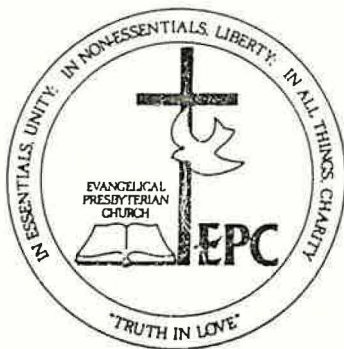


MINUTES  
OF THE  
FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH



SEPTEMBER 22 - 24, 1981

MAY 28, 1982

LIVONIA, MICHIGAN

Directory of General Assembly Officers

Moderator

The Reverend Calvin Gray  
2799 West Road  
Trenton, Michigan 48183  
Phone: 313/676-1510

Stated Clerk

The Reverend L. Edward Davis  
17000 Farmington Road  
Livonia, Michigan 48154  
Phone: 313/427-3640

Directory of General Assembly Interim Committees

STEERING COMMITTEE

Teaching Elders:

J. Kent Bull  
Merritt Blvd. & Stansbury Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21222

Bartlett L. Hess  
17000 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48154

George Scotchmer  
7288 S. Bristol Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63121

Dean Wolf  
11373 E. Alameda Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80012

Ex-Officio Members:

Moderator: Calvin Gray  
2799 West Road  
Trenton, MI 48183

Stated Clerk: L. Edward Davis  
17000 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48154

Ruling Elders:

Ray Brownlie  
4244 Claridge Dr.  
Youngstown, OH 44511

William Crosbie  
4642 Waseka Lane  
Youngstown, OH 44512

Donald Harms  
15726 Riverside  
Livonia, MI 48154

Richard Heidtman  
12301 E. Stanley Rd.  
Columbiaville, MI 48421

Frank Johnson  
136 Chaucer Place  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08043

Mel Morrison  
11373 E. Alameda Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80012

Irv Rinehart  
5270 E. Nassau Circle  
Englewood, CO 80110

Joe Schwindt  
109 Eaton Place  
Voorhees, NJ 08043

## ORGANIZING STRUCTURE

### Teaching Elders:

James Dixon  
90 E. Orchard Ave.  
Littleton, Colorado 80121

Lawrence Schmoekel  
Box 250  
Columbia City, IN 46725

### Ruling Elders:

Gordon Kummer  
9367 Wild Oaks Circle  
South Lyon, MI 48178

James Van Dyk  
9543 Beach Park Dr.  
South Lyon, MI 48178

## DENOMINATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Teaching Elders:

Paul Moon  
404 Oakland Avenue  
Pontiac, MI 48058

William C. Moore  
10101 Ann Arbor Rd.  
Plymouth, MI 48170

James Morrison  
7600 Ross Park Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Robert Ralston  
2437 S. Raccoon Road  
Youngstown, OH 44515

### Ruling Elders:

Elden Brieschke  
25427 Minton  
Livonia, MI 48150

Dean Robinson  
6456 Nightingale  
Flint, MI 48506

## MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

### Teaching Elders:

James Garner  
11373 E. Alameda Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80012

Bartlett L. Hess  
17000 Farmington Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48154

C. Lowry Horner  
33 E. Evesham Ave.  
Voorhees, NJ 08043

Harold K. Polk, Jr.  
5015 Richfield  
Flint, MI 48506

### Ruling Elders:

Barbara Mansfield  
14342 Blue Skies  
Livonia, MI 48154

Leurette Rallins  
11373 E. Alameda Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80012

Robert Woodburn  
14446 Ellen Dr.  
Livonia, MI 48154

## MISSIONS CONSULTATION

### Teaching Elders

James Dixon  
0 E. Orchard Ave.  
Littleton, CO 80121

B. Mark Moore  
11373 E. Alameda Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80012

James Morrison  
7600 Ross Park Dr.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

George Scotchmer  
7288 S. Bristol Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63121

### Ruling Elders

R. Stewart Fleming  
562 Woods Lane  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Richard Oestreicher  
32150 Pembroke  
Livonia, MI 48152

Vern Porter  
11373 E. Alameda Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80012

### Ex-Officio Members:

L. Edward Davis  
17000 Farmington Rd.  
Livonia, MI 48154

Irv Rinehart  
5270 E. Nassau Circle  
Englewood, CO 80110

# JOURNAL

## MINUTES--TUESDAY AFTERNOON

September 22, 1981

### First Session

#### 1-1 The Assembly Called to Order

The First General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, meeting at the Chapel of Ward Presbyterian Church, Livonia, Michigan, began with a service of worship at 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 22, 1981. Following an opening hymn, TE Calvin Gray, Acting Moderator, called the meeting to order and led in the opening prayer.

#### 1-2 Business Session

The business session was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by Acting Moderator Calvin Gray. Attendance was recorded at 37 Teaching Elders and 38 Ruling Elders. The docket was adopted as amended.

#### 1-3 Report on Enrollment

Stated Clerk L. Edward Davis announced that a quorum was present and read the names of commissioners in attendance.

#### Teaching Elders:

1. Carlton Baker
2. Tom Barker
3. Steve Barrett
4. Robert Beltz
5. Mark Brewer
6. David Bucci
7. Kent Bull
8. Ed Davis
9. L. Edward Davis
10. James Dixon
11. James Garner
12. Calvin Gray
13. Bartlett Hess
14. Lowry Horner
15. Wally Hostetter
16. Robert Huff
17. Gerald Kelly
18. Ted Kline
19. David Massimi
20. Paul Moon
21. James Morrison
22. B. Mark Moore
23. William Moore
24. Wayne Mouritzen
25. Tom Musselman
26. Hal Polk
27. Robert Ralston
28. Milton Resh
29. Larry Schmoekel
30. George Scotchmer

#### Ruling Elders:

1. Jerry Adrean
2. Jan Bole
3. Del Bosley
4. Bruce Brede
5. Gene Bridges
6. Elden Brieschke
7. Ray Brownlie
8. Burton Cowan
9. Bill Crosbie
10. Cal Fleming
11. Duane Francis
12. Don Harms
13. Palmer Heenan
14. Charlie Hoge
15. Elizabeth Holmes
16. Frank Johnson
17. Gene Jordon
18. Stephen Jubinski
19. Al Kingdon
20. Gordon Kummer
21. Bob Lee
22. Larry Lee
23. Barbara Mansfield
24. Ron Marklin
25. Leonard Parsons
26. Phil Pelli
27. Vern Porter
28. Leurette Rallins
29. Armin Remke
30. Maryan Remke

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 31. Howard Shockley  | 31. Irv Rinehart  |
| 32. Fred Stifel      | 32. Dean Robinson |
| 33. Doug Thompson    | 33. Joe Schwindt  |
| 34. Jerry Van Gurler | 34. Gary Siemers  |
| 35. Don Van Dyke     | 35. Tom Thompson  |
| 36. Dean Wolf        | 36. Jim Van Dyk   |
| 37. George Woodcock  | 37. Paul Wagoner  |
|                      | 38. Jeanne White  |

The Stated Clerk then conducted a briefing for the commissioners regarding the business of the opening session.

