

THE ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Clerks of Session
The Orthodox Presbyterian Church

SUBJECT: Statistical Report to the General Assembly for 2015

Dear Brothers,

Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. The time has come to gather yearly statistics from each church and mission work and presbytery. The statistical report form is being sent to clerks of session and others who have reported in recent years. It also will soon be available at www.opc.org in both Excel and PDF formats. If you are no longer serving as clerk (or pastor or secretary) please let me know, so I can update my records.

The General Assembly's *Standing Rules* specify that:

[The Statistician] *shall collect and compile statistical reports of the regional churches for the fiscal year ending December 31 and the information required by the Form of Government Chapter XIV, Section 6, and provide them in combined form to the Stated Clerk at least six weeks prior to the General Assembly, for presentation to the Assembly (S.R. III.C.1).*

[Further, the Statistician] *shall prepare, and present to the General Assembly each year, explanation and analyses of the statistical reports for a meaningful understanding of them by the Assembly (S.R. III.C.2).*

The General Assembly will be held in early June, so we cannot delay gathering the statistics. **Please send me your report no later than February 20th.** This allows you time to gather your data and report it, and it gives me time to compile reports from some 320 congregations and 17 presbyteries, correct errors and omissions, and provide some analysis before the report deadline in early April.

The membership totals you report in cells B23 and D23 for December 31, 2014 should match those previously reported. If not, please make the necessary corrections in this year's report and provide a brief explanation for the change(s).

Do not include any ministers in local church membership statistics even though they may have communicant fellowship in the congregation. A minister's membership is in the regional church, where he is counted separately on the roll of his presbytery.

If your church supports benevolence or capital expenses out of its general offerings, please report these contributions *separately* from the remaining general offerings, as explained on the form. Only in this way can we obtain an accurate summation of benevolence and capital giving.

May the Lord bless you and your congregation in 2016.

Sincerely in Christ,

Luke E. Brown, Statistician
/enclosure