

Presbytery of Whitewater Valley

Stated Assembly Meeting Docket Wednesday, May 5, 2021

(Requests for New Business to be received by the Stated Clerk no later than 11:00 a.m.)

Section 1: Business Meeting

- Convene and Call to Order Moderator Mike Whitfield
- Opening Prayer Moderator Mike Whitfield
- Stated Clerk's Report Stated Clerk Terry Epling
- Seating of Corresponding Members Executive Presbyter Alan Thames
- Transitions within the Presbytery Executive Presbyter Alan Thames
  1. Retirements (Robert Heimach, John Koppitch)
  2. Deaths (William Fogg)
  3. Beginnings (Madison Van Veelen, Glen Bell, Samuel Murray)
- Consent Agenda ACTION: Approve 2020 Financial Report/ 02062021 Presbytery minutes
- Presentation from Presbyterian Investment and Loan President Jim Rissler
- Presentation from Pyoca
- Blessing of Dorcas Baskets for Dominican Republic Ruling Elder Lisa Crismore

Leader: Just like us, our siblings in Christ in the Dominican Republic have been striving to seek ways to serve Christ during the pandemic.

**People: We give thanks to God that Covid cannot sever our relationships with each other and our partnership remains strong.**

Leader: We pray for the Iglesia Evangelica Dominicana and for the ministry with the children, youth and adults of the church and their communities.

**People: We dedicate this day the money that has been committed by our churches in our Presbytery.**

Leader: This money that will be used to purchase materials for the education of God's people in the Dominican Republic.

**Unison Prayer: We thank you, God, for the monetary resources that will go to the Dominican Republic, supporting their Christian Education ministry and outreach to the community. We thank you for the opportunity for our Presbytery to partner with the IED church and learn from each other in faith despite the pandemic. Please bless these funds that will travel far to be your hands, feet, face and voice to teach about your love and grace in these challenging times. We ask that you equip the teachers and provide curiosity to the children as they learn and grow in their faith. Amen**

- **ACTION: The Commission on Ministry (COM) recommends that Presbytery, under the provisions of G-2.0601 regarding Accommodations to Particular Circumstances, exempt Certified Candidate Kelly Spencer from the Time Requirements of G-2.0602 so that she may be examined for ordination. This motion requires a 3/4 vote of the assembly for approval.**

  - **RATIONALE:** Kelly Spencer began seminary as a candidate for ministry in the United Methodist Church. While in seminary, she discerned that she was called to serve within the Presbyterian Church (USA) and came under care of the former Presbytery of New Brunswick. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry of the Presbytery of New Brunswick voted to certify her ready to receive a call although she had not completed the full year of candidacy specified in the Book of Order. The Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley recognizes and accepts the actions of the Presbytery of New Brunswick and votes to recommend this motion to the Presbytery assembly. If passed, then proceed to ordination examination of Kelly Spencer.
  
- **Ordination Examination of LydiaGrace Espiritu-Gray, candidate under care of Whitewater Valley Presbytery and the Session of First Presbyterian Church of New Castle, Indiana**  
**ACTION: Arrest the Examination**  
**ACTION: Sustain the Examination and Approve for Ordination**
  
- **Ordination Examination of Rachel Lemke, candidate under care of Whitewater Valley Presbytery and the Session of Irvington Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, Indiana**  
**ACTION: Arrest the Examination**  
**ACTION: Sustain the Examination and Approve for Ordination**
  
- **Ordination Examination of Kelly Spencer, candidate under care of the former Presbytery of New Brunswick/now the Presbytery of Central New Jersey and the Session of Slackwood Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, New Jersey**  
**ACTION: Arrest the Examination**  
**ACTION: Sustain the Examination and Approve for Ordination**
  
- **Ordination Examination of Carrie Winebrenner, candidate under care of Mission Presbytery and the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, Texas**  
**ACTION: Arrest the Examination**  
**ACTION: Sustain the Examination and Approve for Ordination**
  
- **Prayer for the Candidates – Alan Thames “*At the Examination of a Candidate for Ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament*”**  
 Holy, gracious, and loving God, in baptism you claim us as your own and fill us with the gifts of your Spirit. Through the voice of your church you call women and men to share in Christ’s ministry—proclaiming the good news and celebrating the mystery of faith. Fulfill the good work you have begun in the life of your servants Carrie, Kelly, Rachel and LydiaGrace. Help all of us to discern our calling so that we may serve you faithfully for the sake of the church you have called and the world you love so much. All this we pray in the name of Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.
  
- **Closing Business and Actions. Adjourn to worship.**

## **Section 2: Worship**

### **Section 3: Conversation Time Regarding Dismantling Structural Racism**

#### **Event Description:**

Building kin-dom within faith communities and with neighbors require genuine encounters and relationships across difference to create connection, belonging, and a common mission. How do we cultivate cultural proficiency for these relationships? In this workshop, we will build a shared understanding of challenges/growing edges that keep us from growing a kin-dom mindset and create plans to move forward.

#### **Bios:**

Molly Casteel is the Manager for Equity and Representation in the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly. Her work centers on inclusion, equity, and impactful institutional accountability within the councils of the denomination at the presbytery-level and above.

Jihyun Oh is the Director of Mid Council Ministries in the PC(USA) Office of the General Assembly. She is passionate about Christian formation for all ages, and recently has been focusing on work that invests in ecclesial formation of Presbyterians toward a more inclusive kin-dom of God.

