

The Orthodox Presbyterian Church  
Office of the General Assembly

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Clerks of Session  
The Orthodox Presbyterian Church

**SUBJECT: Statistical Report to the General Assembly for 2008**

Dear Brothers,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is time again to gather statistics from each church and mission work and presbytery. The statistical report form is being sent herewith to clerks of session and others who have reported in prior years. If you are unable to open the attached Excel file, you can obtain the form on-line at [www.opc.org](http://www.opc.org) in either Excel or pdf format. If you do not use Excel, simply fill in a printed form and mail it to me.

The General Assembly's *Standing Rules* specify that:

[The Statistician] *shall collect and compile statistical reports of the regional churches for the fiscal year ending December 31 and the information required by the Form of Government Chapter XIV, Section 6, and provide them in combined form to the Stated Clerk at least six weeks prior to the General Assembly, for presentation to the Assembly (S.R. III.C.1).*

[Further, the Statistician] *shall prepare, and present to the General Assembly each year, explanation and analyses of the statistical reports for a meaningful understanding of them by the Assembly (S.R. III.C.2).*

The General Assembly will be held early this year. Please send me your report by February 16<sup>th</sup>. This gives you time to gather your data and report it, and me time to compile reports from more than 320 congregations and 16 presbyteries, correct errors and omissions, and provide some analysis.

The membership totals you report for December 31, 2007 should match those previously reported. You can find your report for 2007 summarized in the Yearbook section of the *Minutes of the 75<sup>th</sup> General Assembly* (2008). If you find that the membership totals for 2007 were incorrect, please make the necessary corrections in this year's report and provide a brief explanation for the change(s).

Do not include any ministers in local church membership statistics even though he may have communicant fellowship in the congregation. A minister's membership is in the regional church, where he is counted separately on the roll of the presbytery.

If your church supports benevolence out of its general offerings, please report the benevolence contributions *separately* from the remaining general offerings, as explained on the form. Only in this way can we obtain an accurate summation of benevolence giving.

May the Lord bless you and your congregation in 2009.

Sincerely in Christ,

Luke E. Brown  
OPC Statistician  
/enclosure