

# Report of the Stated Clerk

## For April 13, 2024, 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, 2023, PMRV had 72 minister members of the Presbytery and one (1) ruling elder commissioned to particular service. PRMV reported 42 churches on the roll.
- B. All sessions of the Presbytery submitted all or partial annual statistical reports to the General Assembly. College Springs, Westminster/CB, First, Essex, Missouri Valley, Korean Presbyterian Church, Neola, West Hills Church, Mount View, Center Ridge, and First/Shenandoah completed only membership information. The Presbytery's churches list 4868 active members, down from an adjusted membership of 5215 on December 31, 2022. Reporting churches indicated membership gains of 102 and membership loss of 467. 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 will be in June with four-five options for participation. Scheduling of meetings will be completed when the transitional Stated Clerk is available to schedule the meetings. Clerks may choose which of the meetings suits their schedule. 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 or the 2023 minutes and registry 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 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) has completed all requirements to be a Commissioned pastor. Linda Reffert (First/Bellevue) is in contact with CPM regarding her progress in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Commissioned Pastor Training cohort. Jackie Marcum (First Presbyterian Church/Missouri Valley) has taken a hiatus from the training to complete a doctoral program. PMRV is a Sponsor of the Synod program.
- J. The Stated Clerk has prepared several guidance documents for the Stated Clerk Transition. Those documents include an annual duty document which outlines monthly duties and ongoing duties of the position, and a timeline specific to each committee or commission

responsibilities assigned to the Stated Clerk. The Stated Clerk has also moved all digital documents to the shared Cloud used by the Presbytery.

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

**III. Recommendation:**

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 72 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 45 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, three (3) ruling elders serving as chairs of standing committees, and one (1) ruling elder commissioned to particular service who also serves dual roles. Thus, by Bylaws III.B. 2 & 3 and D, **we can expect 47 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.

**Therefore, there is no need for redress of imbalance in 2023.**

**The Stated Clerk reports and recommends that Presbytery of Missouri River Valley does not need to redress imbalance from July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025.**

Patricia Shipley, Stated Clerk