

**JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY  
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER**

Greetings,

I am so looking forward to seeing many of you at this week's presbytery meeting. I have been to 39 of our 44 churches, most of these for Sunday worship. Prior to the onset of the pandemic, I tried to visit one congregation per month, and I accepted invitations to do pulpit supply about once a month. During the pandemic, this has been curtailed, but not eliminated. I enjoy seeing the different communities and facilities in our presbytery, and I especially enjoy meeting people in our congregations. More about this in a moment.

ALL our committees do vitally important work. I apologize in advance for the acronyms! If you've been Presbyterian very long, you may have noticed that Presbyterians love acronyms. We throw them around like everyone knows what they mean. I have translated the ones for our committees.

John Calvin Presbytery has four standing committees, and the bulk of my 32 hours per week falls under resourcing those committees. The Committee on Representation (COR) functions as our nominating committee, seeking not only to discover people who are called to work in our committees, but also to ensure that we include as many representation categories as possible—region, gender, age, parity among ruling and teaching elders, and race. COR is meeting regularly in this season, with a goal to bring nominations for all the committees below to the November presbytery meeting. COR members are chosen by Council and approved by the presbytery.

Administrative Ministries (AMC) functions as finance, personnel, and trustees for the presbytery. AMC is the first contact for churches desiring to sell property, before that is ultimately approved by the entire presbytery. AMC has oversight of the financial and personnel aspects of the presbytery. In 2021, AMC conducted an insurance audit to make sure our coverage is adequate and cost-effective. The 2022 project is an investment and spending evaluation. AMC provides supervision of presbytery staff.

Committee on Ministry (COM) is our largest committee, with 16 people. COM is charged with the care and oversight of our congregations and pastors. Sometimes I do that care directly, and sometimes COM does it. Each church has a liaison. Pre-pandemic, the liaisons visited their congregations. We hope this can resume soon! A big part of COM's energy currently is with our vacant churches. We make suggestions for Ministry Information Forms (MIFs) that our vacant churches write as a part of their search process. We do screening of candidates at several stages along the way, leading ultimately to the call and installation of the new pastor. It's a tough climate for pastor searches now.

Mission & Nurture's work is in education and cooperative mission. M&N plans education time at presbytery meeting, Zoom Bible studies, the International Peacemaker visit, flood bucket collection, Equipping the Saints, and they are open to new ways and projects.

The committee moderators, moderator of presbytery, immediate past moderator, and moderator-elect make up the presbytery Council. Like all our committees, it has been a wonderful experience working with them across my four years here.

ALL our committees have functioned well during the pandemic, pivoting to Zoom meetings. I hope some

John Calvin Presbytery  
August 4, 2022

Two Hundred and Seventh Stated Meeting  
Ozark Presbyterian Church, Ozark, Missouri  
Hybrid Meeting: In-Person & Zoom Videoconference

of our work can return to in-person soon. Because of the complexity of our standing committees' work, we need short-term projects so people who haven't served at the presbytery level can experience this work. If you receive a call to do a small project for a standing committee, I hope you'll say yes. Service binds us together.

Back to worship visits—for many of our congregations, it has been long enough since my last visit that it is time for another one, and a few more before I have made a first visit to all 44. As the pandemic allows, I will go first where I am invited, and then I will choose places and just show up. I look forward to future visits.

I am grateful to work with our churches, pastors, and committees in John Calvin Presbytery. I hope to see you soon!

Malinda