

# **EQUALIZATION OF ROLLS**

***January 1 - December 31, 2023***

**Submitted by the Connectional Presbyter & Stated Clerk**

**For Action**

***863<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting of New Castle Presbytery***

On an annual basis, ordinarily in the last meeting of the calendar year, the Presbytery takes action to ensure as equal as possible representation of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders as commissioners to assembly meetings of New Castle Presbytery. This action of equalization follows the guidelines laid out in the Book of Order and the Manual of the Presbytery.

The Book of Order specifies in G-3.0301 Composition and Responsibilities:

*The presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district and is composed of all the congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within that district. 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. This plan shall require each session to elect at least one commissioner and shall take into consideration the size of congregations as well as a method to fulfill the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103. Ruling elders elected as officers of the presbytery shall be enrolled as members during the period of their service. A presbytery may enroll, or may provide by its own rule for the enrollment of, ruling elders during terms of elected service to the presbytery or its congregations.*

The Presbytery addresses the imbalance by inviting sessions of particular churches to elect additional ruling-elder commissioners, with special attention to the full expression of the rich diversity of the church's membership as noted in G-3.0103. The Presbytery's Manual directs us in this way:

## **1.111 - EQUALIZATION OF ROLLS**

In the annual equalization of the rolls for purposes of determining Ruling Elder commissioners from constituent churches to meetings of the Presbytery, those churches that are considered racial/ethnic or have a racial/ethnic membership of 10% or more shall be granted one (1) commissioner in addition to the number normally allotted based on the membership of the church.

Given these two directions, the following is the proposed Equalization of Rolls effective at the next assembly meeting of the Presbytery. Churches who meet the criteria for an additional ruling elder according to the Presbytery's Manual are noted with an asterisk (\*).

## RULING ELDERS COMMISSIONERS BY POSITION IN PRESBYTERY:

<b>POSITIONS</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<b>PJC Ruling Elders:</b> John Balaguer Eloise Downing Charles Knox	3
<b>Presbytery Officer Ruling Elders:</b> Vice Moderator Marlene Quinn	1
<b>Committee Chairs (including Covenantal Partnership Committee):</b> Letha Hammon, Committee on Leadership David Wall, Committee on Representation and Nominations Julius Jackson, Covenantal Partnership Committee	3
<b>Trustees President Ron McKinney</b>	1
<b>Commissioned Ruling Elders Serving Churches and in Presbytery Service:</b> Tim Arnold Mark Douyard Mawuna Gardesey Anne Gunn Rourke Moore David Norton Pamela Ruarke Richard Watters	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>

## BASIS OF ALLOCATION OF RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CONGREGATIONS:

<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>
<b>More than 500</b>	4
<b>300-500</b>	3
<b>100-300</b>	2
<b>Less than 100</b>	1
<b>New Worshiping Communities</b>	1

Based on membership totals reported as part of the Annual Statistical Report by each congregation at the close of 2021, here is the ruling elder commissioner allocation for 2023:

<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>
Buckingham - Berlin	91	1
Calvary - Wilmington	73	1
Chestertown	235	2
Christiana	39	1
Church of the Covenant - Wilmington	65	1
Community - Wilmington*	134	3
Coolspring - Lewes	24	1
Concord - Wilmington	163	2
Dover*	153	3
Easton	111	2
Elkton	219	2
Elsmere	81	1
Faith Chapel - Berlin	17	1
First - Chesapeake City	18	1
First - Delaware City	38	1
First - Milford	69	1
First - Newark	256	2
First - Ocean City	59	1
First & Central - Wilmington*	157	3
Frankford	18	1
Georgetown*	104	3
Green Hill - Wilmington	66	1
Hanover Street - Wilmington*	170	3
Head of Christiana - Newark	61	1
Limestone - Wilmington	289	3
Lower Brandywine - Wilmington	201	2
Makemie Memorial - Snow Hill	46	1
Manokin - Princess Anne	29	1

<b>CONGREGATIONS</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>
New Castle	139	2
New Covenant - Middletown	48	1
Ocean View	93	1
Olivet - Newark*	25	2
Pitts Creek - Pocomoke City	16	1
Port Deposit	5	1
Red Clay Creek - Wilmington	702	4
Rehoboth - Westover	57	1
Rehoboth of Midway - Rehoboth Beach	18	1
Rock - Elkton	27	1
St. Andrews - Newark*	96	2
Seaford*	50	2
Smyrna*	124	3
Trinity - Wilmington	305	3
West Nottingham - Colora	80	1
Westminster - Rehoboth Beach	105	2
Westminster - Wilmington	853	4
Wicomico - Salisbury*	166	3
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>5895</b>	<b>81</b>

<b>NEW WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>COMMISSIONERS</b>
Church on Main - Middletown	1
Riverfront/505 - Wilmington	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2</b>

<b>CATEGORIES OF RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Commissioners by virtue of current position in the Presbytery	16
Commissioners assigned to congregations by virtue of size and diversity	81
Commissioners assigned to New Worshiping Communities	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>

### **TEACHING ELDER MEMBERS:**

<b>CATEGORIES OF TEACHING ELDER MEMBERS</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
Active Membership, All Categories	49
Retired	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDER MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT RESIDENT/ACTIVE:</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>EXPECTED TEACHING ELDER MEMBER COMMISSIONERS</b>	<b>78</b>

### **EQUALIZATION CALCULATION:**

<b>RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>TEACHING ELDER COMMISSIONERS</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>DIFFERENCE IN ALLOCATION</b>	<b>21</b>

An analysis of attendance from the last six meetings show a fairly even balance between Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders in attendance. Based on this analysis, I'm comfortable offering the proposed equalization of the rolls:

November 2021: 56 TE, 43 RE

January 2022: 50 TE, 37 RE

March 2022: 42 TE, 36 RE

May 2022: 41 TE, 47 RE

September 2022: 41 TE, 40 RE