

PRESBYTERY OF WHITEWATER VALLEY ASSEMBLY MEETING

First Presbyterian Church, Muncie

Wednesday, May 1, 2019

9:15 a.m. New Commissioner Training

10:00 a.m.

THE PRESBYTERY GATHERS TO DO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Convene and Call to Order

Rev. Gretchen Schneider, WWVP Vice-Moderator

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn “Hope Beyond Fear” (Words: Linda Rinker, Tune: Truro)\

Live into hope, of souls renewed,
Of strength revitalized and fear subdued.
Though change will come, our God endures;
Our fears will find their timely cures.

Live into hope, the church reborn,
Through boldly traveling new paths unworn.
With grace and love, our lives will be
A testament to unity.

Live into hope of wrongs set right,
Souls expanding into new insight.
Of courage large enough to find
The God who dwells in humankind.

Live into hope of strong new bands
Of love connecting us across all lands.
Of visions large enough to see
Beyond our fears, Eternity.

Welcome

Rev. Pat Smith, First Presbyterian, Muncie

ACTION: Seating of Corresponding Members
Presbyter

Rev. Alan Thames, Executive

Establishment of Roll and Quorum

ACTION: Docket and Consent Agenda Approval

COM Reported Actions
Coordinating Council Reported Actions
Finance Committee Reported Actions
Board of Directors Reported Actions
Session Records Review Report

Stated Clerk's Report

Ms. Kristy Quinn, Stated Clerk, CRE

Introduction of New Ruling Elder Commissioners

Introduction of New and Transitioning Teaching Elders
White Lick Presbyterian Church, Avon

Rev. Daren Hofmann,

10:20 a.m.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Rev. Daren Hofmann, COM Moderator

ACTION: To dissolve the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis

Celebrating Westminster

Ms. Donna Studevent, former CRE

ACTION: Examination for Ordination of Mr. Ibhaz Jasiel Hernandez, candidate certified ready for call from Mission Presbytery to the Lake Fellow Residency Program of Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

10:45 a.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COORDINATING COUNCIL COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF PYOCA

Presentation of Covenant Between the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, the Presbytery of Ohio Valley and Pyoca

Mr. Rob Peterson, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis/Member of the Pyoca Advisory Council and Mr. Jason Knapp, First Presbyterian Church, Anderson/Member of the Coordinating Council Commission

ACTION: Approval of Covenant

11:10 a.m.

**HISPANIC MINISTRIES LEAD TEAM
Presbyterian Church, CRE**

Ms. Lisa Crismore, John Knox

Dorcas Basket Blessing

Left: Crayons, hole punches

Right: Markers, construction paper

Left: Skeins of yarn, and glue

Leader: Bible lessons, singing and making crafts, too.

Left: Praying, eating snacks and playing games

Right: Whether we are here or there, Vacation Bible School is all the same.

Left: To learn about God is the best thing to do.

Leader: So we lift up in prayer –

Left: Teachers, helpers, and children, too.

Right: Growing in faith

Left: Building relationships

Leader: This is our hope for the Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana partnership.

Unison Prayer: We thank you, God, for the resources and school supplies that are in these Dorcas Baskets. We thank you for to opportunity for our Presbytery to support the ministry of the IED church. Please bless these baskets and the learning and growing that will take place during Vacation Bible School. We ask that you equip the teachers and provide curiosity to the children as they learn and grow in their faith. We thank you for our neighbors in the Dominican Republic. Amen.

11:25 a.m.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S PRESENTATION

A Litany of Call

One: "God 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?" What is our call, as individuals?

All: We are called to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, to protect the helpless, to share our wealth, to do justice, to love kindness, to create joy, and to live in loving relationship with our God.

One: What is our call, as congregations?

All: We are called to nourish the hungry, to shelter the homeless, to cherish community, to live in hope, to seek unity, to right wrongs, to fight injustice, to carry God's love into the world, and to live in loving relationship with one another.

One: What is our call, as a presbytery?

All: We are called to choose hope in the face of fear, to speak out against injustice, to nurture community among our churches, to foster unity in diversity, and to live in loving relationship with all of creation.

Invitation for First Presbyterian Church of Muncie to Share the Needs and Challenges of the Larger Community Rev. Pat Smith, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Muncie

Conversation About the Calling of Our Presbytery and Our Congregations

- How similar are the needs in Muncie to those facing your congregation?
- How do you understand the call of your congregation to address the needs of the community in which you do ministry?
- How do you understand the call of our presbytery to partner with our congregations to address the needs in all of our communities?

