

WHITEWATER VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Stated Assembly Meeting
DOCKET

Wednesday, February 12 - 10:00 am
CrossRoads Church, Westfield

CREATIVE AS THE SPIRIT

(Requests for new business to be added to the docket need to be forwarded to Terry Epling, Stated Clerk 24 hours prior to the start of the Assembly Meeting.)

GATHERING THE ASSEMBLY

10:00 am **Call to Worship and Order**
Ruling Elder Ron Snow, Moderator

One: God welcomes all from East and West, from North and South into the Kingdom of God.

All: Lord, lead us to be your expansive people together, as Whitewater Valley Presbytery.

One: God gives all of us talents to be the body of Christ, as the priesthood of believers.

All: Lord, lead us to be your collaborative people together, as Whitewater Valley Presbytery.

One: God was imaginative at the beginning of creation; God is creative even now and always will be.

All: Lord, lead us to be your creative people together, as Whitewater Valley Presbytery.

One: God continues to renew all of creation, sanctifying us with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. God invites us to live into God's own dreams for our community.

All: Lord, lead us to be your innovative people together, as Whitewater Valley Presbytery.

Welcome from the Host Pastor

Rev. Eric Lohe

Declaration of a Quorum

Ruling Elder Ron Snow, Moderator

Adoption of the Docket with New Business Protocol

Introduction of New Teaching and Ruling Elder Commissioners

10:10 am **Hymn/Song**

10:20 am **Transitional Lead Presbyter's Report**
Impact Report

Rev. Dr. Erin McGee
Post #2

Strategic Planning Report and Initial Feedback

Rev. Kelley Jepsen
Post #2

Stated Clerk's Report and Consent Agenda
ACTION Consent Agenda:

Rev. Terry Epling

- November 6, 2024 Assembly Minutes

Pages 7- 39

EXPANSIVE
as God's Kingdom

COLLABORATIVE
as the Priesthood of All Believers

CREATIVE
as the Spirit

INNOVATIVE
as God's Dreams



- Reported Actions/Minutes of Presbytery Commissions
 - Coordinating Council Commission, Pages 40-42
 - Commission on Ministry Pages 43-48
 - Commission on Preparation for Ministry, Pages 49-50
 - Board of Directors Commission Pages 51-52
- 2024 Year End Financial Statements Pages 53-62
- Updated Personnel Policy Manual Pages 63-80

THE WORD FOR THE ASSEMBLY

10:30 am **Scripture** **Isaiah 43:16-21**

Interpretation of the Word “New Things” Rev. Dr. Erin McGee

RESPONSE OF THE ASSEMBLY

10: 45 am **Affirmation of Faith** **Rev. Shawn Coons, Vice Moderator**

We believe The Word is not bound by ink and paper but is set free in us to dream new dreams and unfold new adventures. We believe the life God gives is not celebrated in rules but is celebrated in our diversity. We believe that as the sun sets in one land it rises in another handing over the prayers of the world from one to another.

We believe the story of faith comes alive in the communities we grow but is hurt by the barriers we build. We believe transformation is a gift from God which is never complete and longs to be set free in us. We believe resurrection is heaven’s conspiracy to redeem all that is evil and bring to life all that is good.

We believe justice is God’s unravelling of all that hurts, oppresses and dulls life in each other. We believe that a spark lights a flame which kindles an idea that ignites a movement. We all have a spark within us.

(Written by Rev. Roddy Hamilton of New Kilpatrick Parish Church)

10:50 am **Commission Reports** **Rev. Shawn Coons**

Commission on Ministry **Revs. Ruth Moore, Gracie Payne**
Beginnings

Second, Indianapolis with Rev. Gracie Payne
Second, Indianapolis with Rev. Tom Markey

Anniversaries of Ordination for 2025

Donald R MacPherson	6/1/1960	65
James S Wolfe	6/27/1965	60
Ronald Naylor	6/27/1970	55
Merrill S Cook	8/10/1975	50
Alice McDowell	12/28/1980	45

