
MINUTES

**of the
17th General Assembly**

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**June 19-21, 1997
St. Louis, Missouri**

OFFICERS OF THE 17TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MODERATOR:

Dr. Richard Little
2539 Merrimont Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

STATED CLERK:

Dr. L. Edward Davis
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154

Internal Revenue Service Number
for the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
38-2329622

PLEASE ADDRESS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

The Reverend Dr. L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154

NEXT MEETING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**CHERRY HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
3900 E. GRACE BOULEVARD
HIGHLANDS RANCH, COLORADO 80126
JUNE 25-27, 1998**

MINUTES

of the

17th General Assembly

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

I am not ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...

Romans 1:16



FOREWORD

The five sections of this volume are as follows:

JOURNAL: the minutes of the daily sessions of the Assembly. Though the Journal does not contain the documents that appear in the second section (Appendices), it does contain the recommendations made in those documents. Those recommendations appear in the Journal at the point where they were considered. For ease of reference and cross-reference, the Journal is divided into articles. An index of this section appears at the end of the Journal.

APPENDICES: the reports submitted to the Assembly by presbyteries, committees of the Church, and by other bodies, for the Assembly's consideration. With the exception of overtures and resolutions, all reports appear in the Appendix in alphabetical order. All references to papers in the Appendix are by page number in the Journal.

DOCUMENTS: the primary documents adopted by the Assembly to govern its life and mission.

DIRECTORY: general information about the denomination includes permanent committees of the Assembly, presbytery moderators and stated clerks, and a roster of the churches and ministers.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS: a summary of the reports of the churches' financial and statistical statuses in the preceding year.

The Clerk welcomes suggestions for the improvement of these annual volumes.

Moderator, 17th General Assembly

Richard Little, retired pastor of Reynolda Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC has been elected Moderator of the 17th General Assembly.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Dr. Little grew up in Anniston, Alabama. He graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina where he became a Christian. Earning his M. Div. in 1958 at Union Theological Seminary, Richmond Va., Dr. Little did further graduate work at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Penna. In 1983 he received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther-Rice Seminary.

Dr. Little served as Chaplain of the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center, Fishersville, Va. For six years, he was pastor of the Parkview Presbyterian Church (PCUS) in Newport News, Va. From 1965 to 1979 he was engaged in full-time preaching evangelism under the auspices of the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship. In 1980, Dr. Little became pastor of Reynolda Presbyterian Church (EPC), a congregation of about 800, serving there until retiring in 1995.

He has ministered in Presbyterian churches and conferences all over the United States and South America, Puerto Rico, Israel, Italy and India. Dr. Little is founder of the Hawkrigde Home for the Elderly in Neyyattinkara, India, and served as Coordinating Director for the First and Second World Conferences of the Holy Spirit in Jerusalem, Israel.

Additionally, Dr. Little has served on the Church College Council for Montreat College, the board of the Evangelistic Mission to Puerto Rico, the board of the Presbyterian and Reformed Renewal Ministries International, president of the board of Associates in Christian Counseling in Winston-Salem and as a member of the Ministers Advisory Council of Reformed Theological Seminary. He was elected Moderator of Norfolk Presbytery (PCUS) and of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery (EPC).

During his most recent pastorate, the Reynolda Church developed a vital faith promise missions program and a mid-week School of Discipleship for lay training, personal evangelism training that has equipped over 400 people to share their faith on a regular basis.

Dr. Little and his wife, Shirilee, are the parents of a daughter and a son.



Edward Davis, Stated Clerk



The incumbent Stated Clerk, Edward Davis, has been elected to serve a sixth term. By action of the 16th General Assembly, the term limitation outlined in G.16-21 was set aside, clearing the way for his nomination and election.

Following a ministerial tradition of several generations on both sides of his family, Dr. Davis has served in the urban parish, campus ministry, suburban church, and General Assembly Office. He was elected EPC's first Stated Clerk in 1981 as the new denomination was being born and taking shape, and has continued in this role to the present time. When first called to serve as Stated Clerk, Dr. Davis was Executive Pastor at Ward Presbyterian church, Livonia, Michigan where, with its

founding pastor Dr. Bartlett Hess, he witnessed the church grow from 2000 to 3500 members. He oversaw a church budget the largest of any UPCUSA church in 1980.

Dr. Davis' call to this office has been previously renewed in 1982, 1985, 1988, 1991 and 1994. At the 12th General Assembly (1992), he was among a select few honored as one of the "Founding Fathers" of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

In addition to his responsibilities as Stated Clerk, Dr. Davis is an occasional instructor at Reformed Theological Seminary. He is secretary of the National Association of Evangelicals and is a member of its Executive Committee. Dr. Davis was recently appointed Chairman of the Board of World Relief Corporation. He enjoys a warm collegial relationship with many denominational leaders and as time permits, participates in the US Religious Leaders Conference and the Evangelical Fellowship of Denominational Executives.

A graduate of Nyack College, Dr. Davis is an alumnus of Westminster, New Brunswick and McCormick Seminaries. In 1991, King College bestowed upon him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

Dr. Davis and his wife, Barbara, live in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Their children are Terri Davis, Todd Davis, Cynthia Davis Kennedy (Dan), Tracy Oldford Shalhoub and Todd Oldford. They have three grandchildren: Joshua Shalhoub, Conner Kennedy and Bridget Kennedy.

MODERATORS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Assembly	Year	Name	Presbytery	Place of Assembly
1 st	1981	Rev. Calvin Gray	Midwest	Livonia, Michigan
2 nd	1982	Elder Irvin Rinehart	West	Aurora, Colorado
3 rd	1983	Dr. James Van Dyke	Southeast	St. Louis, Missouri
4 th	1984	Elder Donald Harms	Midwest	Jackson, Mississippi
5 th	1985	Rev. James Morrison	East	Aurora, Colorado
6 th	1986	Elder Roger Vonder Bruegge	Central South	Livonia, Michigan
7 th	1987	Dr. E. Perry Mobley	Southeast	Rome, Georgia
8 th	1988	Elder Richard Heidtman	Midwest	Englewood, Colorado
9 th	1989	Dr. Andrew Jumper	Central South	St. Louis, Missouri
10 th	1990	Elder James Rimmel	Allegheny	Bethesda, Maryland
11 th	1991	Dr. William Flannagan	Central South	Livonia, Michigan
12 th	1992	Elder John Adamson	Central South	Memphis, Tennessee
13 th	1993	Dr. W. Graham Smith	East	Aurora, Colorado
14 th	1994	Elder William Johns	Southeast	Pompano Beach, Florida
15 th	1995	Rev. Wayne Hoffman	Mid-America	Charlotte, North Carolina
16 th	1996	Elder Claude Russell	West	Englewood, Colorado
17 th	1997	Dr. Richard Little	Mid-Atlantic	St. Louis, Missouri

STATED CLERK OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Years 1981-	Dr. L. Edward Davis	Original Presbytery Midwest
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TRUSTEES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<i>Class of 2000</i>		
<p>Dr. Rhett Payne CrossPointe Comm. Church 2408 E. Trinity Mills #112 Carrollton, TX 75006 972/418-7449</p>	<p>Elder Joe Schluchter 875 Amersham St. Louis, MO 63141 314/647-0717</p>	<p>Elder Virginia Patterson 414-3 Cromwell Circle Bartlett, IL 60103 630/483-3829</p>
<i>Class of 1999</i>		
<p>Elder John Adamson Second Presbyterian 4055 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38111 901/454-0034</p>	<p>Dr. David Chadwick Forest Hill EPC 7224 Park Road Charlotte, NC 28210 704/554-9037</p>	<p>Rev. Ronald Ragon Brainerd EPC 1624 Jenkins Road Chattanooga, TN 37421-3249 423/899-2424</p>
<i>Class of 1998</i>		
<p>Dr. Wally Hostetter Faith EPC 4285 S. Lapeer Rd. Lake Orion, MI 48359 248/340-1900</p>	<p>Elder Gary Fields 8926 S. Edgewood Lane Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 303/812-9000</p>	<p>Elder Jan Bole 1697 S. Kingston St. Aurora, CO 80012 303/751-3126</p>

Dr. Richard Little, Moderator
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Elder Claude Russell, Chairman
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Westkirk Presbyterian Church
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

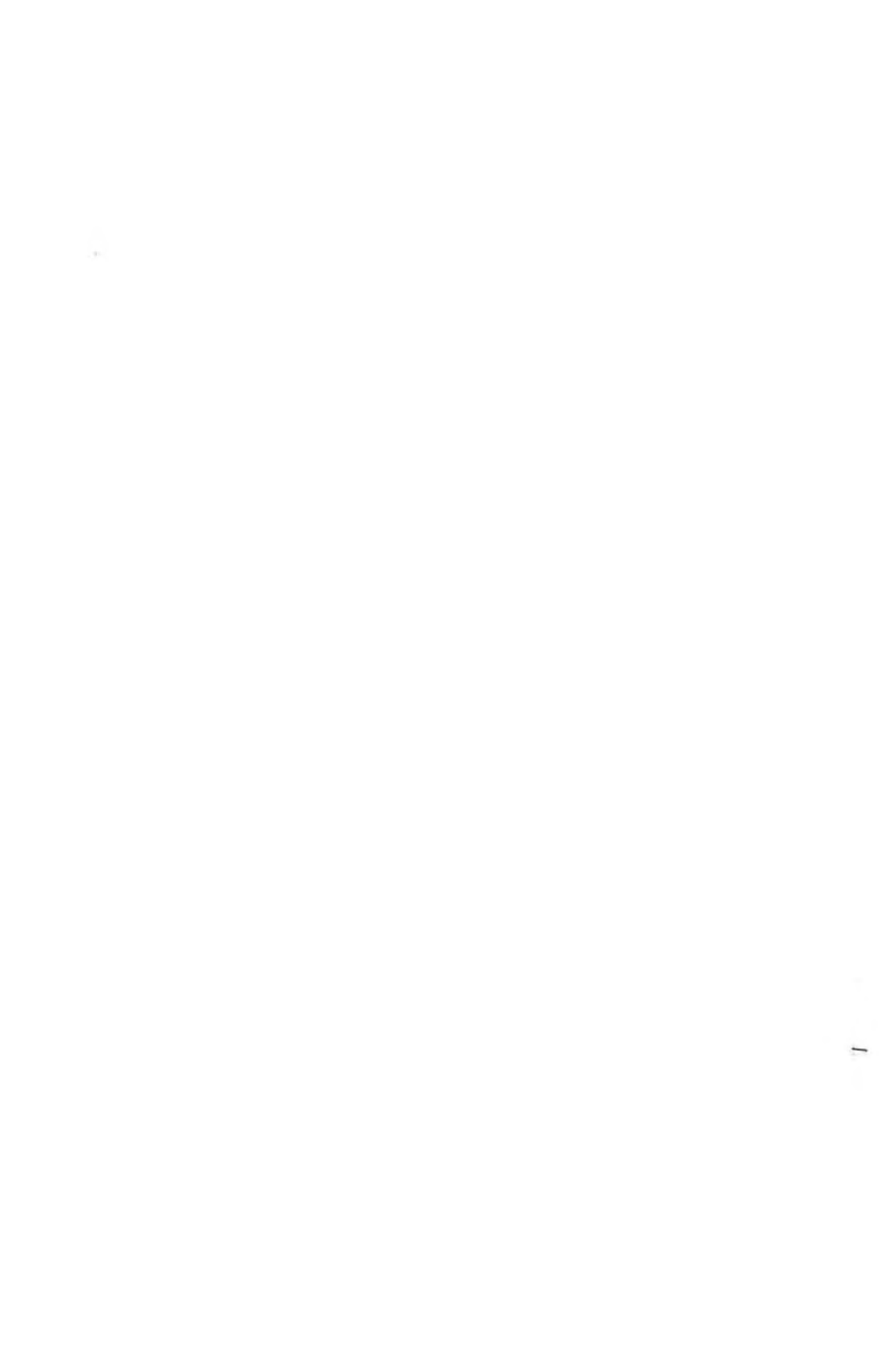
MINUTES of the 17th General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PART I

JOURNAL	1
Matters Received and Referred.....	16
(Communications, Resolutions, Descending Overtures Ascending Overtures and Recommendations)	
Journal Index.....	55

PART II

APPENDICES	
Administration Committee Report.....	58
2001 Committee Report.....	61
Argentine Consultation.....	62
Proposed Partnership Agreement Between St. Andrews Presbytery and General Assembly.....	63
Board of Pension and Benefits Report.....	64
Audit: EPC Pension Plan.....	69
Audit: Group Insurance Plan.....	72
Budget: Administration.....	76
Budget: Benevolence Askings.....	77
Christian Education & Publications Committee Report.....	78
<i>Reflections</i> Editorial Policy.....	81
Pioneer Clubs: Benefits of Denominational Endorsement.....	83
Proposed Working Agreement Between EPC and Pioneer Clubs.....	85
Communications, Overtures, Resolutions.....	89
Descending Overtures, Vote of the Presbyteries.....	115
Financial Audit.....	116
Fraternal Relations Committee Report.....	128
Report of Fraternal Delegate to ARP General Synod (1996).....	130
Joint Committee on Missions Report.....	132
Ministerial Vocation Committee Report.....	139
Moderator's Report.....	142
National Outreach Committee Report.....	144
Findings from the Church Planting Survey.....	148
National Outreach Director's Report.....	167
Nominating Committee Report - Slate of Nominations.....	168
Nominating Committee Report - Standing Committee Assignments.....	169
Position Description for the Assistant to the Stated Clerk.....	174
Permanent Judicial Commission Report.....	176
Report of Committee to Evaluate Office of the Stated Clerk.....	180
Stated Clerk's Report.....	181



MINUTES
of the
17th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JOURNAL

Minutes - Thursday morning

First Session
June 19, 1997

17-1 MORNING WORSHIP

Worship began at 8:40 a.m. in the sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Missouri. Jim & Jean Hakes from Central Presbyterian offered a prelude for trumpet and piano. Rev. Tom Ricks led the worship service and Mrs. Allison Saunders blessed the congregation with her solo, *There Is A Savior*. The Moderator, Elder Claude "Buck" Russell, delivered the state of the church address.

State of the Church Address

Claude E. "Buck" Russell
Moderator, 16th General Assembly

Mr. Moderator, members of the Assembly and friends: I thank God for his unbounded grace and mercy, for the blessings he has bestowed upon Sandy and me during this moderatorial year. He has kept us both safe during the rigors of driving 27,000 miles and has favored us both with excellent health for the entire year. We have felt and appreciated your prayers and it was obvious that the Holy Spirit preceded us and smoothed our path as we were received everywhere we went with love and hospitality. I also take this opportunity to thank the commissioners of the 16th General Assembly for this honor which, through undeserved, I will cherish forever.

At the outset, my wife Sandy and I decided that we were being called to visit as many churches, pastors, pastors' wives and presbyteries as we could, concentrating as much as possible on the small, more remote locations. To do this it was necessary for us to forego our local commitments to our "Prime Time" group at Faith Presbyterian Church and the Stated Clerk responsibilities of the Presbytery of the West. We are most grateful for the support we have received from them, permitting us to be the ambassadors you called us to be.

This year, Sandy and I have traveled over 27,000 driving miles to visit 85 churches, more than 200 pastors, about 75 pastors' wives, eight presbyteries, two foreign countries (Argentina and Brazil), one Summer Jam and many meetings at the General Assembly office. I report these statistics only so you will understand that the comments I make come from a broad base of discussions with pastors and lay leaders in our denomination.

Our purpose has been to encourage our teaching and ruling elders and their spouses as they minister to God's people. We brought them information from and about the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, toured their facilities, discussed their plans and vision for the future, listened and learned from them and brought their recommendations to the General Assembly for consideration. We have prayed with and for them and have developed an extensive prayer list that we continue to lift up to our Lord on a daily basis. What a joy it is to hear later how God has answered some of those prayers.

We are continually asked, "How is our denomination doing? What is the state of the church? What do we find significant?" In response I must say that in the past two years, although our growth has slowed somewhat, I am convinced that this time has been utilized to consolidate our earlier gains and to strengthen our congregations. Our greatest strength rests in the qualifications and dedication of our people. We have outstanding pastoral leadership with a passion for preaching and teaching the Gospel as it is contained in the Scriptures, and not some watered down version that appeals only to those not committed to our Lord, Jesus Christ. As a consequence, our lay leadership and our congregations have been and are being equipped spiritu-

ally and obediently to be God's ambassadors in this modern world. I am convinced that we are now poised for a great spiritual revival within our denomination. Praise be to God.

Evangelism must continue to be our number one priority. Christ gave this to us in the Great Commission and our *Book of Order* affirms it. Many of our churches have a very aggressive evangelistic outreach to the community. One I am familiar with is the "Every Home for Christ" crusade in Aurora, Colorado. Individuals and teams are committed to pray for and visit every home in Aurora, invite people to attend the church of their choice, and share the Gospel with them if they are willing. So far over 10,000 homes have been visited with encouraging results. Our churches use Evangelism Explosion and other innovative ways to reach people for Christ. We must not, however, be dependent on pastors and committees to be the sole evangelists. We must recognize that when we embrace Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we become evangelists whether we like it or not. In the Great Commission, Jesus didn't say to appoint a committee or a group to evangelize. He sent his disciples out one by one to go and make disciples of all people. We are still called upon to practice one-on-one evangelism. Let us all participate using the gifts God has given us and be obedient to his word.

The strengths of our denomination include our unity and diversity. Paul says it best in Ephesians 4:12-13, wherein he says we are to "prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in faith and in knowledge of the Son of God" and in I Corinthians 9:22-23 in which he says, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings." He stresses unity in the faith and the gospel message yet recognizes there are different methods by which people can be reached and saved. We encourage diversity in such areas as our style of worship, music, dress, worship settings and outreach programs. It has been our pleasure to observe this diversity as we have visited churches. In styles of worship and music, we observed everything from the traditional and conservative to active contemporary styles. In most churches, dress is not an issue as long as worship is the reason for being there. In one church of over 300, I was the only one with a coat and tie. However, the message of God's love was preached and people responded. Who am I to criticize a method as long as the right message is preached and taught and people are saved and grow in faith? I am concerned, however, that by encouraging diversity, we may also be encouraging divisiveness. This we must guard against. In our churches and presbyteries, we must remember and respect the other facets of our logo, i.e., "In all things, charity" and "truth in love." We must try not to force our style of worship or music on other people or churches. Out of love we should respect each other as long as there is unity in the only reason we are together, that is to praise and worship our Lord and Savior in such a way that He will be glorified. That is the challenge with which our pastors and sessions are faced. May the Holy Spirit lead and guide you in this endeavor.

I must bring several concerns to your attention. In the past two years, one-third of our churches have not been represented at General Assembly, and our ratio of ruling elders to teaching elders is about 1:1 instead of the desired 2:1. At General Assembly, the highest ratio in our denomination, decisions are made affecting all members, churches, and presbyteries. We want those decisions to represent the will of our members. The only way to insure this is to be part of it. I challenge every church session to require attendance at General Assembly by providing financial assistance where needed, emphasizing the importance of representation. I challenge my fellow ruling elders to accept our obligation to participate in our church courts at all levels. We must not become an "elitist" denomination where only the financial able participate, nor can we become a clergy-dominated denomination. We must be accountable to the members who elected us. Recognizing that some are unable to attend for financial reasons and some churches are unable to provide financial support, most presbyteries and the General Assembly have initiated scholarship funds to assist where needed and requested. Sad to say, there has been little response to this offer which means one of two things to me: (1) people are too proud to ask for help, or (2) there is lethargy on the part of elders. My prayer is that this trend can be reversed and we will have full participation of the churches and their teaching and ruling elders.

I am also concerned about our giving. Having recently reviewed the report of income for the churches' per member askings for the past year, I am happy to report that 50% of our churches have met or exceeded the challenge of \$15 per members. This, however, implies that 50% of our churches have *not* met this challenge. Each of you should know where you stand in this statistic. I am especially concerned about this because of the three sister denominations similar to the EPC, our per member asking is by far the lowest. Compare this with \$55 for one denomination, \$63 for another, and 20% of uninvested funds for the third. Our per member funds are used to finance the operation of the EPC which by far operates on the leanest budget of any denomination surveyed. For example, our World Outreach program is managed by one director and one secretary; same is true for National Outreach. Youth and Women's Ministries each have one director and one *part-time* secretary. Financial management is handled by one person, and pensions, benefits, and medical insurance by another one person. When a congregation fails to fulfill its commitments either another congrega-

tion pays more than its share or some approved budgeted program will suffer. We as a denomination of God's people recognize that the per member asking is really the basic principle of giving the Bible puts before us: "That God's covenant people are encouraged to give according to their ability." Let the per member asking system challenge us to fulfill the vision God has for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. If your church is one of the 50% which has not met its commitment please reevaluate your priorities and financially support God's work.

Contributing to the benevolence askings is another way in which the local church or individuals may support General Assembly-approved missions and programs. In 1996, we reached only 50% of the total benevolence askings goal. I urge you to catch the vision for individual projects and support them with gifts that will be used for no other project than the ones for which you designate them. This is a good way for you to know exactly where your contributions will be utilized.

