

Redress for Teaching and Ruling Elder Imbalance for 2019

G-3.0301 states that *“The presbytery shall adopt and communicate to the sessions a plan for determining how many ruling elders each session should elect as commissioners to presbytery, with a goal of numerical parity of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders.”*

The goal of G-3.0301 is for there to be an equal number of elders and clergy at any given Presbytery, as one of the fundamental concepts of our polity is shared authority between clergy and elders. If either group is under or over represented, we’re a little less Presbyterian. This has been very difficult to assure in the past due to our disproportionate number of Honorably Retired members creating unrealistic numbers of elder commissioners requested of our churches.

However, our bylaws include a solution to this problem. Our Honorably Retired clergy (82 people) are counted by the average of their actual attendance over the past two years (17 in 2016 and 19 in 2017 per meeting on average). This gives us 18 HRs and 117 other clergy, for a total of 135. This is down from 199, so it should provide us with a more accurate basis on which to request commissioners from our churches.

The proposed rebalance of clergy and elder commissioners to future meetings of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, with 135 clergy on our roll (for the purposes of balancing; 199 is the real total), distributes elder commissioners according to the following criteria:

- (a) First, assigning elder commissioners to churches according to the *Book of Order* under G-3.0301 and the formula found in old G-11.0101, which provides for one elder commissioner from each church whose active membership is 500, with an additional elder commissioner for every 500 communicant members or fraction thereof above that first 500 (up to a limit of five additional elder commissioners), for a total assignment of 74 elder commissioners;
- (b) Second, assigning two extra elder commissioners, for a total of 14, to those churches employing two or more pastors, co-pastors, associate pastors or validated ministers;
- (c) Third, in accord with G 3.0103 and the old G-9.0104a, assigning one extra elder, for a total of 8, to strengthen the representation of each of our most diverse

racial-ethnic congregations (Brandon, Springwater; Clearwater, Reconciler; Pinellas Park, Korean; St. Petersburg, Lakeview; St. Petersburg, Trinity; Tampa, First Hispanic; Tampa, Korean; and Tampa, St. John).

(d) Fourth, elder members of Council, including officers of council and Presbytery staff, former elder Presbytery Moderators, elder members of the Permanent Judicial Commission, elder commissioners to the previous General Assembly, estimated to average 15;

(e) Fifth, Commissioned Pastors (Formerly CREs), currently 3;

(f) Sixth, Certified Christian Educators who are Ruling Elders in accordance with G-2:1103b, for a total of 5;

(g) Seventh, given that a common demarcation between small and medium sized churches is 120 members, and that churches under this number often have a hard time finding more than one commissioner, each church between 120 and 499 that does not already have 2 commissioners would be allotted an additional commissioner, for a total of 20.

This brings our total number of elder commissioners to 131, compared to a total number of Teaching Elder commissioners of 135, which is fairly close to parity.

The list of churches and the elders assigned follows below.

[illegible]

Church	City	2017	A	B	C	D	E/F	G	Total
Maximo	St Petersburg	167	1					1	2
Northeast	St Petersburg	210	1					1	2
Northwest	St Petersburg	45	1						1
Trinity	St Petersburg	61	1		1				2
Woodlawn	St Petersburg	65	1						1
St Andrew	Sun City Center	266	1					1	2
Bayshore	Tampa	39	1						1
Bel Mar	Tampa	52	1						1
Chapel in the Pines	Tampa	40	1						1
First	Tampa	552	2	2					4
First Hispanic	Tampa	79	1		1				2
Forest Hills	Tampa	375	1					1	2
Hyde Park	Tampa	252	1					1	2
Korean	Tampa	130	1		1				2
Palma Ceia	Tampa	2055	4	2					6
St Andrew	Tampa	87	1						1
St John	Tampa	39	1		1				2
Village	Tampa	209	1					1	2
Church on the Bayou	Tarpon Springs	49	1						1
Temple Terrace	Temple Terrace	165	1					1	2
First	Winter Haven	1050	3	2					5
Hope	Winter Haven	343	1					1	2
Parsons Memorial	Yankeetown	29	1						1
First	Zephyrhills	97	1						1
At Large						15	8		23
Totals:			74	14	8	10	8	20	131