

Fairmount Presbyterian Church
2757 Fairmount Blvd
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118
Stated Session Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2026 - 3 p.m.

The January Stated Session Meeting of Fairmount Presbyterian Church was held at the Session Retreat at Bellwether Farm, 4655 OH-60, Wakeman, Ohio on Saturday, January 10 at 3 pm and was presented by the Moderator, Rev. Ryan Wallace, Senior Pastor.

THE ROLL

Elders: Rev Ryan Wallace, Senior Pastor; Rev Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Carol Adrine, Jesse Bassett, Ian Cameron, Steve Chapman, Tim Cuff, Nancy Gillombardo, Jerry Parker, Ruth Wasem, Katie Wetherbee, Susan Wherley, Peg Zitzner.

Absent: Jim Crosby (excused)

Moderator: Rev. Ryan Wallace, Senior Pastor

Clerk of Session: Ginger Van Wagenen

Guests: Rev. Andrew Genszler

QUORUM

The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer.

The Moderator confirmed a quorum.

The Moderator reviewed the docket. Motion to approve was made by Peg Zitzner moved, seconded by Nancy Gillombardo and approved unanimously.

The Moderator introduced the guests. A motion to give them voice was made by Ian Cameron, seconded by Nancy Gilombardo and approved unanimously

CLERK'S REPORT (see See Full Clerk's Report, in share drive)

MOTION: to approve the January 2026 Clerk's report and minutes of the December 3, 2025 and 12/7 meeting.

Pastor Ryan confirmed that the attendance report captures all views on YouTube to date of report, even if not viewed live.

The motion was made by Steve Chapman, seconded by Nancy Gillombardo and approved unanimously.

ORDER OF THE DAY:

Examination of Incoming Elders

MOTION: to receive Jesse Bassett, Katie Wetherbee, Tim Cuff, and Carol Adrine as elders in the class of 2028 and approve them for ordination and/or installation on Sunday, January 11, 2026.

Pastor Ryan explained why our Elders are called Ruling Elders and then the required questions were asked by the Moderator and answered by the incoming Elders. Steve Chapman asked if all of the incoming Elders were ordained. Pastor Ryan responded that Jesse Bassett and Katie Wetherbee will be ordained on January 11, 2026.

The motion was made by Nancy Gillombardo, seconded by Ruth Wasem and unanimously approved.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Admin Council:

Status of year-end 2025 and 2026 pledges
2025 Financial Report

Ruth Wasem reported that there were no action items from this Council.

Rev. Drew Genszler provided a summary/overview of financial report: FPC has surpassed our 2025 revenue goal (\$769K received on \$740K goal). We have a recent history of wrestling with our pledge goal so Rev. Drew recommends that we rethink that aspect of stewardship. He explained that we set two goals each year: the pledge goal and giving against that goal. In 2025, the pledge goal was 697K and we received \$689K (99%) against that goal. In 2026, our pledge goal is \$646K, against which we have received \$95K to date. We continue to work on 2026 pledging.

Rev. Drew also reported that FPC is very close to break-even on our 2025 budget. Our trend has been to exceed our revenue goal. We budget conservatively and ultimately exceed revenue by \$20-30K.

Rev. Drew then reviewed the remaining financial documents:

Our balance sheet shows \$12.7M in assets. 85% of the budget is personnel. For the benefit of all, he identified the lines for each Council budget.

We have 61 designated Funds.

The endowment draw is between 4-4.5%, in compliance with Ohio law. Market has been good so our endowment has grown to \$12.1 (with other misc funds, it totals \$12.3).

Rev. Drew expects us to finish 2026 with a smaller deficit than currently anticipated.

Lastly, he reminded Session that we have committed \$500K for HVAC which Session approved in Sept 2205.

Serve Council:

Scope for Bridges to Bateyes Administrative Commission (see share drive)

Pastor Ryan reported that there appears to be broad agreement among Session that (1) the restricted funds (\$40-50K) should be transferred to BTB via Cleveland Foundation and (2) we should continue providing \$12K/year pending a 5-year review. He cautioned that we should not make a commitment beyond this current Session (i.e. five years). There are several outstanding issues, including BTB's request for an additional \$5K/year for admin fees and FPC youth participation. Pastor Ryan reported that our youth will not travel to Batey 105 in 2026; instead staff is looking at a trip to Appalachia, Mexico, or Montreat.