### 1-4 Welcome of the Host Church

TE Bartlett L. Hess, Senior Pastor of Ward Church, welcomed the commissioners and observers on behalf of the host church to this First General Assembly.

### 1-5 Election of Assistant Clerk

On motion, RE Joseph Schwindt was nominated and elected as Assistant Clerk for the Assembly.

### 1-6 Adoption of Rules for Assembly

The Moderator presented the Rules for Assembly as recommended to the Assembly by the Steering Committee. (See Appendix I for document.) Moderator informed the Assembly that the Rules may be amended, as desired, by each Assembly. Amendments to the proposed document were as follows:

1. Motion sustained that additional section, ¶3-3 which reads "The General Assembly shall elect a Vice-Moderator who shall serve at the request of, or in the absence of, the Moderator. The Moderator may delegate such duties as seems appropriate. Term of office shall be one year." be adopted.
2. Motion sustained that in ¶3-2, line 3, comma be added after word "act."
3. Motion sustained that in ¶3-2, line 4, "Stated Clerk" be deleted and "Vice-Moderator" be added.
4. Motion sustained that in ¶9-5 word "should" be substituted for word "shall."  
(It was pointed out that the purpose of this paragraph was to insure that the Stated Clerk would get a written copy of a motion by the author of the motion. Clerk)

### 1-7 Recess

The Assembly recessed at 3:05 p.m. for coffee break.

### 1-8 Assembly Reconvened

The Assembly reconvened at 3:30 p.m. Motion sustained to amend the docket to allow the proposed candidates for ordination three minutes to address the Assembly.

### 1-9 Candidates for Ordination

Robert Beltz, Mark Brewer, Ed Davis, James Garner, Gerald Kelly, and Fred Stifel gave testimony of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ in their lives, and their personal calling to serve Him in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Motion sustained, as presented by the Ministerial Committee, that the candidates be received into the fellowship of the church and be ordained at a later time in the Assembly.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 1-10 Election of Moderator

TE Dean Wolf took the chair and conducted the nominations and election of the Moderator of the 1st Assembly. TE Calvin Gray was presented in nomination by the Steering Committee. There being no further nominations from the floor, motion sustained to close nominations and instruct the Clerk to cast a unanimous ballot for Calvin Gray.

### 1-11 Election of Vice-Moderator

The newly elected Moderator assumed the chair and conducted the nomination and election of the Vice-Moderator of the Assembly.

Irvin Rinehart was nominated by the Steering Committee and there being no further nominations from the floor, motion sustained to instruct the Clerk to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Rinehart.

### 1-12 Statement of Faith

TE George Scotchmer, representing the Theological Sub-Committee, presented on behalf of the Steering Committee a Proposed Statement of Faith, the intent of which is to give a clear concise statement of the fundamentals of Christian faith as embodied in the Westminster Confession and professed by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Lengthy discussion followed and on motion, the docket was extended ten minutes. Motion sustained to refer the proposed Statement of Faith back to committee for further clarification and editing. Committee will report back to the Assembly at Moderator's discretion.

### 1-13 Recess

The Moderator announced the Assembly recessed at 5:10 p.m. Assembly to reconvene in public worship at 7:00 p.m.

## MINUTES--TUESDAY EVENING

September 22, 1981

### Second Session

### 1-14 Evening Worship

At 7:00 p.m., Tuesday evening, the Assembly reconvened for a worship service under the direction of Moderator Calvin Gray. Dr. D. James Kennedy of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church addressed the Assembly following the singing of hymns and the reading of appropriate Scripture passages. During this service, the Moderator of the 1st General Assembly was publicly invested into office and Candidates Robert Beltz, Mark Brewer, Ed Davis, James Garner, Gerald Kelly, and Fred Stifel were ordained to the gospel ministry. Following the benediction, the Assembly recessed until 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 23.

## MINUTES--WEDNESDAY MORNING

September 23, 1981

### Third Session

### 1-15 Assembly Reconvened

The Assembly reconvened at 9:20 a.m. following a time of worship led by TE Dean Wolf. There were 158 commissioners and observers in attendance. On motion the docket was adopted.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 1-16 Fraternal Observers

The Stated Clerk recognized and introduced several observers who identified themselves and the institutions they represented.

### 1-17 Statement of Faith

The proposed Statement of Faith as revised by committee was presented by TE George Scotchmer. After discussion with some minor changes made by consensus, motion sustained that it be adopted.

### 1-18 Book of Order

The Stated Clerk presented the Provisional Book of Government for the purpose of ratification. The Clerk ruled that only the "addendum" recommendations previously published would be entertained at this assembly. He did note, however, that changes may be made through due process at subsequent assemblies. The above ruling was sustained by the Assembly.

The Addendum Report (Appendix II) was approved as follows:  
Relative to the Book of Government recommendations:

1. On motion, ¶1.1 was adopted;
2. On motion, ¶1.2 was adopted;
3. On motion, ¶1.3 was adopted;
4. On motion, ¶1.4 was adopted;
5. On motion, ¶1.5 was adopted;
6. On motion, ¶1.7 was adopted;
7. On motion, ¶1.8 was adopted;
8. On motion, ¶1.10 was adopted;
9. On motion, ¶1.11 was adopted;
10. Motion sustained to refer ¶1.6 back to the Steering Committee for further consideration and subsequent reporting.
11. Motion sustained that ¶1.9 be amended by deleting word "teaching" before the word "elders." Adopted and carried.
12. Motion sustained that the document known as the Statement of Faith be re-titled as the Essentials of the Faith. (Appendix III)

### 1-19 Recess

The Assembly recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon.

## MINUTES--WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

September 23, 1982

### Fourth Session

### 1-20 Assembly Reconvened

At 1:45 p.m. the Assembly reconvened for a "dialogue session" with Dr. Francis Schaeffer. Dr. Schaeffer addressed the Assembly on issues pertinent to the Christian community in today's culture after which a rich time of dialogue continued.

