

Report of the Stated Clerk

May 7, 2019

I. FOR THE RECORD

- A. The Presbytery's annual report to the General Assembly was reported. On December 31, 2018 we had 75 minister members of the Presbytery and four (4) ruling elders commissioned to particular service. We have 43 churches on the roll.
- B. All sessions of the Presbytery submitted their annual statistical reports to the General Assembly with the exception of College Springs, First Essex, and Missouri Valley. The Presbytery's churches list 6553 active members, down from 6858 on December 31, 2017. Reporting churches indicated membership gains of 194 and membership loss of 487 for a net loss of 293. Of that loss, some is due to death and deletion of membership for various reasons. The following churches reported membership gains: Gethsemane, Council Bluffs; Peace, Elkhorn; Fort Calhoun; Neola; Anderson Grove; Oakland-Sharon; Florence; Korean PC-Omaha; Underwood Hills; First, Shenandoah.
- C. Voting on Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of PC(USA) completed at the February 16, 2019 Stated Meeting of Presbytery was reported to the Office of General Assembly.
- D. Representatives of Presbytery of Missouri River Valley Leadership Team and Homestead Presbytery Council met on March 18, 2019 at the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation Office to explore options and interest in future relationships and collaborations between the two presbyteries. A second meeting is scheduled for June 18, 2019 at First Presbyterian, Lincoln, NE.
- E. The Organizational meeting of the 2019-2020 Permanent Judicial Commission was held on Thursday, April 4, 2019, 6:30 p.m. at West Hills Church. Officers elected were as follows: Rev. Becky Balestri, Moderator; Rev. Deena Candler, Vice Moderator; Rev. Robert Keefer, Clerk.
- F. The Stated Clerk participated in an OGA webinar, "Conversations with Kris" on April 9, 2019 regarding the Stated Clerk Portal.
- G. Commission for Preparation for Ministry reports the following actions: 1. Approved a special accommodation for taking Standard Ordination Exams for Candidate Carolyn Grice; the accommodation will include an oral examination period; 2. Removed Kevin Bushnell as an Inquirer under care of the Presbytery; 3. Removed Elder John Veach as a Commissioned Pastor in training.
- H. PMRV Leadership Team called a special meeting for May 2, 2019 at 5 p.m., Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation at the request of the Stewardship of Resources Committee to review future financial considerations for budgeting.
- I. Annual Session Minutes/Registry Review are scheduled on the following dates, times and locations: 1. Saturday, June 8, 1:00 p.m., First Presbyterian, Shenandoah; 2. Thursday, June 13, 6 p.m., Underwood Hills Presbyterian, Omaha; 3. Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m., Hope Presbyterian Church, Omaha; 4. Tuesday, June 25, 2 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian, Council Bluffs.

II. All correspondence has been answered or forwarded, as needed.

III. Recommendations

- A. With respect to **redress of imbalance**.
 1. Our standing rules (I.C.) direct the stated clerk to ascertain the parity of teaching elder and ruling elder members and commissioners and make recommendation to Presbytery on redress if the number of teaching elder (minister) members exceeds the number of ruling elders with right to vote.
 2. Of the 75 teaching elder members, 17 are retired and not in active service and 4 others are active and residing out of the area. Consequently, **we can expect 54 teaching elders in attendance at Presbytery meetings.**
 3. We automatically expect 43 ruling elders commissioned by their sessions. In addition, we have three (3) ruling elders serving as officers, five (5) ruling elders serving as chairs of standing commissions and committees, and four (4) ruling elders commissioned to particular service. Thus, by Bylaws III.B. 2 & 3 and D, **we can expect 55 ruling elders to participate in meetings of the Presbytery.**
 4. Standing Rules of the Presbytery state: "If the number of ruling elders equals or exceeds the number of teaching elders, there is no imbalance and no action is needed.
 5. **There is no need for redress of imbalance.**

Patricia Shipley, Stated Clerk