

Clerks' Tip In Praise of Session Clerks



From an article in Presbyterian Outlook by a pastor:

“[T]he clerk can be the pastor’s very best colleague. A wise and supportive clerk is worth her weight in gold.”

“[T]he role of clerk is a special calling and one we ought to celebrate more often. A strong and wise clerk can contribute greatly to a pastor’s and church’s successful ministry. The role is definitely not flashy and sometimes it involves a lot of mundane minutiae. But attending to the minutiae with integrity and care frees the pastor to engage in other areas of ministry, since she knows the clerk has the administration well in hand. That knowledge truly is a gift and a blessing...[A] clerk who brings warmth, wisdom, integrity, energy and focus will be a gift to their presbytery, congregation and pastor.”

Not only pastors appreciate the clerks. The presbytery does. Without you we would have no idea who fills our pews or be confident that churches are operating decently and in order. Jan and I love it when a clerk writes to ask when the records review schedule will be published or when the statistical report will be available for input. You keep your pastors and sessions on their toes and us on our toes.

National Capital Presbytery has been blessed with a particular clerk of session extraordinaire, Norm Stant. Norm has been the clerk of the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church session for 25 YEARS!!!! He does all the regular clerk things—taking minutes, producing statistical reports and handling session correspondence and has served on multiple pastor nominating committees. He has said he loves attention to detail—an important asset in a clerk. He also generously offers Chevy Chase to the presbytery as a location for our Session Records Reviews.

Senior Pastor Molly Teichert does not take Norm for granted: “Norm is a wonderful partner in ministry and a trusted advisor. His leadership in keeping us on track and honest to our Presbyterian heritage is invaluable. After literally decades of sitting at the right hand of the pastor and taking Session minutes, he knows more about us than anyone! We are tremendously grateful for his many, many years of faithful service. He has earned a well-deserved retirement.”

Yes, that’s right, Norm will retire as clerk in June 2020 and has plans to travel. Best wishes to Norm, a clerk’s clerk. Bon Voyage! And thank you to all of you clerks for the critical work you do.

Peace, Sara
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