I am also concerned that too many of our members have very little knowledge or understanding of the EPC, its history and traditions, its theology (reformed evangelical), its polity or government, its organization, goals and objectives. I urge each church to teach these things plus our Westminster Confession of Faith, its essentials, our General Assembly-approved position papers not only to new members, but also periodically to our older members. We must know what and why we believe if we are to be God's evangelists.

Among other projects that are ongoing within the Assembly are:

1. Partnership agreement between the St. Andrews Presbytery in Argentina and the General Assembly. Results of the Argentine Consultation will be reported later in the Assembly.
2. Results of the Joint Committee for Missions with the EPC and Igreja Presbiteriana do Brasil (IPB). This will also be reported later in the Assembly.
3. Establishment of an Assistant Stated Clerk position at the General Assembly level. Request for approval and funding will be presented later in this meeting.
4. Establishment of a computer utilization study group to determine to get all churches connected through email and web pages and to avail ourselves of the emerging technology in the fields of information and telecommunication.
5. Establishment of a task force to study the issues and make recommendations concerning (a) pastoral performance, evaluation and effectiveness, (b) career development, (c) pastor and staff training, (d) change of call, (e) operation of the search and call system, (f) providing resources and consultation for pastoral search committees, (g) compensation and benefits. Pastors and candidates are our most important resource. We want to see if there is a better method to identify, train, develop and utilize their gifts and calls.
6. A planned giving program which will provide expertise and counseling for anyone interested in giving to the EPC specific bequests such as wills, trusts, etc. We are also evaluating a proposal to establish a stewardship office to bring together all aspects of giving such as our per member and benevolence askings and planned giving programs to support the vision we have for growth and ministry.
7. A church plant in the Orlando, Florida area. This is a joint effort of the National Outreach Committee, Presbytery of Florida and individual churches. It is our prayer that this will become a model for use in other church plants in strategic areas of the United States. You will get a full report on this project later in the business sessions.

An area in which Sandy and I are personally interested is that of hospitality, i.e., the offering and use of host homes at presbytery, General Assembly, and committee meetings. We have been the recipients of this hospitality and have offered it in our own home. We have made life-long friendships within and throughout our denomination through this program. It fosters a feeling of family and helps us get to know and understand people from all over the US. Although the object is not financial, it does help keep costs down and make attendance at presbytery and General Assembly meetings more affordable. I urge you to participate and share the blessings that accrue from such friendships.

In summary, in the EPC we have a unity which blends the more contemporary with the more traditional, a unity which avoids classifying anyone as more or less spiritual because of our diversity. We are undivided worshipping one Savior, one Lord.

Growth takes time. We have witnessed growth but more importantly we have matured as individuals, churches and as a denomination. Our responsibility is to maintain the integrity of our biblical and reformed heritage and to provide the most faithful adherence to that faith which has brought us to this point in history.

My year as Moderator has been made possible by the effort and support of many people. I would take this opportunity to let them know how grateful I am. I thank our home church, Faith Presbyterian (Aurora, Colo.) for their prayers, and the Presbytery of the West for placing me on sabbatical leave and providing

prayer and financial support. I have appreciated the support of the General Assembly staff, especially Carol Ann Buchanan who arranged travel details, schedules, and provided administrative support, and Marilyn Bartel and Amy Barnhart for their special attention to other details. Ed Davis has been the rock upon which we depended. His guidance, encouragement, advice, patience and hospitality could not have been better. Without him I would not have been able to complete the mission of the Moderator. We thank the churches we visited for their hospitality, especially those pastors and laymen who opened their homes to us and provided such warm welcomes, joyful times and friendship. Sandy and I treasure those times and hope we may do the same for you in the future.

Last, but not least, I am grateful to my wife, Sandy, who has been my constant companion for the past year. She has been my navigator and co-pilot for all 27,000 miles, my support and sounding board. She has been of immeasurable help in discussing women's ministries and pastors wives' concerns. Above all, she has joyfully prayed, literally for hours on end, for those concerns brought to our attention.

Let me again thank you for allowing me to serve as your Moderator. May God richly bless the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as we face the challenges and the opportunities of the coming years.

17-2 CONVENING OF THE 17th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 17th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was called to order at 9:54 a.m. with prayer by the Moderator, Elder Claude "Buck" Russell.

THE CONVENING PRAYER

Let us pray. Lord, as we gather in this place to attend to the business of your church, pour out your Spirit upon us that we might have divine guidance. Give us, we pray, holy wisdom to make decisions pleasing to you. Give us brotherly love for one another that we may not be divided by differences of opinion. May we always give kindly consideration to the feelings of others and may our hearts be open to different views. Grant especially, Holy Father, that we may be open to change and that our minds might be pliable to the working of the Holy Spirit. Bless the times of worship, may our fellowship be pleasing to you, may our business be done according to your will. We commit this Assembly to you, to the upbuilding of your kingdom here on earth, and to our Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ON MOTION to elect as recording clerks Elder Llew Fischer, Rev. Robert Garment, and Rev. Mark Huebl.

The Clerk noted that Rev. Sam Harris would be serving as Assembly Facilitator with the responsibility of insuring the smooth running of all Assembly meetings.

17-3 DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND ASSEMBLY ENROLLMENT

The Stated Clerk declared a quorum to be present with registration in excess of 325 commissioners. (Cf. G.16-24, "...at least five Ministers and five Ruling Elders representing at least three Presbyteries") The roll of the Assembly follows:

Presbytery of the Central South

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>
Mobile, AL	Trinity	John Mathieu	Mark Jones Ron Mann
Montgomery, AL	Grace Community	Bud Brainerd	
Anna, IL	First EPC	Steve Wilkinson	J.D. Meller Abram Norton
Bossier City, LA	Christ Community	Jim Wallace	
Cape Girardeau, MO	Christ Presbyterian	Art Hunt	
Brandon, MS	Lakeside	Greg Anthony	Morton Bradley Bill Holmes

Laurel, MS	Westminster	Russell Loudon, II	William Horne, Jr Wayne Traylor
Natchez, MS West Point, MS	New Covenant First Presbyterian	Dennis Flach Sam Downing Waring Porter	
Atoka, TN Cordova, TN	Atoka Presbyterian Hope Presbyterian	David Moncla Craig Strickland Michael Moses	Bruce Harrington
Memphis, TN	Second	Rocky Anthony Edward Bertalan Bill McCutchen, III Ron Sadlow Paul Swets	John Adamson John Dewald Wilton Hazelwood Milton Knowlton Charles Leonard Kenneth Moore W. Price Morrison, Jr Traverse Read, III David Shira Tully Rowe Peter Jumper
Austin, TX Carrollton, TX Corpus Christi Garland, TX Houston, TX Houston, TX Katy, TX	Crossroads CrossPointe Church of the King Providence Christ EPC City of Refuge Cornerstone	Michael Schulte Rhett Payne, III Jack Carter Clifton King	Charles Haden Daniel Tidwell Craig Simon Brien Williams Orin Littlejohn
Marshall Waskom, TX	EPC of Marshall First Presbyterian	Kirk Werner Jonathan Smith Frank Costenbader Mark Jumper Richard Konieczny Ron Pierce Hugh White	

Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery:

Presbytery of the East

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>
Bethesda, MD	Fourth Presbyterian	Robert Norris Sheldon MacGillivray Dan Pinckney	Richard Bowman Thomas Dolch John Griffith Samuel Jones Michael Strauss Robert White Frank Johnson Jay Searcy
Voorhees, NJ	Ashland EPC	Ian Lamont	Clair Boak Lois Strobel
Montgomery, NY New Castle, PA	Goodwill EPC New Covenant	Stewart Pohlman	Roger Neubauer
Pittsburgh, PA Wexford, PA	New Hope North Park EPC	Rodger Woodworth Robert Hopper	

Journal

Alexandria, VA	Faith EPC	Robert Barrett	Zelda Artz
Burke, VA	Pohick Valley EPC	Michael Winship	Theodore Tubbesing
Montclair, VA	Montclair Community	Ken Jones	Jim Musick
<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery:</i>		Ronald Meyer	
		Graham Smith	
		Nancy Stewart	

Presbytery of Florida

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>
Brooksville	Faith EPC	Ron DiNunzio Stephen Brown	Gwynn Blair David Franklin Donald Nelson Keith Parkhill
Daytona Beach DeFuniak Springs	The Cornerstone Glendale Presbyterian	Howard Chadwick, II	Ramona Chadwick John Sims W.A. Ray Connie Jennings
Ft. Pierce Homestead Lake Mary Oviedo Plant City	Trinity Presbyterian First EPC Abundant Life EPC Cypress Pointe EPC of Plant City	Robert Garment Robert Hess Bob Wilbur Dan Lacich Donald Mason	Debbie Hess Dane Wren Hallie Evans Henry Sytsma Brette Rash
Tampa	Christ Covenant	Woodland Johnson	
<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery:</i>		Michael Glodo	

Presbytery of Mid-America

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>
Warrenville, IL	Immanuel	Robert Harvey	Paul Heidebrecht Carolyn Nystrom Virginia Patterson Bill Snyder
Des Moines, IA Lawrence, KS	Westkirk Grace EPC	Wayne Hoffman Bill Vogler	Donald Lanham Albert Neutel Larry Swinson
Lenexa, KA Overland Park, KS Overland Park, KS Bridgeton, MO	West Highlands EPC Covenant Chapel Heartland Community Sutter	Robert Bayles Tom Ryan Craig McElvain	
St. Louis, MO	Central	Jerry Brundle Douglas Graham Tom Ricks John Splinter	Art Kaufmann Charles Ming Ted Beattie Joe Gruneisen Harold Hegel Dexter Kuhlman Gordon Lindenblad Alan Shaffer Lee Stertz

St. Louis, MO

New Harvest

David Boswell

Bill Wichman

Mark Quay

Tom Masterson

David Lovell

*Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery:***Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic****City****Church****Ministers****Ruling Elders**

Cary, NC

Fellowship of Christ

David McLean

Bob Matthews

Charlotte, NC

Covenant Community

James Carr

Charlotte, NC

Forest Hill EPC

David Chadwick

Tim Jordan

Robbi Fischer

Charles Overstreet

Todd Hahn

Allen Roes

David Ruff

Knox Sherer

Robert Tansill

Charlotte, NC

St. Giles

Percy Burns

Larry Ashley

Rister Jenkins

Monroe, NC

Lee Park

David Stewart

Wilmington, NC

Myrtle Grove

Stephen Crotts

Doug Carlson

Ken Burbridge

Jack Loflin

Bryan Slater

Tony Register

Winston-Salem, NC

Reynolda

Alan Wright

Philip Stump

David Beaty

King Brown

Vance Rutan

Frances Wall

James Wall

Southern Pines, NC

Christ Fellowship

Don Hardman

Anderson, SC

Christ Church

Bill Hyer

Richard Robinson

Columbia, SC

Cregmore EPC

Wayne Wood

Florence, SC

Bethesda

Travis Martin

Florence, SC

Trinity

Bill Meyer

Kenneth Charles

Jim Spencer

David Rilling

Gaffney, SC

Overbrook EPC

Don Neighbours

Fredericksburg, VA

EPC - Fredericksburg

Paul Rettew

Greenwood, VA

Lebanon Presbyterian

Daniel Berry, III

Bill Cunningham

Hampton, VA

Northampton EPC

Bob McRacken

Salem, VA

Faith Presbyterian

Jim Conner

Llew Fischer

Virginia Beach, VA

Kempsville

Dick Little, Interim

John Allman

Richard Kidd

Larri Donaldson

Langdon Montgomery

Cross Lanes, WV

Perrow Presbyterian

Nathan Atwood

Jack Maxwell

David Brogren

Howard Finkel

Donald Fortson, II

Charles Wickman

Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery:

Presbytery of the Midwest

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>
Auburn, IN	St. Andrew	Donovan Coley, Sr.	Charlotte Beatty Richard Beatty Bob Walton Rosemary Walton
Ann Arbor, MI	Covenant EPC	Mark Vanderput	Ted Dodasovich Robert Wood
Ann Arbor, MI	Knox EPC	Michael Frison	John Barber Judy Bloss Joan Merritt
Detroit, MI	Military Avenue EPC	Randy Brown	John Andrews
Farmington Hills, MI	Grace Chapel	Gil Odendall Tony DeOrio	Percy Andrews Bill Bumford Jim Jaros
Flint, MI	Calvary Presbyterian	Harold K. Polk, Jr.	Dick Heidtman Gerald Streichert
Harrison Township, MI	Knox	Chris Gibson	Robert Healy
Lake Orion, MI	Faith EPC	Wallace Hostetter Richard Stauffer Douglas Thompson	Roger Derksen
Livonia, MI	Ward Presbyterian	James McGuire David Brown Neil Ellison Michael Gatliff James Killgore John Quigley	Alton Bennett Janet Carlton Ken Casey Ron Grant Norm Jackson Bob Mathers Jim Orr Phil Pelli Emily Reid Bill Roberts David Satterthwaite Lynn van der Harst
Mt. Pleasant, MI	Mt. Pleasant Comm.	William Lindner, Jr.	Peter Mastic
Plymouth, MI	Trinity Presbyterian	William Moore William Branham, Jr.	Dennis Saffron Charles Talbot
Pontiac, MI	Oakland Avenue EPC	Tom Dages	Richard Turnblom
Trenton, MI	First	Don Giesmann	Ray Sawmiller Roy Schrameck
Mentor, OH	Hope Community	Richard Peterson	James Rimmel
Richmond, OH	Faith EPC	David Massimi	Wendy Walker
Youngstown, OH	Tabernacle EPC	James Brown, Jr.	
Waukesha, WI	Highview EPC	Dennis Henn	
<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery:</i>		Edward Davis	
		Glen Francis	
		Corbett Heimburger	

Bartlett Hess
Timothy Mindling
David Walker

Presbytery of the Southeast

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>
Marietta, GA Rome, GA	Grace Community First Presbyterian	William Flannagan Scott Jackson	Leonard Pilgrim Hugh Burnes Greg Garrett Bill Johns William Pilson John Ward
Ft. Wright, KY	New Beginning	Steven Riser	Omer Johnson Diane Livezey Edward Livezey
Franklin, NC	Cornerstone EPC	Ron Odum	Bill Liang Ingeborg Snider
Highlands, NC	Community Bible	Steve Kerhoulas	Doyle Calloway Jerry Green Frank Leslie
Plumtree, NC Chattanooga, TN Chattanooga, TN Hixson, TN	Plumtree Brainerd Presbyterian Lookout Valley EPC Valleybrook EPC	Bruce Anderson Ronald Ragon Russ Ragon Sam Harris Bill Sharp	Richard Scarborough Reg Smith Ben Brychta George Schneider
Kingsport, TN Knoxville, TN	Mt. Calvary Christ Presbyterian	Tommy Jordan Julian Reese	

Presbytery of the West

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>
Chandler, AZ Phoenix, AZ Tucson, AZ Bellflower, CA Clayton, CA Folsom, CA San Jacinto, CA Santa Maria, CA	Christ's Family Pres. Morningside New Covenant Thai EPC Clayton Comm. Faith EPC Valley Community Santa Maria	George Carey Ed McCallum Chaluay Ruangchan Shawn Robinson John Cedar Dean Wolf Tom Pitman	Paul Kehle Gordon Piegenga Chinda Rudd Evelyn Cisney Homer Graham Nettie Graham
Aurora, CO Aurora, CO	Covenant Community Faith	Marc Huebl Doug Klein Cooper McWhirter Fred Stifel	Robert Little Claude Russell
Denver, CO Englewood, CO	Cornerstone Cherry Creek	Ken Glasier Perry Mobley, Interim Brett Garretson Hugo Venegas	Jan Bole Jeanene King Bert Loudon

Journal

Englewood, CO	Greenwood		Cecil Matthews
Ft. Collins, CO	Christ Fellowship		Candace McCune
Golden, CO	Lookout Mountain	Aram Haroutunian	Mel Medema
Highlands Ranch, CO	Cherry Hills	James Dixon	Carol Osborn
		John Patterson	Hugh Smith
Lakewood, CO	Bear Creek	James Coleman	Bruce Bryant
		Bruce Spear	
			Gary Fields
Loveland, CO	Faith Evangelical	James Murphy	Sam Searcy
Parker, CO	Parker Presbyterian		Ted Brandsma
Renton, WA	First	Jeffrey Jeremiah	Noris Lusche
			Glen Sutton
			John McCauley
			Bernard Draper
			Dick Landen
			Davis Nichols

Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery: Mark Moore
Bradley Strait
John Taylor
Brad Yorton

Final enrollment is as follows:

Ruling Elders.....	175
Teaching Elders.....	168
Total Commissioners.....	343
Observers.....	218
Total Assembly Registration.....	561

Churches represented:.....115

Commissioners excused: The following persons requested, in writing, to be excused:
Ruling Elders: James Boren (Second, Memphis, TN) Jerald Dosh (Calvary, Flint, MI); Jason Hoffman (Westkirk, Des Moines, IA); Charles Scott (Westminster, Bluefield, WV)

Teaching Elders: Thom Burbridge (Livonia, MI); Jeffrey Chadwick (Westminster, Bluefield, WV); David Flaig (Bear Creek EPC, Lakewood, CO); Glen Francis (Cincinnati, OH); Charles Hammett (Christ EPC, Midlothian, VA); David Hicks (Zachary EPC, Zachary, LA); Douglas Sherman (Ann Arbor, MI); Sandy Willson (Memphis, TN).

17-4 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

ON MOTION to adopt the docket as follows:

DOCKET	
Thursday, June 19, 1997	
First Session	
8:30 a.m.	Opening worship service
	• Moderator's Address
9:20 a.m.	Assembly convenes.

1. Opening session. Constituting prayer. Election of Recording Clerks. Local arrangements and announcements. Call for quorum. Docket.
 2. Election of 17th General Assembly Moderator. Passing of the gavel. Response
 3. Partial report of the Nominating Committee
 4. Ratification vote on descending overtures. Adoption of 16th General Assembly (1996) **Minutes**.
 5. Report of the Stated Clerk. Matters received and referred. Committee instructions. Introduction of standing committee chairmen.
 6. Special Report: The Persecuted Church (Steve Haas)
 7. New churches. Face to Face. Introduction of chaplains and missionaries
- 9:30-4:30 a.m. Pastors' Wives Luncheon (Botanical Gardens)
 12 Noon Box lunch (Central Church)
- Second Session**
- 1:30-5:00 Assembly committees meet (Central Church)
 2:00-4:00 Women's Ministries program (Hotel)
 4:00-5:00 Pension Board Q & A (Central Church)
 7:30 p.m. Evening Worship Service
- Buck Russell presiding
 - Eric Alexander, Keynoter
 - Investiture of 17th Assembly Moderator
- Fellowship time following service (Dining Room)*

17-5 ELECTION OF 17th GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR

The Moderator introduced Elder Zelda Artz, chairman of the Nominating Committee, to present the Committee's recommendation for Moderator. Following prayer, Elder Artz reported that her committee had received unanimous endorsements from both the Presbytery of the Southeast and the Presbytery of Florida for the nomination of Rev. Richard Little for Moderator. Rev. William Flannagan was asked to introduce and nominate Rev. Little.

The Moderator opened the floor to additional nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed. Rev. Little was elected as Moderator of the 17th General Assembly by acclamation, and the gavel was passed to the new Moderator. Rev. Little addressed the Assembly, briefly reflecting on the sense of belonging he has discovered in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. He shared from his heart his joy and delight in being a part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Rev. Little introduced his wife, Shirilee, to the court.

17-6 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chairman Zelda Artz opened her partial report with prayer. Elder Artz reminded the court that those commissioners registered by June 11th had been placed on standing committees with the exception of commissioners with special or conflicting tasks. The standing committee chairmen were introduced:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Administration | Rev. Bill Flannagan |
| Christian Ed & Publications | Elder Hugh Smith |
| Fraternal Relations | Elder Virginia Patterson |
| Memorials & Appreciation | Rev. Percy Burns |
| Ministerial Vocation | Rev. Paul Rettew |

National Outreach	Elder John Allman
Overtures & Resolutions	Rev. Ron DiNunzio
Presbytery Review	Elder Samuel Jones
Student & Young Adult Ministries	Rev. Russ Ragon
Theology	Rev. Steve Riser
Women's Ministries	Rev. Nancy Stewart
World Outreach	Elder Rick Scarborough

The chairman presented the first reading of nominations to the permanent committees:

COMMITTEE	CLASS	NOMINEE	PRESBYTERY
Administration	Class of 2000	Rev. Rhett Payne Elder Virginia Patterson Elder Joe Schluchter	Central South Mid-America Mid-America
Christian Education & Publications	Class of 2000	Elizabeth Hicks Rev. Bruce Spear	Central South West
Fraternal Relations	Class of 2000	Elder Dexter Kuhlman Rev. Graham Smith	Mid-America East
Ministerial Vocation	Class of 2000	Rev. Bill Moore Elder Leon Niemann	Midwest West
National Outreach	Class of 2000	Rev. Jim Murphy Rev. Bob Wilbur	West Florida
Student & Young Adult Ministries	Class of 2000 Class of 1998	Rev. Jim Byrne Rev. Rick Stauffer Vince Morris	East Midwest Mid-America
Theology	Class of 2000	Elder Charles Haden Rev. Tom Ricks	Central South Mid-America
Women's Ministries	Class of 2000	Margaret Donato Wendy Johnson	Central South East
World Outreach	Class of 2000 Class of 1998	Elder Bern Draper Elder John Haase Rev. Sam Rowan Elder Mark Coleman	West Central South East Central South
Board of Pensions & Benefits	Class of 2000	Elder Leland Curtis Elder Milton Knowlton	Mid-America Central South
Permanent Judicial Commission	Class of 2000	Rev. Don Mason Elder Leonard Pilgrim Rev. Howard Shockley	Florida Southeast Southeast

17-7 RATIFICATION OF DESCENDING OVERTURES

Stated Clerk Edward Davis presented the overtures descending from the 16th General Assembly for ratification. If an overture receives approval by three fourths of the presbyteries, that overture is forwarded to the following Assembly for a simple majority ratification. (Cf. G. 17-2). The vote of the presbyteries may be found on page 115. Of the four descending overtures from the 16th General Assembly, Overtures 96-A, B, and C were approved by the presbyteries. Overture 96-D on the oversight of extraordinary candidates did not receive the necessary

three-fourths majority of the presbyteries. (Text of that overture may be found on page 67 of the 16th General Assembly Minutes.)

