

Churches Providing Additional Commissioners as of May 1, 2018

It is important that we maintain voting parity between teaching elders and ruling elders. Our Manual of Operations states in Section 2.08:

“At the winter stated meeting of each year, the stated clerk shall report to the presbytery the number of resident active teaching elder members of the presbytery, and the number of ruling elders in the following categories: ruling elder commissioners eligible to be elected from each session, ruling elders who are Certified Christian Educators or commissioned to pastoral service, and ruling elders who are members of the presbytery by virtue of their office or role. If the number of resident active teaching elders exceeds the sum of the ruling elders eligible, the stated clerk shall put forward a motion asking particular congregations to elect an additional elder commissioner in such numbers as will equalize the eligible ruling elder commissioners with resident active teaching elder members. The clerk shall create the list of congregations by rotating through the alphabetical list of congregations in the presbytery (G-3.0301).”

Based on the calculations and considerations detailed below, the stated clerk moves that the following churches be asked to send additional commissioners for one year beginning with the 2018 Spring Stated Meeting:

Palatka First Presbyterian Church

Palms Presbyterian Church

Peace Presbyterian Church

Perry First Presbyterian Church

Reddick First Presbyterian Church

Riverside Presbyterian Church

The stated clerk provides the following additional information:

1-There are 143 teaching elders on our member roll, 76 of whom are honorably retired (some of whom serve congregations as stated supply or parish associate).

2-There are approximately 52 non-retired teaching elders on our rolls who have attended at least one presbytery meeting in the last year. The average number of these “active teaching elders” who attended a particular stated presbytery meeting in 2017 was: 35.

3-The average number of “active” honorably retired teaching elders attending a particular stated presbytery meeting in 2017 (including those serving churches as stated supply or interim pastors) was: 16.

4-According to our current formula, there is a possibility of 68 ruling elders attending any particular presbytery meeting. In 2017, 12 churches were asked to send additional ruling elders to be sure that

there would be parity between teaching elders and ruling elders. In 2017, the number attending as commissioners from their congregations averaged: 48.

Note: the formula is:

1-500 members: 1 commissioner

501-1000 members: 2 commissioners

1001-1500 members: 3 commissioners

1501-2000 members: 4 commissioners

2001-3000 members: 5 commissioners

3001 or more: one additional commissioner for each 1000 members (or major fraction thereof) above 3000 (G-3.0301).

5-In 2017, the average number of other ruling elders attending by virtue of their role (e.g., commission chair, commissioned ruling elder) was: 9.

6- In 2017, the average attendance was: 57 ruling elders and 51 teaching elders.

7- The number of ruling elders who have voice and vote because of their role will be approximately the same in the “prior structure” and the “new structure” in 2018, although some of the roles have changed.