



August 22, 2013

All Sessions of The Orthodox Presbyterian Church

Dear Brothers:

I am writing as the stated clerk of the General Assembly to inform you of actions of the 80th (2013) Assembly that are of direct interest to sessions and ministers, together with some other matters for your information.

(1) **Worldwide Outreach Program 2014:**
The General Assembly approved the following Worldwide Outreach program for 2014:

Christian Education	430,000
Foreign Missions	1,550,000
Home Missions	1,200,000
Sub-total*	3,180,000
Coordination	330,000
New Horizons	280,000
Total Worldwide Outreach	3,790,000

Increase over 2013 approved budget +2.6%

*Undesignated gifts for WWO received in 2014 will be allocated among the three program committees (after the funding of Coordination and New Horizons) as follows:

Christian Education	15.0%
Foreign Missions	42.0%
Home Missions	43.0%

Contributions for the Worldwide Outreach should be made payable to *The Orthodox Presbyterian Church* and sent to 607 North Easton Rd., Building E, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2539.

(2) The Assembly requested the churches to support the work of the **Committee on Diaconal Ministries** in 2014 at the suggested rate of \$25.00 per communicant member for the General Fund.

Contributions for Diaconal Ministries should be made payable to *The Orthodox Presbyterian Church*, marked "Committee on Diaconal Ministries," and sent to 607 North Easton Rd., Building E, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2539.

(3) The Assembly requested the churches to contribute \$20.00 for each communicant member to the **2014 General Assembly Operation Fund**.

The General Assembly Operation Fund is the fund that pays for the *Agenda* and *Minutes* of the Assembly, for the *OPC Directory*, for the expenses of several of the standing committees and all the special committees of the Assembly, and of the Clerks, the Statistician, and the Historian.

Contributions to the General Assembly Operation Fund (for 2014) should be made payable to *The Orthodox Presbyterian Church*, marked "GA Operation Fund" and sent to 607 North Easton Rd., Building E, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2539, after January 1, 2014.

(4) The General Assembly requested the churches to contribute \$12.00 per communicant member to the **2014 General Assembly Travel Fund**. This is the fund that pays for the travel and expenses of commissioners to the 81st (2014) General Assembly.

Contributions for the Travel Fund should be made payable to *The Orthodox Presbyterian Church*, marked "GA Travel Fund" and sent to 607 North Easton Rd., Building E, Willow Grove, PA 19090-2539, after January 1, 2014 but before the 2014 General Assembly.

(5) **EIN** The Trustees of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church urge each new congregation and mission work to obtain its own EIN (Employer Identification Number.) If you have any questions about an EIN please look at the Trustees report in any of the Minutes of the General Assembly from recent years for a full explanation of what to do and what not to do.

(6) **The 81st (2014) General Assembly** The 81st General Assembly is scheduled to convene at Kuyper College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Wednesday, June 4, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. with a terminus no later than 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 10, 2014. Please take the projected terminus into account as you make travel arrangements if you are to be a commissioner to the Assembly and be sure to allow enough time to get to the airport so that you do not have to request an early departure.

(7) **Special note to those who may be commissioners to the 81st GA:** The 80th GA adopted the following recommendation of the Committee on Arrangements. Please take it into account as you make your plans.

That the General Assembly remind presbyteries and committees to notify the Stated Clerk of names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of commissioners to the 81st General Assembly by March 1, 2014, (Standing Rule X.2.h.3) and that the Committee on Arrangements (COA) intends to be less flexible in its application of the rules for travel compensation in the future. If you know, or even suspect, that you will be unable to be present for the whole assembly, please do not seek to be a commissioner to that assembly. Excuses are to be used for unforeseen emergencies. Also, when making air travel arrangements you must arrive and depart within the announced time frame, or discuss your travel arrangements with a COA member before booking your travel. If you don't follow these rules and you request an excuse, we will recommend a loss of travel compensation so that you will receive not more than half the amount to which you would otherwise be entitled (SR XII.5.a).

(8) Please be sure to send me any **changes in pastoral staff, clerks of session, time or worship or Sunday School, meeting location, mailing address, or other contact information** as soon as they occur. This is the only way to insure that your information is correct in the annual printed Directory and on www.opc.org. You may send them to me at statedclerk@opc.org.

(9) Please make sure that this office has a **current email address** for your pastor and your clerk of session. These too should be sent to statedclerk@opc.org

(10) A longer letter reporting other actions of the 80th General Assembly was sent to the clerks of presbytery. If you would like a copy of that letter you may email me and I will be happy to forward it.

Yours in Christ's service,



George R. Cottenden
Stated Clerk