- **OVERTURE 96-A:** To adopt the *Proposed Book of Discipline*

Question: Shall the *Proposed Book of Discipline (Parts 1 and 2)* in its entirety be substituted for the present *Book of Discipline*?

Grounds: The Ad Interim Committee on Constitutional Review was created by the 14th General Assembly “to examine ambiguous, contradictory or inadequate coordination between the *Book of Government* and the *Book of Discipline* as to disciplinary matters, including consideration of both remedial and punitive aspects thereof, and to offer possible amendments to the 15th General Assembly” (*Minutes*, §14-32, p. 50). The Permanent Judicial Commission ruled that the proposed draft received at the 15th Assembly did not meet the time requirement for submission of such, and needed further attention.

The *Proposed Book of Discipline* adopted by the 16th General Assembly reflects an additional year of intense study and revision by the Ad Interim Committee on Constitutional Review in consultation with the Permanent Judicial Commission.

ON MOTION to ratify Overture 96-A to adopt the *Proposed Book of Discipline*.

- **OVERTURE 96-B:** To amend G.1-5 on the distinguishing marks of the true church

Question: Shall the *Book of Government*, §1-5, be amended by:

- 1) deleting the word “and” in the first sentence; and
- 2) adding the words “and where loving fellowship is maintained” at the end of the first sentence; and
- 3) deleting the word “maintain” in the last sentence and substituting the word “demonstrate” so the section reads:

Proposed wording

G.1-5 The Visible Church, though more or less divided and obscured, is bound together in its essential unity where scriptural discipline is practiced, where the Word is rightly proclaimed, **and** where the sacraments are properly observed, **and where loving fellowship is maintained**. Such groups who **maintain demonstrate** this fundamental integrity of the Church shall be recognized as true parts of the Church, the Body of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth.

Grounds: The *Book of Government* references the historically held marks of the true church in its chapter (G.1-5) as defining “the true Church catholic ...invisible and visible” with the “visible Church” being “...bound together in its essential unity where scriptural discipline is practiced, where the Word is rightly proclaimed and where the sacraments are properly observed” with these marks described as the “fundamental integrity” by which professing groups “shall be recognized as true parts of the Church.”

In the *Essentials of the Faith*, the EPC adds to these an additional mark of the true church when it states in paragraph 5 that, “The true Church...finds her visible, yet imperfect, ex-

pression in local congregations where the Word of God is preached in purity and the sacraments are administered in their integrity, where scriptural discipline is practiced and where loving fellowship is maintained.”

The Assembly concurred that the two documents should be mutually consistent, and thus approved the addition of the words “and where loving fellowship is maintained” to G.1-5.

(This overture originated in the Presbytery of the Southeast.)

ON MOTION to ratify Overture 96-B.

- **OVERTURE 96-C** to amend G.12-2D on the relationship between a candidate, and the ministerial advisor and the pastor

Question: Shall the *Book of Government*, §12-2D, be amended by

- 1) adding the word “not” between the words “ordinarily” and “the” in the first sentence; and
- 2) adding the words “and the Candidate’s Pastor” between the words “advisor” and “shall” in the second sentence; and
- 3) deleting the words “annually to the Presbytery through the” and substituting the words, “regularly to the” so that the section reads:

Proposed Wording

G. 12-2D The Presbytery shall assign a Minister of the Word to serve as advisor to the Candidate, ordinarily *not* the Candidate’s Pastor. The advisor *and the Candidate’s Pastor* shall report ~~annually to the presbytery through the~~ *regularly to the* appropriate committee on the progress of the Candidate. It is also appropriate for the home church of the Candidate to have some special service of recognition.

Grounds: The candidate needs an objective source of advice, particularly since a candidate is often employed by his or her pastor’s congregation. The provision continues to include the pastor as part of the candidate’s preparation program, and minimizes communication breakdowns which can occur over the length of an annual reporting term.

The candidate needs both a pastor and an advisor. His pastor will continue to shepherd the candidate during this time of preparation. The advisor will serve to encourage the candidate in his fulfillment of the requirements for ordination. By involving separate pastors in each role, the candidate’s pastor is freed to continue his shepherding ministry without having to undertake the additional role of administering the requirements of the ordination process while the advisor can implement the requirements of the program without jeopardizing a pastoral relationship.

(This overture originated in the Ministerial Vocation Committee.)

ON MOTION to ratify Descending Overture 96-C.

17-8 RECEPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 16TH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the 16th Assembly were received. Adoption of the Minutes will be accomplished by the Committee on Administration as allowed in *Robert’s Rules of Order*. The Stated Clerk

asked that additions and corrections to this document be forwarded to the General Assembly Office as soon as possible.

17-9 REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Rev. Davis opened his report with prayer. The Stated Clerk was pleased to report that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has experienced modest but steady growth during the preceding year. Total membership and number of member churches is up.

NEW CHURCHES added this Assembly year:

1. New Covenant (Natchez, MS)
2. City of Refuge (Houston, TX)
3. Grace Community (Montgomery, AL)
4. Glendale Presbyterian (DeFuniak Springs, FL)
5. Bridgeway Church (Chesapeake, VA)
6. Abundant Life (Chesapeake, VA)
7. Hope Church (Richmond, VA)
8. Lakeland Community (Lees Summit, MO)
9. Stonebridge Church (Perrysburg, OH)
10. Clearwater Community (Buena Vista, CO)
11. Covenant Fellowship Church (Leoti, KS)

CHURCHES LOST by dissolution or dismissal

1. 1st Presbyterian (Louisville, KY) - dissolved
2. 1st Presbyterian (Atmore, AL) dismissed to PCA
3. New Life Presbyterian (Gaithersburg, MD) dissolved
4. Redeemer (New Kensington, PA) dismissed to CCCC
5. New Hope (Matthews, NC) dissolved

Rev. Davis also expressed concerns that, while professions of faith have increased this year, evangelism is still not the high priority it should be. Further, increases in worship attendance are not balanced to corresponding increases in church membership, indicating perhaps a lack of commitment or clear teaching on the covenantal framework expressed through church membership. He cautioned the church to beware of such inward emphasis on satisfying fellowship that we miss the outward thrust of committed discipleship which is to characterize the Church.

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-10 SPECIAL REPORT ON THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

By common consent, the Assembly granted Rev. Steve Haas an invitation to present a special report on the persecuted church. Rev. Haas is an EPC minister who is spearheading the special day of prayer in November. He compared the persecution of God's people recorded in the Book of Esther to the persecution of the church today. He noted that 40,000-60,000 Christians risk everything they have, even their lives, to worship in "house churches" in China, not in government-approved churches.

Journal

On November 16, 1997 50,000 Christians in the US are joining together to pray for the persecuted church around the world. Three goals for International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDDPC) are awareness, prayer, and appropriate action in regard to the volatile issue of persecution of the church. The Assembly offered prayer on behalf of persecuted Christians.

17-11 MATTERS RECEIVED & REFERRED

References of communications, overtures and recommendations were adopted as follows:

Communications

- **Communication 97-1** from Moderator Claude "Buck" Russell, dated June, 1997 (p. 89)
_____ Referred to the floor (p. 34)
- **Communication 97-2** from George Callahan, New Covenant Church, Pompano Beach, FL dated May 14, 1997 (p. 90)
_____ Received as information
- **Communication 97-3** from Paul Larson, Evangelical Covenant Church, dated June 23, 1996 (p. 91)
_____ Referred to Fraternal Relations (p. 28)
- **Communication 97-4** from Ron DiNunzio, dated December 5, 1996 (p. 92)
_____ Referred to Fraternal Relations (p. 28)
- **Communication 97-5** from Cindi Repass, Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, dated October 17, 1996 (p. 94)
_____ Received as information
- **Communication 97-6** from Ben Johnson of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, dated May 8, 1997 (p. 95)
_____ Received as information
- **Communication 97-7** from Edward Davis, Stated Clerk, dated October, 1996 (p. 96)
_____ Received as information
- **Communication 97-8** from Don Argue, National Association of Evangelicals, dated May, 1997 (p. 97)
_____ Referred to Fraternal Relations (p. 28)
- **Communication 97-9** from Richard Oestreicher, World Outreach Director, dated June 4, 1997 (p. 99)
_____ Received as information
- **Communication 97-10** letter from the Board of Pensions & Ministerial Vocation Committees, dated June 19, 1997 (p. 100)
_____ Referred to the Floor (p. 27)
- **Communication 97-11** from Phil & Margaret Muir, dated May 31, 1997 (p. 101)
_____ Received as information
- **Communication 97-12** from Dwight Gibson, World Evangelical Fellowship dated October 25, 1996 (p. 102)
_____ Referred to Fraternal Relations (p. 28)

Journal

- **Communication 97-13** from David Engelhard, Christian Reformed Church, dated May 21, 1997 (p. 103) _____ Received as information
- **Communication 97-14** from Paul Heidebrecht, Chairman, Fraternal Relations Committee, dated May 23, 1997 (p. 104) _____ Referred to Fraternal Relations (p. 28)
- **Communication 97-15** from Steve Haas, Coordinator, International Day of Prayer, dated June 10, 1997 (p. 106) _____ Received as information

OVERTURES

- **Overtures 97-A** from the Presbytery of the Central South concerning the *Essentials of Faith* and their relationship to the Westminster Confession (p. 110) _____ Referred to Overtures and Resolutions (p. 36)
- **Overture 97-B** from the Presbytery of the East concerning the *Essentials of Faith* and their relationship to the Westminster Confession (p. 111) _____ Referred to Overtures and Resolutions (p. 36)
- **Overture 97-C** from the Presbytery of the West concerning the *Essentials of Faith* and their relationship to the Westminster Confession (p. 112) _____ Referred to Overtures and Resolutions (p. 35)
- **Overture 97-D** from the Presbytery of the Midwest concerning the *Essentials of Faith* and their relationship to the Westminster Confession (p. 113) _____ Referred to Overtures & Resolutions (p. 37)
- **Overture 97-E** from the Presbytery of the Southeast concerning the establishment of a men's ministry (p. 114) _____ Referred to Christian Education & Publications (p. 42)

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

- **Recommendation #1**
That the Assembly approve an increase in the "per member" factor from \$15 to \$18. _____ Referred to Administration (p. 29)
- **Recommendation #2**
That the 1998 Administration Budget of \$963,265 (p. 76) be adopted. _____ Referred to Administration (p. 30)
- **Recommendation #3**
That the 1998 Benevolence Askings Budget of \$650,000 (p. 77) be adopted. _____ Referred to Administration (p. 30)
- **Recommendation #4**
That the Assembly approve an increase of financial eligibility for the Medical Benevolence Fund from \$20,000 to \$25,000. _____ Referred to Administration (p. 30)

Journal

• **Recommendation #5**

That the General Assembly amend *Book of Government* §11-10 by adding the following sentence at the end of the section:

“The presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the minister or candidate.”

The section would then read:

11-10 In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that person without a valid call. The dismissing Presbytery shall be informed by the calling Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. *The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate.* _____ Referred to Administration (p. 30)

• **Recommendation #6**

That the boundaries of the St. Andrews Presbytery be extended to include Entre Ríos and Santa Fe provinces. _____ Referred to Administration (p. 30)

• **Recommendation #7**

That the proposed Partnership Agreement between St. Andrews Presbytery and the General Assembly (October 28-29, 1996; p. 63) be ratified. _____ Referred to Administration (p. 30)

• **Recommendation #28**

That the General Assembly adopt the position description for an Assistant Stated Clerk as proposed (p. 174) in response to the request of the 16th General Assembly (cf. 16th Assembly Minutes, p. 57, item L). _____ Referred to Administration (p. 31)

**From the COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION
and the COMMITTEE TO EVALUATE THE OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK**

• **Recommendation #8**

That the General Assembly renew the calling of Dr. L. Edward Davis to serve as Stated Clerk for an additional three-year term. _____ Referred to Administration (p. 31)

From the COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

• **Recommendation #9**

That in light of limitation of resources of both time and finances, Christian Education & Publications Committee be excused from further research on the LiFE curricula beyond the assessment already completed on this series in 1994 as reported in the *Curriculum Evaluation Packet for Children* by this committee. _____ Referred to Christian Education & Publications (p. 42)

• **Recommendation #10**

That the Assembly endorse a relationship with Pioneer Clubs as understood and defined in the working agreement (p. 85). _____ Referred to Christian Education & Publications (p. 42)

From the COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION

• **Recommendation #11**

That G.11-13 be amended by substituting the proposed wording for the present section:

Present wording	Proposed wording
G.11-13 In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person may request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere (Section 15-8).	G.11-13 In the event a Minister accepts a call that has been disapproved by Presbytery, his action shall represent a renunciation of jurisdiction and the Presbytery in which he is a member shall divest him of office.

Grounds: A previous amendment proposed the use of words "not approved," which committee felt implied Presbytery had not even looked at the call. Language which more appropriately defines the intent of the amendment would be "call that has been disapproved."

___ Referred to Ministerial Vocation (p. 46)

• **Recommendation #12**

That G.13-5 be amended by substituting the proposed wording for the next to last sentence in the first paragraph:

Present wording	Proposed wording
A person coming from any other tradition shall be examined in the same manner as a candidate for ordination.	An ordained Minister coming from a non-Reformed denomination or an independent congregation shall be examined as indicated in Section 13-2.

Grounds: Committee believes that the amendment addresses a candidate coming to the EPC in three cases:

- 1) A non-reformed denomination: ordination is recognized;
- 2) An independent congregation: ordination is recognized;
- 3) A non-ecclesiastical or para-church organization: we do *not* recognize the ordination because we understand ordination to be an act of the church, a commission conferred only by an ecclesiastical body. In every case, any ordained minister coming from a non-reformed body should be examined in the same manner as a candidate. Proposed wording clarifies the difference between ordination in cases 1 and 2, which we recognize and accept, and "ordination" in case 3, which we neither recognize nor accept. Recognition of ordination in case 3 could be inferred by the present wording.

___ Referred to Ministerial Vocation (p. 47)

From the COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

• **Recommendation #13**

That the Assembly approve the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Key Cities Plan as presented by the National Outreach Committee. ___ Referred to National Outreach (p. 49)

• **Recommendation #14**

That a task force be appointed to study the need for funding the church planting initiatives of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and to recommend funding alternatives for approval at the General Assembly in 1998.

___ Referred to Administration (p. 31) and National Outreach (p. 49)

▪ **Recommendation #15**

That the Assembly approve the following response to the "Disney Overture:"

That we as a church body respond and try to influence the position being taken by the executives of the Disney Corporation concerning family values.

Whereas the 16th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church approved the Disney Overture, and

Whereas, the Disney Overture made specific suggestions to the National Outreach Committee to consider planting churches in those areas in America that the Disney Corporation has a significant presence, and

Whereas, the overture was assigned to the National Outreach Committee for a response, and

Whereas, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church desires to create a positive and Godly atmosphere, to minister to those specifically employed by the Disney Corporation and take a pro-active stance against the evil influences recently condoned by the Disney Corporation, and

Whereas, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church desires to plant churches in areas that show the greatest need and potential,

Therefore be it resolved that Dan and Barbara Lacich be commended for their efforts to reach out to the Orlando community both through the church they are planting in Oviedo and through Barbara's employment with the Disney Corporation; and

That National Outreach be urged to do all it can to establish a mission church in the Los Angeles area that can work toward reaching into the Disney corporate community, and

That General Assembly adopt the following statement as its position on addressing controversial social issues:

As a denomination, the EPC desires to be a body of believers that stands for our country, to work as agents of salt and light for its transformation. Through engagement with our society, we seek to make a visible difference in the quality of its life—spiritually, socially, culturally, and economically.

We do not want to be a denomination that merely stands against our society, to denounce and scorn it. That is a fortress mentality that only condemns and castigates our society for its wickedness. Instead we want to interact with our society as servants, peacemakers and healers.

We do not want to be a denomination of our society, only reflecting and confirming its practices and thought forms. Through a proactive proclamation of the saving grace of the Gospel and a practical demonstration of the wholesome and holy lifestyle to which God calls His people, we confront thought forms and lifestyles that stand contrary to God's revealed Word.

We do not want to be a denomination that simply stands above our society, only using for our own personal gain, then escaping it by retreating for our Sunday holy huddles. Rather, we desire to be a people in the world but not of it.

Therefore, we believe it to be in the best interest of our outreach for the Gospel to act in the following manner when responding to a controversial issue:

Pray... for wisdom and discernment as we plan a response;

...that those who are promoting or are involved in the offensive sinful behavior be changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ;

...for wisdom on the part of community leaders to respond in a godly way to the issue.

Set an example in the community by abstaining from any behaviors contrary to biblically approved practice

- ...wherever possible, seek to build a relationship with those who are involved with the issue at controversy, trying to understand their reasons for taking the position they have and trusting God for an opportunity to address the question from a biblical perspective;
- ...wherever possible, become involved in a proactive response to the issue (for example, crisis pregnancy centers in response to abortion);
- ...from a position of direct involvement in providing a solution to the problems created by the offensive position or behavior, address the community about the dangers created by the behavior.

We pray, fund, and seek leadership for a church in this area in the year 1998 and that we change our key city location to Anaheim in order to be closer to Disney. This would require funding in the amount of \$20,000 by the 17th General Assembly to search for leadership and a core group in this area.

We pray, fund and seek to get support from the church in the Orlando area to establish a mission congregation closer to Disney World. This effort to be funded by the 18th General Assembly so work could proceed starting in early 1999. The amount of funding for this project would be \$20,000 and would be used to search for leadership and a core group for this undertaking.

___ Referred to Administration (p. 31), Theology (p. 39) and National Outreach (p. 49)

- **Recommendation #16**

That the General Assembly approve the *Bartlett L. Hess Award* that will be given annually to the church that has demonstrated the most innovative approach to church growth or revitalization.

___ Referred to National Outreach (p. 49)

- **Recommendation #17**

That the Assembly approve combining the *Church Development Plan* (1989) and the *Church Development Plan* (1995) using the newly-approved Mission Statement and Core Values of the National Outreach Committee into a *1997 Master Plan for Church Development*.

___ Referred to National Outreach (p. 49)

From the COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

- **Recommendation #18**

That the General Assembly adopt the introductory and explanatory paragraph for the *Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience* which was adopted by the 16th General Assembly, and send it to the presbyteries and churches for their guidance.

___ Referred to Theology (p. 38)

- **Recommendation #19**

That the General Assembly adopt the *Pastoral Letter on Reproductive Technology* as revised with its recommended reading list and send it to the presbyteries and churches for their guidance.

___ Referred to Theology (p. 38)

From the COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

- **Recommendation #20**

That the amended Cooperative Agreement with Wycliffe Bible Translators be approved.

___ Referred to World Outreach (p. 40)

• **Recommendation #21**

That Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) be approved as a cooperative agency

___ Referred to World Outreach (p.40)

• **Recommendation #22**

That the proposed wording for Section 409.1 of the World Outreach Missions Manual be substituted for the present wording as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>The EPC may acquire or own properties for its own use such as a headquarters for the missionary enterprise or housing for its personnel in the country being served. However, property acquired or purchased for mission expansion or national facility development shall be owned by the appropriate agency or court of the national church. Title of any property owned by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in countries other than the USA shall be held by the Trustees of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Acquisition or disposition of properties shall be done only by action of the Trustees of the ecclesiastical corporation and only after consultation with the CWO.</p>	<p>The EPC may acquire or own properties for its own use such as a headquarters for its missionary enterprise or housing for its personnel in the country being served. However, property acquired or purchased for mission expansion or national facility development shall be owned by the appropriate agency or court of the national church. Title of any property owned by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in countries other than the United States of America shall be held in the name of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a Michigan Ecclesiastical Corporation. In the event the national political and/or legal system in the country being served makes it impractical or impossible to hold title in the name of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, title may be held in the name of an EPC missionary as nominee for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church under a suitable agency agreement. Acquisition or disposition of properties shall be by action of the trustees/directors of the ecclesiastical corporation and only after consultation with the CWO.</p>

___ Referred to World Outreach (p. 40)

• **Recommendation #23**

That the World Outreach Missions Manual be amended by adding the "Uniform Missionary Support Application" (p. 219) as Section 312.4 of "Forms for Missionaries."

