

## **Plan for Parity of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elder Commissioners to Presbytery for 2020**

As of October 31, 2019, the Presbytery of Tampa Bay had 189 ministers of Word and Sacrament on the rolls in the three membership categories defined in G-2.0503: Engaged in a Validated Ministry (88), Member-at-large (6), and Honorably Retired (95).

The Form of Government requires each presbytery to “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” (G-3.0301) when it convenes as a council of the church.

Recognizing that with over half of the minister members of the presbytery being honorably retired it is highly unlikely that all 189 minister members would be present at any meeting, the Bylaws of the presbytery say that, for the purposes of determining parity between ministers of Word and Sacrament and elder commissioners, Honorably Retired (HR) ministers “shall be counted based on the average of total [HR] attendance over the past two years.”

Average HR attendance was 19 in 2017 and 15 in 2018, so the average attendance number is 17. Added to the ministers engaged in validated ministry in a congregation or other setting and the members-at-large, sets the goal for numerical parity at 111 elder commissioners.

The proposed plan for parity at future meetings of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay in the following chart achieves that goal by allocating up to 118 elder commissioners according to these criteria:

- A. Elder commissioners are allocated first to churches according to G-3.0301 in the current Form of Government and the formula in G-11.0101 in the 2009-2011 Book of Order (the “old” Form of Government). Each congregation gets to send at least one elder commissioner, with an additional elder commissioner allocated at 501, 1001, 1501, and 2001 (up to a limit of five elder commissioners). Following these guidelines gives us a baseline of 74 elder commissioners.
- B. Two additional elder commissioners are allocated to churches employing two or more pastors, co-pastors, associate pastors or validated ministers; this adds 18 more.
- C. Following the principles of unity and diversity in F-1.0403 and of participation and representation in G-3.0103, the representation of people of color is strengthened by allocating one additional elder to Church of the Reconciler, First Hispanic, Korean (Pinellas Park), Korean (Tampa), Lakeview, Maximo, Springwater, St. John, and Trinity (St. Petersburg), for a total of 9 additional elder commissioners.

- D. Ruling elders on the Coordinating Team, Presbytery staff, and Permanent Judicial Commission, along with former moderators of this presbytery, and elder commissioners to the most recent General Assembly, average about 10.
- E. Commissioned Pastors serving churches currently add 2 more.
- F. Certified Christian Educators who are Ruling Elders add 5 more.
- G. *A seventh category has been used in recent years to add up to 20 more elders from churches between 120 and 499 members that do not already have 2 commissioners is not needed this year.*

**2020 Presbytery of Tampa Bay Plan for Parity of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elder Commissioners**

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Membership 12/31/18</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Auburndale	First	82	1						1
Bartow	McLeod Memorial	104	1						1
Brandon	First	346	1						1
Brandon	PC of Bloomingdale	59	1						1
Brandon	Springwater	51	1		1				2
Brooksville	First	46	1						1
Clearwater	Church of the Reconciler	33	1		1				2
Clearwater	Hope	136	1						1
Clearwater	Northwood	1047	3	2					5
Clearwater	Peace Memorial	227	1	2					3
Clearwater	Trinity	188	1	2					3
Crystal River	Life Tree	62	1						1
Dade City	First	69	1						1
Dunedin	First	313	1						1
Dunedin	St Andrews	348	1						1
Fort Meade	First	27	1						1
Gulfport	Gulfport	31	1						1
Hudson	St Marks	169	1						1
Inverness	First	470	1						1
Lake Alfred	First	26	1						1
Lake Hamilton	Lake Hamilton	34	1						1
Lakeland	Beacon Hill Fellowship	35	1						1
Lakeland	Chapel in the Grove	108	1						1
Lakeland	First	1488	3	2					5
Lakeland	Hope Community	175	1						1

Lakeland	PC in the Highlands	115	1						1
Largo	Christ	102	1						1
Lutz	Lutz Community	153	1						1
New Pt Richey	Trinity PC Seven Springs	317	1						1
Palm Harbor	Palm Harbor	318	1						1
Pinellas Park	Good Samaritan	34	1						1
Pinellas Park	Korean	77	1		1				2
Safety Harbor	First	31	1						1
Saint Petersburg	First	506	2						2
Saint Petersburg	Lakeview	46	1		1				2
Saint Petersburg	Maximo	164	1		1				2
Saint Petersburg	Northeast	208	1						1
Saint Petersburg	Northwest	44	1						1
Saint Petersburg	Trinity	61	1		1				2
Saint Petersburg	Woodlawn	67	1						1
Seffner	Seffner	135	1						1
Seminole	Lake Seminole	86	1						1
Spring Hill	Grace	373	1	2					3
Sun City Center	St Andrew	266	1						1
Tampa	Bayshore	39	1						1
Tampa	Bel Mar	52	1						1
Tampa	Chapel in the Pines	40	1						1
Tampa	First	506	2	2					4
Tampa	First Hispanic	79	1		1				2
Tampa	Forest Hills	375	1	2					3
Tampa	Hyde Park	252	1						1
Tampa	Korean	130	1		1				2
Tampa	Palma Ceia	2055	5	2					7
Tampa	St Andrew	87	1						1
Tampa	St John	36	1		1				2
Tampa	Village	210	1						1
Tarpon Springs	Church on the Bayou	49	1						1
Temple Terrace	Temple Terrace	165	1						1
Winter Haven	First	1050	3	2					5
Winter Haven	Hope	343	1						1
Yankeetown	Parsons Memorial	29	1						1
Zephyrhills	First	97	1						1
<i>At Large</i>	<i>Various</i>					10	2	5	17
<b>Totals</b>			74	18	9	10	2	5	<b>118</b>