### 1-21 Recess

The Assembly recessed for fifteen minutes at 3:15 p.m.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 1-22 Book of Worship

Upon reconvening at 3:30 p.m., the Stated Clerk presented the Provisional Book of Worship for ratification. The Addendum Report (Appendix II) was approved as follows;

#### Relative to the Book of Worship:

1. On motion, ¶2.1 was adopted;
2. On motion, ¶2.2 was adopted;
3. On motion, ¶2.3 was adopted;
4. On motion, ¶2.4 was adopted;
5. On motion, ¶2.6 was adopted;
6. ¶2.5 was referred back to committee for further study.
7. In addition, motion sustained that in ¶3-2.K(3), the word "may" shall be substituted for the word "shall."
8. On motion, the Book of Worship was ratified for adoption by the Assembly.

### 1-23 Congregations Received

Motion sustained that the congregation of the First Love Fellowship, Long Island, New York, be received and constituted in one of the Assembly's public services.

### 1-24 Denominational Development Report

William Moore, chairman, presented the report with the following recommendations:

1. Motion sustained that two presbyteries be established with following guidelines:
  - a. Presbytery of the West: Colorado and states north, south, and west of Colorado;
  - b. Presbytery of the Midwest: Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri.
2. Motion sustained that fellowship be encouraged among E.P.C. churches in the East, and that plans for a Presbytery of the East be presented at the 2nd Assembly in Denver.
3. Motion sustained that presbyteries meet at least twice during the year and a third time during the Assembly.
4. Motion sustained that during the 1st General Assembly, each Presbytery meet to select its Moderator and Clerk and establish the date and location of next meeting.
5. Motion sustained that the following goals be adopted for presbytery meetings:
  - a. To develop fellowship and support for pastors and elders;
  - b. To share resources with other churches;
  - c. To encourage church planting strategies.
6. Motion sustained that an amount of \$5.00 per member be established as a guideline for contributions to the E.P.C. by member churches for 1982.

### 1-25 Recess

On motion, the Assembly was recessed at 5:00 p.m.

## MINUTES--WEDNESDAY EVENING

September 23, 1982

### Fifth Session

### 1-26 Evening Worship

At 7:00 p.m., the Assembly reconvened for a worship service with the Moderator presiding. The Chancel Choir of the host church, Ward Presbyterian, ministered the anthems of the evening. During the service, the Moderator led the Assembly in constituting the First Love Fellowship of Long Island, New York. Dr. Francis Schaeffer addressed the Assembly on the theme, "To Be God's Church in the Midst of the 20th Century Confusion."

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES--THURSDAY MORNING

September 24, 1982

Sixth Session

1-27 Assembly Reconvened

The Assembly reconvened at 8:30 a.m. The Moderator's Communion Service was held. Following a spirited time of praise, the Moderator delivered a meditation. The Lord's Supper was distributed by the Moderator and Clerk to the Assembly.

1-28 Book of Order

On motion, the Docket was adopted as amended. The Steering Committee reported back to the Assembly with a revised recommendation on ¶1.6 to the Book of Government. The recommendation would amend ¶15-4 by adding the following after the first sentence: ¶15-4.A "Should a church elect limited terms of service, it should adopt a class system which will insure rotation."

¶15-4.B "There should be provision whereby a person may not serve more than an aggregate of six continuous years without a minimum of one year ineligibility thereafter." Motion sustained to amend ¶15-4 by deletion of last sentence and substitution of 15-4.A and 15-4.B.

Motion sustained that Provisional Book of Government as amended be ratified for adoption by the Assembly.

1-29 Book of Discipline

On motion, the Book of Discipline was adopted provisionally with the intent to be ratified at The 2nd General Assembly.

1-30 Nominating Committee

The nominating sub-committee of the Steering Committee presented their report. Nominated for a three year term as Stated Clerk, the committee presented the name of L. Edward Davis. The Assembly instructed the Assistant Clerk to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Davis.

On motion, the Assembly adopted the recommendation that the Steering Committee along with its sub-committees on Ministerial, Organizing Structure, and Denominational Development (Appendix IV) and their respective personnel be continued to the 2nd General Assembly.

1-31 Denominational Development

The full report of the committee was presented. (Note: First six recommendations considered at earlier session.)

7. Motion sustained that a church extension/home mission item be added to the missionary budget of member churches with the guideline that it be 10% of each church's 1982 missionary budget.

8. Motion sustained that member churches consider designating their 1982 Easter offering as a special offering for church extension/church planting within the E.P.C.

9. Motion sustained that churches with undesignated and/or excess 1981 monies consider giving a portion of such monies to the general fund of the E.P.C.

10. Motion sustained that the logo as presented by this committee be approved in principle with proviso that suggestions regarding "final" logo be studied by Steering Committee.

On motion, the report of the Denominational Development Committee was received

1-32 Ministerial Guidelines

On recommendation from the Steering Committee, motion sustained that following guidelines for terms of call be adopted:

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 1-32 Ministerial Guidelines (Continued)

1. A required group hospitalization and disability program for ministers of member churches, allowing for pre-existing conditions be adopted.
2. A minimum of 18% benefit (to include group hospitalization, disability, and pension) be adopted. The minimum pension factor would be 10%. This total benefit is to be based on salary and housing/utility allowance.

At this time, the Stated Clerk read the roster of teaching elders, member churches, and affiliate churches.

### 1-33 Authority to Moderator

The Stated Clerk, on behalf of the Steering Committee, recommended to the Assembly that the following authority be given to the Moderator:

1. Authority to appoint commissions to establish congregations that lie outside of existing presbyteries;
  2. Authority to designate two persons to be "presbytery convenors."
- On motion, the above two recommendations passed.

### 1-34 Presentation of New Candidates

Dr. Hess presented on behalf of the Ministerial Committee three candidates to be taken under care. Timm Jackson, Rocky McElveen, and Ronald Radford gave testimony to faith and their call to the gospel ministry. On motion, the Assembly adopted the committee's recommendations.

### 1-35 Recess

The Assembly recessed to a buffet luncheon prepared by the ladies of Ward Church.

## MINUTES--THURSDAY AFTERNOON

September 24, 1982

### Seventh Session

### 1-36 Group Insurance Plan

The Assembly reconvened at 1:40 p.m., and TE Donald Harms presented the Insurance Committee's recommendations on denominational insurance.

Motion sustained that the group plan for health, disability, and life coverage as offered by Mr. Chester Seymour of South Towns Administrators, Inc., of Hamburg, New York be adopted.

Columbia Accident and Health Insurance Company of Bloomsburg, PA, will be primary carrier.

On motion, the plan was made mandatory for all ministers within member churches.

### 1-37 Information Items from Clerk

The Stated Clerk reported the following matters for information:

- The Steering Committee has taken action that individual churches outside of existing presbyteries may overture the 2nd General Assembly through the Steering Committee.
- The "Evangelical Outlook" will be published three to four times yearly.
- A double entry bookkeeping system has been initiated.