___ Referred to World Outreach (p. 41)

From the BOARD OF PENSION & BENEFITS

• **Recommendation #24**

That the medical insurance coverage provide one routine mammogram per year, paid at 80% for women who are 40 years of age or older.

___ Referred to the floor (p. 27)

- **Recommendation #25**

That the current life insurance provided for our pastors and employees be doubled, from the current level of \$25,000 to \$50,000 for an additional premium. ___ Referred to the floor (p. 27)

**Jointly from the BOARD OF PENSION & BENEFITS
and from the COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION**

- **Recommendation #26**

That the Assembly adopt the joint advisory letter on ministers "opting out" of Social Security (cf. Communication 97-10). ___ Referred to the floor (p. 27)

PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Recommendation #27**

That the Directors of World Outreach, Women's Ministries, National Outreach, and Student & Young Adult Ministries each be granted 10 minutes of docket time apart from the reports of their standing committees to present their ministries. ___ *Adopted*

From the PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

- **Recommendation #29**

That the entire third sentence of G.11-6 be deleted, and that the following sentence be inserted in its place:

"However, should a Search Committee desire to consider an Associate Pastor as Pastor, approval by a three-fourths vote of Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee to proceed."

___ Referred to the floor (p. 32)

- **Recommendation #30**

To amend G.16-9 as follows: Delete the sentence that begins, "If there is no Pastor..." and amend the next sentence to read: "Presbytery will appoint a Minister of the Presbytery to serve as Moderator when a church has no Pastor." ___ Referred to the floor (p. 33)

17-12 INTRODUCTION OF NEW CHURCHES

The Moderator introduced representatives of the new churches within our denomination and awarded certificates of welcome to each as listed below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Abundant Life (Chesapeake, VA) | • Grace Community (Montgomery, AL) |
| • Bridgeway Church (Chesapeake, VA) | • Hope Church (Richmond, VA) |
| • Glendale Presbyterian (DeFuniak Springs, FL) | • Lakeland Community (Lees Summit, MO) |
| • Stonebridge Church (Perrysburg, OH) | • Covenant Fellowship Church (Leoti, KS) |
| • City of Refuge (Houston, TX) | • New Covenant (Natchez, MS) |
| • Clearwater Community (Buena Vista, CO) | |

17-13 FACE-TO-FACE OPPORTUNITIES

Churches seeking pastors and other staff personnel offered brief descriptions of their needs. The Moderator asked Rev. Bill Moore, chairman of the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee, to explain the process for meeting with search committees. Index cards were dis-

tributed to the churches to post their openings on the bulletin board. The following churches voiced their need of personnel:

Kempsville (Virginia Beach, VA)	Pastor
Faith EPC (Salem, VA)	Pastor
Cherry Creek EPC (Englewood, CO)	Pastor
Glendale (DeFuniak Springs, FL)	Pastor
Knox (Ann Arbor, MI)	Pastor
Overbrook (Gaffney, SC)	Pastor
Ward (Livonia, MI)	Evangelism Pastor
	Missions Pastor
Second (Memphis, TN)	Senior High Minister
Central (St. Louis, MO)	Singles Minister
Reynolda (Winston-Salem, NC)	Children's Ministry Director

17-14 INTRODUCTION OF MISSIONARIES & CHAPLAINS

Director of World Outreach, Dick Oestreicher, took pleasure in introducing EPC missionaries Tim and Karen Mindling (Interserve, Central Asia), David and Deb Walker (Overseas Crusade, Japan) and Leroy and Kathy Padgett (SERVE, US). Eleven candidates were also recognized.

Chaplain Mark Jumper (USN) introduced EPC chaplains: Rev. Nancy Stewart (Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, Maryland), Rev. Brad Yorton (USN, Washington), and Rev. Ron Pierce (Alabama Mental Health Hospital). He also noted with pleasure the number of ministerial candidates looking into the possibility of serving through the Evangelical Presbyterian Church World Outreach ministry and through the EPC chaplaincy program.

17-15 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM NATIONAL OUTREACH

Rev. Wayne Hoffman announced the resignation of Rev. Corbett Heimburger, Director of National Outreach. Rev. Hoffman commended Rev. Heimburger for his considerable contributions to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Assembly prayed for God's blessing on Corbett, led by Rev. Hoffman.

Following miscellaneous announcements, Rev. Don Neighbours offered prayer and the Assembly adjourned for lunch.

MINUTES - THURSDAY AFTERNOON

**Second Session
June 19, 1997**

17-16 STANDING COMMITTEES MEET

Standing committees met in session from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

17-17 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Assembly convened at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church. Past Moderator, Rev. Wayne Hoffman, called the Assembly to worship. Retiring Moderator Claude "Buck" Russell led the service of investiture for the new Moderator, Rev. Richard Little. Among the tokens of office conferred were a special Evangelical Presbyterian Church stole and the Moderator's cross, both fashioned in St. Louis in the earliest days of the de-

nomination. Rev. Eric Alexander preached from 2 Corinthians 5 on the theme of being reconciled to God: *The Work of Christ For Us, In Us, and Through Us.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP		
Thursday, June 19, 1997		
7:30 p.m.		
Prelude	<i>Pastorale</i> <i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i> <i>Rondo Pascacaglia</i>	J.S. Bach arr. Hussey Dobrinski
Processional Hymn	<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name</i>	No. 97
Call to Worship		Wayne Hoffman
Choral Introit	<i>All That Hath Life and Breath</i>	Clausen
Songs of Worship	<i>Majesty</i> <i>We Will Glorify</i> <i>There is a Redeemer</i>	No. 74 No. 72 No. 206
Anthem	<i>Let This Mind Be In You</i>	L. Hoiby
Investiture of 17th General Assembly Moderator		Claude "Buck" Russell Randy Mayfield, Soloist
Offertory	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	
Scripture Reading		
Sermon	"Reconciled to God"	Eric Alexander
Closing Hymn	<i>O For a Thousand Tongues</i>	No. 76
Benediction	Rev. Richard Little, 17 th Assembly Moderator	
Choral Response	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i>	
Postlude	<i>Finale from Symphony I</i>	L. Vierne

17-18 MODERATOR'S SERVICE OF COMMUNION & PRAYER

The Assembly gathered for worship at 9:30 a.m. following morning committee meetings. Retiring Moderator Claude "Buck" Russell opened the service with the call to worship and was joined by the new Moderator, Dr. Richard Little, and the Stated Clerk, Dr. L. Edward Davis for the administration of the Lord's Supper. Soloist Susan Werner sang *Rock of Ages*, and the retiring Moderator brought the morning message. As the congregation sang *Amazing Grace*, Dr. William Flannagan invited worshipers to gather near the front of the sanctuary for a ministry of prayer and anointing.

ORDER OF WORSHIP		
Moderators' Service of Communion and Prayer		
9:30 a.m.		
Prelude	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	M. Hayes
Opening Hymn	<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	No. 185
Call to Worship		Claude "Buck" Russell
Words of Institution		
Preparatory Prayer		
Serving the Elements		Richard Little Edward Davis
Communion Music	<i>Rock of Ages</i> Susan Werner, soloist	J. Ward
Moderators' Offering		Claude "Buck" Russell
Closing Hymn	<i>Amazing Grace</i>	No. 202
Service of Prayer		William Flannagan

MINUTES - FRIDAY MORNING

**Third Session
June 20, 1997**

17-19 CONVENING OF THIRD SESSION & ADOPTION OF DOCKET

The Assembly convened for business at 10:45 a.m. with opening prayer offered by the Moderator, Rev. Richard Little. The docket for Friday, June 20th was adopted as follows:

DOCKET	
Friday, June 20, 1997	
Third Session	
8:00 a.m.	Committees reconvene
9:30 a.m.	Moderator's Service of Communion and Prayer
10:45 a.m.	Business Session
	1. Opening prayer. Docket
	2. Report of Pension and Benefits
	3. Ministry report: Women's Ministries
	4. Report of Fraternal Relations Committee
	Introduction of fraternal delegates and guests
	5. Ministry report: World Outreach
12:00-1:15 p.m.	Luncheon for commissioners, observers and guests (Central Educational Building)
12:00-4:30 p.m.	Women's Luncheon and Program (Hotel)
Fourth Session	
1:30-5:00 p.m.	Business Session
	1. Report of Administration Committee
	2. Report of PJC
	3. Partial Report of Nominating Committee
	Second reading and additional nominations.
	Nominations from 16 th Assembly Moderator (Communication 97-1)
	4. Report of Overtures & Resolutions Committee
	5. Report of Theology Committee
	6. Ministry Report: National Outreach
	7. Report of World Outreach
	8. Report of Women's Ministries
	9. Report of Christian Education & Publications
	10. Report of Student & Young Adult Ministries
3:30-3:45 p.m.	Break
7:30 p.m.	Evening Worship Service
	• Rev. Richard Little, 17 th Assembly Moderator, presiding
	• Rev. Eric Alexander, Keynoter
	• Commissioning of new missionaries

17-20 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS

Elder Orin Littlejohn, chairman, opened his report with prayer.

I. Business referred to the floor:

A. Recommendation #24

- B. **Recommendation #25**
- C. **Recommendation #26**

II. Recommendations from the Board:

- A. That **Recommendation #26**, "that the Assembly adopt the joint advisory letter on ministers' opting out of Social Security (Communication 97-10, p. 100)," **not be adopted**, but that consideration of **Communication 97-10** be withdrawn at this Assembly. ___Adopted
- B. That **Recommendation #24**, "that the medical insurance coverage provide one routine mammogram per year paid at 80%, for women who are forty (40) years of age or older," be adopted. ___Adopted
- C. That **Recommendation #25**, "that the current life insurance provided for our pastors and employees be doubled, from the current level of \$25,000 to \$50,000 for an additional premium," be adopted. ___Adopted

The chairman reported that one more opportunity will be offered to consider dental coverage as a supplement to the current plan. In the past, too few churches have responded with interest to make such a supplemental plan feasible.

Elder Littlejohn reported that the denominational Pension Plan continues to grow, with new participants coming into the plan on a weekly basis. Currently 114 EPC churches participate with 524 individual accounts.

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-21 MINISTRY REPORT - WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Women's Ministries Director, Jan Juday, presented a video report on the Women's Ministries mission trip to Cypress in April. More than 40 EPC women joined the delegation at the Middle East Ladies Prayer Seminar (MELPS). Mrs. Juday also encouraged participation of EPC women at the biannual women's conference in Vail, Colorado this September.

17-22 REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Elder Virginia Patterson, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

Elder Paul Heidebrecht, chairman of the permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations greeted the court and called on Elder Bill Johns to introduce Rev. Guilhermino Cunha from the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB). Dr. Cunha praised the work of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in helping develop local training for ministers in Brazil and for supporting the work of the church in Brazil. He invited the Moderator to represent the EPC at the dedication of the Andrew Jumper Graduate Center in June.

Elder Heidebrecht then introduced Dr. Donald MacNair from the Presbyterian Church in America. Dr. MacNair highlighted his denomination's growth and church planting efforts. He also reviewed the PCA's continuing support to the admission of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to NAPARC. He reported on the PCA's response to concerns about recent deci-

sions of the Christian Reformed Church and possible renunciation of fraternal relations between the two denominations.

Rev. Greg Slater of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church was introduced. Rev. Slater reported on the formation of a new presbytery within the ARP which represents an English speaking group of Korean congregations in California. He is encouraged both by the growth of the ARP and the continuing relationship between the ARP and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Rev. Slater hopes that there may be a symposium in the near future between the ARP and EPC to discuss theological issues.

Rev. Johnny Ortiz, representing the Association of Charismatic Presbyterian Churches of Puerto Rico, was introduced. He reported excellent growth within their fellowship and noted a strong growing outreach to Haiti.

- I. Business referred to committee:
- A. **Supplementary Report** from the permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations June 19, 1997. This report contained three items for consideration by the Standing Fraternal Relations Committee.
 - B. **Communication 97-2**
 - C. **Communication 97-3**
 - D. **Communication 97-4**
 - E. **Communication 97-8**
 - F. **Communication 97-12**
 - G. **Communication 97-14**
- B. Recommendations from the committee
1. That **Communications 97-2, 97-3, 97-4, 97-8, 97-12 and 97-14** be received as information. ___ *Adopted*
 2. That the Assembly endorse the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on November 16. Endorsement of the Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDPPC) includes permission to distribute promotional packets to all of our congregations. ___ *Adopted*
 3. That the Evangelical Presbyterian Church seek membership in the World Fellowship of Reformed Churches, a new global network of Presbyterian and Reformed bodies, that will meet in conjunction with the World Evangelical Fellowship General Assemblies. ___ *Adopted*
 3. That the participation of Evangelical Presbyterian Church members in the National Association of Evangelicals be increased, such as participating more fully in its commissions; and that its president, Don Argue, be invited to address our Assembly next year. ___ *Adopted*

The following items of correspondence were received as information:

- **Communication 97-2**
- **Communication 97-3**
- **Communication 97-5**
- **Communication 97-9**
- **Communication 97-11**
- **Communication 97-13**

- **Communication 97-6**
- **Communication 97-7**
- **Communication 97-15**

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

The morning session was adjourned for lunch at 12:05 p.m. Prayer was offered by Rev. Wayne Wood.

MINUTES - FRIDAY AFTERNOON

**Fourth Session
June 20, 1997**

17-23 RECONVENING OF ASSEMBLY

At the request of the Moderator, Elder Homer Graham opened the afternoon session with prayer at 1:30 p.m.

17-24 MINISTRY REPORT - WORLD OUTREACH

Director of World Outreach, Dick Oestreicher, opened his report with prayer. He and Rev. Jim Killgore, new World Outreach missionary, re-enacted two recent phone calls to dramatize what has been happening in world missions. Mr. Oestreicher encouraged churches large and small to support EPC missions, and to invite missionaries to speak in the congregations.

17-25 REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Rev. Bill Flannagan, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

I. Business referred to committee:

- A. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Administration (November 1, 1996 and April 11, 1997)
- B. **Recommendation #1**
- 3. **Recommendation #2**
- 4. **Recommendation #3**
- 5. **Recommendation #4**
- 6. **Recommendation #5**
- 7. **Recommendation #6**
- 8. **Recommendation #7**
- 9. **Recommendation #8**
- 10. **Recommendation #14**
- 11. **Recommendation #15A, 15B**
- 12. **Recommendation #28**
- 13. **Financial audits**

II. Recommendations from the committee:

- A. That the minutes of the permanent Administration Committee be approved, with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee. Adopted
- B. That **Recommendation #1**, "that the Assembly approve an increase in the 'per member' factor from \$15 to \$18," be adopted.

Grounds: To fund an Assistant to the Stated Clerk, an increase in the per member figure is necessary. This position was approved at the 16th General Assembly. (*Minutes* 16-38L, p. 57). Adopted

- C. That **Recommendation #2**, "that the 1997 Administration Budget of \$988,265 (p. 76) be adopted" be approved with the following amendments:
- That this budget is for 1998, not 1997. (This appears to be a typographical error.)
 - That the budget amount is \$963,265, not \$988,265. The figure of \$963,265 is the correct total for the proposed 1998 budget as contained in COA-1, page 120 of the Commissioner's Handbook. Adopted
- D. That **Recommendation #3**, "that the 1997 Benevolence Asking Budget of \$650,000 (p.77) be adopted" be approved with the amendment that the Budget is for 1998, not 1997. (This appears to be a typographical error.) Adopted
- E. That **Recommendation #4**, "that the Assembly approve an increase of financial eligibility for the Medical Benevolence Fund from \$20,000 to \$25,000" be adopted. Adopted
- F. That **Recommendation #5**, "that the General Assembly amend *Book of Government* §11-10 by adding the following sentence at the end of the section:
 "The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate."
 be approved, with inclusion of the PJC amendment to substitute the words "church body" for the word "presbytery" in the second sentence, so that the section reads:

§11-10 In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that person without a valid call. The dismissing *church body* shall be informed by the calling Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. *The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate.*

Grounds: The Permanent Judicial Commission affirmed the intent of this overture which is to define and require the use of proper channels for official correspondence between presbyteries in the transfer of ministers and candidates. The use of the words "church body" recognizes the fact that not all ecclesiastical organizations dismissing a minister are presbyteries. The Assembly concurred with the PJC. Adopted

- G. That **Recommendation #6**, "that the boundaries of the St. Andrews Presbytery be extended to include Entre Rios and Santa Fe provinces," be adopted. Adopted
- H. That **Recommendation #7**, "that the Proposed Partnership Agreement between St. Andrews Presbytery and the General Assembly (October 28-29, 1996; p. 63) be ratified," be adopted. Adopted

- I. That **Recommendation #8**, "that the General Assembly renew the calling of Dr. L. Edward Davis to serve as Stated Clerk for an additional three-year term," be adopted. ___ *Adopted*
- J. That **Recommendation #14**, "that a task force be appointed to study the needs for funding the church planting initiatives of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and to recommend funding alternatives for approval at the General Assembly in 1998" **not be adopted**, but, as recommended by the Committee on National Outreach, that a substitute recommendation be adopted "that the National Outreach Committee develop a plan to fund church planting in conjunction with the Committee on Administration and present it to the 18th (1998) General Assembly." ___ *Adopted*
- K. That **Recommendation #15A** (p. 21), "that the General Assembly approve changing our key city location to Anaheim in order to be closer to Disney and approve funding in the amount of \$20,000 by the 17th General Assembly to search for leadership and a core group in this area," **not be adopted**.

Grounds: There is serious question as to undertaking a major work in an area with no EPC support close by. ___ *Adopted*

- L. That **Recommendation #15B** (p. 21), "that we pray, fund, and seek to get support from the church in the Orlando area to establish a mission congregation closer to Disney World. This effort to be funded by the 18th General Assembly so work could proceed starting in early 1999. The amount of funding for this project would be \$20,000 and would be used to search for leadership and a core group for this undertaking," **not be adopted**. ___ *Adopted*
- M. That **Recommendation #28**, "that the General Assembly approve the position of Assistant Clerk, as set forth in "Proposed Position Description of the Assistant Clerk" (p. 174) and as proposed in response to instruction by the 16th General Assembly, and that the Committee on Administration be authorized to find an appropriate person to fill the position," be approved with the following amendments:
- a. That the described position shall be referenced as "Assistant to the Stated Clerk," rather than "Assistant Clerk," in the title of the Position Description and throughout the document.
Grounds: The committee felt that this change in emphasis more accurately describes the functions of the proposed description.
 - b. That the first sentence under the heading "Reporting responsibility," shall read: "The Assistant to the Stated Clerk will be a staff position, reporting to the Stated Clerk," instead of "The Assistant Clerk reports to the Stated Clerk."
Grounds: The committee thought it advisable to clarify that this is a staff (non-constitutional) position, not an elected position.
 - c. That the last sentence in the fifth point under "Duties and Responsibilities," shall be deleted in its entirety. This sentence reads: "He will establish and nurture an ef-

fective working relationship with the stated clerk of each presbytery for the purpose of maintaining a harmonious relationship between the General Assembly Office and the presbyteries.”

Grounds: The committee thought that this function went beyond the scope of the position description and had the potential to lead to undesirable political situations.

— *Adopted*

The standing Administration Committee asked that the chairman of the permanent committee explain and clarify the item contained in the April 11, 1997 minutes and in the Committee on Administration Report, to wit:

“Orlando Project: Established a commission of five (Buck Russell, Bill Johns, Wally Hostetter, Corbett Heimburger and Dan Lacich) with responsibility to oversee the fiscal and legal functioning of Cypress Pointe Evangelical Presbyterian Church to stabilize cash flow and disbursement matters.”

Elder Bill Johns explained that after consultation with the Stated Clerk and the moderator and stated clerk of Florida Presbytery, the matter had been resolved by changing the commission designation to that of a subcommittee which would work in concert with the committee on oversight to give closer guidance in financial matters at Cypress Pointe Church.

The standing Administration Committee received and adopted the independent auditor’s report on the Board of Pension and Benefits, and received and adopted the independent auditor’s report on the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The standing Administration Committee wishes to commend the permanent Committee on Administration for its work during the past year.

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-26 **REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC)**

Rev. Jimmy McGuire, Moderator of the PJC, opened the report with prayer.

The PJC was asked by the 16th General Assembly to make a ruling regarding the legitimacy of the current form of the fourth ordination vow (G.14-A.4, 14-E.4). A thorough review was done of the history of the language of the *Book of Government* as well as the history of changes in the title of “The Essentials of Our Faith.”

RULING The PJC sustained the assessment of the Stated Clerk that the current form of the fourth ordination vow is the result of an unauthorized typographical alteration; that the words “essentials of the faith” should be printed in small case and plain letters; and that future editions of the *Book of Government* should be printed to conform to this correction.

