

Whitewater Valley Presbytery  
 Presbytery Assembly Docket - Wednesday, May 3, 2017  
 Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, 5136 Michigan Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46228  
*“We believe that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church  
 of Jesus Christ (and) that through the working of God's Spirit it is a binding force,.”*  
*Belhar Confession*

8:15 a.m.	REGISTRATION BEGINS	
9:15	OPENING PRAYER	Moderator John Paulson, CRE
	OPENING HYMN	Verse 3 of “In Christ There Is No East of West”
	WELCOME	Rev. Winterbourne Harrison-Jones
9:30	KEYNOTE ADDRESS <b>“Ferguson At The Intersection of Faith and Justice”</b>	Dr. Leah Gunning Francis
	Dr. Leah Gunning Francis, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Christian Theological Seminary, Author of <u>“Ferguson and Faith”</u>	
10:15	PANEL DISCUSSION	
11:30	WORSHIP AND COMMUNION	2017 Presbytery Council
	Rev. Winterbourne Harrison-Jones, Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, Preaching	
12:30	LUNCH – TIME FOR FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP	
1:15	CONVENE / CALL TO ORDER WITH PRAYER / ESTABLISH QUORUM	Moderator John Paulson, CRE
	SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS	Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter
	DOCKET and CONSENT AGENDA APPROVALS (Council, Financial, COM, Session Review)	
	STATED CLERK’S REPORT	Kristy Quinn, Stated Clerk
	INTRODUCTION OF NEW TEACHING ELDERS	COM Moderator, Rev. Daren Hofmann
	INTRODUCTION OF NEW RULING ELDERS	Moderator John Paulson, CRE
	COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION	Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter
1:30	COMMITTEE OF MINISTRY ACTIONS	COM Moderator, Rev. Daren Hofmann
	- Indianapolis-Southminster Presbyterian Church	
	- Marion-Westminster Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission	
2:00	REV. YOUNGSOO AN, Vice Moderator, will moderate this portion of the meeting.	
	EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER’S REPORT	Rev. Alan Thames
	MISSION MOMENTS	Rev. Peggy McDonald, Mission Coordinator
	PYOCA CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER	Rev. Jake Hofmeister, Executive Director
2:30	OLD BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS	
2:35	ADJOURN AND CLOSE WITH BENEDICTION	

**Witherspoon Presbyterian Church, 5136 Michigan Rd., Indianapolis**

**OUR HISTORY**

Almost before the smoke had cleared away and the roar of cannon was hushed, the United Presbyterian Church of North America was on the field in the Southland working among the Freedmen. The Southern states had done little, if anything, at this time in the way of establishing schools for the education of the Negro. The United Presbyterian Church, with its strong missionary spirit, established schools for our people in Tennessee, Alabama, Virginia and North Carolina.

***Knoxville College Influence***

Knoxville College was the first one established. From this center, trained workers were sent out to the mission fields of the states mentioned. As the years went by, students of Knoxville College and teachers and students of some of the mission schools came north to further their education and to seek better living conditions.

The first of this group arrived in Indianapolis in 1896. During the 10 years that followed, others came from the United Presbyterian missions of Athens, Tenn., and Henderson, N. C., and a little later from other mission schools of the South. Being Presbyterian by faith, these young people, for the most part, joined the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. of Indianapolis. Many of them became loyal members of the old Ninth Street Presbyterian Church on Michigan Street.

About 1906, the presbytery came to the conclusion that the church was not making sufficient progress to warrant the continuance of the outlay of money necessary to its maintenance. At a meeting of the presbytery at the Second Presbyterian Church, Vermont and Pennsylvania streets, in 1906, it was decided to withdraw its support from the Ninth Street Presbyterian Church.

***Two Young Men Take Lead***

Believing that was the end of the Ninth Street Presbyterian Church of which some United Presbyterians had been members for 10 years, two young men, Henry W. Cleave and H. L. Hummons, consulted Dr. J. P. Cowan, pastor of the Woodruff Avenue United Presbyterian Church and a senior member of the Indiana Presbytery, concerning the establishment of an organization of our people. The group found in Dr. Cowan just the kind of encouragement, sympathy, tenderness and fatherly understanding that was needed to give these leaders the inspiration to push on.

Through his encouragement and effort, a committee from the Presbytery met at the office of Dr. H. L. Hummons, 622 N. West Street, to discuss the feasibility of establishing a United Presbyterian congregation. On April 30, 1907, the Presbytery of Indiana of the United Presbyterian Church held a called meeting at Realty Hall in response to a petition signed by 31 persons asking to be organized into a United Presbyterian congregation.