### 1-38 Time and Place of 2nd Assembly

On motion, the 2nd General Assembly will convene at the Faith Presbyterian Church, Aurora, Colorado, at 9:30 a.m. on June 22, 1982. This Assembly will meet through June 24, 1982.

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 1-39 Organizing Structure Committee Report

On motion, the present Steering Committee will continue to function in its executive task until the 2nd Assembly.

On motion, the present sub-committees will continue until the next Assembly.

Motion sustained that a "Consultation on Mission" be held to study world mission strategies and report back to the 2nd General Assembly. (Note: Selection of personnel committed to Steering Committee)

Motion sustained to adopt the proposed Assembly budget of \$53,500.00 for the 1981-82 Assembly year (Appendix V).

On motion, the report of the Organizing Structure Committee was received.

Suggestion was made from the floor that if "extra monies" became available, an account be initiated towards future "executive director."

Motion sustained that the E.P.C. seek membership in the National Association of Evangelicals.

Question arose from the floor as to the possibility of an E.P.C. minister laboring outside the E.P.C. Moderator stated this was permissible. (Note: Permission to "labor out of bounds" a presbytery prerogative - Clerk.)

### 1-40 Assembly Adjourns

On behalf of the Assembly, Bartlett Hess rose to extend thanks to the Moderator and Stated Clerk for their leadership and guidance throughout the Assembly.

The Moderator, in his closing remarks, thanked the host church for their hospitality. In closing, a special season of prayer sought God's blessing for the fellowship and particularly for those brothers and sisters facing litigation.

At 3:00 p.m., the Assembly, on motion, was adjourned.

## MINUTES--FRIDAY AFTERNOON

May 28, 1982

### Eight Session

### 1-41 Assembly Reconvened

The 1st General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church reconvened at 1:30 p.m. in the Calvin Room of Ward Presbyterian Church, Livonia, Michigan.

Vice-Moderator Irv Rinehart led the Assembly in devotions and prayer. The Moderator, Calvin Gray, offered the Assembly a factual overview of developments within the E.P.C. since September. Numerous notes of information and praise arose from various commissioners.

### 1-42 Quorum Established

The Stated Clerk, Ed Davis, read the Petition to Call to the Assembly. He noted that signers of the Petition exceeded the 10% requirement. (Note: The Book of Government requires that a "petition to call" be validated by a number of both teaching and ruling elders which represents at least 10% of the commissioners enrolled in each category at the first session of a particular assembly.) See Appendix VI.

A quorum was established and the following persons were enrolled:

#### Teaching Elders

1. Clair Albright
2. Carlton Baker
3. Steve Barrett
4. David Bucci

#### Ruling Elders

1. Del Bosley
2. Elden Brieschke
3. Jim Van Dyk
4. Cal Fleming

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### 1-42 Quorum Established (Continued)

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 5. Ed Davis         | 5. Charlie Hoge     |
| 6. Calvin Gray      | 6. Elizabeth Holmes |
| 7. Bartlett Hess    | 7. Al Kingdon       |
| 8. Lowry Horner     | 8. Ronald Marklin   |
| 9. Robert Huff      | 9. Leonard Parsons  |
| 10. Gerald Kelly    | 10. Irv Rinehart    |
| 11. Ted Kline       | 11. Gary Siemers    |
| 12. Paul Moon       |                     |
| 13. Bill Moore      |                     |
| 14. Wayne Mouritzen |                     |
| 15. Harold Polk     |                     |
| 16. Milton Resh     |                     |
| 17. Larry Schmoekel |                     |
| 18. Howard Shackley |                     |
| 19. Doug Thompson   |                     |
| 20. Dean Wolf       |                     |
| 21. George Woodcock |                     |

### 1-43 Objective of Call

The documents received from Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis were presented (Appendix VII). In order for the Midwest Presbytery to process the petition, Chapter 18 "On Union Churches" must be restored to the Book of Government. The Clerk cited Article IV of the Articles of Agreement as providing guidance for constitutional amendment and noted the need for a 2/3 vote in order to amend.

### 1-44 Amendment of the Book of Government

Motion sustained to amend the Book of Government by the addition of Chapter 18.

Discussion followed with commissioners voicing their concern as to implications of adding this amendment. Concern was expressed that it was premature for the Assembly to have removed it last year. The Clerk cited it as a vehicle for the next few years whereby a congregation can find due process "out" through means of becoming a union congregation. Attorneys who have reviewed the situation see nothing in the PCUS Chapter 31 which would supercede our Section "X." There is no problem in our being recognized by PCUS. This has been confirmed by presbytery action and the opinion of their Stated Clerk. Concern was about the possibility of implying tacit approval of denominations we just left in approving Chapter 18. Scripture was cited that believers should not be unequally yoked with unbelievers and therefore Chapter 18 should be defeated. It was also expressed that there should be some technique to show that this would be a temporary means for bridging the gap between denominations.

Motion sustained that in ¶18-1, the names of the denominations in lines 2, 3, and 4 be deleted altogether, along with same deletion in lines 6, 7, and 8. Motion to amend passed.

Motion lost to insert words "of evangelical persuasion consistent with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church" into ¶18-1, line 4.

On motion, debate was closed.

Motion adopted unanimously to amend the Book of Government by inserting the amended Chapter 18 back into the Book of Government.

### 1-45 Assembly Adjourned

The Assembly adjourned in song and prayer with a most joyful spirit at 3:35 p.m.

## APPENDIX I

### RULES FOR ASSEMBLY

#### I. Date and Place of Meeting

- 1-1 The General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall meet annually on the date and at the place fixed by the preceding General Assembly, between May 1 and June 30.
- 1-2 The place of meeting shall be rotated among various areas of the church as much as is practical. Any presbytery or church outside of presbytery that desires to entertain the General Assembly shall forward an invitation to the Stated Clerk no later than a month before the preceding Assembly.

#### II. Organization of a General Assembly's Meeting

- 2-1 The General Assembly shall be called to order at the designated time by the Moderator, and shall begin with a worship service.
- 2-2 The Stated Clerk shall present a report on the enrollment of Commissioners, and declare if a quorum is present. If such is present, the Assembly shall be declared to be properly constituted.
- 2-3 The first order of business shall be the election of a Moderator. There shall be only one nominating speech not to exceed five minutes for each nominee. No seconding speeches shall be permitted.
- 2-4 If more than one Commissioner is nominated, election shall be by ballot, on ballots provided by the Stated Clerk. Tellers appointed by the Stated Clerk shall gather, count, and report the ballot tabulation to the Stated Clerk. Election shall be by majority. Should no majority exist among a plurality of nominees, a second ballot shall be called for the two highest nominees. The Moderator shall declare the election.
- 2-5 As soon as a Moderator shall have been declared elected he shall assume his duties as Moderator.

