

## COM Liaisons

The purpose of the COM liaison is to build relationship! We want to walk alongside congregations in ways that foster trust and understanding, and establish a baseline of comfort and knowledge across the presbytery. The COM liaison is not there to fix or solve, but to listen and connect. Especially in this time while the search for a new presbytery leader is underway, it is vital to keep lines of communication open!

The chart of congregations and COM liaisons is posted [here](#).

The role of the COM liaison may include:

**Bridge-Builder** who creates a relational and functional link between the congregations/Session/PNC and the presbytery, through the COM.

**Cross-pollinator** who gathers, shares, and shape stories across the presbytery and with COM, by asking questions the help thicken congregational narratives and deepen awareness of God's activity.

**Conduit** who conveys information about resources, best practices, potential partners, and keeps lines of communication open, listening for needs, challenges, and opportunities and/or guides processes that fulfill the requirements of our connectional system.

The COM liaison establishes regular touch-points that build relationship. These touchpoints may include:

- One-on-one communication: phone, email, text, in person
- Social media: LISTEN, interact, affirm
- Formal congregational settings: worship, education, social events
- Governance activity, as appropriate: Session and congregational meetings, PNC meetings, COM and presbytery meetings
- Congregational communication channels: get on the mailing list!

### Getting Started:

1. Make initial contact with the Moderator and/or Clerk of Session. Introduce yourself; describe COM's intention for establishing a connection with each church in the presbytery.

2. Open a conversation on topics such as:

- How are things going, for your congregation?
- What's giving you energy and fueling your church's sense of purpose?
- How may we pray for and with you?

3. Establish who will be your point of contact with the church, going forward.
4. Document: take some notes, for your own reference and as a reminder of insights you may wish to report back to COM.

COM's September 14th agenda will include time for reporting on initial contacts.

### **Ongoing Development of the Relationship**

The course of the liaison relationship will depend on each church's circumstances

Baseline expectation is quarterly check-ins with your point of contact, while also remaining connected through informal channels such as newsletter and social media

In situations of pastoral transitions, the liaison continues to guide processes of mission review, PNC support and guidance, coordination of processes such as Exit interviews and Fit interviews

In the event of circumstances that warrant specialized consultation, resourcing, or guidance, the liaison will convey this to COM leadership (Co-Chairs and Presbytery Leaders) who will determine a course of action, including who will provide what is needed (this may or may not be the COM liaison).

Kristal Smith, Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership, is the primary point of contact for questions or concerns emerging from the COM liaison relationships.