A Time of Holding Our Conversation Rev. Liz Kaznak-Hall, member-at-large

Prayer for Mealtimes Blessing

12:00 p.m. LUNCH

1:00 p.m.

**THE PRESBYTERY AS A LEARNING COMMUNITY Rev. Michael Gehrling, 1001
New Worshiping Communities**

“No More Boring Meetings! Learning to Embrace Spiritual Leadership and Discernment”

1:40 p.m.

THE PRESBYTERY AS A WORSHIPING COMMUNITY

- **Prelude.** As the musician(s) play, please make your way to one of the tables in *back/front/side* and find an “image” of God that resonates with you.
- **Call to Worship.** Turn to a neighbor and share about the “image of God” you selected. How does that image resonate with you? How does this image point to the ways you’ve been experiencing God lately? How does this image point to the ways you desire to experience God?
Rev. Michael Gehrling

HISTORY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MUNCIE, INDIANA

First Presbyterian Church of Muncie was founded in 1838 in the small pioneer settlement then called Munseytown. For two years the first minister, Robert Irwin, held services in the Court House on Sunday mornings and rode by horseback to wherever a congregation could be gathered. In time, three city lots were donated to the church, and after many difficulties, including a kiln fire that destroyed lumber that had been donated for the building, a 16 x16 foot wooden church was built. According to a history of the church, *The First One Hundred Years* by Belle Thomas, "after four years, working and waiting, the building was finished and dedicated – with a debt of six hundred dollars pending." Pastor Irwin was sent on a mission to seek financial help from established Presbyterian churches in the East, and thanks to his successful trip, the church was able to continue.

Over time, as the congregation grew, larger buildings were built: a church of brick in 1857, a church of stone in 1894, and the present building in 1955. A mural showing these four buildings can be seen in Fellowship Hall. St. Andrew Presbyterian church was started by First Pres in the late 1950s to serve north Muncie.

Many pastors have led the church over the years, most for two to four years, but two of the more recent pastors served for long periods. The Rev. Dr. Lewis Weber Gishler was senior pastor from 1942 until 1972, and the Rev. Dr. Ronald Naylor from 1985 to 2013.

A unique part of First Pres is our international Church which serves Koreans and other nationalities, both college students and local citizens. Dr. MyungKu Lee has led this part of our congregation for 30 years. Another long-standing program of the church is the Pre-K program which has served Muncie children for over 60 years. Music has always been an integral part of worship from the beginning when the singing by the congregation was led in call and response style by the only person who had a hymnal. In recent years, the music of the choirs and pipe organ has been enriched by the presence of many Ball State students and faculty members. Our current organist, Peter Douglas, is a PhD candidate at Ball State; and the Director of Music, Kerry Glann, is a music professor at the University.

During the past 180 years, First Pres has gone through many changes – easy times and challenging times, divisions and harmony, boom times and depressions. The industry-based economic wave that sustained Muncie for over a century dissipated dramatically starting in the 1980s, impacting First Pres along with the community. However, the church's commitment to its mission has not diminished. Under leadership of the present interim pastor, the Rev. Dr. Pat Smith, the church is seeking to become more missional in outlook and practice. We have joined forces with a Lutheran and Episcopalian ministry for Ball State students called Grace Village Campus Ministry, and which now has an office in our building. Mutual Ministry is a new program which has identified South View Elementary School and the surrounding area as our "neighborhood," and we are working to find ways in which the skills of our congregation can best intersect with the needs of this area so we can walk in partnership with them. More than 50 church members are currently volunteering at the school.

Just as the pioneer founders of First Pres trusted God to help them build their fledgling church, we also trust that God will guide us with what He has for us to do now and in the future.

We would recommend those planning to come to Muncie from the Indianapolis area consider taking 37 out of Noblesville north to Road 128 at Frankton. 128 wiggles around a bit through the small town of Frankton and ends at highway 9. Continue on across 9 on a good 2-lane road that will take one directly across I-69 and connects with road 332 into Muncie.

Parking will be located on the northside of the church, you can also park in the St. Frances parking lot across the street if needed.

Driving advice to First Presbyterian Church, Muncie:

Follow directional signs to Ball State University from most any entrance to Muncie. First Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Riverside Avenue and New York Avenue, on the east edge of the Ball State Campus.

