

Report of the Interim Stated Clerk For August 17, 2024 Presbytery of Missouri River Valley Stated Meeting

- A. The Stated Clerk serves as resource to Commission on Ministry, Leadership Team, Commission on Preparation for Ministry, and other Committees as requested.
- B. The Stated Clerk serves on the four-member Administrative Team. This four-member team meets at least once per month. (Three for the time being in the transition)
- C. The Stated Clerk participated in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies Minutes and Registry Review held at Lakeshore Conference Center, Milford, Iowa on Monday and Tuesday, May 5-7, 2024. The 2023 Presbytery minutes and registry were reviewed by colleagues following a self-review by the Stated Clerk.
- D. Presbytery of Missouri River Valley continues to conduct weekly Zoom meetings for Pastors and Commissioned Pastors currently serving a church. The moderator of this group is Rev. Matt Coplen.
- E. Attended Synod training for General Assembly Commissioners.
- F. Welcomed the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team.
- G. Provided 5 options for Records and Minutes Review June 10-13, 2024
- H. Two special meetings of Presbytery held – May 8, 2024, June 19, 2024
- I. Preparation for sabbatical handoff – meetings, minutes, updates
- J. Resourced Shenandoah and First Presbyterian Church Omaha in their pastoral transition processes with great help from members of the Commission on Ministry.
- K. All correspondence has been answered or forwarded, as needed.

Recently while attending an informational zoom meeting by the General Assembly Stated Clerks office – I was reminded of the role of a stated clerk – “glorified paper pusher.” If you think I was offended, far from it. It was a reminder that we all have our places in the workings of Christ's ministry here on earth, the clerks' role is a paper pusher. The main role of a clerk is to keep track of the paperwork, organizing, keeping things in decent order, being a willing servant and forwarding information that comes in to who or where it is needed. The clerk position on a daily basis does a variety of things – answering calls, assuaging a panicking church on the pastor leaving, retiring, or the lack of pulpit supply. Responding to emails - I think I've had more emails in the last 3 months than in the last year! Part of receiving those emails is the standard – read, forward; read, pitch; read, save for another day. The clerk is a resource, a helper, a place to go when you don't know who to call, and a representative of this presbytery and the PCUSA. I hope as we continue together that you will pray for the work of the Task Force discerning what is next for this crazy position!