

Committee on Representation and Participation (CORP)

After several years with no Presbytery Personnel Committee, CORP has been able to recruit a full six members of this important committee, with two members being replaced each year.

This year CORP has involved chairs and co-chairs of commissions and committees in the selection of the new class of members to those commissions and committees.

CORP has examined the Presbytery's statistical information and has drawn a number of conclusions. Our members can be generally characterized as mostly older and mostly Anglo. The largest numbers of members we have are in the over-65 category. We have more female than male members. In terms of our ethnicity, CORP understands the need to diversify, but we also need those asked to serve to respond with a "yes." In general, the balances on Presbytery commissions and committees between clergy and laity and gender are good.

After reviewing the ethnic, gender, number of clergy, elders, disabled and youth statistics for congregations, sessions, boards of deacons, and the Statistics for Presbytery Committees, the following recommendations are made.

- We have made progress in recruiting younger members to our churches, both youth and young adults; however, we also need to have more of these individuals on sessions and the boards of deacons.
- Because we are composed primarily of older adults, we have a relatively large number with disabilities. Sessions should acknowledge the gifts of these individuals and encourage their participation in various church activities and their membership on sessions and boards of deacons, pending their ability to do so.
- We encourage congregations and sessions to continue to increase participation of youth and disabled persons on Presbytery commissions and committees.
- We suggest that all Presbytery commissions and committees need to be sensitive and open to the diverse spiritual gifts that each individual can bring to our shared Presbytery ministry.
- We encourage all members of the Presbytery to consider serving on Presbytery commissions and committees and to communicate that interest to their pastors and commissioners to the Presbytery. If they need any information about those commissions and committees, they should contact members of CORP, who have job descriptions, expectations, and time commitments.