Recommendations from the Permanent Judicial Commission:

1. **Recommendation #29:** Regarding G.11-6 on the subject of an Associate Pastor succeeding the Pastor, the Commission recognized that there is a lack of precision in the steps stated. The PJC recommended the following amendment:

That the entire third sentence of G.11-6 be deleted, and that the following sentence be substituted in its place:

"However, should a Search Committee desire to consider an Associate Pastor as Pastor, approval by a three-fourths vote of Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee to proceed."

The section would then read:

"A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. Ordinarily, an Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor. ~~However, if by a three-fourths vote of the Church Session, request is made to the Presbytery through the Ministerial Committee of the congregation to nominate the Associate to the congregations as pastor. However, should a Search Committee desire to consider an Associate Pastor as Pastor, approval by a three-fourths vote of Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee~~ to proceed. Adopted

2. That **Recommendation #30** be adopted that G. 16-9 be amended as follows:
 - a. Delete the following section: "If there is no Pastor, the Church Session may elect one of its members to serve in that capacity."
 - b. Amend the next sentence by deleting the words "Also" and "at its discretion, may" and substituting the word "will."

The section would then read:

"Officers of the Church Session: The Pastor shall be the Moderator. An Associate Pastor, at the request of the Pastor and with the consent of the Church Session, may serve as Moderator for the Pastor. ~~If there is no Pastor, the Church Session may elect one of its members to serve in that capacity. Also, Presbytery, at its discretion, may will~~ appoint a Minister of the Presbytery to serve as Moderator when a church has no Pastor. The Pastor(s) elected by the particular church is a full member of the Church Session and has the privilege of voting. If the Pastor wishes to make motions or otherwise participate in debate, some other member of the Church Session should serve as Temporary Moderator. In addition to the Moderator, each Church Session shall elect a Clerk." Adopted

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-27 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Zelda Artz, chairman opened the report with prayer and presented the second reading of nominations for the permanent committees.

COMMITTEE	CLASS	NOMINEE	PRESBYTERY
Administration	Class of 2000	Rev. Rhett Payne Elder Virginia Patterson Elder Joe Schluchter	Central South Mid-America Mid-America
Christian Education	Class of 2000	Elizabeth Hicks	Central South

& Publications		Rev. Bruce Spear	West
Fraternal Relations	Class of 2000	Elder Dexter Kuhlman Rev. Graham Smith	Mid-America East
Ministerial Vocation	Class of 2000	Rev. Bill Moore Elder Leon Niemann	Midwest West
National Outreach	Class of 2000	Rev. Jim Murphy Rev. Bob Wilbur Rev. John Cedar	West Florida West
Student & Young Adult Ministries	Class of 2000	Elder Reg Smith Rev. Rick Stauffer	Southeast Midwest
	Class of 1998	Vince Morris	Mid-America
Theology	Class of 2000	Elder Charles Haden Rev. Tom Ricks	Central South Mid-America
Women's Ministries	Class of 2000	Margaret Donato Wendy Johnson	Central South East
World Outreach	Class of 2000	Elder Bern Draper Elder John Haase Rev. Sam Rowan	West Central South Midwest
	Class of 1998	Elder Mark Coleman	Central South
Board of Pension & Benefits	Class of 2000	Elder Leland Curtis	Mid-America
		Elder Milton Knowlton	Central South
Permanent Judicial Commission	Class of 2000	Rev. Don Mason	Florida
		Elder Leonard Pilgrim	Southeast
		Rev. Howard Shockley	Southeast

Objection was made regarding the constitutional balance between ruling and teaching elders on the Permanent Judicial Commission. The Stated Clerk ruled that the required balance was not in order and the slate was referred back to the Nominating Committee for reconsideration.

The chairman referred to **Communication #97-1** from the retiring Moderator, Elder Claude "Buck" Russell appointments and nominations as follows:

- Nomination: Chairman, Board of Pension & Benefits
Elder Stewart Fleming (Midwest)
- Nominations: Nominating Committee Class of 2000
Elder John Sherard (Mid-Atlantic)
Rev. Nancy Stewart (East)
Elder John Ward (Southeast)
- Appointment: Chairman, Nominating Committee Class of 2000
Elder Homer Graham (West)

The chairman further placed in nomination the name of Elder Roger Derksen (Midwest) as Trustee to the Medical Benevolence Trust, Class of 2000, as recommended by the Committee on Administration.

17-28 PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - GRAHAM SMITH

Rev. Graham Smith requested and was granted a moment of personal privilege. Rev. Smith wished to express his embarrassment and disappointment in the comments of one fraternal

delegate from another Reformed body in which that speaker maligned a denomination with which the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has maintained warm and fraternal relations. Rev. Smith also expressed his disappointment in comments which seemed critical of some of the accepted practices within our own denomination. He called for caution in future meetings that fraternal delegates speak only to what is transpiring within their own denominations without critiquing any other ecclesiastical body.

17-29 REPORT OF THE OVERTURES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Ron DiNunzio, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

I. Business referred to committee:

- A. **Overture 97-A**
- B. **Overture 97-B**
- C. **Overture 97-C**
- D. **Overture 97-D**

II. Recommendations from the committee:

A. **Overture 97-C**

After careful consideration, the Overtures and Resolutions Committee recommended rejection of **Overture 97-C**, believing that the issue is neither within the purview of this committee nor the General Assembly, but rather is the responsibility and privilege of each individual presbytery (G.16-16A). The Committee recognized the concerns articulated in Overture 97-C, and affirmed the exclusive role of each individual presbytery in examining and evaluating candidates for ordination and church office (including their theological competence). The intent of this action is to support the goals of Presbyterian unity and diversity that are fundamental to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. (*Text of Overture 97-C follows.*)

Overture 97-C

WHEREAS, we have struggled with the relationship between the Westminster Confession of Faith and the "Essentials of the Faith" since the 1993 General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, we lack confidence that a clarification of, or correction to, the wording of the fourth ordination vow (*Book of Government*, 14-1A.4 and 1E.4) will solve this problem because we have concluded that a more foundational issue, the nature of subscription to the third ordination vow (*Book of Government*, 14-1A.3 and 1E.3) is the real source of the controversy; and

WHEREAS, in discussion about subscription to the third ordination vow, the use of the terms as varied as "jot and tittle," "tight," "full," and "systemic" are used to define and describe subscription, and this produces confusion, misunderstanding and division; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this discussion is drawing our denomination into "camps," which potentially could pull us apart; and

THEREFORE, in an attempt to move toward a more complete resolution of this issue, and to preserve the peace, purity and unity of the church, we, the Presbytery of the

West, do overture the 17th General Assembly to clarify, define and explain the meaning of the third ordination vow, "Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?" (*Book of Government*, 14-1A.3 and 1E.3).

ON MOTION not to adopt Overture 97-C.

B. Overtures 97-A and 97-B

That the General Assembly adopt **Overtures 97-A and 97-B** (essentially the same overture).

Overture 97-A

WHEREAS, we learned at our 16th General Assembly that the original text of our *Book of Government* clearly did not capitalize, italicize and embolden "the essentials of the faith" in 14-1A.4 and 14-1E.4; and that the change was most likely made by editorial error and without any specific action by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, these changes should only be made according to our constitutional process (*Book of Government* 17-2); and

WHEREAS, this single error has added much confusion concerning the place of "The Essentials of Our Faith" as non-constitutional; and

WHEREAS, our third ordination vow (*Book of Government* 14-1A.3 and 14-1E.3) unquestionably commits our officers to subscribe to the Westminster Standards; and

WHEREAS, the correction of this error would more clearly restore the historic practice of having each individual presbytery and session function as the credential judicatory making initial judgments as to whether exceptions to the Westminster Standards are in fact "essentials of the faith"; and

WHEREAS, the Church of Jesus Christ is called from darkness to "walk in the light," and as God requires of us that we "speak the truth in love";

THEREFORE, we, the Presbytery of the Central South, do respectfully overture the 17th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to correct the inadvertent error in our *Book of Government*, 14-1A.4 and 14-1E.4 by removing the italics, bold print, and capitalization of "the essentials of the faith." (*From the Central South Presbytery*)

Overture 97-B

WHEREAS, as learned at our 16th General Assembly that the original text of our *Book of Government* clearly did not capitalize italicize and embolden "the essentials of the faith" in 14-A.4 and 14-1E.4; and that the change was most likely made by editorial error and without any specific action by any General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, these changes should be made according to our constitutional process (*Book of Government* 17-2); and

WHEREAS, this single error has added much confusion concerning the place of "The Essentials of Our Faith" as non-constitutional; and

WHEREAS, our third ordination vow (*Book of Government* 14-1A.3 and 14-1E.3) unquestionably commits our officers to subscribe to the Westminster Standards; and

WHEREAS, the correction of this error would more clearly restore the historic practice of having each individual presbytery and Session function as the credentialing judicatory making initial judgments as to whether exceptions to the Westminster Standards are in fact "essentials of the faith"; and

WHEREAS, the church of Jesus Christ is called from darkness to "walk in the light," and as God requires of us that we "speak the truth I love";

THEREFORE, we, the Presbytery of the East, do respectfully overture the 17th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to correct the inadvertent error in our *Book of Government* 14-1A.4 and 14-1E.4 by removing the italics, bold print, and capitalization of "the essentials of the faith." Adopted

C. Overture 97-D

That the Assembly adopt **Overture 97-D** instructing the permanent Committee on Theology to study the relationship of the "Essentials of the Faith" to the Westminster Confession.

Overture 97-D

Whereas, there was significant debate at the 16th General Assembly regarding the document entitled "Essentials of the Faith" in connection with Ascending Overtures 96-B and 96-C; and

WHEREAS, given the comments made by pastors and elders from several of the Presbyteries, there is much greater reliance on these "Essentials of the Faith" than many at the 16th General Assembly understood to be the case; and

WHEREAS, implied in many of these comments was the belief that these "Essentials" are not given proper weight in (i) the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, (ii) the vows of ordination for pastors and elders, (iii) relations with other denominations, and (iv) the teaching and edification of lay persons; and

WHEREAS, a direct attempt to introduce the subject matter of the instant overture at the 16th General Assembly was ruled to be new business not timely filed.

NOW THEREFORE, Midwest Presbytery at its 73rd Stated Meeting of May 9, 1997, voted to overture the 17th General Assembly in the form set forth below, to direct the permanent Committee on Theology to undertake a comprehensive study of the relationship that now exists and that should exist between the document entitled "Essentials of the Faith" and The Westminster Confession of Faith.

The permanent Committee on Theology shall be directed to undertake a comprehensive study of the relationship that now exists and that should exist between the docu-

ment entitled "Essentials of the Faith" and the Westminster Confession of Faith to include, but not be limited to, an examination of the relevance of each to (i) the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, (ii) the vows of ordination for pastors and elders, (iii) relations with other denominations and (iv) the teaching and edification of lay persons. (From the Midwest Presbytery) ___Adopted

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-30 REPORT OF THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Rev. Steve Riser, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

I. Business referred to committee::

- A. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Theology (September 20-21, 1996, and April 25, 1997).
- B. **Recommendation #18**
3. **Recommendation #19**
4. **Recommendation #15 (partial).**

II. Recommendations from the committee:

- A. That the minutes of the permanent committee be approved with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.

- B. That **Recommendation #18** "that the General Assembly adopt the introductory and explanatory paragraph for the Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience which was adopted by the 16th General Assembly and send it to the presbyteries and churches for their guidance" be amended as follows in the first paragraph, and adopted as amended.

The entire section would then read:

~~The~~ This pastoral letter sets forth ~~theologically—the biblical~~ *biblically sound theological* principles which should be applied to the questions we face as Christians and churches in evaluating and responding to the moral issue of civil disobedience.

A pastoral letter is intended to shine the light of God's word broadly on a general area of concern to the Church. Requiring the approval of only one General Assembly, it is not as definitive as a Position Paper which requires the approval of two General Assemblies including a minimum of one year circulation among the presbyteries. The primary purpose of a pastoral letter is to guide churches within the EPC rather than to identify our positions to the world. ___Adopted

- C. That **Recommendation #19** "that the General Assembly adopt the proposed 'Pastoral Letter on Reproductive Technology' as revised with its recommended reading list and send it to the presbyteries and churches for their guidance" be adopted as amended by the standing committee.

Discussion followed. Elder Michael Strauss, a biological scientist, noted that the issues here are extremely complex, and that as a pastoral letter, it does not provide the structure for pastors to adequately address the technologies included

therein. He further commented that the paper itself displays lack of understanding of the science and technology involved in these issues. Further, a biblical position is cited, but there is no biblical reference for those positions. Not Adopted

Anticipating that upon the recommendation of the PJC, the standing National Outreach Committee will recommend rejection of Recommendation #15, the standing Theology Committee, declined to consider Recommendation #15. It did, however, believe that the issues addressed in the four italicized paragraphs merited consideration. The following motion was adopted:

ON MOTION that the permanent Committee on Theology study the broad issue of the church's engagement with culture including, but not limited to, the issues raised in the four italicized paragraphs of **Recommendation #15** as follows:

As a denomination, the EPC desires to be a body of believers that stands for our country, to work as agents of salt and light for its transformation. Through engagement with our society, we seek to make a visible difference in the quality of its life—spiritually, socially, culturally, and economically.

We do not want to be a denomination that merely stands against our society, to denounce and scorn it. That is a fortress mentality that only condemns and castigates our society for its wickedness. Instead we want to interact with our society as servants, peacemakers and healers.

We do not want to be a denomination of our society, only reflecting and confirming its practices and thought forms. Through a proactive proclamation of the saving grace of the Gospel and a practical demonstration of the wholesome and holy lifestyle to which God calls His people, we confront thought forms and lifestyles that stand contrary to God's revealed Word.

We do not want to be a denomination that simply stands above our society, only using for our own personal gain, then escaping it by retreating for our Sunday holy huddles. Rather, we desire to be a people in the world but not of it.

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

The National Outreach ministry report scheduled at this time was postponed until tomorrow at the request of the Director, Corbett Heimburger.

17-31 REPORT OF THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Elder Rick Scarborough, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

- I. Business referred to the committee:
 - A. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on World Outreach dated September 5-7, 1996; January 9-11, 1997; and March 20-21, 1997.
 - B. **Recommendation #20**
 - C. **Recommendation #21**
 - D. **Recommendation #22**
 - E. **Recommendation #23**

II. Recommendations:

- A. That the minutes of the permanent committee be approved with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.
- B. That **Recommendation #20**, "that the amended Cooperative Agreement with Wycliffe Bible Translators be approved," be adopted. ___ *Adopted*
- C. That **Recommendation #21**, "that Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) be approved as a cooperative agency," be adopted. ___ *Adopted*

Question was raised as to the procedure followed in approving a cooperative agency. Because Recommendation #21 had already been adopted, a motion to reconsider was adopted. It was noted that the standing World Outreach Committee had not seen a cooperative agreement document for OMF, and that both parties (EPC and OMF) had not yet signed an agreement. The Stated Clerk said that to approve formal agreements without actually seeing the documents that clarify and bind them is potentially an unwise precedent for the Assembly to set. World Outreach Director, Dick Oestreicher clarified that there is a standard agreement form for cooperative agencies and that any deviations from the standard form would have to come before the Assembly. A motion to amend Recommendation #21 was adopted as follows:

"That Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) be approved as a cooperative agency contingent upon both parties signing the standard document of agreement."

ON MOTION to approve Overseas Missionary Fellowship as a cooperative agency pending acceptance of the EPC standard cooperative agreement by Overseas Missionary Fellowship.

- D. That **Recommendation #22**, that the proposed wording for Section 409.1 of the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be substituted for the present wording as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>The EPC may acquire or own properties for its own use such as a headquarters for the missionary enterprise or housing for its personnel in the country being served. However, property acquired or purchased for mission expansion or national facility development shall be owned by the appropriate agency or court of the national church. Title of any property owned by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in countries other than the USA shall be held by the Trustees of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Acquisition or disposition of properties shall be done only by action of the Trustees of the ecclesiastical corporation and only after consulta-</p>	<p>The EPC may acquire or own properties for its own use such as a headquarters for its missionary enterprise or housing for its personnel in the country being served. However, property acquired or purchased for mission expansion or national facility development shall be owned by the appropriate agency or court of the national church. Title of any property owned by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in countries other than the United States of America shall be held in the name of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a <i>Michigan Ecclesiastical Corporation</i>. In the event the national political and/or legal system in</p>

<p>tion with the CWO.</p>	<p><i>the country being served makes it impractical or impossible to hold title in the name of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, title may be held in the name of an EPC missionary as nominee for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church under a suitable agency agreement. Acquisition or disposition of properties shall be by action of the trustees/directors of the ecclesiastical corporation and only after consultation with the CWO.</i></p>
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Adopted

- E. That **Recommendation #23**, "that the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended by adding the "Uniform Missionary Support Application" as Section 312.4 of "Forms for Missionaries" be amended by substituting the proposed wording for question 3 under "Church Relationships," and adopted as amended. (See p. 219 for document.)

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>3. Do you agree with the doctrinal statement of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church? If not, please explain any points of disagreement.</p>	<p>3. Do you agree <i>that the Westminster Confession of Faith contains the system of doctrine that is taught in the Scriptures?</i> If not, please explain any points of disagreement.</p>

Grounds: The proposed form comes at the request of EPC missionaries who have completed dozens of different forms, each unique to an individual EPC church but all requesting similar information. This form presents information to assist missions committees in making an effective support decision. EPC churches are urged to adopt this form as their own.

Adopted

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-32 REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Rev. Nancy Stewart, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

- I. Business referred to committee:
- A. Minutes of the permanent Committee on Women's Ministries dated September 20-21, 1996, and March 7-8, 1997
- II. Recommendations from the committee:
- A. That the minutes of the permanent committee be approved with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.

Adopted

- B. The standing Women's Ministries Committee recommends to all church Sessions that an oral or written report be regularly received from a representative of that church's women's ministry. The rationale for this is two-fold:
1. so that there is a session record of the activities of the women's ministry;
 2. so that communication and accountability are enhanced. ___ *Adopted*

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-33 REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The chairman, Elder Hugh Smith, opened the report with prayer.

- I. Business referred to the Committee:
- A. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications dated September 27-28, 1996 and March 14-15, 1997
 - B. **Overture 97-E** (from Presbytery of the Southeast)
 - C. **Recommendation #9**
 - D. **Recommendation #10**
- II. Recommendations from the committee:
- A. That the minutes of the permanent Christian Education & Publications Committee be approved with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee. ___ *Adopted*
 - B. That **Overture 97-E**, "that the 17th General Assembly request the appropriate committee to consider the creation of a men's ministry, the possible funding of a part-time director, and to report back to the 18th General Assembly with recommendations," be adopted.

Grounds: In developing and implementing solid programs in Christian nurture rooted in the teaching of the Bibles to all ages, the EPC has developed strong and effective ministries to youth and women. There is a growing movement throughout the United States seeking to help men grow in their knowledge of and commitment to the Word of God. The EPC has no specific department or committee to address the ministerial and fellowship needs of men to keep them up-to-date on events oriented to men and facilitate venues for men's ministries. ___ *Adopted*

- C. That **Recommendation #9**, "that in light of the limitation of resources of both time and finances, the Christian Education and Publications Committee be excused from further research on the LiFE curricula beyond the assessment already completed on this series in 1994 as reported in the *Curriculum Evaluation Packet for Children* by this committee" be adopted.

Grounds: The committee felt that such evaluation would be more appropriately handled by the individual churches, each of which has unique specific needs, and that such evaluation was beyond the means and resources of the permanent Christian Education & Publications Committee. ___ *Adopted*

- D. That **Recommendation #10**, "that the Assembly endorse a relationship with the Pioneer Clubs as understood and defined in the working agreement (p. 85)," be adopted.

Grounds: Upon consideration of the *Proposed Working Agreement Between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Christian Education and Publications Committee and Pioneer Clubs*, and of the benefits this would bring, and after hearing a presentation from Judy Bryson of Pioneer Clubs, the standing committee unanimously approved this recommendation. ___Adopted

By common consent, Judy Bryson of Pioneer Clubs was given five minutes to report to the Assembly on the ministry of Pioneer Clubs. Ms Bryson summarized the development of Pioneer Clubs in the churches in and around the Wheaton, Illinois area. Currently there are more than 3800 such clubs in the US and sixteen foreign countries. These are weekday clubs in which children to learn new skills, have fun and develop Christian principles.

The standing committee expressed its deep appreciation to the Christian Education & Publications Committee for their hard work during the past year, and for the development and oversight of *Reflections* magazine.

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-34 ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer.

17-35 EVENING WORSHIP

The evening worship service convened at 7:30 p.m., with a clarinet and piano duet of superbly played hymns and songs. Dick Oestreicher, Director of World Outreach, led prayer for Rev. Jim Killgore and his wife, Grace, commissioned as World Outreach missionaries to Pakistan. Rev. Eric Alexander preached on the theme of *Being Steadfast in the Ministry of Prayer and of the Word* from Acts, Chapter 6. He stressed that prayer is the heart of the work God calls us to do and that it is tragic that in our churches, the prayer meeting is the least attended. Although Christians do well in many arenas, in prayer we are amateurs.