Robert A Amon	4/28/1985	40
Steven J Ebling	9/22/1985	40
Scott C Fischer	10/20/1985	40
Kathleen O'Connell	11/18/1990	35
Terry Epling	6/30/1995	30
Elizabeth Marie Sandy	3/26/1995	30
Sharon Azbell	9/24/2000	25
Joy Bilger Goehring	1/23/2000	25
Christina D Starace	10/15/2000	25
Dena Vittorio	6/22/1980	25
Jeremy L Deck	5/15/2005	20
Amy Mildenberg	1/30/2005	20
Michael G Evanchak	12/12/2010	15
Terri Thorn	4/18/2010	15
Elinor Dale	1/11/2015	10
Gregory Phillip Steible	12/5/2015	10
Grace Payne	1/5/2020	5

Conclusions

Connersville, Connersville with Rev. Beau Brown
 First, Richmond with Rev. LydiaGrace Espiritu-Gray

Exemption Recommendation

The COM interviewed Roy Peters on August 28, 2024 for transfer of ordination credentials (G-2.0505), pending a call. Based on its examination, and given his long ministry experience in PC(USA) congregations, his affiliation with New Hope Presbyterian Church in Fishers, the appropriate ordination credential verification, and education within the Reformed Tradition, Mr. Peters was determined to be eligible for exemption from ordination examinations (G-2.0205a(2)).

First Presbyterian, Rushville has extended a call to Mr. Peters.

ACTION: COM recommends that presbytery grant that exemption. This requires a two-thirds vote of the presbytery.

Committee on Representation

Rev. Gretchen Schneider

ACTION: Nominations of

RE Marilyn Kuhn, Personnel

TE Annie Epling, Board of Directors, Class of 2028

10:55 am Other Business

Ruling Elder Ron Snow, Moderator

**Report of Gracious Dismissal of First Presbyterian Church, [Pages 81-97](#)
 Liberty (FPC) from PC(USA) to A Covenant Order of Evangelical**

Presbyterians (ECO)

Elder Phil Votaw

ACTION: Release according to the Dismissal Agreement and Mutual Releases by request of the Session and Vote of the Congregation (Fiduciary Agreement approved by Council and BOD)

Report from the Administrative Commission to Dissolve Trinity Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne

Elder Marj Sapp

ACTION: Receive final report, approve dispersal recommendations, and dissolve the administrative commission with gratitude

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the ministries of FPC, Liberty and Trinity, Fort Wayne

Amendments to the PC(USA) Constitution Ruling Elder Ron Snow, Moderator

Summary **Page 102**

Full Text of Amendments, Rationale, Comments **Pages 103-160**

Process for Amendment Discussion and Voting Stated Clerk, Rev. Terry Epling

ACTION: The 226th General Assembly recommends the approval of Amendments 24-B, and 24-D through 24-L (Full Text provided in the Presbytery Meeting Post)

ACTION: The 226th General Assembly recommends the approval of Amendment 24-A: F-1.0403 in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity amended as follows: (Deleted text is in ~~striketrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

“F-1.0403 Unity in Diversity ... The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church’s membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, *gender identity, sexual orientation*, disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.

Presbyteries Voting as of 1/30/2025: 18 Affirmative; 2 Negative; 20 Have Voted; 147 To Vote; 66 Needed to Pass

ACTION: The 226th General Assembly recommends the approval of Amendment 24-C: G-2.0104b amended as follows: (Deleted text is in ~~striketrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

b. Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities

of ordered ministry. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.0404), *the Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01)*, and in the *principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403*. Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

Presbyteries Voting as of 1/30/2025: 13 Affirmative; 6 Negative; 19 Have Voted; 148 To Vote; 71 Needed to Pass

ACTION: The 226th General Assembly recommends the approval of Amendment 24-M Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries: Full Text provided in the Presbytery Meeting Post #1

Presbyteries Voting as of 1/30/2025: 20 Affirmative; 0 Negative; 20 Have Voted; 147 To Vote; 64 Needed to Pass

Hymn/Song

**12:00 pm Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Invitation to the Table**

Rev. Molly DeWitt, CRE Phil Votaw

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and just to give you thanks in every time and in every place, almighty God. We give you thanks for the gift of creation and the gift of your church. We are grateful that you have made us in your image, call us, and forgive us when we act as though we cannot hear your voice. We are grateful that you sustain us in love. And so, with all your people, with angels, archangels, and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your glorious name, joining our voices in the eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our host and our guest at this table. Through his birth, you took on flesh, affirming the goodness of our bodies and our world. Through his life, you took on suffering, sharing the truth of hope in desperation. Through his death, you took on

death, revealing the depth of your love for us. Through his resurrection, you brought new creation, embodying the promise of life everlasting.

