

Report of the Stated Clerk

Motions for the December 5, 2023, Stated Meeting of Muskingum Valley Presbytery

Motion coming from the Session of First Presbyterian Church of New Philadelphia to extend the term of current Deacon Jackie Stutz in the office of Deacon for the Class of 2026. This is deemed necessary due to lack of qualified or interested individuals to serve.

Motion coming from the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Perrysville requesting that the Session term limit of no more than six consecutive years (G-2.0404) be waived for Elder Kathy Davis. She will be completing her six years on Session as of December 31, 2023. The Session is requesting that Kathy Davis be allowed to serve for another term ending December 31, 2026. This is deemed necessary due to lack of qualified or interested individuals to serve.

Motion coming from the congregation of Christ Presbyterian Church of Canton met on Sunday, May 7, 2023, and voted unanimously by voice vote to accept the planned retirement of Rev. David de Vries effective May 30, 2024, and to begin the process of dissolving his pastoral relationship with the church.

For Information: Rev. Joanne Cox (HR) has transferred to the Foothills Presbytery in South Carolina.

Presbytery Meeting Calendar for 2024

Saturday, February 10, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.

Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.

We are looking for churches to host, so please let us know if you have any questions on hosting a meeting in 2024.

Session Minutes Review

Two Session Minutes Review Sessions were held for Clerks of Session to have their church's 2022 Session Minutes reviewed. There were six other churches to date whose minutes were reviewed outside of these two sessions. If any other churches are ready

to have their 2022 Session Minutes reviewed before the end of 2023, please contact Stated Clerk, Alison Blondheim.

General Assembly 2024 – Salt Lake City, UT - June 29 – July 4, 2024

The Nominating Committee will be presenting the nominations for Teaching Elder Commissioner and Ruling Elder Commissioner to the 2024 General Assembly. and if there are any Youth Advisory Delegate nominations.

Statistics for 2023

It will soon be time to begin preparing your congregation's statistical information for 2023 that will need to be inputted on the Office of General Assembly website. You will go to <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/churchwide-ministries/stats/statistical-reporting-faq/>

Please let Stated Clerk, Alison Blondheim, if you need assistance with any of it. She can provide your User ID and Password. It is important that these be completed each year. The website portal will be open from December 1, 2023, through February 15, 2024, for individual churches. After that, you will need to provide Alison with your statistics so that they can be input.

We will also want your Necrology Report for 2023. This would be any Elders or Deacons that passed away in 2023 that were members of your congregation and any Pastors that are still part of our Presbytery and served or formerly served your congregation. The names will be remembered at our February 10, 2024 MVP Stated Meeting.

Boundaries Training

Reminder to all Pastors (both ordained Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders) that if you didn't complete Boundaries Training in 2023 due to scheduling conflicts, you will need to complete it in 2024. Synod of the Covenant will again offer the training approximately three (3) times in 2024. This is required every three (3) years per the Book of Order, but Muskingum Valley Presbytery requires it every two (2) years.

Paid Family Leave

When the amendments proposed by the 225th General Assembly (2022) and ratified by the presbyteries went into effect on July 9, 2023, G-2.0804 reads as follows:

The terms of call shall always meet or exceed any minimum requirement of the presbytery in effect when the call is made. The session shall review annually the minister's terms of call and shall propose for congregational action (G-1.0501) such

changes as the session deems appropriate, provided that they meet the presbytery's minimum requirements. The call shall include *provision for a minimum of twelve weeks paid family medical leave and* participation in the benefits plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including both pension and medical coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly.

As presbyteries are developing minimum terms of call, be aware that [the action of the GA](#) defined "family leave" as including but not limited to the following:

- Leave to accommodate the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child.
- Leave to provide care to an ill or disabled family member.
- Leave to heal following a loss or tragic event.

The rationale for the [recommendation from the Family Leave Policy Task Force](#) includes a sample policy. Several presbytery policies developed prior to the new constitutional provision are posted in the Equip.pcusa.org course "Welcome to Mid Council Ministry" (Resource Archives > Call Process and Personnel). I'd be delighted to add your presbytery's policy to the collection, including updates, if you're willing to [send it to me](#).

The Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice has [suggestions for how sessions might provide for worship during the 12 weeks](#). It includes encouraging presbyteries and synods to step up with resources for any congregations that find the 12-week requirement to be a hardship.