congregational meetings. 5. Conduct weddings, funerals, & pastoral visitations when possible. **Terms:** Approximately 10-12 hours/week; Housing Allowance of \$8,060; Mileage vouchersed at IRS rate (approx. \$3500); Study Leave of 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays; Vacation of 1 month, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education vouchersed at \$150.
  - f. **Rehoboth Presbyterian Church of Laconia, Indiana, and Rev. Frank T. Hainer**, serving as Temporary Supply Pastor from 1/1/12 to 12/31/12. **Duties include:** 1. Conduct weekly services of worship: sermon, children's message, sacrament, special services. 2. Participate in and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery, COM, CPM, etc. 3. Moderate session: training, planning, evaluation. New member and officer training. Adult ed. 4. Pastoral care: counseling, calling, weddings, funerals. 5. Office: bulletins, Hummingbird (newsletter), hymns. 6. Special events: Church retreat at PYOCA, BarBQ, Oyster Supper, Halloween Party, Maundy Thursday. **Terms:** Approximately 14 hours/week; Salary of \$2,750; Housing Allowance of \$8,000; Mileage vouchersed at IRS rate (approx. \$2,250); Study Leave of 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays; Vacation of 5 weeks, including 5 Sundays.
  - g. **Livonia United Presbyterian Church of Livonia, Indiana, and Rev. Donald T. Stokes**, serving as Temporary Supply Pastor, from 1/1/12 to 12/31/12. **Duties include:** 1. Conduct weekly services of worship. 2. Participate in and encourage congregational participation in the life of the Presbytery. 3. Moderate session and congregational meetings. 4. Administer sacraments. 5. Funerals and weddings as called. **Terms:** Approximately 20 hours/week; Salary of \$12,200; Mileage vouchersed at IRS rate (approx. \$4,330); Study Leave of 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays; Vacation of 1 month, including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education vouchersed at \$750; Participation in the Board of Pensions (approx. \$8,650).
6. Approved the following E-Vote Report of votes taken electronically between COM meetings of November 11, 2011 and February 11, 2012:
- a. Approved: Michael Bean and Graham Church renewal contract for 2012. Steve Graham also notes that the Graham Church has increased Michael Bean's salary by an additional \$2,000.
  - b. Approved: The transfers of Carol Barrett's membership from Mid-Kentucky and Bill Barrett's from Whitewater Valley Presbyteries to Presbytery of Ohio Valley.

- c. Approved: Alan Harder, CRE, and Central Church, Terre Haute, renewal of contract for January-June, 2012.
  - d. Approved: Permission for the Leavenworth congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.
7. Approved the following people as leaders for the COM:
- a. Regional Team Leaders:
    - i. NW – Linda Peters
    - ii. NC – John VanderZee
    - iii. SW – Larry Langer
    - iv. SE – Jean Beaver
  - b. Recorder for the COM: Larry Langer
  - c. Prayer Partner Coordinator for the COM: David Young
  - d. Coordinator for CREs for COM: Alan Finnan
8. The following congregations and pastors were prayed for: Columbus, Fairlawn and Rev. Anne Marshall; Paoli, First and Rev. Nancy Waters; Washington, Westminster and Rev. Alan Finan; Nabb and Elder Michael Beaver; Evansville, Eastminster and Rev. Dennis Davenport; Terre Haute, Central and Rev. Lant Davis and Elder Alan Harder.

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

The Rev. Monica Gould, Moderator

- The committee welcomes new member Elder Diane Farrar.
- The committee rejoices with Candidate Garrett Schindler who has received and accepted a call to a small, rural church in the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley. Garrett is to be ordained by his presbytery of care (POV) on Sunday, March 18th at Trinity United Presbyterian Church in New Washington, IN. He will be dismissed to the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley where he will be installed by his presbytery of call. It has been our pleasure to partake in this journey with Garrett and we send him our blessings.
- The committee welcomes Mr. Jae Seok Park as an inquirer. Jae Seok is a member of the Korean Fellowship at Bloomington, and a student at Louisville Seminary.
- As many of you know it is the committee's responsibility to walk the journey with our candidates and inquirers as they, with us discern, assess, and examine their call, their readiness to move forward in the process or to be dismissed from the process. It is not a simple task nor is it taken lightly. Once someone is in the process their movement through the process is not a given, nor automatic. There are many struggles that must be met along the way and with tremendous care and great hours of prayer we, in relationship with our inquirers and candidates move along the path that God has for us all. We appreciate all the prayers and concerns from our colleagues in ministry.

