

**Report of the Stated Clerk  
May 5, 2020**

**I. FOR THE RECORD**

- A. The Presbytery's annual report to the General Assembly was reported. On December 31, 2019 we had 80 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 Carter Lake, Center Ridge, College Springs, and Korean Presbyterian Church; First/Shenandoah and Walnut completed only membership information. The Presbytery's churches list 6212 active members, down from 6556 on December 31, 2018. Reporting churches indicated membership gains of 405 and membership loss of 749 for a net loss of 344. Of that loss, some is due to death and deletion of membership for various reasons. The following churches reported membership gains: First Essex, Fort Calhoun; United Trinity, Hamburg, Neola; Church of the Cross/Omaha; Discovery/Omaha; First/Omaha; New Life/Omaha.
- C. Rev. Gary Eller, Rev. Suzanne Gorhau, and Elder Jeff Dickinson, representatives of Presbytery of Missouri River Valley Leadership Team, and representatives of Homestead Presbytery continue to meet to discuss future possibilities for sharing resources.
- D. The Stated Clerk participated in weekly Zoom meetings conducted by the Association of Mid-Council Leaders.
- E. The Stated Clerk participated in scheduled Zoom meetings conducted for Synod Staff Leaders.
- F. The Stated Clerk resources Commission on Ministry, Leadership Team, Commission on Preparation for Ministry, and other Committees as requested.
- G. The Stated Clerk serves on the four member Administrative Transition Team with Moderator of Commission on Ministry, Personnel Committee Chair, and Stewardship of Resources Chair. This four-member team meets at least twice per month.
- H. Presbytery of Missouri River Valley is conducting weekly Zoom meetings for Pastors and Commissioned Pastors currently serving a church.
- I. Annual Session Minutes/Registry Review are scheduled for Thursday May 21, 2020; all meetings will be via Zoom. Clerks of Session will have the option to attend at 10 a.m., 2:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. on that date. Clerks will be sent review materials for completion prior to the meeting and log-in information for the meeting. When materials are returned to the Stated Clerk, an email will be sent acknowledging receipt of the completed documents to be kept with Session minutes and registry to commemorate completion of the review in 2020 in lieu of stamping the Minutes and/or Registry of the individual church.

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 80 Minister of Word and Sacrament members, 17 are retired and not in active service and 5 others are active and residing out of the area. Consequently, **we can expect 58 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 need for redress of imbalance.**
- 6. Our Standing Rules instruct the stated clerk to give initial consideration to those congregations with more than 350 members. We have six such congregations. Since it is permissible for the number of ruling elders to exceed the number of teaching elders:

**The Stated Clerk recommends that Presbytery ask the following sessions to commission two ruling elders to represent them at meetings of the Presbytery from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019:**

Church of the Cross, Omaha; Dundee, Omaha; West Hills, Omaha