

Stated Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

In Person and via Zoom at 6:00 P.M.

Christ Presbyterian Church, Canton, OH

Welcome time and refreshments were held prior to the opening of the Stated Meeting.

Moderator, Rev. Li “Dolly” Dong opened the meeting with prayer and called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M. Stated Clerk, Alison Blondheim stated that a quorum was present. Rev. Dong asked for a motion to approve the docket and made reference to the omnibus motion that would be voted on later.

**MOTION** made by Rev. Justin Hylden and seconded by Rick Hastings, CRE to approve the docket as printed on the MVP website. **APPROVED**

Rev. Michael Wallace, Co-Pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church welcomed everyone to the Stated Meeting.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**

The worship service opened with a prelude played by the church organist.

Ava Skolnik (GP Rev. Matt Skolnik’s daughter) led the Call to Worship.

The hymn “Prepare the Way, O Zion” was sung.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath by Ruling Elders, Charles Ash, and Richard Milligan.

Ava Skolnik led the Prayer of Confession

Rev. Michael Wallace read scripture from Isaiah 64:1-9

The hymn “While We Are Waiting” was sung.

Rev. Ben George read the scripture from Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Ben George, Co-Pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church gave the Message, “Seeing and Being Seen.”

The hymn, “Come Thou Long Expected Jesus” was sung.

There was a brief break before the business meeting began at 7:00 P.M.

Rev. Li “Dolly’ Dong, Moderator, welcomed everyone to the stated business meeting at 7:00 P.M. both in person and via Zoom.

**General Presbyter Notes**

GP Rev. Matt Skolnik talked about Questions that Define us. Jesus redefined the neighbor and family. We put self-defined constraints on ourselves. Matt used the 9 dots – 4 lines puzzle. He asked those present to try and solve it. How do we define budgets, how do we grow membership, how do we impact community? Encouragement of every congregation, of every session, and what are the constraints that are not necessarily helpful. How do we know when we are outside of the box? We feel uncomfortable.

**Youth Triennium 2025**

Bonnie Wiggins who is Youth Leader at Christ Presbyterian Church spoke on the upcoming Youth Triennium to be held in the summer of 2025. She is going to lead some teens from Christ to attend and is welcoming any other high school youth from the Presbytery to attend with them. She passed out flyers to those present.

Matt recognized leaders in the Presbytery who were finishing serving on various committees and presented them with a gift card. Those recognized were Rev. Li “Dolly” Dong as outgoing Moderator for the Presbytery; Sheila Ellenberger RE, outgoing Chair of Administration Committee; and Tabitha Williams, CRE who is finishing a 3-year term on CPM, but is going to begin a second term beginning in 2025.

**Omnibus Motion**

* To approve the Stated Meeting Minutes of Presbytery from September 21, 2024
* To approve the extension for the terms of office as elders: [Douglas McIntire of First Presbyterian Church of New Philadelphia](https://mvpresby.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/New-Philadelphia-Church-Request-12-11-24.pdf) as requested by the Session of the congregation (**Appendix 12.11.2024.1**) and [Doug Cowen of First Presbyterian Church of Loudonville](https://mvpresby.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Doug-Cowen-Extension-Letter-Loudonville.pdf) as requested by the Session of the congregation (**Appendix 12.11.2024.2**).
* To elect the following:
  + Muskingum Valley Presbytery Moderator for 2025, **Rev. Timothy Dyck**
  + MVP Council: **Rev.** **Bob Meyer**, HRTE Class of 2025, filling the unexpired term of Rev. Rami Almaqdasi; **Elder Dr. Mike Moran**,  Class of 2027
  + COM: Central Region: **Rev. Joe Svancara**, New Philadelphia First, Class of 2027; North East Region – **Elder Bonnie Wiggins**, Canton Christ, Class of 2027
  + Calling Commission: **Pastor Tabitha Williams,**Class of 2027
  + PJC: **Elder Sheila Ellenberger**, Cambridge PC, Class of 2030; **Elder Larry Wiggins**, John Knox PC, Class of 2030
* To dissolve the [pastoral relationship](https://mvpresby.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/image001-scaled.jpg) between Trinity Presbyterian Church and Rev. Deb Bowsher effective December 31, 2024. (**Appendix 12.11.2024.3**)
* to receive Rev. Neil MacQueen from Scioto Valley Presbytery. Neil is retired and currently lives within our bounds. COM recommends this action. Neil has expertise in technology and Christian Education in the church and is willing to guide our churches in this matter.
* **Motion** made by Karol Niehaus, CRE and Rev. Tim Dyck. **Approved**

**Stated Clerk’s Report – Alison Blondheim – see actual report (Appendix 12.11.2024.4)**

**Installation of MVP Moderator**

Moderator, Rev. Li “Dolly” Dong installed Rev. Timothy Dyck as the new Moderator for 2025 for Muskingum Valley Presbytery.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)**

Rev. Dong prayer for the seminary students and others.

**Financial Report**

Treasurer Mike Mast presented the Financial Report (**Appendix 12.11.2024.5**)

**Synod of the Covenant Report**

Tim Pollock CRE submitted a report which was available on the online docket.

**Board of Pension Updates – Rev. Luke Choi, representative**

Rev. Luke Choi gave a brief update on Shared Ministry Plans between two congregations for 2025. He also shared on support for the Christmas Joy offering and mentioned that 2500 grants were given out in assistance this year for $8.5 million dollars. Minister Debt Relief – Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations recipients can now participate with Minister Debt Relief. This was not allowed in the past. He stressed the need to report any salary change for 2025 on Benefits Connect.

If a congregation has questions, please contact[**Lchoi@pensions.org**](mailto:Lchoi@pensions.org)

The Stated Meeting was adjourned with closing prayer by Rev. Li Dong, Moderator at 7:35 P.M.

**Presbytery Meeting Calendar for 2025**

Saturday, March 15, 2025: First Presbyterian Church of Wooster – 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 17, 2025: Pioneer Presbyterian Church of Belpre – 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 13, 2025: Church of the Covenant of Canton – 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 9, 2025: First Presbyterian Church of Uhrichsville – 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stated Clerk, Alison Blondheim