Preface to motion:

Among the requirements for ordination to the ministry of Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is the presentation of examination papers and evaluations showing satisfactory completion of tests in the areas of Bible Content, Biblical Exegesis, Theological Competence, Church Polity, and Worship and Sacraments. The Book of Order, however, also recognizes that while competence in these areas is necessary for those who exercise the responsibility for fulfilling the functions of a teaching elder, the standard written examinations may not be appropriate means for demonstrating every individual's competencies in these areas.

The exams are given to hundreds of candidates each year. There are also special arrangements made to accommodate certain special needs such as: language, extended time, distraction reduced settings, and alternate forms of reading the exam. However, the candidate must be able to write the exam by computer in a format that can be entered into the grading pool in a manner that it is acceptable to the graders for reading. Despite these arrangements there are still some candidates for whom these standard examinations do not provide an appropriate opportunity to demonstrate their competence and readiness for ministry. It is clear, according to our polity that the exams may not be waived NOR may the standards be lowered. The core competencies must be assessed for each candidate whether by the standard exams or alternate means. It is also clear that these alternate means are not requested unless the committee is convinced that the candidate is otherwise ready to fulfill all the requirements to complete final assessment. (taken from 2011-2013 Advisory Handbook on Preparation for Ministry PC(USA)) resources pcusa.org

Request for alternative assessment of competency for Candidate Sarah VanderZee

***WHEREAS the new Form of Government includes more flexibility for us as we carry out the ministry of Christ, and***

***WHEREAS part of our mission is to care for inquirers and candidates preparing for and considering a call to the office of teaching elder (Minister of Word and Sacrament), and***

***WHEREAS the CPM has both responsibility and freedom in that preparation, and***

***WHEREAS the CPM may bring to the floor of presbytery an alternate means of taking the Standard Ordination Exams with regard to a particular candidate at a particular time, and***

***WHEREAS our candidate, Sarah VanderZee, has documented learning disabilities that affect her ability to demonstrate her competency according to the standard format,***

- ***We therefore bring before presbytery the following motion:***

***That Sarah VanderZee take her Theology, Worship and Sacraments, and Polity examinations by alternate means so that she may demonstrate her competency. If she does not pass the exams by alternate means she does not fulfill the ordination exam requirement which cannot be waived. This motion requires a ¾ vote approval from presbytery.***

## **Bills and Overtures Report**

The session of the Madison Church has requested that the presbytery consider concurring with Overture O22 from the Presbytery of the Twin Cities. The body of that overture is below:

### **Ovt 022**

*On Instructing the General Assembly to Take Action to Implement the PC(USA)'s Policy on Inclusion of People with Disabilities—From the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area..*

**The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area respectfully overtures the 220th General Assembly (2012) to take the following actions to implement *Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, the policy approved by the 217th General Assembly (2006) (*Minutes*, 2006, Part I, p. 919ff):**

