

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
February 20, 2010

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. Some “annual things” that I need to do and report...
 - a. I have asked Elder Eileen Adickes (Carson) to serve again as our Recording Clerk, and she graciously has agreed.
 - b. Please note the annual report of the attendance of ministers and elder commissioners at Presbytery, which is attached to this report.
 - c. It is to be noted for the record that this meeting, as the first stated meeting of the year, constitutes the annual corporate meeting of the Presbytery. (There is no business of a strictly corporate nature that needs to come before us at this time, but the minutes need to record that the annual meeting of the corporation was held as required.)
 - d. I am required to report to Presbytery at its first meeting of the year the location of stored minutes. The minutes of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley since March, 1998 are currently on hand in the Stated Clerk’s office in Omaha. All earlier volumes have been deposited with the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.
 - e. I am required to report annually to Presbytery the names of former members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the last six years (arranged alphabetically within classes, beginning with the most recent class):
 - Class of 2008: the Rev. Kennett Bunnell, Jr., the Rev. Portia Iverson, Elder Thomas Shipley (Villisca)
 - Class of 2006: The Rev. Deborah Boucher-Payne, Elder June McClure (Sidney), Elder Roger Wehrbein (Plattsmouth)
 - Class of 2004: Elder David Greer (Dundee), the Rev. Becky Balestri, Elder Richard Reiser (Central)
4. A few “reminders”...
 - a. Churches are urged to pay their per capita apportionment as soon as possible. It was due February 15. Remember that the \$28.75 per member from each church is for the administrative expenses of the Presbyterian Church on three levels: Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. It represents the annual cost of being Presbyterian.

(If your church has a problem paying its apportionment on time, please contact the Stewardship of Resources Committee, which is chaired by the Rev. Mark Miller.)

- b. Churches need to complete their 2009 Annual Statistical Report for the General Assembly online, together with the Clerk's Annual Questionnaire. The deadline for both reports is Tuesday, February 23, 2009. Clerks of session (or whoever is doing the data entry online) are urged to complete these year-end reports before the February 23 deadline. Unfortunately, the longer you wait, the more slowly the system works. If you are having problems, call Joan Royer at the Presbytery office (553-8300 or 800/603-8980) and she will be glad to help you. Joan and I would really appreciate your cooperation in getting these reports in on time!
5. Identification cards for ministers for 2010 are available. Ministers are asked to pick up their ID card at this meeting (or at the Presbytery office after today) to save the expense of mailing.
6. I have received a request from the Rev. Sandy Wainwright Rossander of the Villisca 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.
7. I move that the commissions to install the Rev. Howard Dotson as pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church (Omaha) on November 15, 2009, the Rev. Robert Jordan as pastor of Dundee Presbyterian Church (Omaha) on November 29, 2009, the Rev. Nadia Mullin as associate pastor of Presbyterian Church of the Cross (Omaha) on January 10, 2010, and the Rev. Barbara Todd as pastor of Missouri Valley Presbyterian Church on January 24, 2010 be dismissed with our thanks.
8. The Hispanic/Latino Ministry Church Redevelopment Administrative Commission was established by the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley on November 15, 2003. The Administration Commission was charged with this responsibility: *"to work in cooperation with the Castelar Presbyterian Church in determining their desire/intent to serve the Hispanic/Latino Community. (The Commission) will provide prayerful programmatic guidance to the redeveloping congregation... until such time as a redevelopment congregation is in place. The Commission will work with the Pastor Nominating Committee for the search and installation of a new pastor."* Over the course of the past several years, the work and ministry of this Administrative Commission has changed dramatically, and the Commission now does ongoing, continuing work and ministry in this area on behalf of the

Presbytery. Since the nature of an Administrative Commission is “to consider *and conclude* matters referred to it by a governing body” (*Book of Order*, G-9.0502, emphasis added), and since the work of this body is ongoing, it has ceased to function in the role of an Administrative Commission. This reality is reflected in the changed designation in the Presbytery’s Manual of Administrative Operations, that now identifies this Commission as a Working Group instead of as a commission of the Presbytery. Therefore, **I move that we dissolve the Hispanic/Latino Ministry Church Redevelopment Administrative Commission, effective the date of this Presbytery meeting, with our thanks for all who have served as members of this Commission.**

9. An Administrative Commission for Sudanese Ministry was established by the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley on November 15, 2003. The Administrative Commission was charged with this responsibility: *“to establish a new Sudanese Presbyterian Church in Omaha by providing guidance to the developing congregation until the congregation is chartered and a session is elected, trained, and installed. The commission shall exercise the relevant duties and powers of a session under Chapter X of the Form of Government of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including ordering of worship, provision of Christian education, establishment of a budget and determination of the distribution of benevolences (in consultation with the Committee for Congregations), administration of the program of the new church development, management of the assets of the Presbytery used in the new church development, pastoral care, keeping an accurate roll of the membership of the fellowship (including the names of baptized children), instruction, ordination, and installation of officers, and such other duties and powers as are appropriate for a new immigrant fellowship and new church development, but not including election of commissioners to presbytery or serving in judicial matters.”* Over the course of the past several years, the work and ministry of this Administrative Commission has changed dramatically, and the Commission now does ongoing, continuing work and ministry in this area on behalf of the Presbytery, supporting and guiding the Sudanese American Presbyterian Fellowship. Since the nature of an Administrative Commission is “to consider *and conclude* matters referred to it by a governing body” (*Book of Order*, G-9.0502, emphasis added), and since the work of this body is ongoing, it has ceased to function in the role of an Administrative Commission. This reality is reflected in the changed designation in the Presbytery’s Manual of Administrative Operations, that now identifies this Commission as a Working Group instead of as a commission of the Presbytery. Therefore, **I move that we dissolve the Administrative Commission for Sudanese Ministry, effective the date of this Presbytery meeting, with our thanks for all who have served as members of this Commission.**

Steven W. Plank
Stated Clerk