With thanksgiving, we take this bread and this juice, gifts of the earth through which you bless us, and we offer ourselves in your service. According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death.
We proclaim his resurrection.
We await his coming in glory.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of fruit and grain, that we may taste your goodness, see your presence, and become one with you and your body. Gathered at your table, we join all your saints who have gone on before us and remember them now before you in silence. In life and in death, we belong to you. All thanks and praise to you, O God, Holy Three-in-One, now and forever.

Amen.

The Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Hymn/Song

THE ASSEMBLY IS SENT TO SERVE

12:25 pm The Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program - Rebates Linda Sharp

Charge and Benediction Rev. Joy Edeker

Adjourn

12:35 LUNCH

FUTURE ASSEMBLIES

**May 3 - Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis
November 5 - Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis**

2025 February Presbytery Meeting Impact Report

Whitewater Valley Presbytery



100%

2024 Per Capita Paid

Thank You!

2024 Averages

2

Engagements
a Week with a
Congregation
or Session



3

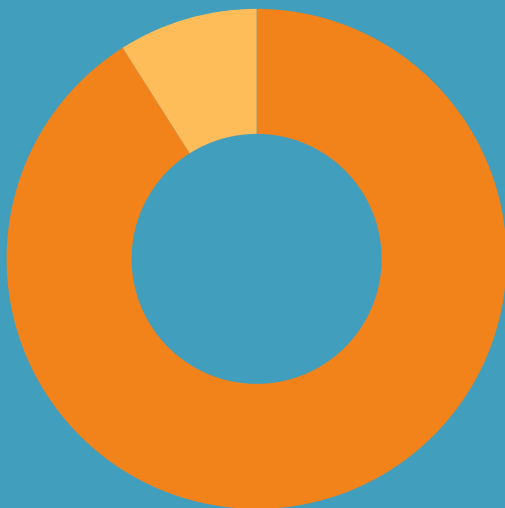
Conversations a
Week with a
Pastor



2024 Erin's Connecting Goal

Met only with Pastoral Leader

9%



Worshipped/Preached/Met with Session

91%

**Number of Churches in
Whitewater Valley with
No Interaction with Erin
in 2024: 0**

“The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness”
(Book of Order, G-3.03).

WVV Strategic Visioning Task Force Report

In the fall of 2024, the task force began meeting with the goal of bringing to the May 2025 Presbytery meeting a vision statement for the Presbytery. We wanted a vision statement that described an ideal of what our Presbytery could become. We wanted it specific enough to be a helpful tool for guidance and discernment, yet big enough to be aspirational. After discussion, discernment, and prayer the task force is seeking your thoughts on the first draft of this statement:

***To be a catalyst to equip leaders
to shepherd healthy, bold communities of faith.***

The Task Force created this statement with the following in mind:

- A catalyst creates conditions to speed change and transformation
- The Presbytery is most effective at working with leaders of congregations rather than directly with whole congregations
- Leaders include ministers, pastors, ruling elders, and others in congregational roles
- To be bold is to be creative, innovative, risk-taking, prophetic, challenging, and confident
- To be healthy is to be Christ-centered, outward-focused, financially stable, connected, active, and life-giving.

The Task Force is seeking your feedback now so we can adjust, strengthen, or otherwise make the vision statement better before the final form is presented later this year.

During the February 12th Presbytery meeting, we will be taking 10-15 minutes to hear from you. We will break into smaller groups (both in-person and online), to get your feedback to the following questions:

- 1. Does this vision statement inspire you? Why or why not?**
- 2. What's missing from this vision that you believe is essential to our future?**
- 3. What does 'bold' mean to you in the context of our congregations?**
- 4. How would you define a 'healthy' congregation?**