

## Midwest Women's Fellowship President's Report 2023

Thank you, ladies of the Midwest Women's Fellowship, for granting me the privilege of serving as president for a second year. I enjoyed working with several of our members to keep the goals of sustaining and improving our fellowship. Most of our officers and coordinators have served back-to-back these past two years. Thanks to all of you who have worked with excellence in your positions. There are opportunities to serve, so I would encourage many of you who have not served as officers or coordinators to consider accepting these positions to help build up this organization of God's people.

I appointed two committees following discussion at the Executive Board meeting last April. I appointed Lori Hemphill, Mary Lou Patterson, and Laura Wallace to form the committee to develop guidelines for postings to our MWF Facebook page. I also appointed a committee to explore a new model for hosting Midwest women's retreats. The women appointed were: Jill Mann, Maria Rockhill, Nancy Skubal, Clara Moore, and Rita Lyon, chair. I kept in frequent communication with Rita Lyon regarding the work of their committee.

In February, I sent information about the retreat to the information page of our denominational website which was posted at this address: <https://rpcna.org/trunk/page/events>. Information about the retreat appeared in the March/April edition of the *Reformed Presbyterian Witness*. I should have sent the information to the RPCNA website in December to appear in the January/February issue. I posted information about the retreat to the Midwest Net at [mw-net@groups.io](mailto:mw-net@groups.io).

I contacted Marilyn Copeland in early March to request that she be our parliamentarian, and she graciously and quickly accepted the responsibility.

I called an Executive Committee meeting via Google Meet on March 9. The main purpose of this meeting was to hear from the two appointed committees in order to discuss their findings with more knowledge at the Executive Board meeting in Sterling.

I communicated with the ladies of Sterling who are hosting this retreat, Laura Wallace, vice president, and Mary Lou Patterson and Lori Hemphill, technology officers. I sent email messages to treasurer Bessie VanKirk and nominating committee chair Adrienne Haney that they should send their reports to Lori Hemphill ([lorihemp@gmail.com](mailto:lorihemp@gmail.com)) for publication on the website of our fellowship: <https://mwfellowship.org>. I sent another paragraph and photo to add to my president's bio from last year to Historian Mitzie Van Horn. I sent this president's report to Lori Hemphill in mid-March. I sent an email invitation to officers, coordinators, presidents of local fellowships, and to each congregation to send delegate to attend the Executive Board meeting.

After talking to Rita Lyon about the findings and recommendations of the Committee to Explore a New Model for Hosting Midwest Retreats, I called Liz Noell from the Stillwater, Oklahoma congregation to ask if their congregation would be willing to host the retreat in 2024. She consulted with the Stillwater session, and their answer was, "Yes!" I have also been in contact with Pastor Bruce Parnell about this hosting opportunity. It will be a first for Stillwater.

I plan to prepare agendas for the Executive Board meeting and the Business meeting.

Pray for the retreat – for the ladies of Sterling as they host us, for Heather Huizing who is our main speaker, for Laura Wallace who has prepared an excellent program, for the officers and coordinators, and for all who come.

May God continue to bless the work of our hands.

In Him,  
Jean Stewart, Manhattan Reformed Presbyterian Church

March 17, 2023