If you are driving north from Indianapolis on I-69, **please** allow extra time. The road between Pendleton and Muncie is in especially bad condition and traffic is often slowed down by construction, potholes and/or accidents. Take Exit 241 from I-69 (SR 322) which will take you very close to FPC. From McGalliard Road (332), turn right (south) at the Football Stadium (Tillotson Avenue) and continue to Riverside Avenue, then turn east (left) on Riverside to New York Avenue.

You might want to take an alternate route, like 32 through Anderson, across I-69 and on into Muncie. At Tillotson Avenue (Lumberjack on the corner), take a left turn and go north to Riverside Avenue. At Riverside, turn right through BSU campus to FPC on the east edge of campus. At that light (New York) take a left to the entrance to the parking lot.

Coming from the Richmond area on 35, probably your best route would be to stay on 35 to McGalliard Road. Turn west (left) on McGalliard, turn left on Wheeling to Riverside. Right on Riverside to New York, right to the parking lot.

Parking is available on the north side of the church, with overflow parking available at St. Francis Catholic Church, just east of FPC. Turn into FPC parking off New York Avenue.

Enter the church at the north entrance – off the main parking area.

Whitewater Valley Presbytery Assembly, May 1, 2019

Dissolution of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

RECOMMENDED ACTION from the Commission on Ministry

That the Presbytery approve the dissolution of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 445 N. State St., Indianapolis, Indiana.

Background of recommendation:

Timeline:

- **November 25, 2018** **Congregational meeting to approve dissolution**
- **December 30, 2018** **Service of Congregational Celebration**
- **March 27, 2019** **Action by Commission on Ministry to concur with congregational action and to recommend to Presbytery Assembly for approval**

Additional Details:

1. Since December 27, 2013 Westminster Presbyterian Church has been meeting in the sanctuary of the church building at 445 N. State St., Indianapolis, when the building and property were sold to Westminster Neighborhood Services, who recently sold the property. New owners took possession of the property April 18, 2019.
2. The congregation currently owns no property and they have no outstanding debts or loans. A small bank account will be maintained by the church for a short time at the Near East Side Federal Credit Union, covering small expenses related to the dissolution, for example document shredding and binding of minutes. When that account is closed a full report will be reported to the Presbytery's Board of Directors.
3. New Covenant Funds – Charlie Dick
These funds and their designation for scholarships were transferred by the church's Board members to the Woodruff Place Baptist Church where most of the members are attending. A member of Westminster Presbyterian Church will serve on the scholarship funds committee, with the scholarships to remain in the Indianapolis near east side community.
4. April 17, 2019 – The Presbytery's Stated Clerk received congregational records, minutes, roll books and other historic documents that will be archived with the Presbyterian Historical Society.

History of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis

Westminster Presbyterian Church began as a Sabbath school mission launched by members of Tabernacle Presbyterian Church. Westminster began meeting in a feed store room on East Washington Street. It was humorously called “The Hay Seed Mission.”

The first church building was erected in the 1600 block of East Washington Street, when the congregation was organized on February 22 and February 29, 1888, under the name of Washington Street Presbyterian Church. The location site had actually been dedicated in September of 1897. The original Westminster Presbyterian Church located at 1600 East Washington Street was thought to have been sold because it was small and Westminster expected to grow, which they did.

There were 82 charter members of the Washington Street Presbyterian Church in 1888. The name of the church was changed to Westminster Presbyterian Church when it moved in 1916 to the site at 445 State Avenue. Of the 82 charter members, 51 were transfers from Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, which then was located close to the downtown area. Additionally, 13 came from First Presbyterian Church, 2 from Fourth Presbyterian Church, 2 from Seventh Presbyterian Church and 1 from Second Presbyterian Church of Madison, Indiana. Other charter members transferred from Fletcher Place Methodist Episcopal Church and Olive Street Presbyterian Church. There were 13 members who joined by profession of faith and baptism.

By 1936 the Westminster Presbyterian Church building on State Avenue was fully paid for. In the years following World War II, the neighborhood began to change more rapidly, with long-time members dying or moving farther out, and the dwellings in the community surrounding the church becoming largely rental properties. Presbytery’s Mission Committee became aware of the need for financial aid to Westminster in its strategic opportunities for ministry, especially with Arsenal Tech High School nearby, and with large numbers of children and youth in the area. A very important moment was the opening of the church building to sponsor a Teen Canteen in the late 1950s.