#### III. The Moderator

- 3-1 The Moderator shall preside at all sessions of the Assembly except for those times when the Moderator may temporarily invite another Commissioner to act as the presiding officer.
- 3-2 The Moderator shall call the succeeding Assembly to order and preside until a successor has been elected. A sermon from the retiring Moderator is appropriate. If the Moderator is unable to act, the Stated Clerk shall call the Assembly to order and preside over its sessions until a Moderator has been elected.

#### IV. The Stated Clerk

- 4-1 The Stated Clerk shall be elected on the last day of the Assembly. A new Stated Clerk shall assume office at the end of the Assembly, or at such time thereafter as designated by the General Assembly.

IV. The Stated Clerk (Continued)

- 4-2 The Stated Clerk shall perform the duties assigned by the Book of Government and by the Standing Rules of the Assembly and such other duties as are assigned by action of the Assembly.
- 4-3 The Stated Clerk shall assemble the items of business to come before the Assembly and prepare a daily docket for the receiving of committee reports and consideration of all appropriate business to come before the Assembly.
- 4-4 The Stated Clerk shall keep the Minutes of the General Assembly. He shall publish them annually with statistical reports of the Church and reports of the committees of the Assembly.
- 4-5 The Stated Clerk shall have the privilege of the floor in all matters pertaining to his office and at such times when the Moderator, Chairperson of Assembly Committees, or any commissioner request clarification of Assembly business.
- 4-6 The Stated Clerk shall be the parliamentarian of the General Assembly.

V. The Assembly Arrangements

- 5-1 The Moderator of the last General Assembly and the Stated Clerk shall plan the periods of worship at the meeting of the Assembly, including the celebration of the Lord's Supper and public services. A brief worship service shall be included at the beginning of each day's session.
- 5-2 The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated by the General Assembly on the first day of its meeting. The retiring Moderator shall preside on this occasion and shall preach a sermon or deliver an appropriate address. The newly elected Moderator shall assist in this service.
- 5-3 The first order of the day, except the opening day, at the beginning of the business session shall be the presentation of a docket listing the business which is to be considered that day. Revision of the docket may be necessary during the day.
- 5-4 The Stated Clerk shall oversee all arrangements for the meeting and housing of the General Assembly in conjunction with the host presbytery and/or host church.

VI. Communications and Overtures

- 6-1 A communication to the General Assembly is formal correspondence received by the Stated Clerk from other churches, interchurch agencies, and from organized bodies outside the church proper having business with the Assembly.
- 6-2 The Stated Clerk shall recommend to the Assembly reference for all communications.
- 6-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a presbytery for action by General Assembly upon a specific matter.

VI. Communications and Overtures (Continued)

- 6-4 All overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received by the Stated Clerk less than one month prior to the opening of the Assembly shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of General Assembly shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled commissioners.

VII. Reports to the General Assembly

- 7-1 The Moderator, Stated Clerk, Standing Committees and Special Committees shall make annual reports. Such reports shall be transmitted to the Stated Clerk by at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly. These reports shall be referred to the Assembly by the Clerk.

VIII. New Business

- 8-1 Any matter presented in any form which has not been received by the Stated Clerk prior to the opening of General Assembly shall be treated as new business.
- 8-2 New business must be presented to the Assembly before the close of the second day of business. The Steering Committee may assist the Clerk in referring all new business coming to the Assembly.

IX. Parliamentary Procedure

- 9-1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in these Rules, Revised Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standard in parliamentary procedure.
- 9-2 In presenting the report of a committee, the Chairperson shall lead the Assembly in a brief prayer before making the report. The entire report shall be read before any comment. The Assembly may waive the reading of any particular report by a majority of those present.
- 9-3 Each recommendation in each report must be read, considered, and acted on separately.
- 1) The Chairperson moves the adoption.
  - 2) Motion to adopt is seconded from the floor.
  - 3) The Moderator asks: Is there objection or question?
  - 4) Hearing no objection or question, the Moderator states: It is adopted. (Above procedure known as the "Short Form of Voting".)
- 9-4 Procedure in debating a question:
- 1) The Committee Chairperson may answer questions concerning the report addressed through the Moderator.
  - 2) The Chairperson shall have the opportunity to make the final statement in debate.
  - 3) No Commissioner may speak on the same question more than once until all desiring to speak have done so.

Appendix I  
Rules For Assembly

- 4) Debate on the main motion shall be limited to ten (10) minutes unless extended. A simple majority may extend the debate an additional five (5) minutes.
- 5) Debate shall be free, open, and responsible with equal time being given to proponents and opponents in so far as possible.

9-5 All motions shall be presented in writing and read before being voted on.

X. Amendment or Suspension of Rules

- 10-1 The Rules of the General Assembly may be amended or suspended only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total enrollment of the Commissioners. A motion to amend is debatable. A motion to suspend is not debatable.

## APPENDIX II

### ADDENDUM REPORT ON PROVISIONAL DOCUMENTS

TO: Member and Affiliate Churches, Pastors, and Interested Persons

The following is a report of the deliberations and recommendations of the Steering Committee after receipt of suggestions for changes to the Book of Government, and the Book of Worship arising out of the convening convention in St. Louis, Missouri, and correspondence received from interested parties since that time. The Steering Committee has carefully studied these matters in its meetings on June 2 & 3, and August 4, 1981. Recommendations for specific changes will be listed first, followed by notations on deliberations in those areas where changes were not recommended.

#### I. Recommendations: Book of Government

1. It is recommended that the last sentence of Section 5-3 be amended so as to read as follows: "Upon dissolution, any remaining members shall be commended to another congregation by the Presbytery." (It was felt that Presbytery does not have authority to "assign" members to another congregation but may commend them in the wisdom of Presbytery.)

2. It is recommended that the first line of Section 7-6 be amended so as to read as follows: "The particular church has the right to elect trustees from within its membership who have demonstrated a consistent Christian life and who shall have. . ." (Use of a separate Board of Trustees is discouraged because of inherent problems in separating ecclesiastical power from civil power within a congregation, but if a congregation does choose to elect trustees, it should elect persons who have demonstrated a consistent Christian life.)

