

THE ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Luke E. Brown, Statistician
1585 Bauman Dr, Maple Glen, PA 19002-3215
Phone/fax: 215-628-9729
Email: brown.1@opc.org

January 5, 2019

Clerks of Session
The Orthodox Presbyterian Church

SUBJECT: Statistical Report to the General Assembly for 2018

Dear Brothers,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is time to gather annual statistics from all OP congregations and presbyteries. 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 of session (or church 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 86th General Assembly will be held in June. My statistical report is due in early April, so we cannot delay gathering the statistics. **Please send me your report no later than February 16th**. This gives you time to gather your data and report it, and it gives me time to compile reports from some 317 congregations and mission works and 16 presbyteries, correct errors and omissions, and provide some analysis before the report deadline.

The membership totals you report for January 1, 2018 in cells B23 and D23 on the form 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 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, 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 2019.

Sincerely in Christ,

Luke E. Brown, Statistician
/enclosure