## Honorable Retirement Celebrations

### **Robert Heimach**

#### **Formal Education:**

- University of Notre Dame
- Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

#### **Date of Ordination:**

- August 24, 1987 by Wabash Valley Presbytery

#### **Positions Served:**

- The LaPorte Presbyterian Church, LaPorte, Indiana
- First Presbyterian Church, Bluffton, Indiana
- Irvington Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

#### **Service to Denomination or Larger Church:**

- Moderator of Whitewater Valley Presbytery (2010)
- Vice Moderator of Whitewater Valley Presbytery (2009)
- General Assembly Commissioner
- Executive Presbyter Search Committee
- Committee on Ministry (including terms as Moderator)
- Commissioned Lay Pastor Consultant for Synod of Lincoln Trails
- Synod Youthfest Keynote Speaker

### **John Koppitch**

#### **Formal Education:**

- Macalester College (B.A.)
- Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div.)
- Christian Theological Seminary (D.Min)
- Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy (Certificate in Fund Raising Management)

#### **Date of Ordination:**

- May 21, 1978 by Eastminster Presbytery

**Positions Served:**

- Third Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Washington Street Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Fairview Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Second Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

**Service to Denomination or Larger Church:**

- General Assembly Commissioner
- Self-Development of People National Committee
- Special Offerings Advisory Task Force
- Synod of Lincoln Trails Commissioner
- Synod Leadership Development Forum
- Executive Presbyter Search Committee
- Committee on Ministry (including a term as Moderator)
- Division of Resource Development
- Presbytery Board of Directors
- Several Task Forces on Urban Ministry
- Several Administrative Commissions

**Whitewater Valley Presbytery**  
**STATED MEETING**  
**Saturday, February 6, 2021**

Whitewater Valley Presbytery met by video conference for a stated meeting on February 6, 2021. The Moderator, Ruling Elder Mike Whitfield, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. from the sanctuary of Irvington Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis.

The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer and invited everyone to observe a moment of silence in honor of those who had died during the Covid-19 pandemic, on the occasion of the first anniversary of the first American death from the disease.

The Docket was provided in advance of the meeting. The Moderator called for amendments to the proposed docket. There being no amendments, the docket was approved by consent. The Moderator instructed presbyters to submit items of new business to the Stated Clerk by 11:00 a.m. for consideration in the afternoon.

The Stated Clerk, the Rev. Terry Epling, confirmed that a quorum was present. The roll of attendees is included in these minutes.

Presbyters engaged in a test of the electronic voting system using the sample question, "Have you built a snowman this year?" A disappointing 82% of participants had not built a snowman this year.

The Stated Clerk, the Rev. Terry Epling, reported concerning his first month of service. He thanked the Clerks of Sessions for their attention to the Annual Statistical Reporting tasks and deadlines and recognized the sessions that had filed their reports earliest. The Stated Clerk alerted Clerks of Sessions to upcoming Session Minutes Self-Reviews, which should be completed by April 30, 2021.

The Executive Presbyter, the Rev. Alan Thames, introduced the **Rev. Dr. Glenn Bell** (Peace River Presbytery), and requested that he be seated as a Corresponding Member. The Moderator ruled that without objection he be enrolled during this meeting.

The Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter, welcomed new members to the presbytery and reported on pastoral transitions including:

**The Rev. David Choate** , dismissed to Minnesota Valleys Presbytery;  
**The Rev. Katherine Rieder**, Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Hartford City;  
**The Rev. Wallace "Wally" Wilson**, Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Rushville;  
**The Rev. Janet DeVries**, Honorably Retired, received from Grace Presbytery;  
**The Rev. Dr. Michael Lindvall**, Honorably Retired, received from New York City Presbytery;  
**The Rev. Garrett Vittorio-Schindler** and **the Rev. Marena Vittorio-Schindler**, Co-Pastors, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg.

Rev. Thames reported the death of the **Rev. John Constant**, who was ordained July 9, 1947, by Muncie Presbytery, and died December 9, 2020, at 101 years old in Muncie, Indiana.

Rev. Thames reported the death of the **Rev. Raymond Alan “Ray” Bowden**, who was ordained April 24, 1952, and retired December 31, 2000, and died on January 25, 2021 at 95 years old in Carmel, Indiana.

### **Administrative Commission for Nueva Creacion New Worshiping Community**

The members of the Administrative Commission for Nueva Creacion New Worshiping Community submitted their final report and recommendations. The members included: Ruling Elder Bernice Cole, Ruling Elder Ron Fisher, Teaching Elder Bob Heimach, and Teaching Elder Eric Lohe.

The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley’s Administrative Commission for the New Worshiping Community Nueva Creacion of Indianapolis met virtually on Tuesday, December 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. The Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter, opened the meeting with prayer. Commission members present included: Ruling Elder Bernice Cole, Ruling Elder Ron Fisher, Teaching Elder Bob Heimach, Teaching Elder Eric Lohe. Present to represent the Presbytery were Ruling Elder Barry Sumner from the Hispanic Ministries Lead Team and Executive Presbyter Alan Thames.

The Commission last met in December 2018 as Rev. Hector Hernandez was concluding his ministry with Nueva Creacion and preparations were made to integrate the worshiping community of Nueva Creacion with a neighboring Disciples of Christ congregation, Iglesia Hermandad Cristiana. At that time, the Commission took action to provide funding to Iglesia Hermandad of \$2000 per month for a period of two years, at which time the Commission would evaluate how best to disburse any remaining funds. Eric Herzog, Financial Consultant for the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, reported through Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter, that about \$38,000 remained in funds originally designated for Nueva Creacion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. and Ron Fisher closed the meeting with prayer.

The Commission recommended that Presbytery adopt the following motion:

That Iglesia Hermandad would receive a total of \$18,000 in 2021, payable as follows: \$2000 per month (January – June) and \$1000 per month (July – December). Remaining funds would be divided equally and given as a gift to Amistad Cristiana, Fort Wayne, and as an investment in other new worshiping communities of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley through the Promise of Tomorrow fund administered by the Coordinating Council of the Presbytery.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved by Presbytery.

With this final distribution of funds, the Administrative Commission for Nueva Creacion asked that it be dissolved by action of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley.

There was no discussion. The motion was approved by Presbytery.

### **Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Greenfield**

The members of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Greenfield submitted their final report and recommendations. The members included: Ruling Elder Dan Riley, Ruling Elder Linda Rinker, Teaching Elder Dena Vittorio, Ruling Elder Bill Wheeler, and Teaching Elder Shelly Wood.