- 1. Affirm that persons with disabilities are distinct cultures within the rich multicultural makeup of the PC(USA).**
- 2. Direct the General Assembly Mission Council (GAMC), the Office of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Foundation, the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc., the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and the Board of Pensions to form a working group that includes human resources staff from each entity and representatives from Presbyterians for Disability Concerns (PDC) and the disability consultants in order to develop a plan for training all entity staff, commissioners to GAMC, and all commissioners to General Assembly in disability awareness and inclusion. The working group will meet three times before the 221st General Assembly (2014) and report back its plan at the 221st General Assembly (2014). The plan may include contracting with a third party if agreed to and approved by PDC and the disability consultants.**
- 3. Direct the GAMC to fund, with new money, the disability consultants at a level that includes travel expenses and to fund, with new money, disability consultants and PDC volunteers for travel expenses for consulting with PC(USA) staff in developing the new training plan.**
- 4. Direct all entities in PC(USA) to use “people first” language in all publications and official communications of the PC(USA) and to encourage church-wide study and use of “people first” language.**
- 5. Instruct OGA to encourage event planners and committees on local arrangements to recruit and include people with disabilities in planning and to include people with visible disabilities and other disabilities in church-wide worship leadership.**
- 6. Direct PC(USA) entities to report back to the 221st General Assembly (2014) the progress that has been made since the 220th General Assembly (2012) and the plan that fulfills the recommendations in this overture.**

#### ***Rationale***

All members of the body of Christ, including people who live with disabilities, have been given gifts for service<sup>i</sup> and are called to share them with the church for the glory of God.<sup>ii</sup>

The Old Testament prophets called God’s people to “do justice”<sup>iii</sup> and included people with disabilities in the gathered people of God.<sup>iv</sup>

Jesus called all people, including the marginalized of his society, to share in God's great banquet.<sup>v</sup>

Jesus' ministry of healing was ministry of inclusion that restored persons to their communities.<sup>vi</sup>

Persons who live with disabilities have gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and insight that have come out of their own faith experience as they have faced barriers and exclusion, and as the church is poorer without these gifts.

Including people with disabilities in leadership, including worship, is a powerful and visible witness to God's love for all persons and God's gifts to all persons.<sup>vii</sup>

The PC(USA) is called to be a prophetic witness and to model justice for all people in our society.<sup>viii</sup>

Persons with disabilities<sup>ix</sup> are a minority<sup>x</sup> culture within church and society<sup>xi</sup> and have in common the experience of facing barriers and exclusion in both church and society.

The Constitution of the PC(USA) instructs the church to "hear the voices of people long silenced,"<sup>xii</sup> and the voices of people who live with disabilities are not being heard in the church.

*Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities* calls the church to do justice for people with disabilities and offers a vision of God's dream for the world and for Christ's church.<sup>xiii</sup>

Person-first language affirms that persons with disabilities are created in the image of God and are persons first, not defined by their disabilities.<sup>xiv</sup>

*Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities* includes no call for disability inclusion training for staff of the six entities of the PC(USA), for members of the General Assembly Mission Council, or for commissioners to General Assembly.

Resources are available within the PC(USA) to work with human resources staff in developing a plan for training.<sup>xv</sup>

It is now time, in 2012, for the 220th General Assembly (2012) to follow the words of Scripture, the instruction in the Constitution of PC(USA), and the policy approved by the 217th General Assembly (2006) in order to move the church forward toward full inclusion of people with disabilities.

### Endnotes

i. "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

ii. "... we are all called, regardless of our abilities or limitations, to grow and live into the body of Christ, with Christ as the head of the body of which we are members. No one is excused from this gladsome task of discipleship, being and becoming a disciple of Christ. We must all, individually and communally, '... grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ ... [promoting] the body's growth in building itself up in love' (Eph. 4:15-16, NRSV)." (*Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, Minutes, 2006, Part I, p. 927)

iii. "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Mic. 6:8)

iv. “See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.” (Jer. 31:8)

v. “Then the owner of the house .... said to his slave, ‘Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’” (Lk. 14:21)

vi. Kathy Black, *A Healing Homiletic: Preaching and Disability* (Abingdon Press, 1996), p. 46.

