

PGR Commissioned Pastor Coordinator Report to the Assembly
April 29, 2023

The purpose of this report is to give the Assembly a summary of the work I have conducted so far as the Commissioned Pastor Coordinator.

During the month of March I had the privilege of attending a day long training at the Presbytery of Wabash Valley. This training is part of their two-year training process with ruling elders feeling called to serve in pastoral leadership. This is the training our CPM agreed in 2022 our interested ruling elders could participate in as the training process. Much to my surprise retired synod executive Rev. Carol MacDonald was one of the leaders, it was a delight learn from her again. She sends her love and prayers for all of us. The training that day was focused on the process of writing to give some new techniques and practices for those who will be writing sermons and crafting worship services soon. It was a delightful training. If you would like to learn more please let me know.

Since our last assembly meeting I have expanded my inquiries with other presbyteries to learn about how the support, train, and continue to train their ruling elders to serve commissions. There are really great programs throughout our denomination, and lots of ways we can partner with them. I am learning that many presbyteries are finding they need to have more trained ruling elders as seminary graduation rates decline. There is a lot of creativity and faithfulness in serving. I continue to seek ways we can increase our partnerships. It is my hope to begin scheduling fellowship Zoom times in partnership with my counter-part in other presbyteries for all our CP. I think increasing these connections would go far in offering support and increasing our learning from each other. I will keep you all updated as this develops.

I continue to be in regular contact with our commissioned pastors as we continue to partner together to serve the congregations in our presbytery. We continue to meet monthly for fellowship via Zoom. I also send a monthly email with news specific to our group. I have also had the joy of meeting with a number of our CP in-person this year. As you probably expect, we spend a lot of time talking and the time goes quickly. I have also been working to schedule in-person gatherings groups of our CPs. Work, family, and travel schedules make it difficult for us to gather as a whole group, so these smaller groups seem to be the next best option. We also will be meeting (met) before today's assembly meeting. Thank you to Westminster Presbyterian Church for giving us space for that meeting.

The other big project I have been working on since the spring of 2022 is an updated Commissioned Pastor Handbook that combines the work of CPM and COM. The handbook is in draft form and is working through the committees. I anticipate being able to present it to the assembly before the end of 2023.

If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about the ministry formation training, please contact me. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) has scholarships available.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

In Christ's Service.

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