Presbytery appointed an Administrative Commission on February 8, 2020, to dissolve First Presbyterian Church, Greenfield, Indiana, with the following powers and functions:

- Meet and consult with the Session to facilitate the work of the Commission;
- Arrange for the pastoral care of the members;
- Publicize the dissolution of the congregation;
- Ascertain the status and outstanding financial obligations of the congregation,
- Secure the Session records and, as determined by the commission, secure the legal rights to all property (real or personal) held by or for the benefit of the congregation;
- Dispose of the personal property of the congregation, secure the building and property, attend to matters of insurance, dispose of the building and grounds, or convey the building and grounds to The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, Inc.;
- Recommend to the Presbytery the use of the assets of the congregation;
- Assure that a Service of Witness is conducted and to participate in that service;
- Determine the date of dissolution;
- Secure the assistance of other individuals as appropriate to assist with its work, and generally to do such things and take such actions in the name of and on behalf of Whitewater Valley Presbytery, as shall be reasonably necessary to accomplish the general purpose of this resolution;
- All other business and actions related to the dissolution of the congregation;
- At the conclusion of its work, a written report and actions of the Administrative Commission will be presented to the Presbytery Assembly and the Administrative Commission will be dismissed.

The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Greenfield acted to recommend the dissolution of the congregation November 3, 2019, and at a congregational meeting on December 8, 2019, the congregation approved an action to move forward with the dissolution.

The following is a summary of the commission's work:

Due to the nature of 2020 and the Covid-19 virus pandemic the majority of the committee work was conducted using Zoom, e-mail, and by telephone. The committee was unable to gather in person after February and was unsure how to proceed during March.

The Commission met with members of the Session on May 5, 2020, via Zoom. The meeting was moderated by the Rev. Gretchen Schneider, moderator of the First Presbyterian Session. The purpose was to ascertain the status of and to plan for the congregation's pending closure. Due to Covid the congregation was not meeting regularly.

A final service was planned for Sunday, June 28, 2020. Due to Covid many of these plans changed. The final service was held on Sunday, July 12, 2020.

A letter to all the members of the congregation detailing the closure was sent.

The status of all members was verified and documented. There were 29 members on the rolls. Membership will be held at Presbytery and transfers will be facilitated for one year following closure.

Disposition of the furnishings of the church and items given to the church as memorials were decided by the Session. High value items were appraised. Financial obligations, reports, and documentation were clarified.



All session and congregational records not archived at Hanover were turned over to Presbytery following the final service in July. The records of the congregation will be permanently archived with the Presbyterian Historical Society.

The Rev. Gretchen Schneider provided pastoral services and moderated the session until the dissolution.

The building was located at 116 W. South St., Greenfield, Indiana. The church property was appraised at \$140,000. The commission contacted two local realtors for credentials and potential listings. An adjacent business owned by Joyner Homes, a residential real estate developer and builder, expressed interest in the property. After touring the building, Joyner submitted a letter of interest on July 29, 2020. On September 8, we received an offer of \$125,000. The commission voted to accept the offer on September 9, 2020. As part of the closing process an inspection was performed. This inspection presented several previously unknown issues. The buyer and the commission agreed to an amended offer of \$85,000 on October 23. The transaction closed on November 11, 2020.

Several items were donated to Calvary Baptist Church, Boy Scout Troop 70, Love, Inc., Riley Friends Church, Greenfield Friends Church, Shiloh Christian Church, Kenneth Butler Soup Kitchen, Hancock County Historical Society, Christ Presbyterian Church, Bethel Baptist Church, Curry's Chapel UMC, and Goodwill Industries. Dishes and other miscellaneous items were consigned to Trusty Auction Service. Some office furnishings chairs and tables remained with the building. Other items were disposed of by a trash service.

As various aspects of the Commission took place, the ongoing needs of record-keeping, bill-paying, and membership transfers continued to be addressed. All bills were paid and the checking and savings balance of \$512.29 was transferred to Presbytery in October. The net proceeds of the sale, \$82,136.25, have been received by Presbytery.

It was recommended that the funds be disbursed as follows: the remaining balance of \$82,648.54 should be used by the Presbytery for its various purposes with approval by the Coordinating Council Commission of the Presbytery.

The commission thanked Executive Presbyter, Alan Thames, Stated Clerk Kristy Quinn, Eric Herzog, and the Clerk of Session for their assistance to the commission. We were honored to have served as members of the administrative commission of Whitewater Valley Presbytery and pray that we have done God's will in our process.

The Commission recommended that Presbytery dismiss the Administrative Commission with gratitude for their service. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

### **Administrative Commission for Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Lewisville, Indiana**

Presbytery appointed an Administrative Commission for Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Lewisville, on February 8, 2020, to dissolve Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Lewisville, Indiana, with the following powers and functions:

- Meet and consult with the Session to facilitate the work of the Commission;
- Arrange for the pastoral care of the members;
- Publicize the dissolution of the congregation;
- Ascertain the financial status and outstanding financial obligations of the congregation;

Secure the Session records and, as determined by the commission, secure the legal rights to all property (real or personal) held by or for the benefit of the congregation;

Dispose of the moveable personal property of the congregation, secure the building and property, and attend to matters of insurance, dispose of the building and grounds, or convey the building and grounds to The Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, Inc.;

Recommend to the Presbytery the use of the assets of the congregation;

Assure that a Service of Witness is conducted and to participate in that service and determine the date of dissolution;

Secure the assistance of other individuals as appropriate to assist with its work, and generally to do such things and take such actions in the name of and on behalf of Whitewater Valley Presbytery, as shall be reasonably necessary to accomplish the general purpose of this resolution;

All other business and actions related to the dissolution of the congregation;

At the conclusion of its work, a written report and actions of the Administrative Commission will be presented to the Presbytery Assembly and the Administrative Commission will be dismissed.