3. It is recommended that Section 8-4 be amended in its entirety to read as follows: "Moderator of meeting: Ordinarily, the Pastor will be the Moderator unless for some reason it is deemed not practical or wise by the Church Session with the concurrence of the Pastor. In that event, the Church Session with the concurrence of the Pastor shall appoint one of its members to call the meeting to order and to preside. In the case of sickness or temporary absence of the Pastor, the same expedient may be adopted. When there is no Pastor or in cases involved in judicial process, a Minister of the Presbytery may be appointed by that body to moderate." (Concern was expressed that sessions should not have the power to replace a Moderator. The Editing Committee concurs and the proposed amendment requires concurrence of the Moderator before Session can appoint a replacement.)

4. It is recommended that Section 9-5.G be deleted in its entirety (Session and the Pastor should have discretion in this area since temporary denial of a request for baptism may be a part of counseling and reconciliation.)

5. It is recommended that the last sentence of Section 12-1.G be deleted in its entirety. (This is based upon the assumption that the denomination through its Ministerial Relations Committee will develop and maintain a national examination. If there is no such national examination, this sentence should be retained in the interim.)

Appendix II  
Addendum Report on Provisional Documents

6. It is recommended that the last sentence in Section 15-4 be amended to read as follows: "There must be at least three classes, and an officer who has served all or part of two consecutive terms shall be ineligible for reelection for one year." (Many churches currently allow two full terms to be served before a period of ineligibility. To require this to be reduced to one term would work undue hardship on these churches.)

7. It is recommended that the following Section be added to Section 17 as 17-1.B: "No changes may be made to the Book of Order including any of its parts composed of the Book of Government, the Book of Discipline, and the Book of Worship which would be contrary to the Confession of Faith and catechisms." (This will prevent polity from overruling theology as has happened in other denominations.)

8. It is recommended that Section 18 be deleted from the Book of Government because of the concern expressed by some churches and because it serves no viable purpose at the present.

9. It is recommended that Section 5-4.A be revised to add "Once a church session has notified Presbytery of its desire under this section, Presbytery shall take no action to dissolve or divide the particular church and its teaching elders, until all proceedings under this Section 5-4 are fully completed."

10. It is recommended that the second line in Section 14-1.D and 14-5.C in the Provisional Book of Government be amended to read "fundamentals of the Faith."

11. It is recommended that Section 14-1.B and 14-5.A in the Provisional Book of Government be amended to read "Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks?"

II. Recommendations: Book of Worship

1. It is recommended that the word "since" in the first line of Section 3-1.D be omitted. (The word is simply not necessary. Discussions on other changes resulted in no further recommendations since it was felt that the paragraph is not mandatory due to the use of the word "should.")

2. It is recommended that the opening line of Section 3-1.F (5) be amended to read as follows: "The Administration of the sacrament: After asking God's blessing to attend the sacrament, the Minister shall administer baptism." (The previous wording implied to many that the water itself was in some way "holy" and such an implication does not exist in Scripture.)

3. It is recommended that the word "However" which begins the third sentence of Section 3-1.G (1) be deleted. (The committee also discussed the question raised as to whether or not a Session should ever authorize those on the inactive role to present infants for baptism. This was felt to be best left to each congregation.)

Appendix II  
Addendum Report on Provisional Documents

4. It is recommended that the second sentence of Section 3-1.G (4) be amended to read: "They should be reminded to remember the significance of their own baptism..." (Very few people can remember their own baptism, but all can remember the significance.)

5. It is recommended that the references in Section 3-2 to the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in terms of a commemoration be stylistically edited to emphasize that the sacrament is a celebration and not commemorative in the modern sense of commemorating the death of a human person.

6. It is recommended that the quotation from Scripture in Section 3-2.K (3) be amended to conform to the better translation reading: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me."

The following comments are offered regarding those areas in which the committee did not recommend amendments.

1. A concern was registered that the committee add language in Section 16-8 of the Book of Government, limiting the power of Presbyteries and adding that Presbyteries may not install, remove, or refuse to remove a Pastor contrary to a majority of the congregation without judicial process. This was in response to a specific situation in the United Presbyterian Church where a Pastor was removed from this position against the will of a majority of the congregation. Section 16-8 of the Book of Government, however, deals with those situations where a Pastor has requested to be removed or where a congregation has requested that its Pastor be removed. In neither instance may a Presbytery remove a Pastor without the concurrence of either the Pastor or the congregation. The removal of a Pastor contrary to a majority of the congregation without the Pastor's concurrence would require a judicial process in any event under the terms of the Book of Discipline.

2. The committee was requested to add language allowing a church to have Boards elected by the congregation such as a Board of Missions, or a Board of Christian Education. It is the opinion of the committee that such Boards, even though elected by the congregation, nevertheless, by the terms of the Book of Government are subservient to Session which has authority over all matters not specifically reserved to the Pastor or congregation, and so such Boards however they may be named are in effect committees of Session.

3. It is suggested to the committee that the Book of Government provide that the Westminster Confession of Faith be unamendable. It is the opinion of the committee that as the Confession itself states that men and counsels err, the question of amendment should be left open for future Assemblies. The committee feels that Section 17-2 gives substantial safeguards against capricious actions.

4. It was suggested to the committee that the Book of Government provide that no Presbytery or General Assembly be allowed to meet on Sundays. The committee thought that this was a question that might better be answered at a future General Assembly.

Appendix II  
Addendum Report on Provisional Documents

5. The vows of ordination both for a Minister and for church officers require that a person who no longer in good conscience submits and agrees to the fundamentals of the faith has a duty to report such disagreement or change of position to the Presbytery or Session as the case may be. Several have requested that the committee define these "fundamentals." The committee has declined to do so at such time as the moderator has appointed a theological committee to draft a statement of the fundamentals of the faith and to report to the General Assembly.

6. It was suggested to the committee that Section 16-8.B of the Book of Government be amended to require at least three churches to be in attendance in order to provide a quorum for a Presbytery meeting. The committee felt that at the present time when Presbyteries may be small that such a quorum requirement is not feasible but that the suggestion should be raised again in several years when Presbyteries are large enough to make such a quorum requirement feasible.

