

Transformational General Presbyter and Stated Clerk Report to Presbytery

April 13, 2021

Transformational General Presbyter Report

Blessing to you all on successfully celebrating our second Holy Week and Easter during the pandemic. One of my tasks as your Transformational General Presbyter is to observe what is happening in as many churches as possible. I do this by visiting congregation websites and social media. I skim church newsletters and routinely watch the announcement portions of several worship services each week. My goal is not to evaluate services or pastor performance but to better understand what is happening in the 69 congregations of Blackhawk Presbytery. I look forward to the time when we can visit in person.

One of the ways I support our pastors is by providing pulpit supply so your leaders can have the day off. I've preached virtually on-line for congregations and have a few in person services lined up. With your invitation, I am also happy to attend a session meeting or congregational meeting. Please let me know if there is any way I can support your ministries.

Today's presbytery assembly will launch the Visioning Task Force. As mentioned in my update last assembly, the purpose of the team is to develop an adaptive change plan to consider the big question - what is God calling us to be and do as the Presbytery of Blackhawk. The team has been assembled with co-moderators of Rev. Michael Selburg and Rev. Deb Swets who will be giving a short update at this and each assembly meeting for the next 18 months.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, please know that I am praying for your congregation and for each of our leaders by name.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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Stated Clerk Report

1. Presbytery Stated Meeting Dates 2021

As a reminder, here is the schedule for presbytery assembly meetings in 2021. We will continue to evaluate when we will be able to meet in person. Part of this evaluation will depend on your feedback at the polls at our April assembly meeting. All meetings begin at 9:30am.

- April 13, 2021: Via Zoom
- June 8, 2021: Most likely via Zoom.
- September 14, 2021: Location and format to be determined
- November 9, 2021: Location and format to be determined

2. Session Minute Review

We did not complete session minute reading and review in 2020. We will resume this process soon, possibly via Zoom. Please watch for details.

3. Annual Statistical Reviews

Thank you for completing your annual statistical reports for the PC(USA). We received completed reports for nearly all congregations. We appreciate that providing some of the statistics, like average worship, was difficult for you given the pandemic. Our goal for 2021 is to have 100% of our congregations report all statistics.

You may be interested in the following quick facts based on your reports. The total number of congregations as of year end 2020 dropped from 73 to 69. Total membership in our congregations dropped from 9,022 in 2019 to 8,387 in 2020. That is a 7.0% decrease. Part of this decrease was your reported membership numbers. Dissolved congregations accounted for 253 of the 635 member decrease.