The following is a summary of the commission's work:

The congregation of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church met on Sunday December 15, 2019, to discuss the potential closing of the church. The meeting was moderated by Rev. Alan McCraine. After discussion the congregation voted to continue meeting until June 20, 2020, and then to close.

Due to the nature of 2020 and the Covid-19 virus pandemic the majority of the committee work was conducted using Zoom, e-mail, and by telephone. The committee was unable to gather in person after February and was unsure how to proceed during March

The Commission met with members of the Ebenezer Session on April 14, 2020 via Zoom. The purpose was to ascertain the status of the congregation's pending closure. Due to Covid the congregation was not meeting regularly.

A final service was planned Sunday, July 5, 2020, and celebrated the history of church with a dinner following the service. A letter to all the members of the congregation detailing the closure was sent. The status of all members was verified and documented. Due to Covid many of these plans changed. The final service was held on Sunday, June 28, 2020.

Documentation of the separation of church property from the adjacent cemetery was provided.

Financial obligations, reports, and documentation were clarified.

Membership will be held by Presbytery and transfers facilitated for one year following closure. The Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Lewisville, reported in their 2018 Annual Statistical Report a membership of 16. At the time of their final worship service on June 28, 2020, it was reported that worship attendance was averaging approximately eight members. The complete list of members in good standing have been received by the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and, at their request and for a period of year, their membership may be transferred to another congregation as provided by the Book of Order G-3.0301c

Members or families who gave memorial gifts were offered an opportunity to receive them. A Clairanova (electronic piano) was given to Lewisville Presbyterian Church.

All session and congregational records not archived at Hanover were turned over to Presbytery following the final service in July. The records of the congregation will be permanently archived with the Presbyterian Historical Society.

The Rev. Alan McCrain provided pastoral services through the closing.

Bentonville Christian Church lost their building in a windstorm and was contemplating rebuilding their church when they learned that Ebenezer was closing. Gary Cole, Ebenezer Clerk of Session, discussed the possibility with the Commission. Bentonville held a service in June at Ebenezer. A written purchase offer was presented on June 29, 2020. The purchase offer was at the appraised price of \$60,000. The building would be used for Christian worship. Bentonville would be allowed to hold worship services at the building until the closing. No other offers were anticipated. All furnishings of Ebenezer with the exception of the Clarinova and a drawing were given to Bentonville by Ebenezer's congregation. The Commission and Presbytery clarified language in the offer and it was accepted by Bentonville. The property closed on September 23, 2020.

As various aspects of the Commission took place, the ongoing needs of record-keeping, bill-paying, and membership transfers continued to be addressed. All bills were paid and the checking and savings balance of \$21,059.69 were transferred to Presbytery in October. The proceeds of the sale of the \$59,590 net of expense have been received by Presbytery. The Session of Ebenezer recommended several charities to the Commission.

It was recommended that the funds be dispersed as follows:

Olivia Rebecca Waggoner Memorial	\$2,000
The Guest House - Men's Homeless Shelter	\$8,000
Manna World Wide	\$2,000
Ebenezer Cemetery Association	\$8,000
Henry County Pregnancy Care	\$ 500
Safe at Home	\$ 500
Brianna's Hope	\$ 500
Knightstown Food Pantry/United Methodist Church	\$ 500
Salvation Army	\$ 500
Westminster Committee Center	\$ 500
Rock Steady Boxing	\$ 500
Mike Warner Scholarship Fund	\$ 500
Wilbur Wright Elementary School	\$ 500
Total	\$24,500

The remaining balance of \$56,149.69 will be used by the Presbytery for its various purposes.

We wish to thank Executive Alan Thames, Stated Clerk Kristy Quinn, Eric Herzog, and Ebenezer Clerk of Session for their assistance to the commission. We are honored to have served as members of the administrative commission of Whitewater Valley Presbytery and pray that we have done God's will in our process.

The Commission recommended that Presbytery adopt its recommendations and dismiss the Administrative Commission with gratitude for their service. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

**A Prayer of Blessing** was offered by the Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter in thanksgiving to God for the congregations of First Presbyterian Church of Greenfield and Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. At the conclusion of the prayer, Rev. Thames declared that the congregations were dissolved.

**The Committee on Representation** recommended the elections of:

**Ruling Elder Martha McDonald** (Irvington, Indianapolis) to fill a vacancy on the Commission on Ministry, Class of 2022; and,

**Ruling Elder Jason Knapp** (First, Anderson) to serve as a Commissioner to the Synod of Lincoln Trails, Class of 2023.

There were no nominations from the floor. The moderator declared nominations closed. The nominations were approved.

**The Coordinating Council Commission** recommended the election of:

**Ruling Elder Bill Werling**, (Grace, Fort Wayne), to the Committee on Representation, Class of 2026.

There were no nominations from the floor. The moderator declared the nominations closed. The nomination was approved.

### **Administrative Commission for St. Andrew Church, Indianapolis**

**The Commission on Ministry (COM)** recommended the election of an Administrative Commission for the Dissolution of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, with the powers, authority, and responsibility for pastoral care for the congregation, and in consultation with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and Presbytery's legal representative, to file Articles of Dissolution and other appropriate documents with the state of Indiana, to secure legal rights to the property and see to its disposition, and to secure and complete Session and financial records.

The COM recommended the election of the following commissioners: Teaching Elder Shawn Coons, Fairview Presbyterian; Ruling Elder Terrie Cross Gray, Witherspoon Presbyterian; Ruling Elder Mae Leech, Northminster Presbyterian; Ruling Elder Patty McKinnon, John Knox Presbyterian; and Teaching Elder Deb Mitchell, Member at Large.

There was no discussion. The recommendation was adopted and the commissioners elected using the online polling function.

### **Jillian Flynn, Examination for Ordination**

**The Commission on Preparation for Ministry** and the **Commission on Ministry** Presented Jillian Flynn, a candidate under care of Whitewater Valley Presbytery and the Session of John Knox Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis, for examination for ordination. The candidate's statement of faith had been provided with the presbytery papers.

