



# Beaver-Butler Presbytery

Serving God. Serving You.

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To: Pastors and Clerks of Session  
From: The Beaver Butler Presbytery Meeting Task Force  
RE: Presbytery Commissioners  
Date: August 10, 2016

Dear Pastors and Clerks:

At our July 26<sup>th</sup> Presbytery meeting we passed a policy encouraging churches to elect ruling elder commissioners from their church (whether active or inactive on their respective sessions) to a one-year term to serve as "Presbytery Commissioner." The terms are to be from September of one year through July of the following year. While this is not a mandate for churches, it is a significant step in trying to create presbytery meetings where the members—pastors and elders—are able to fully participate in discerning God's will for the presbytery in each meeting.

So we are asking you to join us in the next step. We ask you to seek an elder from your church to serve as the "presbytery commissioner" for the term of 2016—2017. The initial term will be from November, 2016 through July, 2017. This is a shorter term than the proposal asked for, and it reflects the reality that for this coming year our being ready by September may be unrealistic.

In seeking a presbytery commissioner elder, we hope you that you will seek one whom you sense has the spiritual maturity to come to each meeting ready and willing to seek God's will over her or his own. We recognize that you cannot completely assess the heart and mind of another person, but we do believe that you can tell whether an elder is willing to prayerfully listen for God's guidance instead of coming to meetings with a predetermined decision. You may also want to choose an alternate commissioner for those times that the regular commissioner cannot make a meeting.

Enclosed you will find a short brochure to give to prospective elders for them as they consider whether or not they are called to be a commissioner. We will offer a commissioner training session, from 4:45 to 5:45 pm prior to the November 15<sup>th</sup> presbytery meeting at the Valencia Presbyterian Church. This session will review how presbytery meetings are structured, talk about the discipline of discernment, and give them a resource to help them during their year as presbytery commissioner. Finally, whenever you have named a commissioner (and alternate), please let the presbytery office know so that they can be placed on the meeting pre-mail list.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Blessings,

The Rev. Dr. Graham Standish  
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