

**JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY
REPORT OF THE PASTORAL PRESBYTER
AUGUST 3, 2020 STATED MEETING**

Presbytery committees have continued their work, mostly, but not exclusively, electronically. The candidate floor exam is a small part of the work of COM. Administrative Ministries continues to watch the financials of the presbytery. The Committee on Representation has found people to serve, involving many of our churches. We'll hear from our General Assembly Commissioners during Education Time. All this and more!

Many in our churches are watching the COVID numbers, and the precautions we're being asked to follow. This has not been an easy time. Many pastors have had to learn new technology and form other new habits to adapt to the situation we're in. The pastors do not have all the resources available to them that they typically use in their ministry. Many haven't taken vacation or study leave, and they have found themselves working extra hours. Pastors appreciate the support they receive from their churches.

I surveyed our pastors about support they have received over their years in ministry, asking them to share something particularly meaningful. Here are some examples. Maybe you'll see yourself in one of these stories.

Pastors are blessed by receiving encouraging notes. They appreciate being in people's prayers. By the way, I received two notes this week, and some words during phone calls. Appreciated very much!

One church planted a spring garden for their new pastor who would be arriving in June. One current pastor enjoyed helping arrange a surprise visit of a former pastor for the clerk's 80th birthday. One pastor enjoyed the mystery of every woman receiving a bouquet of flowers from an anonymous giver. Someone received the gift of seminary tuition and books from their church. Another pastor received a trip to the Holy Land.

Several pastors wrote about the responses of their church when the pastor or pastor's family was having a personal crisis of illness or losing a loved one. Meals, listening, and other forms of caring were all mentioned. One church member did the ironing after a pastor was widowed. Someone else raked leaves.

Meals dropped by, enjoyed in the member's home, in a restaurant as a guest of the member, and a gift certificate for the pastor's family were mentioned. One pastor received two sheets of stamps in appreciation for the regular note writing their church members receive.

There have been surprise showers that demonstrate the frightening ability of a congregation to pull something over on their pastor.

A pastor in John Calvin Presbytery wrote, "God worked through these people and circumstances to show His love and care."

In all of our churches, may it ever be.
Malinda Spencer