



## Presbytery of Scioto Valley

### Policy for the Sale, Leasing or Encumbering of Church Property

COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE	Commission for Presbytery Operations
OTHER COMMISSION IMPACTED	Presbytery Council
DATE ORIGINALLY APPROVED	September 18, 2018
DATE REVISED	February 19, 2025
DATE of NEW REVIEW	2028

***This policy is subject to all Book of Order provisions relating to the sale, lease or encumbering of church property, especially as laid out in G-4.02 “Church Property” and its subsections.***

#### A. Rationale

- a. “The property of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), of its councils and entities, and of its congregations, is a tool for the accomplishment of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world” (Book of Order (BoO) G-4.02).
- b. “All property held by or for a congregation, or a Presbytery...is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” (BoO G-4.0203).
- c. Whenever a congregation is formally dissolved by the presbytery or has become extinct...” such property “may be sold or disposed of as the Presbytery may direct...” (BoO G4-02.05).

#### B. Definitions

For purposes of this policy, property is defined as all real property which includes, but is not limited to:

- Church building and land
- Manse (if any) and land
- Any rental or income property
- Any vacant land



## Presbytery of Scioto Valley

### C. Presbytery and Church Property

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) imposes strict limitations concerning disposition or encumbrance of real property by a particular church without written permission of the Presbytery.

### D. The Property and Loans Committee

The Property and Loans Committee functions to assist Presbytery of Scioto Valley churches and the Commission on Presbytery Operations (CPO) in determining affordability, monitoring compliance with the Book of Order, and PSV policies.

### E. Procedures for ACTIVE churches

The session of a church, if desiring permission of the Presbytery for any of the following should receive the approval of the local church corporation; then submit the minutes of the said Session and congregational meetings with its request to the CPO's Standing Committee on Property and Loans:

- Sale of church owned property
- Leases for church owned property
- Any mortgages or other encumbrances for church owned property

### F. Conditions for Approval

If a congregation is NOT formally dissolving or becoming extinct, a Plan for Sale of any property shall include a Plan for Utilization of the Funds from the sale that must be presented to and approved by the Commission for Presbytery Operations (CPO) prior to proceeding with any sale.

### G. Reporting

Churches establishing such funds shall report annually to CPO through the Treasurer of the Presbytery, regarding income and expenses for the fund until such time as the fund is dissipated.



## Presbytery of Scioto Valley

### H. Sale of Church Property of Dissolving or Extinct Congregations

Final financial steps as closing date approaches include transfer of accounts, cancellation of services, reporting responsibilities, and transfer of remaining assets to the Presbytery.

### I. Compliance

Since all real property of a congregation is held in trust by the church and PSV for the mission of the PC(USA), actions taken by a congregation that are not consistent with this policy are considered out of order, unauthorized, and are subject to review and correction.



# Presbytery of Scioto Valley