Pastor Ryan recommended that Session form an Administrative Commission to work out details on these issues with BTB, in accordance with charge (and noted that the Commission should not deal with any matters not included in the charge. Peg Zitzner noted that Springfield Foundation would be less expensive in terms of fees than Cleveland Foundation and asked if Session would object. Pastor Ryan responded that questions such as that are included in the Administrative Commission charge. Pastor Ryan asked whether there were any among us who felt that Session should retain control of the BTB funding. There were none.

Peg Zitzner noted that Session approved the payment of \$5,000/year for administration just before Pastor Derek Starr-Redwine left but it was never paid. Pastor Ryan responded that questions re administration fees, Springfield etc could be part of a Session survey to guide the Administrative Commission..

Ruth Wasseem moved to approve the creation of the Administrative Commission, to poll Session members, and to authorize the Administrative Commission to meet with BTB; the motion was seconded by Jerry Parker. Pastor Ryan asked who was willing to serve, because the Commission must have at least 2 elders and a pastor. Steve Chapman, Susan Wherley, Peg Zitzner and Pastor Ryan each volunteered. Ryan will work with the Administrative Commission to develop questions for the poll.

With that, the motion was called for a vote and was approved unanimously.

Faith Formation Council: no report

Care Council: no report

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Terms of Call for Installed Pastors (see below):

MOTION: Per the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, to recommend approval of the Terms of Call for Rev. Wallace and Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis at the Congregational Meeting on February 1, 2026.

Pastors Ryan and Lindsay left the room while we discussed the terms of call.

Rev. Drew reviewed the terms, noting that

- benefit baselines have not changed although the healthcare plan costs have increased to 37% of effective compensation i.e., salary + housing allowance).

- dental/vision which Ryan and Lindsay can expense throughout the year.
- Item N - pastors are considered self-employed and FPC reimburses their half of Social Security.

In short, there will be a slight increase in cost due to health care. Rev. Drew noted that Pastor Lindsay has opted for a 3% increase (in lieu of a monthly “liberation day” + \$600 bonus), as reflected in her Terms of Call. Pastor Ryan is still working off an overpayment from several years ago so he is not eligible for either a percentage increase or monthly liberation day + bonus.

Rev. Drew also reported that the 2025 Session voted to give Pastor Ryan a \$1500 bonus in recognition of his service. Rev. Drew confirmed that the bonus was definitely a bonus to acknowledge Pastor Ryan’s exemplary service.

A motion to approve the Terms of Call was made by Carol Adrine on behalf of the Personnel Committee, seconded by Peg Zitzner and unanimously approved.

OMNIBOUS MOTION:

To approve the serving of communion at the public forum sponsored by EQUAL on January 16, 2026 at Playhouse Square Plaza.

To form an Administrative Commission for the Examination of Deacons (Jan 11 at 10am)

To form an Administrative Commission for the Examination of New Members (Jan 11 at 9:45am)

Ian Cameron made the motion, Nancy Gillombardo seconded and Session unanimously approved.

Pastor Ryan noted that Session was supposed to vote at this meeting on Personnel Committee nominations but we will postpone this to our next meeting. He asked Elders to consider members who might be interested.

PROPOSED 2026 SESSION MEETING SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 11 (retreat)

Wednesday, February 4 at 6:30 (Joint Council - if a Council wants to have a separate meeting, it should meet at 5:30)

Wednesday, March 4 at 6:30

Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30

Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30

Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30 (2024-25 Eval/2025-26 Vision)

No stated meetings in July or August, unless needed

Wednesday, September 2 at 6:30 (Joint Council 2026-27)

Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30

Wednesday, November 4 at 6:30

Wednesday, December 2 at 6:30

Susan Wherley asked whether we just skip one meeting in the summer to make things less cramped. The question was left unanswered. Ian Cameron made a motion to approve the schedule as presented, Steve Chapman seconded and it was approved unanimously.