The candidate was introduced and the Moderator opened the floor for questions. After the candidate had responded to six questions, the Rev. Frank Mansell moved, it was seconded and approved to arrest the examination.

The candidate was excused from the room. The moderator invited discussion of the commissions' recommendation to sustain the examination and authorize the moderator to appoint a commission to ordain. There was no discussion. The motion was approved unanimously using the electronic polling function. The candidate returned to the room and was congratulated. The Rev. Frank Mansell prayed a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving.

## **Panel Discussions and Breakout Groups**

The Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter, explained the panel discussion and breakout group virtual gatherings. He introduced the Rev. Glen Bell, from the Presbyterian Foundation, who presented on Post-Pandemic Financial Planning; the Rev. David Chaddock, Executive Director of Center Point Counseling Center, who presented on Self-Care Strategies; and, the Rev. Sarah Dingman, Executive of the Synod of Lincoln Trails, who presented on Leadership Opportunities.

## **Worship**

The Moderator announced that a pre-recorded worship service was available for viewing and for sharing with congregations. The service was constructed around the theme of Lament and Hope in a Taize' style marked by moments of silence to reflect and pray.

The Moderator thanked the following worship leaders:

Mike Whitfield, Moderator WVP, First Presbyterian, Shelbyville  
Rev. Brian Shivers, Vice Moderator WVP, Second Presbyterian, Indianapolis  
Carla Beard, Ruling Elder & Commissioner to GA, First Presbyterian, Connersville  
Rev. Maureen Wilson, Associate Pastor, Irvington Presbyterian, Indianapolis  
Rev. Carol McDonald, Honorably Retired, Indianapolis  
Pat Payne, Ruling Elder, Witherspoon Presbyterian, Indianapolis  
Paula Means, Ruling Elder, Tabernacle Presbyterian, Indianapolis  
Rev. Kirk Johnston, Member at Large, Muncie  
LydiaGrace Espiritu-Gray, Candidate for Ordination, New Castle  
Rev. Debbie Mansell, Chaplain, IU Hospital West, Indianapolis

The Moderator thanked the musicians:

Vocalist, David Fisher, Elder Commissioner, First Presbyterian, Shelbyville  
Pianist, Cynthia Morningstar, Music Director, First Presbyterian, Shelbyville  
Violin, Rev. Wally Wilson, Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian, Rushville

The Moderator extended special thanks to:

Craig Shaw, Technology & Communications, Whitewater Valley Presbytery  
Rev. Alan Thames, Executive Presbyter, Whitewater Valley Presbytery  
Dawn West, Administrative Assistant, Whitewater Valley Presbytery

## **Adjournment**

The Stated Clerk reported that no new business had been requested.

The Moderator thanked the session, pastor, staff, and members of Irvington Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis for hosting the meeting and the use of their livestreaming facilities and the technical services of Craig Shaw.

The Moderator announced that the next stated meeting would be on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, and convene at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the Moderator declared the meet adjourned without objection and closed the meeting with prayer.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Terry L. Epling,  
Stated Clerk



## Council Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee met on March 24, 2021.

- The Council Emergency Technology Fund has disbursed \$22,198 to 16 churches within the presbytery. The \$35,000 fund was established by Council in April 2020 for the purpose of providing, updating, or upgrading technology (balance \$12,802).

### December 2020 Financial Results

- Mission Operations Ministry Fund
  - Ended the calendar year with a surplus of \$31,743.
  - Presbytery per capita gifts ended the year at 98% of the total apportionment exceeding budget projections.
  - Total operating expenses ended the year \$21,830 (4%) below budget estimates and \$22,105 below the prior year. All ministry team budgets ended the year at or below budget estimates.
- Mission Focus Units Fund
  - Ended the calendar year with a surplus of \$10,338.
  - Total resources for shared mission below budget 7% (\$12,147) and the prior year (\$19,602).
  - Mission partnerships and church grant support funded in full per budget. Council ministry teams below budget resulting in the fund surplus.
- Presbytery **unrestricted** net assets total \$478,281 on December 31, 2020.

### 2022 Budget Development Timeline

	<u>1st Read</u>	<u>2nd Read</u>
Budget requests sent	5/3/2021	8/1/2021 (Mission & Partnership)
Requested return Date	6/4/2021	9/10/2021
Finance Committee Meeting	6/17/2021	9/16/2021
Council Meeting	7/28/2021	10/27/2021
Assembly Meeting	8/7/2021	11/3/2021

Whitewater Valley Presbytery  
 Analysis of Res & Invest - Council\_ECH  
 Fund: Mission Operations  
 January to December 2020

