

Welcome, First-Time Commissioners!

Orientation to the Whitewater Valley Presbytery Stated Assembly

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Orchard Park Presbyterian Church

Theme: *Innovative as God's Dreams*

What Is a Presbytery Assembly?

As part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), each congregation is connected to a larger body called a **presbytery**—a regional council of churches that supports, guides, and governs our shared ministry. The **Stated Assembly** is our presbytery's regular meeting where we gather for worship, connection, decision-making, and mutual encouragement.

Who Attends?

You're part of a body made up of:

- **Teaching Elders** (ministers, pastors)
- **Other Ruling Elders** (ordained leaders appointed by each session)
- **Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs)** (Elders serving as Pastors)
- **Presbytery staff, committee members, and guests**

Each congregation sends at least one Ruling Elder Commissioner with voice and vote.

What Will Happen at This Meeting?

You will receive a link to all the documents for this meeting if you are registered.

Here's a snapshot of what to expect:

- **Worship** – We begin and end with prayer. In between the Assembly will include scripture, music, and communion. You'll hear an inspiring interpretation of Joel 2:28–29 and we will affirm our shared faith.
 - **Reports and Decisions** – You'll hear updates from presbytery leaders and vote on key items, including:
 - A new **vision statement**
 - A **Child Protection Policy**
 - The **commissioning of youth** attending national events
 - **Celebration and Sending** – We'll recognize former staff, share Communion, and bless the young people traveling to Montreat and Triennium.
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What Should I Do as a Commissioner?

- **Come Prepared** by reading the meeting papers in advance.
- **Listen actively and prayerfully** to the Spirit at work.
- **Vote on action items** when called upon (commissioners are full voting members of the assembly).

- **Speak or ask questions** if you have something to share. The Moderator will guide discussion and recognize speakers at the floor microphones.
 - **Fellowship and learn** from others during breaks and informal time.
 - **Stay for lunch** and visit with others before heading home.
 - **Prepare a report** to your session about the Assembly.
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Helpful Notes

- Please sign in when you arrive and wear your name tag during the Assembly.
 - Printed or digital dockets will guide you through the meeting.
 - If you're unsure about a motion or process, don't worry—there are friendly people (including the Stated Clerk, your pastor, or other elders) who can help.
 - All new business items must be submitted 24 hours in advance to the Stated Clerk.
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Our Theme: “Innovative as God’s Dreams”

We gather with a spirit of renewal and creativity, seeking to be the church in bold, faithful, Christ-centered ways. As a commissioner, you are part of discerning how God is calling us forward.

Thank You for Saying Yes!

Serving as a commissioner is a meaningful act of leadership and faith. Your presence strengthens the witness of your congregation and helps shape the life of the whole presbytery.

We're glad you're here—welcome!