PASTORS REPORTS - Due to the lateness of the hour, this item was skipped.

Closing Prayer
Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Ginger Van Wagenen, Clerk

**ANNUAL TERMS OF CALL
for the year 2026**

Name: Rev. Ryan Wallace

Date: December 8, 2025

Church: Fairmount Presbyterian Church

Position: Senior Pastor/Head of Staff

A. Cash Salary (including employee contribution deferred compensation)	\$57,077.50
B. Housing Allowance:	\$40,000.00
C. Other (specify)	
D. Total Effective Salary - (sum of A through C)	\$97,077.50
E. Social Security Offset (if offered)	\$7,426.43
F. Employer match deferred compensation	
G. Total Income (sum of D through F)	\$104,503.93

BENEFITS:

H. Board of Pensions, PC(USA) Medical Installed Pastor or Pastor Participation (37% of Item D-Total Effective Salary)	\$35,865.72
• I. Pension, Death, Disability	was ok\$10,748.00
J. Other: <u>Dental</u> ; <u>Vision</u> (specify, e.g. dental, HRA plan)	\$1,448.16
K. Total Benefits	\$48,061.88

REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES*:

L. Auto & Miscellaneous Professional	\$3,500
M. Continuing Education	\$2,500
N. Other SECA Contribution up to 7.65% of total obligation- Social Security/Medicare	
O. Total Reimbursable Expenses	\$6,000

TOTAL COST TO CHURCH (G+K+O) \$158,565.81

Vacation Time (minimum 1 month): one month plus 2 weekends

Study Leave Time (minimum 2 weeks): 2 weeks

3 month sabbatical in the seventh year of service, per Session approval.

Continuing Education time and funding may be accrued up to six (6) weeks over a three (3) year period when it has been contracted for between the pastor and the session. Pastors and sessions are encouraged to plan this time away carefully in terms of 1) the pastor's study plans, and 2) the continuing well being of the church (i.e., pulpit supply, pastoral care, etc.). Accumulated study leave may be combined with vacation for a total period of time away of no more than ten (10) weeks.

**ANNUAL TERMS OF CALL
for the year 2026**

Name: Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis

Date: December 8, 2025

Church: Fairmount Presbyterian Church

Position: Associate Pastor

A. Cash Salary (including employee contribution deferred compensation)	\$59,828.00	
B. Housing Allowance:	\$22,126.98	
C. Other (specify)		
D. Total Effective Salary - (sum of A through C)	\$81,954.98	
E. Social Security Offset (if offered)	\$6,269.56	
F. Employer match deferred compensation		
G. Total Income (sum of D through F)		\$88,224.54

BENEFITS:

H. Board of Pensions, PC(USA) Medical Installed Pastor or Pastor Participation (37% of Item D-Total Effective Salary)	\$28,260.00	
I. Pension, Death, Disability	\$8,287.00	
J. Other Dental; Vision (specify, e.g. dental, HRA plan)	\$1448.16	
K. Total Benefits		\$37,995.16

REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES*:

L. Auto & Miscellaneous Professional	\$3,000	
M. Continuing Education	\$2,500	
N. Other SECA Contribution up to 7.65% of total obligation- Social Security/Medicare		
O. Total Reimbursable Expenses		\$5,500.00

TOTAL COST TO CHURCH (G+K+O) \$ 131,719.70

Vacation Time (minimum 1 month): one month plus 2 weekends

Study Leave Time (minimum 2 weeks): 3 weeks

3 month sabbatical in the seventh year of service, per Session approval

Continuing Education time and funding may be accrued up to six (6) weeks over a three (3) year period when it has been contracted for between the pastor and the session. Pastors and sessions are encouraged to plan this time away carefully in terms of 1) the pastor's study plans, and 2) the continuing well being of the church (i.e., pulpit supply, pastoral care, etc.). Accumulated study leave may be combined with vacation for a total period of time away of no more than ten (10) weeks.