Accounts	YTD Actual	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual	Annual Budget (This Year)	% of Annual Budget Used	YTD Actual (Last Year)
<b>RESOURCES</b>						
<b>MISSION OPERATIONS</b>						
Per Capita-WVP	\$368,136.87	\$355,737.00	\$12,399.87	\$355,737.00	103.49 %	\$369,705.63
Per Capita - G/A & SOLT	\$156,148.74	\$157,726.00	(\$1,577.26)	\$157,726.00	99.00 %	\$161,816.52
<b>Total MISSION OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$524,285.61</b>	<b>\$513,463.00</b>	<b>\$10,822.61</b>	<b>\$513,463.00</b>	<b>102.11 %</b>	<b>\$531,522.15</b>
<b>OTHER RESOURCES</b>						
Partnerships	\$16,500.00	\$16,744.00	(\$244.00)	\$16,744.00	98.54 %	\$16,542.34
Banking/Investments	\$3,258.35	\$3,500.00	(\$241.65)	\$3,500.00	93.10 %	\$4,197.76
Misc. Resources	\$39.18	\$750.00	(\$710.82)	\$750.00	5.22 %	\$673.93
<b>Total OTHER RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$19,797.53</b>	<b>\$20,994.00</b>	<b>(\$1,196.47)</b>	<b>\$20,994.00</b>	<b>94.30 %</b>	<b>\$21,414.03</b>
<b>Total RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$544,083.14</b>	<b>\$534,457.00</b>	<b>\$9,626.14</b>	<b>\$534,457.00</b>	<b>101.80 %</b>	<b>\$552,936.18</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>						
Leadership	\$368,263.49	\$367,680.00	(\$583.49)	\$367,680.00	100.16 %	\$363,524.55
Office Services	\$44,616.82	\$48,318.00	\$3,701.18	\$48,318.00	92.34 %	\$57,396.93
Reimbursements/Misc. Per Capita	\$16,883.28	\$33,650.00	\$16,766.72	\$33,650.00	50.17 %	\$27,154.13
G/A Per Capita Disbursement	\$115,240.00	\$115,240.00	\$0.00	\$115,240.00	100.00 %	\$117,925.20
SOLT Per Capita Disbursement	\$49,058.00	\$49,058.00	\$0.00	\$49,058.00	100.00 %	\$50,921.00
<b>Total Per Capita</b>	<b>\$164,298.00</b>	<b>\$164,298.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$164,298.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>\$168,846.20</b>
Missions Allocations/Transfers	(\$81,721.12)	(\$79,775.00)	\$1,946.12	(\$79,775.00)	102.44 %	(\$82,476.76)
<b>Total INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$512,340.47</b>	<b>\$534,171.00</b>	<b>\$21,830.53</b>	<b>\$534,171.00</b>	<b>95.91 %</b>	<b>\$534,445.05</b>
<b>Net Resources/Investments</b>	<b>\$31,742.67</b>	<b>\$286.00</b>	<b>\$31,456.67</b>	<b>\$286.00</b>	<b>11098.84 %</b>	<b>\$18,491.13</b>

**Whitewater Valley Presbytery**  
**Analysis of Res & Invest - Council\_ECH**  
**Fund: Mission Focus Units**  
**January to December 2020**

Accounts	YTD Actual	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual	Annual Budget (This Year)	% of Annual Budget Used	YTD Actual (Last Year)
<b>RESOURCES</b>						
<b>MISSION FOCUS UNITS</b>						
Basic Mission	\$162,235.30	\$174,382.00	(\$12,146.70)	\$174,382.00	93.03 %	\$181,837.82
<b>Total MISSION FOCUS UNITS</b>	<b>\$162,235.30</b>	<b>\$174,382.00</b>	<b>(\$12,146.70)</b>	<b>\$174,382.00</b>	<b>93.03 %</b>	<b>\$181,837.82</b>
<b>Total RESOURCES</b>	<b>\$162,235.30</b>	<b>\$174,382.00</b>	<b>(\$12,146.70)</b>	<b>\$174,382.00</b>	<b>93.03 %</b>	<b>\$181,837.82</b>
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>						
PRESBYTERY COUNCIL	\$2,525.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,975.00	\$4,500.00	56.11 %	\$3,417.63
<b>COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL</b>						
<b>MISSION &amp; GROWTH</b>						
Local/Regional Mission						
Camp PYOCA	\$36,450.00	\$36,450.00	\$0.00	\$36,450.00	100.00 %	\$40,500.00
WNM	\$24,057.00	\$24,057.00	\$0.00	\$24,057.00	100.00 %	\$26,730.00
Hispanic Ministries	\$8,100.00	\$8,100.00	\$0.00	\$8,100.00	100.00 %	\$8,100.00
<b>Total Local/Regional Mission</b>	<b>\$68,607.00</b>	<b>\$68,607.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$68,607.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>\$75,330.00</b>
Domestic/International Mission						
Congo Helping Hands	\$3,281.00	\$3,281.00	\$0.00	\$3,281.00	100.00 %	\$3,645.00
<b>Total Domestic/International Mission</b>	<b>\$3,281.00</b>	<b>\$3,281.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,281.00</b>	<b>100.00 %</b>	<b>\$3,645.00</b>
Mission Grants	\$12,200.00	\$13,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$13,200.00	92.42 %	\$12,200.00
<b>Total MISSION &amp; GROWTH</b>	<b>\$84,088.00</b>	<b>\$85,088.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$85,088.00</b>	<b>98.82 %</b>	<b>\$91,175.00</b>
CONNECTED COMMUNITIES	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	100.00 %	\$4,500.00
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	\$0.00	\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00	\$8,250.00	0.00 %	\$200.00
<b>Total COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL</b>	<b>\$88,588.00</b>	<b>\$97,838.00</b>	<b>\$9,250.00</b>	<b>\$97,838.00</b>	<b>90.55 %</b>	<b>\$95,875.00</b>
<b>MINISTRY SUPPORT</b>						
Committee on Ministry	\$11,424.96	\$13,110.00	\$1,685.04	\$13,110.00	87.15 %	\$9,763.81
Preparation for Ministry	\$6,960.30	\$15,508.00	\$8,547.70	\$15,508.00	44.88 %	\$9,458.00
<b>Total MINISTRY SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$18,385.26</b>	<b>\$28,618.00</b>	<b>\$10,232.74</b>	<b>\$28,618.00</b>	<b>64.24 %</b>	<b>\$19,221.81</b>
Missions Allocations/Transfers	\$42,399.00	\$45,139.00	\$2,740.00	\$45,139.00	93.93 %	\$45,171.96
<b>Total INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>\$151,897.26</b>	<b>\$176,095.00</b>	<b>\$24,197.74</b>	<b>\$176,095.00</b>	<b>86.26 %</b>	<b>\$163,686.40</b>
<b>Net Resources/Investments</b>	<b>\$10,338.04</b>	<b>(\$1,713.00)</b>	<b>\$12,051.04</b>	<b>(\$1,713.00)</b>	<b>-603.50 %</b>	<b>\$18,151.42</b>