The church adjusted to the community and neighborhood changes quite effectively, although through some challenging circumstances. Very significant is that Westminster did not close when it was thought it might and its yoked sister church—Troub Memorial—did close. Westminster did suffer through a church split at a very unfortunate time in 1959 losing momentum, members and leadership at a time it could ill afford to lose strength moving into the 1960s. The church continued to serve its neighborhood as a worshipping congregation in spite of a great many of the city’s Presbyterian congregations closing, merging or moving over the years.

Westminster has always been in the thick of interchurch relations. At many points in history it took the lead in developing strong ties with sister Presbyterian churches and with those of other denominations. Westminster pioneered in Catholic-Protestant relations in its work with Holy Cross Catholic Church, including a long-standing Vacation Bible School which included involvement with Woodruff Place Baptist Church. The summer of 1982 a joint Vacation Bible School was held with Westminster Presbyterian Church, Woodruff Place Baptist Church and Holy Cross Catholic Church all joining together. In 1983 a suggestion was made to begin offering a summer program in addition to the VBS effort and was the effort of Woodruff Place Baptist and Westminster Presbyterian. This Children’s Ministry became known as Unlimited Kids and grew from an after-school program to include a full-day summer program.

Westminster has long been active in neighborhood and community enhancement. This has included strong participation in the community organizational efforts on the near eastside of the city. Westminster also took the lead role in the development of the Near Eastside Church and Community Organization, which became identified as NESCO. A partnership was established between Second Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church and through this partnership several ministries were begun: Parents and Babies, Youth Job Preparedness, Legal Assistance Ministry and a prison ministry. The Christmas Basket Ministry grew from serving 25 families in 1981 to over 150 families in 2007. A food pantry helped meet the physical hunger of our neighbors, with church leaders and members from other congregations striving to meet spiritual needs as well.

PASTORS SERVING AT THE EAST WASHINGTON STREET CHURCH:

- Rev. Edward P. Whallon 1888-1889
- Rev. Thomas N. Todd 1889-1891
- Rev. Frank C. Hood 1891-1896
- Rev. A.L. Hassler, Supply 1897-1898
- Rev. Alexander Uruqhart 1898-1900
- Rev. Frank C. Hood 1901-1907
- Rev. H.C. Calhoun 1908-1912
- Rev. E.H. Douglas 1913-1917

PASTORS SERVING AT THE WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH:

- Rev. Henry C. Graham 1917-1940
- Rev. Lenn L. Latham 1940-1942
- Rev. Walter T. Percy 1943-1949
- Rev. Roy D. Converse 1949-1957
- Rev. John D. McCann 1957-1959
- Rev. Richard D. Hudelson 1960-1971
- Rev. John Bergen 1971-1973
- Rev. Gary L. Kornell 1971-1973
(minister of yoked parish with Troub Memorial Presbyterian Church)
- Rev. Gary L. Kornell 1973-1977
- Rev. Larry Shonfelt 1977-1978
- Rev. Phil Tom 1978-1991
- Rev. Timothy Norris (interim) 1991-1992
- Rev. Joan Huff 1992-1996
- Rev. Fred Milligan, Jr. 1996-2000
- Lake Fellows from Second Presbyterian Church 2003-2011
- Jim Hill (Commissioned Ruling Elder) 2011-2012
- Donna Studevent (Commissioned Ruling Elder) 2012-2018

A Covenant and Agreement with the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, and Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center

I. Parties

The Presbyteries of Whitewater Valley and Ohio Valley are non-profit Indiana religious corporations (i.e., qualified as tax exempt entities under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), operating under the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Advisory Council of Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center (Pyoca) (which is currently owned by The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley) is considering establishment of Pyoca as a non-profit Indiana religious corporation with the encouragement and support of both Presbyteries. It is contemplated that the Advisory Council will transition to function as a Board of Directors, if and when a new entity is established, so when “Pyoca Advisory Council” or “Advisory Council” appears in this Covenant, it is understood to also include the successor Board of Directors.