ORDER OF WORSHIP		
Friday, June 20, 1997		
7:30 p.m.		
PRELUDE	<i>Adagio</i> <i>Hymn of Joy</i> Linda Gurney, clarinet	W. A. Mozart Beethoven-Harris
PROCESSIONAL HYMN	<i>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i>	No. 26
CALL TO WORSHIP		Rev. Richard Little 17 th Assembly Moderator
ANTHEM	<i>And the Father Will Dance</i>	M. Hayes
HYMN	<i>All Creatures of Our God and King</i>	No. 64
OFFERTORY	<i>If Ye Love Me, Keep My Commandments</i>	T. Tallis
SCRIPTURE		Rev. Bartlett L. Hess
SERMON		Rev. Eric Alexander
CLOSING HYMN	<i>Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus</i>	No. 477
BENEDICTION		Rev. Richard Little
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>The Lord Whom We Love</i>	Kaiser
POSTLUDE	<i>Fanfare</i>	J. Lemmens

FIFTH SESSION

**Saturday morning
June 21, 1997**

17-36 MORNING WORSHIP

The service of worship began at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church with the singing of *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. Rev. Jerry Brundle offered the morning reading of Scripture from Galatians 5:13-26 and led the congregation in prayer. Rev. Daniel Berry preached from Philippians 4:8 on the theme of seeking after the excellence and joy of God without becoming consumed by the sin and pain of a fallen world.

ORDER OF WORSHIP		
Saturday, June 21, 1997		
8:30 a.m.		
PRELUDE	<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	arr. Bish
OPENING HYMN	<i>Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	No. 2
SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER		Rev. Jerry Brundle
DEVOTION		Rev. Daniel Berry, II
SOLO	<i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i>	
	Steve Kutheis, soloist	
BENEDICTION		

17-37 RECONVENING OF THE ASSEMBLY

The Moderator opened the morning business session with prayer at 9:17 a.m. in the sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church. The docket for the day was adopted.

DOCKET	
8:30 a.m.	Opening Prayer. Docket. Announcements. Enrollment. Business Session
	1. Committee reports pending from previous session
	2. Report of Student & Young Adult Ministries
	3. Ministry Report: Student and Young Adult Ministries
	4. Ministry Report: National Outreach
	5. Report of Ministerial Vocation Committee
	6. Introduction of Fraternal Guests
	7. Report of National Outreach Committee
	8. Report of Committee to Evaluate the Office of the Stated Clerk
	9. Final Report of Nominating Committee
	10. Report of Presbytery Review Committee
	11. Report of Memorials and Appreciation Committee
10:30-10:45	Break
1:30 p.m.	Adjournment followed by box lunch

17-38 REPORT OF THE STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES (SYAM) COMMITTEE

Rev. Russ Ragon, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

- I. Business referred to committee:
 - A. Minutes of the permanent committee dated October 4-5, 1996 and March 7-8, 1997.

II. Recommendations from the committee:

- A. That the minutes be approved, with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee. Adopted
- B. Questions were raised about financial resources for youth to attend summer events especially those from the smaller EPC churches. A joint effort of church and youth to share in the financing of mission trips and Summer Jams enables the youth to have a vested interest in the activity.
- In light of the above, the standing committee:
1. encouraged the permanent SYAM Committee to continue investigating future campus ministries and other means of keeping young adults connected to the local church;
 2. encouraged the local church become involved in the planning of youth activities on the General Assembly level;
 3. acknowledged the need for continued follow up materials for students at the conclusion of Summer Jam, missions trips, etc.
- C. That the permanent SYAM Committee become more focused in its request for benevolent giving. Adopted
- D. That the permanent SYAM Committee be directed to send a letter to the Clerks of Session of EPC congregations encouraging support of the SYAM budget through benevolent giving. Adopted
- E. That the permanent SYAM Committee investigate forming a new committee to work specifically on a Single Adult Ministry by the year 2000. Adopted

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-39 MINISTRY REPORT - STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

SYAM Director Dan Weidman opened with prayer and presented an overview of the work of the permanent committee. He shared the SYAM Mission Statement:

Our mission is to make disciples of students and young adults for Jesus Christ by joining with EPC congregations to provide them with growth and ministry opportunities, cutting edge resources, ministry training, and loving support, all for the glory of GOD!

Mr. Weidman requested special prayer support for the missions opportunities for students and young adults this summer, then led the Assembly in prayer for this important outreach.

17-40 MINISTRY REPORT - NATIONAL OUTREACH

National Outreach Director Corbett Heimburger opened his report with prayer and summarized the encouraging rate of church planting and growth across our denomination.

Rev. Dan Lacich, evangelist from Cypress Pointe Church in Orlando, Florida reported on the work of that major church plant. He indicated that within seven months the church had grown from zero membership to over 170 members, most of whom were previously unchurched.

Rev. Shawn Robinson from Clayton Community Church of Clayton, California updated the Assembly on the miraculous ministry of growth and healing in their church planting mission. More than 400 members are now on the rolls.

Rev. Don Mason, pastor of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Plant City, Florida, shared the journey of their church transplant experience from another denomination to a fresh start in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. He read from Jeremiah 29:11 as a description of the fulfillment of God's good plan for them through the EPC. He reviewed the events and processes which led them to a new beginning as an EPC congregation.

Rev. Heimburger led the Assembly in prayer for these ministers and churches, that God would empower and sustain them.

17-41 REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

Rev. Paul Rettew, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business referred to committee:

1. **Minutes** of the permanent committee dated September 19-21, 1996 and February 20-22, 1997.
2. **Recommendation #11**
3. **Recommendation #12**

B. Recommendations from the committee:

1. That the minutes be approved, with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.
2. That **Recommendation #11**, "that **G.11-13** be amended by substituting the proposed wording for the present section" be adopted:

Present wording	Proposed wording
G.11-13 In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person may request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere (Section 15-8).	G.11-13 In the event a Minister accepts a call that has been disapproved by Presbytery, his action shall represent a renunciation of jurisdiction and the Presbytery in which he is a member shall divest him of office.

Grounds: A previous proposed amendment intending to clarify the section retained use of the words "not approved" which imply that Presbytery has not even looked at the call. Language which more appropriately defines the intent of the amendment would be "a call that has been disapproved." Adopted

3. That **Recommendation #12**, "that **G.13-5** be amended by substituting the proposed wording for the next-to-last sentence in the first paragraph" be adopted:

Present wording	Proposed wording
A person coming from any other tradition shall be examined in the same manner as a candidate for ordination.	An ordained Minister coming from a non-Reformed denomination or an independent congregation shall be examined as indicated in Section 13-2.

Grounds: Committee believes that the amendment addresses a candidate coming to the EPC in three cases:

- 1) A non-Reformed denomination: ordination is recognized;
- 2) An independent congregation: ordination is recognized;
- 3) A non-ecclesiastical or para-church organization: we do not recognize the ordination because we understand ordination to be an act of the church, a commission conferred only by an ecclesiastical body. In every case, any ordained minister coming from a non-Reformed body should be examined in the same manner as a candidate.

The standing committee recommended further amending the recommendation by adding the following sentence at the end of the proposed section:

"The Evangelical Presbyterian Church only accepts ordinations coming from previously approved ecclesiastical bodies."

The section would then read:

An ordained Minister coming from a non-Reformed denomination or an independent congregation shall be examined as indicated in Section 13-2. *The Evangelical Presbyterian Church only accepts ordinations coming from approved ecclesiastical bodies.*

Motion to refer the recommendation back to the permanent committee because the language was deemed inadequate was subsequently withdrawn.

An amendment to the motion was then made to revise the proposed last sentence to read:

"The Evangelical Presbyterian Church accepts only ordinations previously conferred by approved ecclesiastical bodies." ___ Adopted

ON MOTION to adopt the motion as amended. The section as adopted would read:

"An ordained Minister coming from a non-Reformed denomination or an independent congregation shall be examined as indicated in Section 13-2. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church accepts only ordinations previously conferred by approved ecclesiastical bodies."

- C. The standing committee further recommended:
1. That the Assembly instruct the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee to evaluate the issue of pastoral vocational pressures from the perspective of identifying warning signs and seeking preventive measures for creating healthier church environments.

Grounds: The standing Ministerial Vocation Committee had a strong concern about the vocational pressures which put our pastors at risk of family and personal problems. The Assembly concurred. ___ *Adopted*

2. That the efforts of the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee and the General Assembly staff be commended in the area of updating and streamlining the process of making known the areas of ministry open to the EPC family. ___ *Adopted*

The standing committee commended the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee on its work during the past year.

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-42 INTRODUCTION OF FRATERNAL GUESTS

The Stated Clerk introduced Dr. Luder Whitlock, president of Reformed Theological Seminary and asked for and was granted the court's permission for Dr. Whitlock to bring greetings. Dr. Whitlock, a long-time friend of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, said that RTS has recently formed a partnership with Young Life, and that a number of Young Lifers have enrolled at RTS. Reformed Theological Seminary is among the top ten seminaries in the United States.

17-43 PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - RON PIERCE

The Moderator gave Rev. Ron Pierce five minutes to challenge the Assembly on the importance of organ donations. Ron shared his own family's experience in the death of their son and the use of his organs to bless others.

17-44 REPORT OF THE NATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Chairman Elder John Allman opened the report with prayer.

- I. Business referred to committee:
 - A. **Minutes** of the permanent committee dated September 12-14, 1996 and March 13-15, 1997
 - B. **Recommendation #13**
 - C. **Recommendation #14**
 - D. **Recommendation #15**
 - E. **Recommendation #16**
 - F. **Recommendation #17**
- II. Recommendations from the committee:
 - A. That the minutes of the permanent committee be approved, with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee. ___ *Adopted*

- B. That **Recommendation #13**, “that the Assembly approve the EPC Key Cities Plan as presented by the National Outreach Committee,” be adopted.

Grounds: Keeping focused information before the Assembly which describes potential future church development allows a clearer picture of planning for the future.

___ *Adopted*

- C. That **Recommendation #14** “that a task force be appointed to study the needs for funding the church planting initiatives of the EPC and to recommend funding alternatives for approval at the General Assembly in 1998” **not be adopted**, but that the following substitute motion be adopted:

“That the Permanent National Outreach Committee develop a plan to fund church planting in conjunction with the Committee on Administration and present it to the General Assembly in 1998.

Recommendation #14 was referred both to the standing Administration Committee and National Outreach Committee, and was considered by the Assembly during the Administration Committee report (p. 31). The recommendation as amended above was adopted at that time.

- D. That **Recommendation #15** “that we pray, fund, and seek to get support from the church in the Orlando area to establish a mission congregation closer to Disney World. This effort to be funded by the 18th General Assembly so work could proceed starting in early 1990. The amount of funding for this project would be \$20,000 and would be used to search for leadership and a core group for this undertaking” **not be adopted**.

Grounds: The issue has been properly addressed by the 16th General Assembly and the Key Cities Plan. The Committee is in accord with the “position on addressing controversial social issues,” but feels it has already been addressed in the *Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience* and better falls within the scope of the Theology Committee.

___ *Adopted*

- E. That **Recommendation #16** “that the General Assembly approve the ‘Bartlett L. Hess Award’ that will be given annually to the church that has demonstrated the most innovative approach to church growth or revitalization” be adopted.

Grounds: While the standing committee expressed some question about “awards” for ministry and saw a need for the National Outreach Committee to further define exactly what is to be rewarded, we agree with the principle of wanting to reward what we encourage. Church growth in both its spiritual and numerical aspects is an essential part of the mission of the church. This recommendation provides a vehicle by which positive, reproducible innovation is encouraged and shared with others in the EPC.

___ *Adopted*

- F. That **Recommendation #17**, “that the Assembly approve combining the Church Development Plan (1989) and the Church Development Plan (1995) using the newly approved *Mission Statement and Core Values* of the National Outreach Committee into a 1997 *Master Plan for Church Development*” be adopted.

Grounds: There are currently three documents circulating on the same subject. This recommendation brings all of them together and reflects the current vision of the EPC National Outreach Committee. ___ *Adopted*

The standing committee further recommended:

1. That the permanent National Outreach Committee provide training and resources for the leadership in our churches in how to share their faith in Christ, individually and in group settings, with those in their communities who have not yet come to Christ.

Grounds: For our churches to fulfill the Great Commission, individual members must be trained in how to share their faith effectively. This can be done in a variety of ways and there is much expertise in our denomination. The National Outreach Committee is encouraged to identify resources and make them available to the denomination. ___ *Adopted*

2. That the General Assembly commend Corbett Heimburger for his work as National Outreach Director. The Assembly will greatly miss his energy, zeal, vision and practical wisdom in church planting. He has built a foundation for us and given us sound direction and support in this vital ministry. We commend him to the Lord and His guidance for future ministry. ___ *Adopted*

The standing committee commended the permanent National Outreach Committee for its vision and direction in the vital ministries of church planting and revitalization. It also encouraged them to continue what they have begun in improving the information flow between the General Assembly and presbytery Church Development Committees.

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-45 FINAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Zelda Artz, chairman, opened with prayer and proceeded with the final reading.

ON MOTION to elect the following nominees to the permanent committees:

COMMITTEE	CLASS	NOMINEE	PRESBYTERY
Administration	Class of 2000	Rev. Rhett Payne Elder Virginia Patterson Elder Joe Schluchter	Central South Mid-America Mid-America
Christian Education & Publications	Class of 2000	Elizabeth Hicks Rev. Bruce Spear	Central South West
Fraternal Relations	Class of 2000	Elder Dexter Kuhlman Rev. Graham Smith	Mid-America East
Ministerial Vocation	Class of 2000	Rev. Bill Moore Elder Leon Niemann	Midwest West
National Outreach	Class of 2000 Class of 1998	Rev. Jim Murphy Rev. Bob Wilbur Rev. John Cedar	West Florida West
Student & Young	Class of 2000	Elder Reg Smith	Southeast

Adult Ministries	Class of 1998	Rev. Rick Stauffer Vince Morris	Midwest Mid-America
Theology	Class of 2000	Elder Charles Haden Rev. Tom Ricks	Central South Mid-America
Women's Ministries	Class of 2000	Margaret Donato Wendy Johnson	Central South East
World Outreach	Class of 2000 Class of 1998	Elder Bern Draper Elder John Haase Rev. Sam Rowan Elder Mark Coleman	West Central South Midwest Central South
Board of Pension & Benefits	Class of 2000	Elder Leland Curtis Elder Milton Knowlton	Mid-America Central South
Permanent Judicial Commission	Class of 2000	Rev. Don Mason Elder Leonard Pilgrim Elder Dave Shira	Florida Southeast Central South

ON MOTION to elect the following:

Chairman, Board of Pension & Benefits:	Elder Stewart Fleming, Midwest
Nominating Committee, Class of 2000:	Elder John Sherard, Mid-Atlantic Rev. Nancy Stewart, East Elder John Ward, Southeast
Trustee, Medical Benefits Trust, Class of 2000:	Elder Roger Derksen, Midwest

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.**17-46 REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Elder Samuel Jones, chairman, opened. Notations and exceptions were reported to the stated clerk of each presbytery during the June 18-20 meetings. Exceptions to be reported on the floor of the General Assembly are as follows:

- **Presbytery of St. Andrews**
No minutes were presented.
- **Presbytery of the Central South** - Rev. Dennis Flach, Stated Clerk
 - ✓ A coordinating council appointed a commission, which is inappropriate.
 - ✓ A pastor was received from the St. Andrews Presbytery with no terms of call and no indication of where the pastor would be serving.
 - ✓ No record is present concerning the status of retired and/or inactive ministers.
- **Presbytery of the East** - Elder Frank Johnson, Stated Clerk
 - ✓ The dismissal of commissions has not been recorded.
 - ✓ No record is present concerning the status of retired and/or inactive ministers.
- **Presbytery of Florida** - Rev. Robert Garment, Stated Clerk
 - ✓ Special meetings were called but no special purpose was indicated.
 - ✓ No record is present concerning the status of retired and/or inactive ministers.

Journal

- **Mid-America** - Elder Ken Breckner, Stated Clerk
 - ✓ No record of the annual review of session minutes is present.
 - ✓ There is no indication of change in the terms of call for pastors.
- **Mid-Atlantic** - Elder Llew Fischer, Stated Clerk
 - ✓ The dismissal of commissions is not recorded.
- **Midwest** - Elder Alton Bennett, Stated Clerk
 - ✓ No record is present concerning the status of retired and/or inactive ministers.
 - ✓ No record is present dealing with the status of out-of-bounds pastors.
- **Southeast** - Rev. Sam Harris, Stated Clerk
 - ✓ Composition of commissions is not indicated in the report.
- **West** - Rev. Marc Huebl, Stated Clerk
 - ✓ No record is present concerning the status of retired and/or inactive ministers.
 - ✓ No record is present dealing with the status of out-of-bounds pastors.

The Presbytery Review Committee recommended the following with the intent of significantly improving the accomplishment of its work:

1. That the Committee on Presbytery Review become a permanent committee of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church General Assembly.

Grounds: This action will assure continuity of review in that committee members will be in place for more than one reading of presbytery minutes. Under this scenario, initial review meetings could take place prior to the General Assembly. ___ *Adopted*

2. That the Committee on Presbytery Review include as part of its membership at least one former stated clerk of a presbytery.

Grounds: This action will assure that the experience and expertise essential to successfully accomplishing the task is available. ___ *Adopted*

3. That the Committee on Presbytery Review adopt a suggested standardized format for presbytery reporting to be phased in over time in every presbytery.

Grounds: This action will provide structure, order and continuity allowing presbyteries to report more accurately and in a manner that assures the inclusion of all required information. Subsequent ease of access of the information will also be greatly enhanced. ___ *Adopted*

ON MOTION to establish the newly established permanent Committee on Presbytery Review with the following members:

Class of 2000	Elder Robert Sanborn
Class of 1999	Elder Samuel Jones
Class of 1998	Rev. Perry Mobley

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-47 **REPORT OF THE MEMORIALS AND APPRECIATION COMMITTEE**

Chairman Rev. Percy Burns opened the report with prayer.

Prayer was offered in thanksgiving of the service to the Lord and His Church by the following elders who died during this Assembly year:

1. Elder Gene Adee, Faith Presbyterian, Aurora, CO; September 5, 1996
2. Elder Gordon Alford, Faith Presbyterian, Aurora, CO; January, 1996
3. Elder George Contner, EPC of Plant City, FL; April 14, 1997
4. Elder Roy S. Dinsmore, Lynn Garden EPC, Kingsport, TN; December 6, 1996
5. Elder Rick Elrod, Cherry Hills Highlands Ranch, CO; April 25, 1997
6. Elder Homer Harshaw, Calvary Presbyterian, Flint, MI; Fall, 1996
7. Rev. Robert W. Hess, B.D., M.D., First Presbyterian, Homestead, FL; May 3, 1997
8. Elder Mack Luns, First Presbyterian, Waskom, TN; February 2, 1997
9. Elder Don Meyers, Faith EPC, Lavonia, GA; June, 1997
10. Elder Warner F. Moore, Second Presbyterian, Memphis, TN; November 14, 1996
11. Elder Paul Morrow, New Covenant, New Castle, PA; May 31, 1997
12. Elder Robert Noble, Calvary EPC, Butler, PA; November 24, 1996
13. Elder James Wallace Reid, Faith Presbyterian, Alexandria, VA; August 11, 1996
14. Elder Yvonne Rice, Mt. Calvary EPC; Kingsport, TN; July, 1996
15. Elder John Rooney, First Presbyterian, Rome, GA
16. Elder R.A. Thompkins, First Presbyterian, Waskom, TX; February 6, 1997
17. Elder Wilbert (Bill) Toole, Central Presbyterian, Clayton, MO; October 24, 1996
18. Elder Robert Biven Wallace, Cramerton EPC, Cramerton, NC; November 6, 1996
19. Elder Carl Christian Winikka, Morningside EPC, Phoenix, AZ; October 24, 1996
20. Elder Bernie Zweifach, The Cornerstone, Daytona Beach, FL

We were honored to participate in a service of worship on Wednesday night that covered all ages and eras of music. The mix of classic and contemporary, young and old, instrumental and voice led the Assembly into a time of worship that blessed the Lord and rightly prepared our hearts to begin the work of our General Assembly.

The Assembly thanked with deep gratitude the following people, along with their capable committees, who helped make this Assembly a success; Steve Davis, General Chairman; Tom Ricks, Associate Pastor; Beth Bohlman, Food Services; Steve Spiros, Transportation; Judy Creason and Mike Zwinn, Administration; Carl Lothman, Becky Shifflett, Children & Youth; Shaun Hayes, Program; Bud Waite, Facilities; Nancy Middleton and Ceci Bartels, Special Program; Gayle Stertz, Housing; Alan and Sue Shaffer, Volunteer Support; Steve Carter, Registration; Phil Rowland, Director of Music Ministries; Cecelia Rowland, Youth Choir Director; Ruth Boothe, Bell Choir Director, and the Chancel Choir. Thanks go also to the ministers of Central Church and to Pat Schoetker and the office staff.