### ***Begins With 31 Members***

The petition was discussed at some length. By unanimous vote an organization was decided upon. Among the 31 members who signed the petition were Henry W. Cleage, Mrs. Carrie Perkins, Mrs. Emma Moore, A. T. Roney, Mrs. Cora Donann, Mrs. Cathern Crenshaw, Mrs. Daisy L. Brabham, Albert Cleage, Mrs. Gertrude Cleage, James Myers, Mrs. A. L. McElrath, O. F. Dennis, Mrs. Hattie Mitchell, H. M. Mitchell, Mrs. Theresa Finley, Othello Finley, Miss Edith Finley, Miss Luell E. Hibbett, Mrs. Mary Peterson, Mrs. Anna Bowman, John T. Fox, Miss Pearl Reed, Thomas H. Bransford, Mrs. O. F. Dennis, Miss Alice Mathews, Miss Hilda Reeder, W. J. Perkins, Henry Moore and H. L. Hummons.

### ***The Witherspoon Church***

Witherspoon was named after Rev. John Witherspoon, one of the fourteen Presbyterians to sign the Declaration of Independence and known for his work in the growth of the Presbyterian Church. The inception of this new congregation began in Realty Hall and then in the old YMCA at North and California Streets. The congregation then moved to a new location at 718 N. West Street.

In 1937 Witherspoon United Presbyterian purchased the building property at 25th & Paris Avenue, which housed St. Paul Presbyterian Church, (previously named Ninth United Presbyterian Church). After merging, the congregation grew and the stellar years began. When highway development in Indianapolis required the land at 25th and Paris, Witherspoon acquired property at 5136 N. Michigan Road. The first structure, in 1967, consisted of a sanctuary (which is now the Dr. Clinton M. Marsh Fellowship Hall wing) and classrooms. By 1983 the present sanctuary was completed.

God has blessed this congregation for over a century. Our outreach ministries have taught us the significance of being humble servants. We give thanks and praise for His grace, mercy and unconditional love. We give thanks for the spiritual courageousness of early pastors, the faithfulness of subsequent pastors, and the visionary leadership of recent pastors. We are rich in faith and thankful to be the doorkeepers in the house of God and not dwell in the tents of the wicked. And for this we thank God for being the "Source of Our Strength."

***Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain. [Psalm 127:1]***

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY  
TO APPOINT AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION RELATED TO DISSOLVING  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MARION, INDIANA

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**INTRODUCTION**

In matters of dissolving a congregation, the attitude of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, from beginning to end, shall always be pastoral.

The Westminster Presbyterian Church Session of Marion, Indiana, its members, and pastor Rev. Jeff Jahn, have been in conversation with the Executive Presbyter and the Commission on Ministry during their discernment to dissolve the congregation. At a congregational meeting March 19, 2017 they approved a motion to dissolve the congregation effective June 4, 2017.

**AUTHORITY**

The responsibility and power to dissolve a congregation is granted to Presbytery by the Book of Order and G-4.0205 and to appoint an Administrative Commission by Presbytery Standing Rules (14 Commissions for Special Service).

The COM believes the procedural dissolution of a congregation is best accomplished through an Administrative Commission.

Therefore, the Commission on Ministry, in consultation with the Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Presbytery, recommend approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLVED:** For the purpose of dissolving the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Marion, Indiana, the Whitewater Valley Presbytery appoints an Administrative Commission to act on Presbytery's behalf, effective June 5, 2017, with the following powers and functions for the purpose of dissolving the congregation in a timeframe required to complete the work:

- meet and consult with the former pastor and Session members to facilitate the work of the Commission
- to arrange for the pastoral care of the members;
- to publicize the dissolution of the congregation;
- to ascertain the financial status and outstanding financial obligations of the congregation, secure the Session records, secure the legal rights to all property (real or personal) held by or for the benefit of the congregation;
- to dispose of the moveable personal property of the congregation, secure the building and property, attend to matters of insurance, dispose of the building and grounds (subject to the approval by the Board of Directors) or convey the building and grounds to The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, Inc.;
- to recommend to the Presbytery the use of the assets of the congregation;
- to assure that a Service of Witness is conducted and to participate in that service;
- to secure the assistance of other individuals, as appropriate, to assist with its work, and generally to do such things and take such actions, for, in the name of, and on behalf of Whitewater Valley Presbytery as shall be reasonably necessary to accomplish the general purpose of this resolution;
- to at the conclusion of its work, the report and recommendations of the Administrative Commission will be presented to the next stated meeting of the Presbytery Assembly for action.

**MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION.**

1. Ebbie Crawford (Ruling Elder, Board of Directors)
2. Kaye Hirt Eggleston (Ruling Elder, Commission on Ministry)
3. Gretchen Schneider (Teaching Elder, Indianapolis-St. Andrew)
4. Brian Shivers (Teaching Elder, Indianapolis-Second)
5. Steve Wright (Ruling Elder, Zionsville)

**FUNDING**

The funding related to the duties and functions of the Administrative Commission will be from the Presbytery's Corporate Funds.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY  
RECOMMENDED ACTION TO THE PRESBYTERY ASSEMBLY

May 3, 2017

**ACTION**

The Commission on Ministry, at its meeting February 22, 2017 approved a motion to recommend to the Presbytery Assembly a request from Southminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis to grant permission as allowed by Book of Order G-2.0504c for Associate Pastor Rev. Ron Rockey to serve as their Pastor/Head of Staff.

**“A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a Teaching Elder currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed Pastor or Co-Pastor, or a Teaching Elder in a temporary pastoral relationship to be eligible to serve as the next installed Pastor, Co-Pastor or Associate Pastor. Presbyteries that permit this eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourth vote of the members of presbytery present and voting.” (Book of Order G-2.0504c)**

The Commission on Ministry recommends approval of this action to the Presbytery Assembly.

**TIMELINE**

August 2011	Rev. Ron Rockey ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament to serve as Associate Pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis
December 2013	Rev. Greg Glover, Pastor/Head of Staff, accepted new call and congregation approved dissolution of pastoral relationship
January 2014	COM appointed Rev. Kevin Bausman to serve as Moderator of Southminster; additionally COM provided a liaison to work with the Session as part of the transition
November 2014	COM met with Rev. Ron Rockey and representatives of Session regarding their Mission Study, election of a Pastor Nominating Committee, and the process required by <u>Book of Order</u> in the event that a call might be extended to Associate Pastor Rev. Ron Rockey to serve as Pastor/Head of Staff
June 2015	COM approved the Mission Study
May 2016	COM approved the Ministry Information Form for Church Leadership Connection electronic matching. COM representatives reviewed the expectations of an open search process, including at least two face-to-face interviews as required by the COM
February 2017	COM met with the PNC, who presented Rev. Rockey as their candidate for Pastor/Head of Staff. The PNC presented an extensive overview of their process, including the number of Personal Information Forms received and reviewed. Rev. Rockey was interviewed. The COM approved the fit of call pending action by the Presbytery Assembly, as specified by <u>Book of Order</u> . Additionally, the COM reviewed and approved the terms of call.

## RATIONALE

In giving consideration to the request of the Pastor Nominating Committee of Southminster Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Ron Rockey to concur with this call, the Commission on Ministry addressed the following matters:

- The exception provided by Book of Order specifies only that “a presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a Teaching Elder currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed Pastor or Co-Pastor...” The mission strategy of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley states: “God calls Whitewater Valley Presbytery in covenant relationship with the Holy Spirit to connect, resource, and empower disciples in Christ’s name.” Members of COM considered that the calling of Rev. Ron Rockey could further that mission strategy.
- The Commission on Ministry has provided ongoing guidance to both Rev. Rockey and to Southminster Presbyterian Church as part of this process. It is the observation of the COM that Rev. Rockey, the Session and the PNC approached the process with integrity and completed an open search as specified by the COM.
- Since the Book of Order exception was included recently, there has been no previous request within this presbytery to give consideration to approving an exception. The Commission on Ministry considered the establishment of precedent. However, it is the practice of the COM of this presbytery to consider every potential call on a case-by-case basis rather than to be guided solely by precedent.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

For those with specific concerns or questions about the process involved in this Recommended Action to the presbytery, the Commission on Ministry requests that individuals please contact either Rev. Daren Hofmann, COM Moderator ([pastordaren@indy.rr.com](mailto:pastordaren@indy.rr.com)) or Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter ([athames@whitewatervalley.org](mailto:athames@whitewatervalley.org))

## FORM FOR NOMINATIONS

### WHITEWATER VALLEY PRESBYTERY

“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.”

(I Corinthians 12:4-7)

Believing that those within the congregations of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley are blessed with a variety of gifts that would benefit the common good, the Committee on Representation asks that you prayerfully consider the following opportunities to serve. You may nominate yourself or others you believe are particularly gifted for these opportunities.