“For first century people, it was one’s sense of *being* in the community that was most crucial ...”

vii. Sarah is a young woman who lives with disabilities. She “speaks” through assistive technology and needs accommodations because of her multiple disabilities. When she was a child, she could never learn to ride a bicycle. She could not believe that God really loved her. Finally as a young teenager, she saw and heard a person with a visible disability leading worship at a church-wide service. By seeing a person with disabilities leading worship, she discovered and understood what years of Sunday school had not demonstrated—that she is a beloved child of God, created in the Image of God.

viii. “Give prophetic witness regarding issues related to people with disabilities, recognizing that disability concerns are a matter of social justice.” (*Minutes*, 2006, Part I, p. 921; *Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities*, II. 2, b, (1))

ix. “Persons with disabilities are a diverse group of individuals who have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, such as relating, caring for one’s self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.” (This was the PC(USA) definition in 1990 and consistent with the ADA of 1990. In 2008, ADA was amended to cover a broader category of disabilities.)

x. According to ADA, people with disabilities are “a distinct and insular minority who have been faced with restrictions and limitations and subjected to a history of purposeful, unequal treatment, and relegated to a position of political powerlessness in our society ...” (This is a citation from ADA 1990. The 2008 law reaffirmed that people with disabilities continue to face barriers and discrimination.)

xi. It is estimated that at least 20 percent of the general population has some form of disability and that as many as 90 percent of this group are unchurched.

xii. *The Book of Confessions*, A Brief Statement of Faith, 10.4, line 70.

xiii. “As the body of Christ, we are to welcome everyone to the banquet Feast of God’s love in this world. The feast of God’s love is open to all and fully inclusive of people from all pathways of life.

“We envision a church in which the designation or naming of a person’s disability is less important than who that person is as one of God’s people.

“We envision a church in which everyone welcomes and reflects diversity and inclusiveness in worship, education, fellowship, service, justice, leadership, and evangelism.

“We envision a church in which all the members of the body of Christ honor, respect, nurture, and support the gifts, talents, and services of every other member.

“We envision a church in which every child of God can realize her/his full potential and through which society is consistently engaged and challenged to become more inclusive.

“We envision a church that embodies the creative movement from awareness, through accessibility and integration, to full inclusion, and thus bears healing witness to the world.

“We envision the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a leader in promoting and manifesting this vision

of a just world, serving with and empowering people with disabilities to engage in this ongoing work.

“This vision of living into a fuller experience of the Body of Christ illuminates the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s commitment to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in every aspect of life; living into this vision draws us closer to the fulfillment of God’s redemptive will ‘on earth as in heaven’.” (*Minutes*, 2006, Part I, pp. 920; *Living into the Body of Christ: Towards Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities, II*)

xiv. Examples of Person First Language: The Power of Words (excerpts from the Policy on Disabilities, Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area)

*In describing a person who lives with a disability, name the person first, not the disability. Using words that give dignity affirms our belief that all people are created in the Image of God.*

<b>Say</b>	<b>Instead of</b>
People with disabilities	The handicapped or disabled
The child is blind or visually impaired	The blind or visually impaired child
The Council member is deaf or hard of hearing	The deaf or hard of hearing Council member
Mary uses a wheelchair	-- confined to a wheelchair or wheelchair bound
The child with Down syndrome	-- mongoloid
The commissioner has a physical disability	-- crippled or lame
The commissioner has a learning disability	-- is learning disabled
Don needs an accessible room	-- a handicapped room
Charlie lives with mental illness	-- crazy, insane, emotionally disturbed

For more examples see Kathie Snow’s website: [www.DISABILITYISNATURAL.COM](http://www.DISABILITYISNATURAL.COM)

xv. The PC(USA) has disability consultants in the following areas: mobility, vision loss, hearing loss, and developmental disabilities. Consultants respond to questions and concerns across the denomination. In addition they work with Presbyterians for Disability Concerns (PDC) as advisors and they cooperate with PDC in developing print and on-line resources for the denomination. Their combined compensation is \$800 per month and includes no travel expenses. This funding will end in 2012.

The PDC is a network of Presbyterian Health Education and Welfare Association. Members of the leadership team are chosen for their experience and knowledge of disability issues. During the past year, mid 2010—mid 2011, team members reported six hundred volunteer hours of service directly related to their work as members of PDC/PHEWA.