Accounts

<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash/Checking	\$825,731.09	
<b>Savings/Money Markets</b>		
PNC Money Market #XXXX2862	\$16,906.76	
PILP Mission MM #100004	\$782,396.61	
<b>Total Savings/Money Markets</b>	<u>\$799,303.37</u>	
<b>Investments ( &gt; 1-year)</b>		
New Covenant Funds (PCUSA)	\$53,864.61	
Vanguard Funds	\$293,798.80	
Presbyterian Foundation	\$14,339.82	
Edward Jones	\$63,826.27	
<b>Total Investments ( &gt; 1-year)</b>	<u>\$425,829.50</u>	
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		\$2,050,863.96
Accounts/Notes Receivable		\$9,259.61
Fixed Assets		<u>\$730,789.39</u>
<b>Total ASSETS</b>		<u><u>\$2,790,912.96</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES, FUND BALANCE, &amp; Restricted Funds</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Current Liabilities		\$69,125.26
Passthrough		\$467.74
Amistad Crstiana Passthroughs		\$4,151.74
Other Liabilities		<u>\$592,917.63</u>
<b>Total LIABILITIES</b>		\$666,662.37
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>		
Unrestricted	\$478,280.91	
Temporarily Restricted	\$1,591,767.52	
Permanently Restricted	\$54,202.16	
<b>Total FUND BALANCE</b>		<u>\$2,124,250.59</u>
<b>Total LIABILITIES, FUND BALANCE, &amp; Restricted Funds</b>		<u><u>\$2,790,912.96</u></u>

## Statement of Faith: LydiaGrace Espiritu-Gray

I believe God is beautiful. The beauty of God overflows in God's creation of the world, overwhelming my rebellious heart, turning me to recognize my Creator and to thank God for every good and perfect gift.

I believe God tells a beautiful story. The beauty of God overflows in God's revelation in Holy Scripture; the story resonates with my desire to know the Creator, responds to my sense of undeserving, and relays a beautiful plan for the possibility of relationship with God. I believe this story is true: the good and beautiful God created the world good and created humankind in God's image. Humankind rebelled against God, breaking the beautiful relationship between creation and Creator. Yet, in love, justice, and mercy, God acts to redeem creation by choosing a covenant people, blessing them with God's unearned favor, giving the law for the flourishing of life, forgiving when they repeatedly chose to turn away from God, promising the Messiah, and sending Jesus, the Son of God, the savior of the world.

I believe Jesus Christ is fully human and fully God. Jesus lived a sinless life, teaching about the Kingdom of God, preaching the good news, embodying God's love for the children, the sick, the outcasts, and the sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the good news. Despite who Jesus was and Jesus' beautiful message of God's justice and mercy, we rejected and crucified him for wrongs he did not commit. Jesus suffered, died and gave his life for the sins of the world. Yet, God raised Jesus from the dead, broke the power of sin, and beat the ugliness of death so that God can bring us into the beauty of eternal life in relationship with God. By God's grace, I find my story within God's beautiful story.

I believe I am able to experience God drawing me to Godself through the beauty of creation and the beauty of the gospel because of God's gift of the Holy Spirit. Before I had the capacity to understand, believe, or act, God the Spirit acted to claim me in the waters of baptism. Despite my undeserving, the Spirit revealed to me the beauty of God in the gospel and creation and drew me into relationship with God, justifying me by grace through faith. Living out this relationship, the Spirit meets my needs: feeding me the bread of life and the cup of salvation, providing the Church, the community of believers in the one Body of Christ, and empowering my participation in the unfolding of God's beautiful plan, when what has been blooming fully blossoms and God's kingdom comes in its fullness.

I believe in the one triune God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is revealed in Scripture as a relational God, dancing an eternal dance of love between the three persons of the Trinity with choreography so beautiful it overflows. The tri-unity of God makes possible my redemption, invites me into relationship, and reminds me that this mind-bendingly beautiful God is the trustworthy holder of every holy answer. Thus, I believe, and I thank God that I believe.

I believe in God, the loving and omniscient Mother and Father of all creation.

I believe in Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, God's only begotten Son, our forgiving Lord and Savior. Jesus walked among us, feeling our joy and pain, healing our bodies and spirits. He died on the cross and was resurrected from the dead, and reigns with God for the continuance of God's kingdom. Jesus died, resurrected, and ascended for the forgiveness of sin.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, breath of God, who dwells among and within us. I believe the Spirit furthers the Church of Christ in relationships between people, connecting hearts and minds and missions through gifts that are unique to each of us. I believe the Spirit is freely given to me, as a member of the Body of Christ and as an individual, to better know God and feel comforted by God's presence.

I believe in the Triune and mysterious God, who is above all and in all and through all. This same omnipotent God cares for me and loves me, and I can develop a personal relationship and journey with this God.

I believe in the power of two sacraments: Communion (the Lord's Supper) and Baptism. These sacraments, when rightly administered, are signs and seals of the covenant of grace with God. In our one Baptism, by water and the Holy Spirit, we and our community of faith commit to supporting one another in the daily calling of dying to self and righteous living in Christ. In welcoming all to the table for Communion, we participate in Christ's reconciling work in the world by remembering Christ's life, death, and resurrection. The grace exhibited by the sacraments comes not from the substance of these symbols, but from the power of the Holy Spirit.

I also believe in a body of believers called "church," not for their laws and buildings, but for their loving ministry. Church is not meant to be perfect; Church is meant to be seeking God constantly for healing, and to be helping others seek the healing power of Christ. Church consists of the community of believers in all times and spaces.

I believe that Church is a body of many cultures, backgrounds, and beautifully interwoven stories. Churches, like families, encounter conflict. Conflict in the Church ought to break one's heart to act and strive for speaking truth in love.

I believe the Church serves the community locally, nationally, and globally, regardless of faith and creed. I believe the Church is called to the reconciling work of Jesus Christ in the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to see God's justice flow like mighty streams.