**Please complete the form below. Return no later than June 30. If mailing this form, please send it to: The Committee on Representation of Whitewater Valley Presbytery, c/o Alan Thames, 1100 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Suite 210, Indianapolis, IN 46208-3300. If emailing this form, please return it to [athames@whitewatervalley.org](mailto:athames@whitewatervalley.org)**

Please nominate Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders for the following opportunities within our presbytery

**Form completed by:**

**Contact information:**

#### **COORDINATING COUNCIL COMMISSION – 24 members**

**6 members (3 Ruling Elders, 3 Teaching Elders) per year for one 4-year term**

Meets 6 times a year, alternating between the first Wednesday and the first Thursday of the months of February, March, June, July, September and October with an overnight retreat during the month of April

Responsibilities: Leads the visionary, missional, programmatic and fiduciary life of the Presbytery

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**

**COMMISSION ON MINISTRY – 27 members**

**9 members (balanced between Ruling and Teaching Elders) for 3 year, renewable term**

Meets 10 times a year on the last Wednesday of the month (special called meetings as necessary)

Responsibilities: Visits and counsels with congregations, sessions and pastors regarding calls for pastoral relationships; promotes peace and harmony of congregations, especially in matters arising out of the relations between ministers and congregations

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**

**COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY – 12 members**

**4 members (2 Ruling Elders, 2 Teaching Elders) for 3 year, renewable term**

Meets 4 times a year on the second Monday of January, March, July and October with a Saturday meeting in June

Responsibilities: Responsible for the care of persons received as Inquirers and Candidates for ordination to the office of Teaching Elder/Minister of Word and Sacrament

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMISSION – 4 members plus 2 officers (President, Treasurer)**

**1 member elected annually with rotation between Ruling and Teaching Elders**

Meets 4 times a year on the last Thursday of February, April, July and October (special called meetings as necessary)

Responsibilities: Serves as the official agent of Presbytery in all corporate matters, holds title to all property of the Presbytery and serves as the agent for receiving/disposing of property; examines and recommends action regarding all legal transactions where Presbytery approval is required; maintains the Corporation of the Whitewater Valley Presbytery under the laws of the State of Indiana

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**

## **VICE-MODERATOR OF THE PRESBYTERY**

**Rotation Female Ruling Elder, Female Teaching Elder, Male Ruling Elder, Male Teaching Elder**

Responsibilities: Serves as the Vice-Moderator for 1 full year, participating in the work of the Leadership Cabinet to plan presbytery assembly meetings and in the work of the Coordinating Council Commission, and serving in the place of the Presbytery Moderator as necessary; the Vice-Moderator is then elected to serve as the Presbytery Moderator for 1 full year

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**

## **COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**

**2 Ruling Elders, 2 Teaching Elders, 1 Young Adult Advisory Delegate (with alternates)**

Responsibilities: Vote one's conscience after listening to and considering issues presented; attend orientation event in preparation; be assigned to GA committee and to attend meetings of that committee; attend plenary sessions of the entire body; and upon return to serve as the Bills and Overtures Committee and to provide guidance to the Presbytery in votes

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**

## **COMMISSIONERS TO THE SYNOD OF LINCOLN TRAILS**

**1 Teaching Elder and 1 Ruling Elder elected in alternating years for a 3-year term**

Responsibilities: Attend 2 annual stated meetings of the Synod and to serve on standing committees of the Synod.

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**

## **ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE IN WHITEWATER VALLEY:**

### **SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RESPONSE TEAM – 9 members**

**Balance of Ruling and Teaching Elders as well as individuals with specific gifts and skills in responding to sexual misconduct**

Meetings are planned around the schedule of team members who prepare for an annual training event to be presented for pastoral leaders new to the Presbytery; additionally team members are asked to serve as liaisons within situations where potential sexual misconduct has occurred.

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**

### **PYOCA ADVISORY COUNCIL – 9 members from WWVP**

**2 Ruling Elders and 1 Teaching Elder elected for 3 year, renewable term**

Meets 4 times a year, normally on Saturdays, with an annual retreat.

Responsibilities: Promote the ministry of PYOCA; help set policies and approve budgets; do strategic planning; participate in standing committees; subscribe to the core values of PYOCA (appreciate and explore God's creation, experience and grow in God's love, seek God's will for our lives); give financially as able

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**

### **WESTMINSTER NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES SPIRITUAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**3 Ruling and/or Teaching Elders elected for 3 year, renewable term**

Meets 2 – 4 times per year

Responsibilities: Pray for and encourage supporting congregations to pray for WNS, its staff and the people it serves; further the work and ministry of WNX; be attentive to where the work of WNS could grow its spiritual impact

**Teaching Elders:**

**Ruling Elders (and congregation):**