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## OVERTURE

The session of First Presbyterian Church, Columbus requests the presbytery to concur in an overture from the Presbytery of Sacramento to which a number has not yet (March 1) been assigned. The text of the overture is below:

## 220<sup>th</sup> GA (2012) Overture Draft

*On honoring Christ in our relationships with one another*  
*The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Columbus, Indiana, on February 15, 2012, voted unanimously to request Ohio Valley Presbytery to respectfully overture the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012) to make the following statement:*

Because

- Jesus taught that our highest ethical obligation is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself” [Luke 10:27]; and “this is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other” [John 13:35];
- having experienced Christ’s gracious love for us while we are yet sinners, we are called to “welcome each other, in the same way that Christ also welcomed you, for God’s glory” [Romans 15:7];
- we affirm the solemn commitments expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination, installation, and commissioning, including that we intend to fulfill our ministries in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and continually guided by our confessions; that we will be friends among our colleagues in ministry; that we seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love our neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world [W-4.4003];
- “we hold that interpretation of the Scripture to be orthodox and genuine which is gleaned from the Scriptures themselves (from the nature of the language in which they were written, likewise according to the circumstances in which they were set down, and expounded in the light of like and unlike passages) and which agree with the rule of faith and love, and contributes much to the glory of God and man’s salvation” [Second Helvetic Confession, 5.010];
- the Larger Catechism lifts up the duty of holding “a charitable esteem of our neighbors,” and forbids the sin of “misconstruing intentions, words and actions” [7.254-7.255];

The 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012) acknowledges that faithful Presbyterians earnestly seeking to follow Jesus Christ hold different views about what the Scriptures teach concerning the morality of committed same-gender relationships. Therefore, while holding persons in ordered ministry to high standards of covenant fidelity in the exercise of their sexuality, as in all aspects of life, we decline to take an action that would have the effect of imposing on the whole Presbyterian Church (USA) one interpretation of Scripture in this matter. We commit ourselves to continue respectful dialogue with those who hold differing convictions, to welcome one another for God’s glory, and not to vilify those whose convictions we believe to be in error. We call on all Presbyterians to join us in this commitment.

### *Rationale*

Some Presbyterians read the Scriptures to condemn all forms of same-gender sexual intimacy, and sometimes accuse other Presbyterians of abandoning the authority of Scripture, ignoring the need for repentance, and leading persons into serious sin.

Some Presbyterians read the Scriptures to bless committed same-gender relationships, and sometimes accuse other Presbyterians of bigotry, responsibility for bullying and suicides, and other harm caused by anti-gay attitudes.

All Presbyterians acknowledge that we are sinners in need of repentance, but we disagree about whether all homosexual intimacy is sinful, and over the best way to love our LGBT neighbors.

Each “side” perceives the other to be harming the cause of the Gospel.

Although the Scriptures contain a variety of patterns of sexual relationships without condemnation, most Presbyterians believe that intimate sexual expression is to be restricted to a committed partnership between two consenting adults who regard one another as equals and seek to honor God, community, and each other in their covenant relationship. While some believe that the partners must be a man and a woman, and others are convinced that the gender of the two partners is not of concern to God, all share the conviction that relationships should be life-giving, responsible, and a blessing to family, church, and community.

While it is incumbent on all to continue to seek God’s will for sexuality, no human being has a full understanding of God’s Truth and all are called to humility before the Lord and charity toward one another. Questioning the faithfulness of those who in good conscience disagree with our interpretation does not bring honor to Christ or build up his church.

Nothing in current Presbyterian polity or policy, including the ordination standard in G-2.0104, takes one side or another in the conflict over the morality of same-gender relationships. A variety of views is now allowed to coexist in the PCUSA, consistent with the historic Presbyterian principles of freedom of conscience in the interpretation of Scripture and mutual forbearance [F-3.01]. Until God blesses the church with a clear consensus, continued attempts to impose uniformity are detrimental to the peace, unity, and purity of the church.