I believe that God is Love, and ultimately calls us to love God and one another; this is our greatest calling, desire, and commandment. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. With seriousness and gratitude, faithfulness and humility, we accept and respond to this call in the beautiful name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## Statement of Faith: Kelly Spencer

I confess God is the Creator of the universe who calls all of creation to live together and bring the Kingdom of Heaven closer to earthly life. Through God's omnipotent and all-loving nature, God designed the world in goodness and declared humanity as caretakers for the world. I experience God as neither impassible nor immutable.

I confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, fully human and fully divine, sent for the ultimate goal of redemption for humankind. Jesus is God incarnate who came to earth to embody justice and love. Christ offered himself so that we always have the chance to confess and return to God and to community. Jesus' resurrection then offers us a chance at new life accompanied by the Divine.

I confess the Holy Spirit is God's gift to humanity. The Scriptures describe how the Spirit moved in creation, anointed Christ in baptism, raised Jesus from the dead, and was poured out on the Church at Pentecost. The same Spirit is still at work. The Spirit, our advocate and companion, works within us to illuminate Scripture and to inspire us as we advance God's mission.

I confess the mystery and the importance of the Trinity: God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, three in one and one in three. The enigma around the Trinity highlights that no human image can encapsulate the fullness of this life-changing relationship. Nevertheless, we get to benefit from this holy puzzle that creates, redeems, and sustains us every single day.

I confess the Bible is the unique and authoritative witness of God's presence in the world. The Bible is God-inspired by the Holy Spirit, written down by human hands. I claim the promise of the Scriptures, a steadfast promise open to our growth, is Good News that all can receive grace, life, and love eternal through Jesus. I believe in studying, wrestling, and living by the Truth in both the Old and New Testaments.

I confess the Sacraments are powerful and mysterious tools employed by the Holy Spirit to declare our participation in God's family. The Sacraments witness to Christ's saving death and resurrection, anticipating the heavenly banquet to come. In Sacrament, we celebrate Jesus' presence with us in everyday elements of grain, grapes, and water, conveying God's covenant of grace open to all.

I confess that worship and the work of the Church as opportunities to glorify God and preach the Gospel. Worship brings together the covenant community of Christ's disciples, proclaiming justice for all. The work of the church invites us all to actively participate in God's mission. I am grateful worship and mission remind me, as a Body, we never have to do this work alone.

**"In Christ we have obtained an inheritance...so that we, who had hoped before in Christ, might live for the praise of his glory"** Eph. 1:11-12. Ultimately, I confess our privilege and responsibility from the grace we have received by our adoption into the family of God is to preach the Good News and serve to bring the Kingdom closer as we await Christ's return.

I believe.

I believe in God. The father, mother, creator of love, life, and all that we can see, feel, taste, touch, smell, imagine, dream, and all that we cannot fathom.

I believe God has a plan for me that is so far beyond my comprehension that to understand it would be to discount it. My soul cries out “thy will be done,” one day, one prayer, one step, one heartbeat at a time.

I believe the words of the psalmist. “The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.” (Ps. 34:18) When my thoughts are racing, my fears are manifesting, my heart is breaking, or my soul is mourning, God whispers to “be still and know that I am God.” (Ps. 46:10) Be still and know. Know that I am loved. Know that I am comforted. I am remembered. I am worthy. I am God’s beloved.

I believe that while God’s creation is loved beyond our comprehension, humanity is fallible. In Augustine’s words, we are *non posse non peccare*. We are unable not to sin. However, through the irresistible Grace of God, we are simultaneously elect and totally dependent on God for salvation and the sustaining hope of life eternal.

I believe that, even in our depravity, God loves us so much that God chose to walk among us, fully human and fully God, in Jesus Christ, who loved us through miracles of healing, comfort, and teaching by beautiful example. Jesus felt, loved, danced, and lived as we do...day by day, through pain, through joy.

I believe that Jesus shared the meal of bread and wine to feed our souls in the already and the still yet to come. In his dying, Jesus saves us from ourselves and our sins and prepares the way for life everlasting.

I believe Jesus loves so much that he saved us despite our sins, our darkness, ourselves, through His eternal love and harrowing sacrifice on that old, rugged cross. On a hill far away, Jesus breathed his last breath that each breath of our lungs may be for the glory of God.

I believe that after Jesus rose and ascended into heaven, the Church was given the Holy Spirit, who appears time and time again in active participation with God’s covenant to show love, mercy, forgiveness, and sustain our everlasting life. Uniting the Church with the Creator and the Savior, the Spirit breathes life into the guiding and sustaining words of Scripture, gifts creation with the tools to accomplish its vocation, and redeems and sanctifies humanity through no merit of our own.

I believe the Holy Spirit works with all to break us, melt us, mold us, fill us, and guide us. The Holy Spirit manifests in the subtle and beautiful. In music, in nature, in laughter, in the gnashing of teeth. In the love of family. In the embrace of a friend. In the smile of a stranger. In conversation over pancakes. In the welling up of tears. And in the loving silence.

I believe in the sacraments. In Baptism, we are named. Claimed. At Table, we actively participate. Baptism by water and Eucharist by bread and wine are the ways we, as members of the body of Christ, participate with him. It is a response to the Word that causes us to be sent out with the Great Commission to share these gifts with all God’s beloved through love and acceptance.

I believe that, through prayer and work, the Church strives to live into the marks of one, holy, catholic and apostolic, demonstrating its mission through the proclamation and response to the Word, the right administration of the Sacraments, and the cultivation of the covenant community of Christ.

I believe the Triune God surrounds the Church, going forever before, behind, beside, above, and below us, working through us in the spiritual, wonderful, awe-inspiring remembrance of God’s love yesterday, today, and for all the days to come, until Jesus returns to unite our souls with the great cloud of witnesses eager to welcome us into the eternal kin-dom of God. From everlasting to everlasting.

I believe.