

COM Report to Great Rivers Assembly 4.29.23

COM has met twice since the last Assembly. We continue to meet on Zoom for both our main meeting and subcommittee meetings. While we appreciate the efficiencies of meeting on Zoom, we are hoping to have one face to face meeting this summer where we can meet our new Lead Presbyter. We would conduct our usual business in a hybrid format and also delve into larger issues and visioning.

We are thankful for our congregations, and the hard work that went into so many congregations completing their statistical reports by our congregations as well as the 2023 TOC forms and contracts.

Actions taken since the 2.25.2023 Assembly

The committee has approved all Terms of Call and Contracts submitted by 3.30.2023.

Training and Resources has completed the updates to the communion training resources, and also put together a packet of supplemental resources. Any Session wishing to arrange for training or recertification for their ruling elders should ask their Ministry Partner for assistance in scheduling this. We are thankful for the work of TE Paul Stroup in guiding this updating process. His recent resignation from COM has been accepted with regret.

Most congregations with MIFs live in CLC are actively interviewing and we anticipate a busy summer with approving new calls and positions.

The Rev. Dr. John Shear, pastor of Springfield Third, died on 2.24.23. Pastor John and Third's Praise Team had also been supplying all the worship at Chatham since last summer. COM is especially grateful for the many colleagues who have assisted in fulfilling our charge to be Pastor, Counselor and Advisor to these congregations throughout Lent and on into Eastertide as they are adjusting to this loss and seeking new pastoral leadership.

We continue in prayer for East Moline First and their pastor Becky Sherwood during her leave and for members and neighbors of the Lewistown congregation were recently affected by tornadoes.

We have no action items for the Assembly today.

TE Laura Reason, Moderator