## **Stewardship Work Group Report**

The Rev. Peter Barnes-Davies, Moderator

2 Corinthians 9:7

*New International Version (NIV)*

Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.**

*The Message (MSG)*

I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. **God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.**

A call for generous sharing across the PC(USA)

One Great Hour of Sharing supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Self Development of People program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). For more information, visit:

[www.gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings/one-great-hour-sharing-offering](http://www.gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings/one-great-hour-sharing-offering)

Let’s raise a prayer of thanksgiving for the 54 churches in POV who gave to the One Great Hour of Sharing in 2011. Let’s try to top that number this year!

**Treasurer's Report**  
 Elder Jean Brown

Presbytery of Ohio Valley, Inc.  
 Condensed Statement of Revenues and Expenses (Actual vs Budget)  
 January 1 through December 31, 2011

	<b>Jan - Dec 2011</b>	<b>Annual</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>		
<b>Per Capita</b>	\$ 198,599	\$ 207,950
<b>Shared Giving (Unified Mission)</b>	99,629	114,000
<b>Contributions</b>	6,104	5,500
<b>Unrestricted Invest Inc &amp; Trans</b>	54,000	54,000
<b>Miscellaneous Income</b>	988	
	<hr/> 359,320	381,450
<b><u>Expense</u></b>		
<b>Staff Expense</b>	208,465	202,403
<b>Ecclesial Expense</b>	98,309	81,448
<b>Meeting Expense</b>	13,249	13,300
<b>Administration &amp; Office Expense</b>	33,633	38,000
<b>Program Expense</b>	34,113	33,951
<b>Cluster Expense</b>	2,703	6,000
<b>Task Force Funding</b>	2,180	6,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<hr/> 392,653	381,102
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<hr/> \$ (33,333)	<hr/> \$ 348

**Fund Balances**

**As of October 31, 2011**

<b>Church Legacy Funds</b>	\$ 661,744
<b>Brown Trust</b>	277,557
<b>Special Designations - Ezekiel, peacemaking</b>	24,903
<b>Undesignated Net Assets</b>	<hr/> 1,020,723
	<hr/> \$ 1,984,927

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

## **Mission Partnership Work Group Report**

The Rev. Eric Erickson, Moderator

**Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light (H-IPL)** continues its work to “bring Hoosiers of faith together as stewards of creation to promote energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and related sustainable practices.” 81 congregations around the state are actively engaged in this work. H-IPL has hired staff and is at work to help us help each other in this effort. The website is [www.hoosieripl.org](http://www.hoosieripl.org). David Brookman has served the board of Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light during these formative years, and as his time on that board comes to an end; we join in thanking David for his selfless service to this effort.

Mission Partnership calls attention to the twenty congregations of the Presbytery of Ohio Valley who gather the **Peacemaking Offering**. “Peacemaking: the Believers Calling,” the Presbyterian document that lifts up the central work of Peacemaking in our life together, was sent to congregations 18 months ago. The increased number of congregations gathering this offering suggests the value of this action.

Mission Partnership encourages that some of each congregation’s 25% of the Peacemaking Offering be used in the work of HIV/AIDS and/or the Partnership we share with the International Center of Bethlehem. The **Partnership of Presbytery of Ohio Valley and the International Center of Bethlehem** includes: Daily prayer for the work here and there, scholarship dollars, education and travel opportunities, gathering and sending used hearing aids to the Health and Wellness Center to serve the 3650 patients seen there annually. The Partnership began in 2006 and has grown in need, enthusiasm and support each year.

A travel opportunity the Presbytery offered for February 2012 was cancelled. Too few travelers were able to take advantage of this opportunity to see the work of the Partnership in the Bethlehem Region. Travel is one of the tenets of this partnership, and will be offered again.

To date, eight batches of used hearing aids have been sent to Bethlehem. Please remember to place a container in your church and a note in your bulletin. The Audiology Clinic sees 3650 patients a year, and your gift can help reconnect a person to the world. Please send or give them to Jo Lucas, 530 Shoreline Dr., Columbus, IN 47201.

88 presentations regarding ministry through the International Center and related entities have been made in the Presbytery. Members of the Mission Partnership Group continue to await invitations to provide a presentation at your church. Contact Jo Lucas, [jolucas41@att.net](mailto:jolucas41@att.net).

