

## Report of the Stated Clerk

### For April 29, 2023 Presbytery of Missouri River Valley Stated Meeting

#### I. FOR THE RECORD

- A. The Presbytery's annual report to the General Assembly was reported. On December 31, 2022, PMRV had 75 minister members of the Presbytery and three (3) ruling elders commissioned to particular service. PRMV reported the dissolution of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Omaha which resulted in 42 churches on the roll.
- B. All sessions of the Presbytery submitted all or partial annual statistical reports to the General Assembly; Carter Lake Community, College Springs, West Hills Church, and Mount View completed only membership information. The Presbytery's churches list 5239 active members, down from and adjusted membership of 5701 on December 31, 2021. Reporting churches indicated membership gains of 201 and membership loss of 663. Of that loss, some is due to death and deletion of membership for various reasons; gains are due to certificate, youth profession of faith, and profession/reaffirmation of faith.
- C. The Stated Clerk participated in bimonthly Zoom meetings conducted by the Association of Mid-Council Leaders.
- D. The Stated Clerk participated in scheduled Zoom meetings conducted for Synod Staff Leaders.
- E. The Stated Clerk serves as a resource for Commission on Ministry, Leadership Team, Commission on Preparation for Ministry, Pastor Nominating Committees, and other Committees as requested.
- F. 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.
- G. Presbytery of Missouri River Valley is conducting weekly Zoom meetings for Pastors and Commissioned Pastors currently serving a church.
- H. Annual Session Minutes/Registry Review are scheduled for Tuesday, June 6 at 2 p.m.; Wednesday, June 7 at 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, June 8 at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Friday, June 9 at 10 a.m. and Tuesday, June 14 at 5:30 p.m. Clerks may choose which of the meetings suits their schedule. All meetings will be via Zoom. 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. An additional "stamped" document will be sent via USPS to Session Clerks for inclusion in their Minutes books.
- I. Commission on Preparation for Ministry held its annual review and update of Inquirers on Thursday, April 20, 2023. Inquirers participating in the annual review were Jessica Scheopner (West Hills Church/Omaha) and Regina Jeanpierre (New Life/Omaha). Kathy Padilla (West Hills Church/Omaha), Jackie Marcum (First Presbyterian Church/Missouri Valley), and Linda Reffert (First/Bellevue) were interviewed regarding their progress in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Commissioned Pastor Training cohort. PMRV is a Sponsor of the Synod program.

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 Minister of Word and Sacrament members, 24 are retired and not in active service and 3 others are active and residing out of the area. Consequently, **we can expect 48 teaching elders in attendance at Presbytery meetings.**
3. We automatically expect 42 ruling elders commissioned by their sessions. In addition, we have two (2) ruling elders serving as officers, two (2) ruling elders serving as chairs of standing committees, and three (3) ruling elders commissioned to particular service; one ruling elder serves dual roles. Thus, by Bylaws III.B. 2 & 3 and D, **we can expect 49 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 in 2023.**

**The Stated Clerk reports that Presbytery of Missouri River Valley does not need to redress imbalance from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.**

Patricia Shipley, Stated Clerk