Besides those named, there were another 225 Central Church volunteers who helped make this General Assembly a success by providing warm greetings, snacks, housing, transportation. Many of those wonderful folks were members who had never been actively involved in church functions before. Thanks to keynoter Eric Alexander and to Women's Ministries luncheon speaker, Vonette Bright. Gratitude is expressed to standing committee chairmen,

Journal

worship leaders, the Stated Clerk and Moderators past and present, recording clerks Llew Fischer, Marc Huebl and Bob Garment and facilitator Sam Harris. The committee would also like to honor the Assembly staff for a job well done.

The warm hospitality and beautiful facilities combined to make this General Assembly a wonderful experience. The ingenuity in carrying out the local theme, "Highway to Heaven," was delightful.

ON MOTION to receive the report as a whole.

17-48 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION to adjourn to the 18th General Assembly meeting at Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, Colorado June 25-27, 1998.

The Assembly was closed with prayer, the singing of *Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*, and the benediction pronounced by the Moderator at 12:05 p.m.

INDEX

ADJOURNMENT	54	New churches	23
BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS REPORT	26	MATTERS RECEIVED AND REFERRED	
COMMITTEE REPORTS		Communications.....	16
Administration	29	Overtures.....	17
Christian Education & Publications	42	Recommendations.....	17
Fraternal Relations	27	MINISTRY REPORT	
Memorials & Appreciation	53	National Outreach.....	45
Ministerial Vocation.....	46	Student & Young Adult Ministries.....	45
National Outreach.....	48	Women's Ministries.....	27
Nominating, final reading and elections.....	50	World Outreach.....	29
Nominating, first reading.....	11	MINUTES	
Nominating, second reading.....	33	16th General Assembly.....	14
Overtures and Resolutions	35	MODERATOR	
Presbytery Review.....	51	Election of 17th Assembly.....	11
Student & Young Adult Ministries.....	44	<i>State of the Church Address</i>	1
Theology.....	38	OVERTURES, RATIFICATION OF DESCENDING	
Women's Ministries.....	41	Overture 96-A to adopt the Proposed Book of	
World Outreach.....	39	Discipline.....	13
DOCKET		Overture 96-B, to amend G.1-5 on the	
Friday, June 20.....	26	distinguishing marks of the true church.....	13
Saturday, June 21.....	44	Overture 96-C, to amend G.12-2D on the	
Thursday, June 19.....	10	relationship between a candidate and the	
ENROLLMENT		ministerial advisor and the pastor.....	14
Commissioners excused.....	10	PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION REPORT	32
Presbytery of Florida.....	6	PERSECUTED CHURCH, SPECIAL REPORT.....	15
Presbytery of Mid-America.....	6	PERSONAL PRIVILEGE	
Presbytery of the Central South.....	4	Graham Smith.....	34
Presbytery of the East.....	5	QUORUM DECLARED.....	4
Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic.....	7	RECORDING CLERKS	
Presbytery of the Midwest.....	8	election of.....	4
Presbytery of the Southeast.....	9	STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS.....	1
Presbytery of the West.....	9	STATED CLERK'S REPORT.....	15
FACE TO FACE.....	23	WORSHIP.....	1
FACILITATOR		WORSHIP	
appointment of.....		Friday evening, June 20.....	43
INTRODUCTIONS		Moderator's Service of Communion and Prayer.....	25
Chaplains.....	24	Saturday morning, June 21.....	44
Fraternal guests.....	48	Thursday evening, June 19.....	24
Missionaries.....	24		

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PART II
APPENDICES

Administration Committee Report

The Committee on Administration (COA) convened for two stated meetings: November 1, 1996 and April 11, 1997. The COA proceeded according to the duties assigned to it in the *Rules for Assembly* (§9-1A). This report summarizes the actions of the committee.



Wayne Hoffman, chairman

1. Approved "that the 2001 Committee consider in its discussion the Act of Assembly #89-19 and consider the possible need for a Christian Education Director working out of the General Assembly Office. This person would act as a resource to particular congregations and encourage the full development of educational ministries for all members, young and old."
2. Approved that the COA appoint a task force as proposed by the Ministerial Vocation Committee in response to the Moderator's memo, and that the persons of Bill Moore, John Allman, John Baird, Bruce Spear and Bill Vogler be named to the task force to study the following issues, making their recommendations to the MVC:
 - a. pastoral performance, evaluation, and effectiveness;
 - b. career development
 - c. pastor and staff training
 - d. change of call
 - e. the operation of the search and call system
 - f. providing resources and consultation for pastoral search committees
 - g. compensation and benefitsTarget date: Spring, 1998
3. Approved "that the concept of a director of stewardship be referred to the 2001 Committee for consideration of possible inclusion in their 1998 report to General Assembly in strategic planning and development."
4. Approved "that the COA reaffirm WOC's jurisdiction and oversight of 'ethnic ministries' and that the WOC bring the COA an operational definition which defines the scope of this ministry."
5. Received the invitations of First Presbyterian (Rome) and Ward Presbyterian (Livonia) to host the 19th and 20th General Assemblies respectively and approved them for forwarding to the 17th General Assembly.

Orlando Project

6. Established a commission of five (Buck Russell, Bill Johns, Wally Hostetter, Corbett Heimburger and Dan Lacich) with responsibility to oversee the fiscal and legal functioning of Cypress Pointe EPC to stabilize cash flow and disbursement matters.
7. Approved a scholarship fund to be named "Moderator's Scholarship Fund" and approved the 1997 Moderator's Communion Service offering be designated for this purpose. Committee

discussed the problems of encouraging pastors and elders to attend not only General Assembly but also presbytery meetings. Buck Russell stressed that we should encourage people to stay in host homes, not only for financial benefits, but also to establish lifelong friendships.

8. Endorsed the "Celebrate the Child" program of Mission America, and approved Carolyn Nystrom to be the EPC denominational representative on that committee.

WEF/Persecuted Christians

9. The Stated Clerk reported on correspondence from the World Evangelical Fellowship on the subject of persecuted Christians. It was noted that one of our own ministers, Steve Haas, has resigned from a pastoral position to lead this program.

Student and Young Adult Ministries:

10. Rick Stauffer, chairman, summarized ministry programs for this summer, calling attention to the Generation X pre-assembly seminar and a book on this subject, *Reckless Hope*, co-authored by Todd Hahn, Associate Pastor at Forest Hill Church.
11. The Stated Clerk apprised the committee of the work of his task force to investigate sites for more office space, and of its recommendation not to purchase the AAA building for the General Assembly Office.

Women's Ministries

12. Committee reaffirmed its appreciation of Chairman Susan Nash's leadership of Women's Ministries Committee for the past six years.

World Outreach

13. Chairman Perry Mobley apprised committee of changes being proposed in the Cooperative Agreement with Wycliffe, as well as changes in the World Outreach Missions Manual regarding property ownership and a uniform missionary support application.
14. Approved up to a 5% factor be built into the cost of Assembly-sponsored events for general administrative purposes. The appropriate committee shall approve disbursement recommendations from the department director.
15. Established a study committee made up of members of the NOC, WOC, and urban/ethnic resource people to discuss the advisability of cross-cultural and urban ministries within the US, being placed under the leadership of the NOC.
16. The NOC has been informed of the intentions of the COA to empower the 2001 Committee to hire a qualified consultant to assist the committee with a three- to five-year plan. The NOC strongly recommends that the consultant address the issues of organizational structure and changes which will streamline operations, promote committee success and stimulate denominational growth.
17. Approved an amortization schedule to be presented to New Covenant church seeking a \$2000 monthly payment to repay its loan to the General Assembly in 7+ years.

Recommendations:

1. That the "per member" factor be increased from \$15 to \$18.
2. That the 1997 Administration Budget of \$988,265 be approved.
3. That the 1997 Benevolence Askings Budget of \$ 650,000 be approved.
4. That the Assembly approve an increase of financial eligibility for the Medical Benevolence Fund from \$20,000 to \$25,000.
5. That the General Assembly amend *Book of Government* §11-10 by adding the following sentence at the end of the section:
 "The presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the minister or candidate."
 so that the section reads:
 11-10 In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that person without a valid call. The dismissing Presbytery shall be informed by the calling Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. *The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate.*
6. That the directors of World Outreach, Women's Ministries, National Outreach and Student and Young Adult Ministries each be granted 10 minutes of docket time apart from the reports of their standing committees to present their ministries.

From the Committee on Administration and the Committee to Evaluate the Office of the Stated Clerk

7. That the General Assembly renew the calling of Dr. L. Edward Davis to serve as Stated Clerk for an additional three-year term.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne M. Hoffman, Chairman
June , 1997

2001 Committee Report

The 2001 Committee is composed of Bill Johns, chairman, Jerry Brundle, Carl Hassel, Wally Hostetter, Sam Jones, Virginia Patterson, and Joe Schluchter. Ed Davis, Stated Clerk served as advisor. Committee met January 17-18, 1997 and March 10-11, 1997. The third meeting is scheduled to be held June 6-7, 1997.

The charge of the 14th (1994) General Assembly, whose actions initiated the Committee, was as follows:

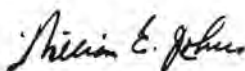
“That the General Assembly instruct the permanent Committee on Administration to develop a strategic plan to set forth the vision, goals, and programs of the General Assembly for the next several years. This plan should include goals, programs, activities and priorities for the life of the plan. The proposed plan should be distributed to the presbytery level for information prior to the General Assembly.” (G.14-26B.18)

The above named committee was appointed by the Committee on Administration to proceed with carrying out the mandate of the General Assembly. The Committee is an excellent representation of backgrounds, ages, skills, education and spiritual commitment. A harmony has developed that allows for frank and open discussion but targets the seeking of God’s will for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The assignment of the Committee necessarily requires extensive study and reading as well as meeting time. After establishing its view of the vision and mission of the Church (EPC), the Committee will be looking at the organizational structure, facilities, manning, technology, functions, population information and other relevant matters that would be essential to achieving the proposed goals, priorities and timetables.

There is an enormous amount of work to be done, and the Committee would like to have a proposal before the 18th (1998) General Assembly. The chairman feels this is a very optimistic target in light of the work to be done and the necessity for the proposals to go to the presbyteries prior to the Assembly in Denver. Even so, the Committee will press ahead deliberately with a view to presenting to the General Assembly a well studied, quality proposal that will be a practical guide for the EPC in the near term years.

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Johns, Chairman
May 21, 1997

Argentine Consultation

I. PURPOSE

The 16th General Assembly, in response to Overture 96-A from the St. Andrews Presbytery, "tabled the overture and instructed that a consultation of representatives from the St. Andrews Presbytery and the General Assembly be convened in the Fall of 1996 for the purpose of gathering information so that a strategic plan for the future development of the Argentine church may be established."

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. During the period of October 10-17, 1996, the following visited the Presbytery of St. Andrews for the purpose of gathering information and reviewing prior actions in preparation for the Argentine Consultation.

Richard Oestreicher	Director of World Outreach
Buck Russell	Moderator of 16 th General Assembly
Bill Johns	Moderator of 14 th General Assembly

2. During the period of October 28-29, 1996, the following members of the Argentine Consultation met at the General Assembly office in Livonia, Michigan.

GA Representatives

Richard Oestreicher	Rev. Julio Lopez
Buck Russell	Rev. Juan Jose Mejias
Bill Johns	Rev. Aldo Fontao
Wayne Hoffman	Rev. Miguel Robles

SAP Representatives

Rev. Edward Davis, the stated clerk of the General Assembly, moderated the meetings.

3. The following background items were reviewed and discussed.
 - a. The Argentine Declaration of December 1993
 - b. The meeting of March 20, 1995 with Oestreicher, Lopez, Robles, and Davis
 - c. The April, 1996 meeting of the St. Andrews Presbytery
 - d. The 16th General Assembly, June 1996
 - e. The Argentine/Brazil visit of Russell, Johns, and Oestreicher
 - f.

III. ISSUES

It was agreed that the following issues were to be discussed.

1. In terms of maintaining or changing the boundaries of St. Andrews, what alternative will most facilitate the ongoing mission development of the EPC in the country of Argentina.
2. What shall be the relationship between St. Andrews and World Outreach in those areas in which World Outreach has the responsibility of outreach and church planting.
3. Is 2001 a reasonable goal for the development of a national church?
4. How may communication between St. Andrews and the General Assembly office be improved?

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the boundaries of the St. Andrews Presbytery be extended to include Entre Rios and Santa Fe provinces.
2. That the Proposed Partnership Agreement between St. Andrews Presbytery and the General Assembly (October 28-29, 1996) be ratified. (See attachment 1)

Mr. Buck Russell
General Assembly Moderator

Dr. L Edward Davis
General Assembly Stated Clerk

Proposed Partnership Agreement between St. Andrews Presbytery and EPC General Assembly

Preamble

The new Partnership Agreement, worked out by the Argentine Consultation of October 28-29, 1996, is the result of a full historical review of activities in Argentina by both the St. Andrews Presbytery and EPC/General Assembly representatives.

It is recognized that we have a common goal of establishing a National Presbyterian Church, but that in the past, communication has often been inadequate.

It is understood that all future work, whether under the direction of the St. Andrews Presbytery or EPC/World Outreach, shall be carried out in a manner so that: paternalism/dependence shall not be encouraged (master plan value #4); function shall precede structure; and we should be instructed by past mistakes and press forward into the new future with renewed mutual trust (Phil 3:13).

Agreement

That the St. Andrews Presbytery and EPC General Assembly agree that EPC/World Outreach shall have permission to plant mission personnel within the boundaries of Argentina for the purpose of establishing churches under the following conditions:

1. EPC/World Outreach missionary personnel, who are working inside the boundaries of the St. Andrews Presbytery, shall be under the authority and oversight of World Outreach in partnership with the St. Andrews Presbytery until such time as the work is organized as a particular church.
2. World Outreach shall have the jurisdiction to place missionary personnel outside the boundaries of the St. Andrews Presbytery for the purpose of establishing National Reformed churches (Master Plan value #2). This shall always be done in partnership with St. Andrews Presbytery. This partnership shall be understood in the context of our mutual intent to work together to ensure the success of the work.
3. Upon the development of these churches, they will be placed within presbyteries, including the St. Andrews Presbytery, as we work towards the establishment of a National Presbyterian Church of Argentina.
4. World Outreach may loan its personnel to St. Andrews Presbytery for specialized ministries.

The goal of mission personnel shall be to proclaim the Word of God led by the Holy Spirit, which leads people to a saving knowledge and commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, the study of the Word of God, discipleship training, worship, witnessing, tithing and a caring, loving ministry to one another and to the community.

An EPC mission oversight committee shall be established which will consist of the World Outreach Director, the chairman of the World Outreach Committee, and a representative appointed by the Stated Clerk, from the General Assembly moderatorial pool. The World Outreach Director shall be the communicator with the St. Andrews Presbytery in all matters relative to mission. The Ministerial Committee of the St. Andrews Presbytery shall identify a member to be the communicator with World Outreach in all matters relative to mission.



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5 - Livonia, MI 48154
(313) 261-2001 Fax (313) 261-3282

The Board of Pension and Benefits

The Board of Pension and Benefits met on three occasions during the last Assembly year: September 14, 1996 and December 14, 1996 and again on April 19, 1997. In addition to routine business, we replaced all of our group benefits carriers as of January 1, 1997. Our new third party administrator is Benefit Services, Inc. of Akron Ohio. The transition has been smooth and we are hearing many compliments on the service we are receiving from Benefit Services.



A Change in Coverage for Mammograms:

The EPC insurance program, at the present time, covers 80% of charges for one routine mammogram each year for women fifty years of age or older. In view of current medical thinking, we would like to change this coverage to include women who are forty (40) years of age or older.

Recommendation:

That the medical insurance coverage provide one routine mammogram per year, paid at 80%, for women who are forty (40) years of age or older.

A Increase in Life Insurance:

Inflation has caused our current level of life insurance to be less meaningful. There are also a number of pastors who cannot qualify for additional insurance from other sources.

Recommendation:

That the current life insurance provided for our pastors and employees be doubled, from the current level of \$25,000 to \$50,000, for an additional premium.

Dental Insurance

During the 15th General Assembly we reported that the churches had rejected once again the idea of providing dental insurance for their pastors. We also discussed the idea that the insurance premiums could possibly be paid for in part or entirely by the pastors themselves. Just prior to the 15th Assembly, questionnaires were sent to 177 churches. Seventy four churches (41%) responded. Of those who responded 49 (66%) said they would like such a program. This, however, constitutes only 27% of the total churches in the denomination, which was not enough to support the program. It should be pointed out that in the Acts of the General Assembly, 82-10, we were reminded that individual churches are encouraged "...to assume the deductible portion of the health insurance program and cost of co-insurance as part of a minister's compensation." Certainly, the intention of this Act would include the area of dental coverage.

Even though the idea of dental insurance coverage has been turned down on two occasions, the Board feels this option should be offered at least one more time with additional information available to church sessions who will be considering this coverage for their pastors. The Board has perhaps neglected to emphasize the option that a pastor could actually be responsible for the increased premium himself. Dental insurance is not considered part of the basic health benefit that must be provided by the individual churches for their pastors but an additional benefit. Our churches will have one more opportunity to consider this when they respond to a mailing which will be sent in July.

Total Medical Reserves \$1,669,923

Families with Medical Coverage	316
Singles with Medical Coverage	98
	<u>414</u>

Claims Data

1992 Claims	\$1,208,000
1993 Claims	\$1,400,000
1994 Claims	\$1,507,000
1995 Claims	\$1,987,335
1996 Claims	\$1,719,928

Claims for Jan through April, 1997	\$453,223
Claims for Jan through April, 1996	\$673,863

The Pension Plan

Our Pension Plan continues to grow, with individuals added almost every week. We have received some requests for additional fund choices and are in the process of researching this possibility. Fidelity continues to provide a number of toll-free phone services. Employees can speak with a Retirement Specialist to access account information, ask questions about their investment choices and request additional information that will help them in making well-informed investment decisions. Expanded hours are in place so that Fidelity can be reached Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to midnight at 1-800-841-3363.

May 22, 1997

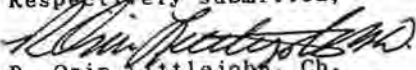
PENSIONSTATS

114 Participating Churches
435 Employees With Active Accounts
89 Passive Accounts

Total Plan Value: \$9,003,233

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer</u>
Puritan	41,160	227,247
Magellan	346,326	2,465,853
Contrafund	241,932	701,493
Growth & Income	423,302	2,381,305
Intermediate Bond	78,718	314,795
Asset Manager	156,512	1,069,526
Retired Government	146,230	408,831
Money Market	<u>\$1,434,181</u>	<u>\$7,569,051</u>

Respectively submitted,


R. Orin Littlejohn, Ch.
Board of Pension and Benefits
June 1997

FIDELITY MAGELLAN

The Fidelity Magellan Fund has as its objective capital appreciation. The fund invests mainly in common stock and securities convertible into common stock of domestic, foreign and multinational issuers of all sizes.

Total Return %

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
-4.51	41.03	7.01	24.66	-1.81	36.82	11.69
First quarter 1997:		-0.56				

FIDELITY CONTRAFUND

The objective of Fidelity Contrafund is capital appreciation. It is considered a broad-based stock fund that seeks out undervalued or out-of-favor companies both in the U. S. and abroad. Securities purchased by the fund may be considered speculative.

Total Return %

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
3.94	54.92	15.89	21.43	-1.12	36.28	21.94
First quarter 1997:		-1.47				

FIDELITY PURITAN

The Fidelity Puritan fund seeks high income consistent with preservation of capital. Investments are made in a broadly diversified portfolio of high-yielding common stocks, preferred stocks and bonds of any quality. Puritan is considered to be a conservative growth and income fund.

Total Return %

1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
-6.35	24.46	15.43	21.45	1.78	21.46	15.15
First quarter 1997:		1.48				

FIDELITY GROWTH AND INCOME

The Fidelity Growth and Income fund seeks high total return through a combination of current income and capital appreciation. Investments are mainly in equity securities of companies that pay current dividends and offer potential growth of earnings.

Total Return %

<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
-6.80	41.84	11.54	19.53	2.27	35.38	20.02
First quarter 1997:		1.12				

FIDELITY ASSET MANAGER

Fidelity Asset Manager seeks high total return with reduced risk over the long term. This is accomplished with an allocation of assets among stocks, bonds, and short-term instruments of U.S. and foreign issuers, including emerging markets.

Total Return %

<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
5.38	23.64	12.75	23.29	-6.60	18.16	12.73
First quarter 1997:		-0.04				

FIDELITY INTERMEDIATE BOND

The objective of Fidelity Intermediate Bond is high current income. The fund invests mainly in bonds rated BBB or better and maintains a dollar-weighted average maturity of between three and ten years. Yield will fluctuate with market conditions.

Total Return %

<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
7.54	14.50	6.08	11.96	-2.01	12.81	3.65
First quarter 1997:		-0.22				

FIDELITY MONEY MARKET

Fidelity Retirement Government Money Market portfolio is a diversified portfolio of Fidelity Money Market Trust. The portfolio is generally intended for investors in tax-saving retirement plans. The portfolio seeks to obtain as high a level of current income as is consistent with the preservation of capital and liquidity. This is done by investing in obligations issued or guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States government, its agencies or instrumentalities and also in repurchase agreements secured by these obligations.