## **New Covenant/Palmyra Churches Administrative Commission Report**

The Rev. Larry Langer, Chair

The Monroe City church has been taken down and the ground is being smoothed. The bell is currently in a safe place. When the cornerstone was taken out, a “time capsule” was found. The contents are currently at the library in Vincennes, where the archivist is going to preserve the documents. More later on what the documents are.

There were two half-round stained glass windows which we didn’t sell from the Monroe City church. These are at Sunburst Stained Glass in Newburg. One of them will be refurbished in its entirety for placing in the new Lord’s Warehouse building.

The other window we are considering taking (some of) the individual, smaller panes and making memento windows. These would be given to those for whom the Monroe City church has been special, including Jan Utt, who has been our Commissioned Lay pastor there for over twenty years and who started The Lord's Warehouse. There is the possibility of several of these memento windows being made.

The Lord's Warehouse has had all of the utilities transferred directly to their hook-ups, and the bills are being sent in its name. They are operating as usual. I even think Jan is able to be back with them some! We are working on the establishment of the new non-profit corp. for The Lord's Warehouse.

Transferring the Palmyra church to the Indiana Landmark Foundation Group is another matter entirely! The title search, etc., for the property is like putting together a jig saw puzzle (with no edge pieces!)! We have even recently sent to the title company the names off of the dedicatory plaques on the stained-glass windows, hoping that some of the names would lead us to the "owners" of the property. If not, we will have to go to court for a "quiet claim" deed so we can sell the property to Indiana Landmarks. In the meantime, the Landmark group has boarded up the property and is patiently waiting for the time we can transfer things to them. We are receiving \$5000 for the property.

Please note that the windows from this Palmyra building are still available and are incredibly beautiful when refurbished by the Sunburst Stained Glass Company! One would think that the windows were just built, rather than being 122 years old! As a side note, the company that originally made the glass is still in business and still making the same glass. As new glass was needed to repair the windows that went to the niece of two uncles to whom windows were originally dedicated, Sunburst was able to order and match the old glass. Incredible!

The members of the Administrative Commission are: Rev. Larry Langer, chair; Rev. Michael Evanchak; Rev. Linda Peters; Rev. Cheryl Thorne; CRE George Ford; Elder Diana Reel; and Elder Rob Peters.

## 2012 PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS

By the first of the month preceding the month for your church (i.e., by April 1 for churches listed for May), 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. Email your information to [bbsnyder@bestonline.net](mailto:bbsnyder@bestonline.net) or mail to Barbara Snyder at 1820 Wheeler Road, Vincennes. Please call 812-886-0272 for more information. The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other throughout the year. Sharing prayers with each other works!

April 1	Valley City, Central
April 8	Your own congregation
April 15	Community, Charlestown
April 22	Grace, Clarksville
April 29	United, Clinton (Trinity Parish)
May 6	Fairlawn, Columbus
May 13	First, Columbus
May 20	Camp PYOCA
May 27	Commissioners to POV. Assembly
June 3	Corydon
June 10	Dale
June 17	General Assembly Staff
June 24	Commissioners to the 220 <sup>th</sup> General Assembly
July 1	Church of the Covenant, Elizabeth
July 8	Synod of Lincoln Trails
July 15	Eastminster, Evansville
July 22	First, Evansville
July 29	First Avenue, Evansville
August 5	Immanuel, Evansville
August 12	Parke Memorial, Evansville

August 19	Westminster, Evansville
August 26	First, Farmersburg
September 2	First, Fort Branch
September 9	Presbytery of Ohio Valley Staff
September 16	Grammer
September 23	Greencastle
September 30	Hanover
October 7	Community, Henryville
October 14	Mt. Lebanon, Henryville
October 21	Howesville, Jasonville
October 28	First, Jasper
November 4	First, Jeffersonville
November 11	Rehoboth, Laconia
November 18	United, Laconia
November 25	Community, Leavenworth
December 2	Commissioners to POV Assembly
December 9	Lexington
December 16	New Church Development, Sellersburg
December 23	Peace on Earth
December 30	Hanover College