7. It was suggested that Section 14-1.B be amended to change the word "infallible" to "inerrant." The committee felt that it will defer any action on this until the full report of the Theological Committee.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

L. EDWARD DAVIS  
STATED CLERK

June 8, 1981

### APPENDIX III

#### ESSENTIALS OF THE FAITH

All Scripture is self-attesting, and being truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life to the authority of the infallible Word of God, as written in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, a unified witness to God's redemptive acts culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

On this foundation we affirm the following as essentials of our faith:

1. We believe in one God, the sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. Jesus Christ, the living Word, became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He who is true God became true man united in one Person forever. He died on the cross a sacrifice for our sins according to the Scriptures. On the third day He arose bodily from the dead, He ascended into heaven, where, at the right hand of the Majesty on High, He now is our High Priest and Mediator.
3. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to our hearts. He convicts of sin and draws us to the Savior. Indwelling our hearts, He gives new life to us, empowers and imparts gifts to us for service, and seals us for the day of redemption.
4. Being estranged from God, and condemned by our sinfulness, our salvation is wholly dependent upon the work of God's free grace. God credits His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. Only such as are born of the Holy Spirit and receive Jesus Christ become children of God and heirs of eternal life.
5. The true Church is composed of all persons who through saving faith in Jesus Christ and the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit are united together in the body of Christ.
6. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth - personally, visibly, and bodily - to judge the living and the dead and to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.
7. The Lord Jesus Christ commands all believers to proclaim the Gospel throughout the world and to make disciples of all nations. Obedience to the Great Commission requires total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us."

These Essentials are set forth in greater detail in the Westminster Confession of Faith.

Adopted by 1st General Assembly  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
September 23, 1981

## APPENDIX IV

### COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

#### STEERING COMMITTEE

Ray Brownlie  
Kent Bull  
William Crosbie  
L. Edward Davis  
Calvin Gray  
Don  
Bartlett Hess  
Richard Heidtman  
Frank Johnson  
Mel Morrison  
Irv Rinehart  
Joe Schwindt  
George Scotchmer  
Dean Wolf

#### ORGANIZING STRUCTURE

James Dixon  
Gordon Kummer  
Lawrence Schmoekel  
James Van Dyk

#### DENOMINATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Elden Brieschke  
Paul Moon  
William Moore  
James Morrison  
Robert Ralston  
Dean Robinson

#### MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

James Garner  
Bartlett Hess  
Lowry Horner  
Barbara Mansfield  
Harold Polk  
Leuretta Rollins  
Robert Woodburn

APPENDIX V  
1981 - 82 BUDGET  
 EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
 OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1.	SALARIES (Combination secretary & bookkeeper and Executive Director Salaries: in- cludes FICA and Unemployment)	12,000.00
2.	TRAVEL (Moderator & Clerk)	7,000.00
3.	TRAVEL (Committee Meetings)	1,000.00
4.	TELEPHONE	1,300.00
5.	GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADMINISTRATION	5,000.00
6.	PRESBYTERY DEVELOPMENT	1,000.00
7.	PRINTING & PROMOTION	12,000.00
8.	PROFESSIONAL FEES	2,500.00
9.	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,200.00
10.	POSTAGE	2,000.00
11.	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	400.00
12.	MISCELLANEOUS	3,000.00
13.	CONTINGENCIES	2,000.00
14.	FINANCIAL AUDIT	100.00
15.	TAXES	
16.	OFFICE DEVELOPMENT	<u>3,000.00</u>
	<u>TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET</u>	53,500.00

1st General Assembly  
 September 24, 1981

(Budgetary period September, 1981 - June, 1982)



APPENDIX VI

# Evangelical Presbyterian Church

17000 FARMINGTON ROAD • LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154  
TELEPHONE 313/427-3640

OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK  
May 18, 1982

Commissioners  
1st General Assembly  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Dear Commissioner:

We, the undersigned, do hereby petition the 1st General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to a called meeting to be held at Ward Presbyterian Church, Livonia, Michigan, at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 1982.

This meeting is called for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the recommendation of the Steering Committee that the General Assembly:

1. Amend the Book of Government by reinserting Chapter 18 - Union Churches - into the Book of Government.

Sincerely,

L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk  
On behalf of the petitioners below:

TEACHING ELDERS

RULING ELDERS

Calvin Gray, Moderator

Irv Rinehart, Vice-Moderator

J. Kent Bull

Donald Harms

Bartlett L. Hess

Richard Heidtman

George Scotchmer

Frank Johnson

Dean Wolf

Mel Morrison

Joseph Schwindt

## APPENDIX VII

### CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Session of Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis does hereby call a Congregational Meeting to be held in the sanctuary building of the church on Sunday, May 30, 1982 at 9:30 a.m. for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the recommendation of the Session that the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis:

1. Petition the Presbytery of Southeast Missouri Presbytery, Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) and the Presbytery of Mid-West, Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) to reorganize the Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis to become a union church of the PCUS and the EPC:
2. Petition said Presbyteries of both the PCUS and the EPC to declare:
  - A. That all of the ministers of Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis are members of both denominations according to their respective calls and the terms thereof as previously established.
  - B. That all of the Elders, Deacons and Trustees respectively are installed as Elders, Deacons and Trustees respectively of each denomination according to their terms of office when properly elected by the congregation.
3. Take such actions as may be necessary according to the Book of Church Order of the PCUS and the Book of Government of the EPC and as may be required by law to complete the reorganization of the Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis as a union church of the PCUS and the EPC.
4. Authorize the Session of Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis to take on behalf of the congregation of the said Central Presbyterian Church whatever action may be necessary for the purposes stated.
5. Should for any reason the above actions not be possible, to petition the Southeast Missouri Presbytery for dismissal to the Presbytery of the Mid-West of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, with its property both real and personal.

APPENDIX VII

PETITION OF THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS  
TO THE PRESBYTERY OF SOUTHEAST MISSOURI,  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES AND  
THE PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST,  
THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Congregation of The Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, Missouri, Southeast Missouri Presbytery, Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS), humbly petitions the Presbytery of Southeast Missouri, PCUS, to reorganize The Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis as a union church in concert with the comparable judicatory of The Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), the Presbytery of the Midwest, EPC, according to Chapter 31, Section 31-1 of The Book of Church Order of the PCUS, and petitions the Presbytery of the Midwest, EPC, to act in concert with the Presbytery of Southeast Missouri, PCUS, to receive The Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis as a union church of the EPC and the PCUS according to Chapter 18 of The Book of Government of the EPC; and

In furtherance of said reorganization as a union church, the Congregation of The Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis respectfully petitions the aforesaid judicatories to declare:

1. That all of the Ministers of The Central Presbyterian Church of St. Louis are installed as ministers of each denomination according to their respective calls and the terms thereof as previously established; and

2. That all of the Elders, Deacons and Trustees respectively are installed as Elders, Deacons and Trustees respectively of each denomination according to their terms of office when previously elected by the Congregation.



PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF  
THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

UNION CHURCHES

Chapter 18:

- 18-1 Particular churches of this Church may unite to form union churches with one or more particular churches of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, of the Reformed Church in America, of the Presbyterian Church, U.S., and of other Reformed bodies, with the approval of the Presbytery. Presbyteries of this Church may act in concert with comparable judicatories of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, of the Reformed Church in America of the Presbyterian Church, U.S., and of other Reformed bodies to organize union churches. Such union churches shall be subject to the provisions of 18-2 and 18-3 as applicable.
- 18-2 The following Plan of Union shall be adopted by the union church so formed:
- A The following Plan of Union is adopted by the \_\_\_\_\_ Presbyterian Church of \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ Church of \_\_\_\_\_, effective as of the date when each of the congregations has approved the plan by a two-thirds majority of those present at a regularly called congregational meeting with such notice and quorum as is required by the Constitution of each Church, and when the Presbytery (Classis) of jurisdiction of each church has approved the particular union and this Plan of Union.
  - B The purpose of this union is to provide for the worship of Almighty God and instruction in the Christian religion by a united congregation which will share the property, real and personal, of the uniting churches and provide for the services of a Minister of Ministers for the united church.
  - C The united church shall be known as the \_\_\_\_\_ Church of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D The united church shall be subject to the Constitution of each Church involved as set forth in subsections 18-2. R, 18-2.S, 18-2.U, and 18-2.V below.
  - E The Session (Consistory) shall submit its records annually, and whenever requested, to each judicatory of jurisdiction.
  - F The membership of the united church shall consist of those who were members of the uniting churches, plus those received by the Session (Consistory) of the united church.

- G The Session (Consistory) of the united church shall report an equal share of the total membership to each judicatory of jurisdiction, and such membership shall be published in the Minutes (Acts and Proceedings) of the General Assembly, with a note to the effect that the report is that of a union church, and with an indication of the total actual membership. A similar report of church school members, baptisms, etc., and financial expenditures shall be made by the Session (Consistory) and noted by each General Assembly in its minutes.
- H Initially the officers of the united church, Elders and Deacons, shall be those officers in active service of the uniting churches, who will undertake to perform their ordination responsibilities under the Constitution of each Church, as indicated in subsection 18-2.D above and 18-2.R, 18-2.S, 18-2.U, and 18-2.V below.
- I At the first annual meeting subsequent to the effective date of the union, new classes of officers, to replace the officers noted in section 18-2.H above, shall be elected by the united congregation according to the constitutional procedure in force as a consequence of subsection 18-2.V below.
- J The pastoral relations of the Ministers of the uniting churches shall be dissolved automatically by the action of the Presbytery (Classis) of jurisdiction in approving this plan, but they may be eligible to be Ministers (Pastors or Associate Pastors) of the united church according to the approval of the Presbyteries (both the Classes and the Presbytery).
- K The Minister of Ministers of the united church shall be full and responsible members of each judicatory of immediate jurisdiction and shall be subject to discipline as provided in subsection 18-2.S below.
- L The united church shall cause a corporation to be formed under the appropriate laws of the state, where permissible. That corporation shall include in its articles or charter the substance of subsections 18-2.B, 18-2.C and 18-2.D above.
- M All property of the uniting churches, real and personal, shall be transferred to the corporation formed in subsection 18-2.L above. The new corporation shall be the legal successor of the corporations, if any, of the uniting churches, and it shall be bound to administer any trust property or monies received in accordance with the provisions of the original establishment of the trust. All liabilities of the uniting churches shall be liabilities of the united church. In any state where a church corporation is forbidden, the purposes of this paragraph shall be achieved in harmony with the law of that state.

- N Trustees of the corporation (or the unincorporated body) shall be elected in harmony with civil law according to the constitutional provisions outlined in subsection 18-2.D above, as interpreted by subsection 18-2.V below.
- O While recognizing the basic right of all givers to designate the cause or causes to which their own gifts shall go, the Session (Consistory) of the united church shall annually propose to the congregation a general mission or benevolence program which shall be divided equitably among the officially approved causes of each denomination. The proportions shall be as the Session (Consistory) shall decide in response to the requests of the higher judicatories.
- P Per capita apportionments or assessments shall be paid to each Presbytery (Classis) of jurisdiction on the basis of the total confirmed (communicant) membership of the union church, equally divided among the denominations involved.
- Q All members of the united church shall be under the discipline of the Session (Consistory) according to rules agreed upon in harmony with the Constitution of each denomination where they coincide, and in harmony with the mandatory provisions of the Constitution of one denomination where the others are permissive, and at the choice of the Session (Consistory) where they may be contradictory.
- R Appeals or complaints against the actions of the Session (Consistory) shall be made to one judicatory only (Presbytery or Classis) at the choice of the members and all subsequent appeals or complaints shall be in the courts of the members' original choice, and decisions so finally made shall be binding on the Session (Consistory) and on the member.
- S The Minister of Ministers shall be subject to the discipline of the Presbyteries (the Presbytery and the Classis) provided that when either shall begin an action, it shall invite a committee from the others to join the commissioner, prosecutor, or prosecuting committee in formulating and pressing the charges. In the event of appeal the case shall be finally decided by the highest court to which the appeal is taken in the Church which commenced the action, and that decision shall be equally binding on the Presbyteries (both the Presbytery and the Classis).
- T The Minister of Ministers shall participate in the denominational Pension Plan of one of the Churches. If a Minister is already participating in one plan, that Minister shall remain in that plan. If a Minister is not a member of any, that Minister shall choose among them.

- U Complaints against the administrative acts of the Session (Consistory) may be taken under the constitutional provisions of only one denomination, according to the choice of the complainant, and once being complained to one judicatory, no other denomination shall accept jurisdiction in the same matter.
- V Wherever the Constitutions of the denominations differ, the mandatory provisions of one shall apply in all cases when the others are permissive. Wherever there are conflicting mandatory provisions (except as provided in subsection 18-2.Q above), the Session (Consistory) of the united church shall petition the judicatories of immediate jurisdiction to overture their respective highest courts to resolve the conflict either by authoritative interpretation or by constitutional amendment.
- W A union church may be dissolved by a two-thirds vote of two congregational meetings, held not less than one year and not more than two years apart, subject to the concurrence of the Presbyteries (Classis) involved. In case of dissolution of a union church, all property of the united church, real and personal, shall be divided equally between the Presbyteries (the Presbytery and the Classes) of jurisdiction.
- X No sooner than six months after its formation, a union church may elect to become a member solely of either Presbytery (Classis) of which it is a member. By a two-thirds vote at a congregational meeting called for that purpose, the congregation may elect to be a member solely of one presbytery or the other. In such a case it is mandatory that the United Church with all its property, real and personal, become a member solely of that Presbytery (Classis) of its election.

18-3 No provision in this chapter shall be construed as modifying or amending the Constitution of this Church in its application to any but union churches organized under this chapter, their members, officers, or Ministers.

