

# REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

November, 2009

1. All reports have been filed with the General Assembly and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies as required as of this date.
2. All correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred, or answered.
3. This is the last stated meetings of Presbytery for 2009. The meetings have been as follows:

Saturday, January 24	Council Bluffs: Bethany Pres.
Saturday, March 21 ( <i>1:00-4:00 diff. time</i> )	Omaha: Church of the Master
Tuesday, May 19	Walnut: First Pres.
Friday-Saturday, August 21-22	Calvin Crest
Tuesday, November 10	Shenandoah: First Pres.
4. I have received invitations from the Sessions of the Florence Presbyterian Church and Westminster Presbyterian Church (Clarinda) to host Presbytery meetings in 2010. If the Presbytery votes to approve the proposed *Manual of Administrative Operations* at this meeting, then Council will be setting the four Presbytery meeting dates in 2010 (with the exception of the August 27-28 meeting, which dates are already set), and I will inform those two sessions about available dates. If the new *Manual* is not adopted, then the meeting dates for 2010 would be January 23, March 20, May 18, August 27-28, and November 9.
5. Elder Diana Barber, our Synod's Associate Executive for Leadership, will be in our Presbytery on November 15 and 16 to lead discussions about the proposed new Form of Government that will be considered by the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Minneapolis this next summer. The Sunday discussion group will meet at Central Presbyterian Church in Omaha at 7:00 p.m. The Monday discussion group will meet at New Horizon Presbyterian Church in Council Bluffs at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Barber also will be leading the Committee on Ministry in an examination and discussion of this document at their meeting that Monday at 4:30, also at New Horizon Church.
6. I received the audit of the Presbytery's 2008 financial records. The report, dated August 5, 2009, notes two "reportable conditions that we believe to be material weaknesses:
  - a. "The Organization does not have employees on staff that have been educated and trained in the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This function is performed by the outside auditor.
  - b. "The small size of the accounting staff does not permit the segregation of duties to provide those internal controls that would provide for checks and balances that a larger accounting staff would provide."

This was referred to the Finance Section of Council, which has been aware of this condition for years. Most of the accounting functions of our Presbytery are handled by the Synod, so the Finance Section feels that appropriate safeguards are in place that address these identified material weaknesses. The rest of the audit report shows that things are well in order. The complete audit is included in the Presbytery documents for the November docket.

7. I occasionally am asked to write official interpretations about questions that arise within Council and/or its committees and sections. This year I have written three such interpretations at the request of different Presbytery committees. Those have been:
  - a. Regarding the use of the money from the sale of the Miller Park Presbyterian Church property
  - b. Regarding the use of the money from the settlement agreement between the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley and Covenant Presbyterian Church of Omaha
  - c. Regarding the question of ongoing vs. annual funding for the Presbytery's Youth Ministries Committee

These all have been reported to and received by Council.

8. I have received a request from Judy Peterson, the Clerk of Session of the Carter Lake Community Presbyterian Church, requesting permission to waive the requirement of rotation of Session elders due to the small size of their congregation. This is an allowable request for the Presbytery to receive and consider, and the Presbytery may act on it based upon G-14.0226c:

“If in any church it is impossible because of limited membership to provide for the rotation of terms, the congregation may request a waiver of the limitations on reelection after six years. The presbytery may grant the exemption by majority vote for three years at a time, subject to renewal or revocation at any time by majority vote.”

I move that the Presbytery grant this exemption through 2012, at which point the congregation may reapply if they deem it necessary.

Steven W. Plank  
Stated Clerk