

THE THREE-PART STRUCTURE OF PRESBYTERIANISM

The Session – The Teaching and Ruling Elders of the local church (I Timothy 5:17)

The Presbytery – The Teaching and a representative number of Ruling Elders from each church in a designated region who meet at least twice a year for:

- Worship, prayer, and fellowship
- Coordinating and overseeing the starting and developing of new churches within its bounds (usually through its Missions or MNA Committee)
- The care, training, examination, and ordination of new teaching elders (Candidates and Credentials Committee)
- Cooperative efforts in Christian Education (includes Youth Camp, Youth Retreat, WIC, special seminars)
- A court that deals with appeals, complaints, and judicial cases from local churches and Sessions
- Makes overtures to General Assembly (which have often been initiated by a local Session).

The General Assembly – “The Presbyterian Church in America”; All the Teaching Elders and a representative number of Ruling Elders from each church who meet annually for:

- Worship, prayer, and fellowship (manifest denominational unity)
- Hear committee reports and recommendations – coordinate ministry efforts, renew vision and goals, and generally facilitate the work of the Kingdom.
- A court that deals with overtures, appeals, complaints, and judicial cases from presbyteries.
- Seminars and presentations.

Our Ecclesiastical Structure:

- Administration (Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk)
- Christian Education (John Dunahoo) – Great Commission Publications, WIC, Youth
- Reformed University Fellowship (Rod Mays)
- Mission to North America (Jim Bland) – Church planting, chaplains, Mercy Ministry, Investors Fund, etc.
- Mission to the World (Paul Kooistra)