II. Covenant

The Presbyteries of Whitewater Valley and Ohio Valley and the Pyoca Advisory Council covenant together to affirm our present and historic partnership in which there is a mutuality of purpose and to outline the promises of all parties to each other as the Pyoca Advisory Council pursues establishment as a non-profit camp and retreat center. Recognizing that this is a time of significant transition for Pyoca and our partner Presbyteries, it is anticipated that this Covenant will be revised as circumstances evolve; this is provided for in Section VII.

III. The Promises of the Presbyteries of Whitewater Valley and Ohio Valley to Pyoca

- A. The Presbyteries provide Pyoca an affiliation with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and recognize Pyoca as an institution related to both Presbyteries through this covenant. The Presbyteries recognize Pyoca as a Presbyterian-related institution where programs with multiple denominations and/or interfaith endeavors may take place.
- B. The Presbyteries will encourage their pastors and congregations to consider Pyoca for summer camping programs, retreats, and/or other conferences hosted by Pyoca. They will publicize Pyoca camps, retreats, and other programs on their web sites and in emails, newsletters, etc., and will provide links on their web sites to the Pyoca home page.
- C. The Presbyteries will collaborate with Pyoca in planning and sponsoring events each year designed to meet the needs of the Church: these may include, but are not limited to Presbytery assemblies, youth conferences or pastor retreats.
- D. The staff and leaders of both Presbyteries will remain informed about the programs and policies of Pyoca, and will support and interpret its mission.
- E. Each Presbytery will provide Pyoca access to its Council, and will offer Pyoca the opportunity to report at its regular assemblies.
- F. Each Presbytery will name two members to the Pyoca Advisory Council each year through its normal nomination and election process.
- G. The Presbyteries will encourage support of Pyoca through inclusion of financial support in their annual budgets, and will encourage congregations to participate in the financial support and fundraising objectives of Pyoca, in consultation and collaboration between Pyoca and the Presbytery Councils.

IV. An Additional Promise of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley to Pyoca

The Presbytery, working through the Board of Directors and the Coordinating Council, will at the appropriate time transfer the current Pyoca real property, fixtures, equipment and tangible assets to the new independent Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center for reasonable consideration.

V. The Promises of the Pyoca Advisory Council to the Presbyteries of Whitewater Valley and Ohio Valley

- A. The Advisory Council covenants to offer staff leadership and physical facilities for appropriate training events, programs, seminars, and related activities, including events specifically designed to meet the needs of the Presbyteries, their member congregations, and their other organizations and institutions.
- B. Pyoca will provide complimentary weekday lodging for renewal and study leave to clergy and youth staff of congregations from both Presbyteries, and will communicate this amenity to the Presbyteries each year.
- C. Pyoca will offer a lodging discount to congregations from both Presbyteries for youth, adult, and family retreats, and will communicate this discount to the Presbyteries each year.
- D. The Pyoca Advisory Council will operate Pyoca according to its Bylaws. Pyoca will provide both Presbyteries an annual financial report along with periodic updates as necessary at the request of the leadership of either Presbytery.
- E. Pyoca, through its Advisory Council and staff, will strive to provide programming and leadership to uphold the historic and present focus of the Reformed tradition.
- F. Pyoca will cooperate and collaborate with both Presbyteries, seeking ways to support them, their member congregations, and their other organizations and institutions.

VI. Additional Promises of the Pyoca Advisory Council to the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley

- A. The Advisory Council and the Pyoca staff will maintain the real property, fixtures, equipment and tangible assets of Pyoca in good working order and repair, and will make improvements as finances allow and needs require.
- B. During the transition of Pyoca to an independent camp and retreat center, the Advisory Council will not create or permit any mortgage, lien, encumbrance, or conditional sale of property without written approval from the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, or its successor, prior to taking such action. It is anticipated that the bylaws created for the new Pyoca non-profit corporation will include provisions placing limits acceptable to the Presbytery on the amount of any indebtedness which Pyoca may incur and that these bylaws will be reviewed with and approved by the Presbytery.
- C. The Advisory Council will not sell any land and buildings upon the land transferred to it from the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley without approval from the Presbytery's Board of Directors. If at any time in the future Pyoca is formally dissolved, declares bankruptcy, or has a receiver appointed, its real and personal assets remaining after provision for payment of valid debts and liabilities shall be distributed to the Presbytery or its successor.

VII. Review and Renewal of the Covenant

Recognizing that this is a time of significant transition for Pyoca and our partner Presbyteries, the partners agree to review and renew this Covenant at least every three years, or at the request of any of the parties as circumstances require.