Yield:	1994	3.27%		
	1995	5.46%		
	1996	5.20%	YTD 1997:	3.3%

3775 KIMMEL ROAD
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(17) 563-2552 FACSIMILE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the General Assembly of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets and changes in net assets arising from cash transactions of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Pension Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 1996 and 1995. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note A, these financial statements were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets and changes in net assets arising from cash transactions of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Pension Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 1996 and 1995, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.



Karl L. Drake, PC
Certified Public Accountant

February 19, 1997

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PENSION PLAN
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the years ended December 31, 1996 and 1995**

APPENDICES

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
ADDITIONS TO PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Contributions	\$ 1,457,942	\$ 1,319,880
Dividends and Interest	688,718	294,894
Transfers in	87,369	85,987
Gain <Loss> in Market Value	<u>215,286</u>	<u>825,148</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	<u>2,449,315</u>	<u>2,525,909</u>
DEDUCTIONS FROM PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Pension Payments	438,477	167,550
Account Fees	<u>5,872</u>	<u>5,621</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>444,349</u>	<u>173,171</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	2,004,966	2,352,738
NET ASSETS		
Cash and Investments - Beginning of Year	<u>5,964,833</u>	<u>3,612,095</u>
Cash and Investments - End of Year	\$ 7,969,799 =====	\$ 5,964,833 =====

The Accompanying Notes are an integral part of these statements.

KARL L. DRAKE, P.C.

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PENSION PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1996 and 1995**

NOTE A - PLAN DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

A general description of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Pension Plan (the Plan) and a summary of significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows.

Basis of Presentation

The accounting records of the Plan are maintained primarily on the cash receipts and disbursements method of accounting whereby revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned, and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred.

Eligibility

The Plan is available to any employees of member churches, and clergy of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Plan Funding

The plan is fully funded from contributions received from participants in salary reduction agreements or member churches on behalf of their employees or their pastors.

NOTE B - TAX STATUS

The Plan is a tax-exempt entity as provided by Internal Revenue Code Section 403(b).

NOTE C - PLAN INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 1996 and 1995, the Plan's assets were invested in Merrill Lynch and Fidelity investment accounts as follows. All assets are valued at market value.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
Merrill Lynch	\$ 66,895	\$ 20,365
Fidelity Money Market	588,845	499,254
Fidelity Asset Manager	1,162,495	1,101,281
Fidelity Intermediate Bond	364,097	295,573
Fidelity Growth & Income	2,391,547	1,390,540
Fidelity Contrafund	750,580	320,425
Fidelity Magellan	2,449,258	2,253,909
Fidelity Puritan	<u>196,082</u>	<u>83,486</u>
	\$ 7,969,799	\$ 5,964,833
	=====	=====

KARL L. DRAKE, P.C.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the General Assembly of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets and changes in net assets arising from cash transactions of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Insurance Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 1996 and 1995. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note A, these financial statements were prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets and changes in net assets arising from cash transactions of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Insurance Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 1996 and 1995, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.



Karl L. Drake, PC
Certified Public Accountant

February 19, 1997

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the years ended December 31, 1996 and 1995

	1996	1995
ADDITIONS TO PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Premiums	\$ 1,991,361	\$ 2,154,437
Dividends and Interest	104,924	134,044
Gain <Loss> in Market Value	<8,253>	60,464
TOTAL ADDITIONS	2,088,032	2,348,945
DEDUCTIONS FROM PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Claims	1,672,702	2,008,347
Premiums	371,961	376,847
Administrative Expenses	33,581	71,099
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	2,078,244	2,456,293
 INCREASE <DECREASE> IN NET ASSETS	9,788	<107,348>
 NET ASSETS		
Cash and Investments		
Beginning of Year	1,695,320	1,802,668
Cash and Investments		
End of Year	\$ 1,705,108	\$ 1,695,320
	=====	=====

APPENDICES

The Accompanying Notes are an integral part of these statements.

KARL L. DRAKE, P.C.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1996 and 1995

NOTE A - PLAN DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES.

A general description of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Insurance Plan (the Plan) and a summary of significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows.

Basis of Presentation

The accounting records of the Plan are maintained primarily on the cash receipts and disbursements method of accounting whereby revenue and the related assets are recognized when received rather than when earned, and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when the obligation is incurred.

Eligibility

The Plan is available to any employees of member churches and their families, and clergy and their families of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Premium Revenues

The plan is fully funded from premiums charged to the participants at rates determined by the Board of Directors. A portion of the premiums collected from the participants is remitted to an insurance company for coverage in excess of the amounts self-insured by the Plan.

NOTE B - TAX STATUS

The Plan is a tax-exempt organization as provided by Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(9).

KARE L. DRAKE,

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 December 31, 1996 and 1995

NOTE C - PLAN INVESTMENTS

Investments are valued at market value and are maintained in various investment accounts as follows:

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
Merrill Lynch	\$ 12,827	\$ 12,175
Merrill Lynch	674,501	716,646
Smith Barney	-0-	335,845
Smith Barney	311,257	331,854
Vanguard Bond Fund	223,866	214,131
Vanguard Wellesley	-0-	21,787
Invesco Industrial	37,864	20,880
T. Rowe Price Equity	40,536	22,089
Lindner Dividend	34,944	19,913
Brandywine	31,164	-0-
Berger 100	10,492	-0-
Columbia Special	9,756	-0-
Crabbe Huson Special	10,125	-0-
Kaufman	10,528	-0-
PBHG Growth	9,924	-0-
Robert Stephens Value	11,560	-0-
T. Rowe Price Science and Ind.	10,661	-0-
American Century	11,096	-0-
Barron Asset	12,344	-0-
Janus Fund	12,892	-0-
Mutual Series	13,145	-0-
Neugerger and Berman	13,358	-0-
Oakmark	13,374	-0-
Vanguard Windsor II	38,540	-0-
Fidelity Puritan	13,456	-0-
Fidelity Equity	13,482	-0-
Fidelity Convertible	12,396	-0-
Fidelity Contrafund	11,020	-0-
Standard Federal Bank	<u>100,000</u>	<u>-0-</u>
	<u>\$ 1,705,108</u>	<u>\$ 1,695,320</u>
	=====	=====

COA-1

1998 PROPOSED ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

APPENDICES

	1996 Budget	1996 Actual	1997 Budget	1998 Proposed
Personnel Disbursements				
Stated Clerk Salary	61,600	61,600	67,760	70,130
Program Staff Salaries	176,425	207,475	182,600	238,990
Support Staff Salaries	108,900	63,381	112,700	116,645
Staff Insurance/Pension	65,000	58,785	68,000	81,000
Executive Expense Allow	7,300	7,300	7,300	7,500
Staff Travel/Expenses	30,000	28,384	32,000	36,000
Executive Travel	20,000	26,931	25,000	27,000
Taxes/Workman's Comp	26,000	22,953	26,000	26,000
Officer/Director Liability	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,525</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>4,000</u>
	498,725	480,334	523,860	607,265
Administration Disbursements				
Contingencies	4,000	4,000	5,000	5,000
Telephone	17,000	15,158	20,000	20,000
Office Supplies	8,000	8,069	9,000	11,000
Printing & Promotion	35,000	31,537	37,000	65,000
Postage	24,000	24,592	24,000	25,000
Technology Support	10,000	25,865	10,000	10,000
Financial Audit	5,000	3,000	5,000	4,000
Professional Fees	2,000	0	2,000	2,000
Miscellaneous	4,000	2,528	4,000	4,000
Office Development	18,000	1,910	10,000	10,000
Committee travel/expense	55,000	43,966	60,000	60,000
GA Administration	15,000	23,397	18,000	25,000
Staff Technical Training	2,000	2,103	2,000	2,000
Pension Fund Administration	6,000	4,397	6,000	6,000
Fraternal Relations	12,000	8,848	12,000	10,000
Presbytery Devel/Support	7,000	5,168	6,000	3,000
Leadership Development	1,000	966	1,000	1,000
Christian Ed/Resource	1,000	128	1,000	1,000
Buckingham Rent	68,000	63,557	70,000	72,000
Buckingham Utilities	7,000	5,781	7,500	7,500
Buckingham Maint/Insurance	6,000	8,464	11,000	10,000
Van Expense	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,161</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	309,000	285,251	322,500	356,000
GRAND TOTALS	807,725	785,585	846,360	963,265

1998 PROPOSED BENEVOLENCE ASKINGS

National Outreach		
Church Planting	150,000	
Church Loan Fund	25,000	
Key City Project	50,000	\$225,000
Student and Young Adult Ministries		
Ministries	8,000	8,000
Ministerial Vocation		
Andrew Jumper Scholarship Fund	50,000	
Newly Ordained Ministers Event	3,000	53,000
Women's Ministries		
Per Woman Asking	25,000	
Faith Focus	30,000	55,000
World Outreach		
<u>Argentina</u>		
Field Development	10,000	
Leadership Development	10,000	
Church Planting	40,000	
IBBA & Presbytery Library Development	5,000	
Pastoral Local Scholarships (2)	1,500	
Miscellaneous Project	10,000	76,500
<u>Brazil</u>		
Theological Education		
Scholarships	35,000	
Andrew Jumper Library	10,000	
Argentina Pastoral Brazil Scholarship	2,000	
Foreign Missions		
Angola Teacher	15,000	
Ghana Church Planter	8,000	
Exchange Programs		
Church Planting Consultation	5,000	75,000
<u>Other EPC Fields</u>		
Kazakstan Team Development	15,000	
Siberia Team Development	15,000	
Muslim Field & Team	10,000	40,000
<u>Ethnic/Urban Ministries</u>		
Urban: World Impact Military Avenue	30,000	
Ethnic: Appalachian Project	5,000	
Ethnic: Hispanic Project	5,000	
Ethnic: Thai Project	10,000	50,000
<u>Other Projects</u>		
China Seminaries	50,000	
China Field Development	5,000	
Hamd Muslim Video	12,500	67,500
<i>Total World Outreach</i>		309,000
 TOTAL PROPOSED BENEVOLENCE ASKINGS		 \$650,000

Christian Education and Publications Committee Report

Personnel and Meetings

The committee is composed of six members: Bruce Demarest (West), Sandy Hazelwood (Central South), Elizabeth Hicks (Central South), Barbara Mansfield (Midwest), Chairman Carolyn Nystrom, (*pictured at right*) (Mid-America), and Bruce Spear (West). We met twice during the assembly year: September 26-28, 1996 and March 14-15, 1997. We are happy that Ed Davis (Stated Clerk) and Marilyn Bartel (Executive Assistant) often joined us at our meetings. Donna Alberta, editor of *Reflections* participated during appropriate sections of our work as a publications board. In addition to our work as a Board of Publications and as a Committee on Christian Education, we also enjoyed many times of shared worship, Scripture study, and prayer for each other, our churches, and the denomination as a whole.



APPENDICES

Work as Board of Publications for *Reflections* Magazine:

This year we completed two years of publication of our denominational magazine. The 7th issue is available at this assembly. We have received repeated compliments about the content and quality of this magazine. We much appreciate Donna's enthusiastic and creative work as EPC people who contributed articles, art, poetry, advice, and labor. The committee has worked hard to launch this magazine and to keep it in motion. Our work includes reviewing articles and accepting appropriate ones, setting direction for future issues, actual writing and editing as needed, consulting regularly with the editor, and setting policy.

—*Structure and Policy.* After reviewing the administrative structure of several other denominational magazines of like-minded churches, we created three policy statements: A statement of purpose, a job description for the Board of Publications, and a job description for the editor. (Attachment 1) We are in the process of creating a mission statement.

—*Polling the People.* After the first issue of *Reflections* (Summer, 1995), we attempted to call each EPC church to ask what they thought of the magazine, whether they were getting an appropriate number of copies, and how they were distributing it. This year we again made calls (this time to more than 50 churches). We again asked about distribution and made requests for funding through the sessions--as recommended by the 16th General Assembly.

—*Funding.* We have dug into a lot of corners for funds. Current press run is 26,000 at a printing cost of 50 cents a copy. We produce 3 issues a year for a total yearly cost of about \$40,000 for printing alone. Much of the first year was funded by the generous help of the Women's Faith Focus. This was supplemented by income from Lay Renewal which returns a percent of its receipts from EPC churches. Income from Lay Renewal was \$6,275 in 1996. We solicited reader funds by inserting a "Pass the Buck" card in the summer 1996 issue. This brought in about \$600.

The standing committee of the 16th General Assembly recommended that *Reflections* be funded through the budget of the General Assembly. This recommendation came to the

Administration Committee late in its meeting and funds were not available. The Administration Committee recommended instead that we seek funds from individual sessions. Pursuing that, Bill Flannagan made a 10-minute appeal to the 16th Assembly, written copies of which were sent to EPC pastors along with a personal letter seeking session funding. Our Publications Board followed that letter with appeals during presbytery meetings and personal phone calls to more than 50 pastors.

Our findings were that, with a couple of exceptions, pastors and churches loved the magazine. Many had not funded it because it was a small item that had simply become lost in their budgeting procedure. A few felt that their church could afford no additional expense at this time. In 1997 we had received \$625 from churches by our March meeting date. Total contributions from churches in 1996 was \$8617, but \$5000 of this was a start-up gift from a single church.

At our March meeting we took the following action: "On Motion to recommend increasing the per member asking by \$1 to fund *Reflections*." Committee on Administration incorporated this recommendation into its proposed Administration Budget for 1998.

—*Distribution*. To save cost, we mail boxes of magazines directly to churches, leaving distribution in the hands of local people. Our phone calls show that many churches have found distribution systems that work. Among them: handing magazines out with church bulletins or to the people as they leave the sanctuary, laying magazines on pews or chairs, bulk mailing them, labeling them with a family name and arranging them for pick up at the entrance then mailing magazines not picked up, inserting in visitor packets, mentioning the magazine in the bulletin or during announcements, using the magazine for outreach by putting them in local professional offices. What doesn't work is to lay a stack of unmarked magazines on a table, waiting for people to pick them up, and discarding the remainder! Our committee will continue to try to solve distribution problems and assist churches in any way we can.

Work as Committee of Christian Education:

Our committee serves as a resource to EPC churches regarding all matters of Christian Education and curriculum. We are constantly reviewing materials and proposals sent to us. Some of these are available at the EPC table in the exhibit area. Matters needing assembly attention appear below.

—*Denominational Link with Pioneer Clubs*. A denominational link with Pioneer Clubs costs us nothing but provides a number of benefits. Pioneer Clubs is a traditional club and camp program emphasizing "Christ in every phase of life." Pioneer Clubs is currently used by at least 14 EPC churches. It receives enthusiastic endorsement from parents and children. The age-graded material can be used by either all girls, all boys, or mixed groups. Videos and training guides are available as well as training workshops led by staff members of Pioneer Clubs. It is an excellent outreach tool with churches reporting up to 50% of club members coming from families outside the church. The denominational agreement would be in effect for two years at which time it would be reevaluated by both parties. The PCA already has this kind of denominational link with Pioneer Clubs.

Our minutes read: "On Motion to recommend that the General Assembly endorse a relationship with Pioneer Clubs as defined in the working agreement." (Attachment 2). A display of Pioneer Club material is set up in the exhibit area.

Matters Referred by the 16th General Assembly:

—*Task Force*. Assembly Act 95-09 says, "The Christian Education and Publications Committee is instructed to form a task force composed of Christian educators and theologians to review and evaluate various curricula and make evaluations based on EPC standards, making this evaluation available to the churches in simplified form." (The committee was unable to make progress on that assignment during that year due to illness and then resignation of key members on our committee. We did set up an curriculum exhibit table at the 16th General Assembly so delegates could peruse CRC materials for themselves.)

The 1996 standing CEP Committee stated, "That the intent of the permanent committee to secure two educators from the CEP committee and two EPC theologians to review three Christian Reformed Church curricula and to complete a one-page simplified evaluation form, as requested by the 15th General Assembly be endorsed."

Our committee solicited the advise of Dr. Beth Brown (Associate Professor, Education Ministries and Administration of Denver Seminary) and Dr. Allen Curry (Vice President for Academic Affairs at Reformed Theological Seminary) as to the cost and feasibility of carrying out such a project. Their letters follow (Attachments 3 & 4).

Our minutes read as follows: "On motion that in light of the limitation of resources of both time and finances, the CEP Committee asks to be excused from further research on LiFe curricula beyond the assessment already completed on this series in 1994 as reported in the Curriculum Evaluation Packet for Children by this committee. The 1994 curriculum packet contains an evaluation tools with which churches can conduct their own curriculum evaluation." This Curriculum Evaluation Packet for Children is available on the EPC table.

Recommendations:

1. That funding of *Reflections* magazine come under the budget of the office of General Assembly (incorporated by Committee on Administration into the proposed 1998 Administration Budget).
2. That the EPC form a denominational link with Pioneer Clubs.
3. That the CE&P Committee be released from the task of further evaluation of CRC curriculum at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,



Carolyn Nystrom, Chairman

June, 1997

Editorial Policy
Committee on Christian Education and Publications
9-28-96

Statement of Purpose

To publish three times a year an EPC magazine with these stated functions and purposes:

1. To provide information, inspiration, and guidance for readers as they seek to live as Christians in all aspects of life.
2. To lead readers to strengthen their commitment to Christ.
3. To report in a balanced way the news and activities of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as it performs its mission at local, regional, national, and international levels.
4. To enhance and celebrate those common bonds of our heritage and our faith that bind us together as a community of believers, to foster understanding of the oneness of the Christian church, and to provide for an expression of the rich diversity of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
5. To help readers within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to understand and enjoy each other.
6. To provide information that will allow readers to share resources within the denomination and the wider Christian community.
7. To create opportunity for people of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to express their creative gifts within the denomination at large.
8. To portray in an informative, stimulating, and inspiring manner the interaction of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church with like-minded believers.

Board of Publications

The permanent committee of Christian Education and Publications will serve as the Publications Board of *Reflections* magazine and is subject to the General Assembly. This Board of Publications will oversee the publication of *Reflections* including the appointment and supervision of the editor. The board will meet twice yearly with the editor. It will set policy, advise the editor about publication needs, review issues of the magazine, assist the editor in determining which articles to use and which to reject, suggest topics and authors for future editions of the magazine, assist the editor in problem solving, and arrange for appropriate funding as guided by the General Assembly. The Publications Board will appoint a subcommittee to assist the editor as needed between the twice-yearly meetings.

Responsibilities of the Editor

The editor is responsible to create three issues of *Reflections* magazine each year. These issues will be released in October, February, and June. The editor will:

- produce a magazine with a high level of creativity, journalistic excellence, and reader-appeal.
- provide ideas and prepare outlines of content for future issues to be reviewed by the Board of Publications
- provide manuscripts that need review for possible acceptance to all members of the Publications Board two weeks prior to its twice yearly meeting.
- create and follow necessary schedules and deadlines
- maintain author contacts from solicitation through publication or rejection
- read and evaluate manuscripts and may decide which to accept and which to reject
- edit manuscripts accepted for publication according to *The Chicago Manual of Style*, creating a "house style" for consistency as needed
- work with columnists to maintain a regular flow of acceptable manuscripts providing guidance to them as needed
- arrange for art and photography
- arrange for proofreading
- arrange for printing of the magazine
- consult with the subcommittee of the Publications Board about any articles that may create "problems" in time to resolve these problems without jeopardizing the press deadline
- submit second proofs for the next issue of the magazine to the subcommittee of the Publications Board at a time that avoids additional costs due to changes
- keep expenses within the approved budget.

Accountability

The editor is accountable to the Publications Board for policy matters and operationally accountable to the Committee of Administration and the Executive Committee through the Stated Clerk.

The Benefits of Denominational Endorsement

What Pioneer Clubs can provide in formal denominational endorsements:

1. Pioneer Clubs will be responsible for communication of the endorsement to the local churches
 - a. Distribution/ mailing of a letter of introduction and information sent throughout the denomination
 - b. Inclusion of a letter of introduction and denominational endorsement supplied within Pioneer Clubs materials
2. Pioneer Clubs will supply a denominational logo patch
3. Pioneer Clubs will support the Evangelical Presbyterian denomination at several levels:
 - a. General Assembly - presentation/booth/workshop
 - b. articles in the denominational magazine
 - c. advertising in the denominational magazine
 - d. our staff will be made available for denominational training events

Broad Benefits of Pioneer Clubs for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church:

1. *Age graded material:* Pioneer Clubs provides age level programming for children ages two through high school. The material allows you to have separate clubs for girls and boys, or to conduct coed clubs. Only one club program is required for a church to minister to both boys and girls.
2. *Club facility requirements:* Almost any facility will do. Enough space to learn and have a good time is the only true requirement. Newer churches which don't have a building can use their rented facilities or even meet in homes.
3. *Leadership requirements:* We recommend a ratio of 8-10 club members for each leader, with slightly smaller ratios for younger children. Parents, husband-wife teams, senior adults, and singles make great leaders. Leader planning resources are geared to provide busy people with concise and effective tools to lead each club meeting.
4. *Results:* In an active, non-competitive environment, club members are nurtured and encouraged by their leaders to learn new life skills and to cultivate Biblical principals in the development of a life of faith in Christ. Because it is fun, challenging, exciting, and participative, many children invite friends from outside the church, which forms a potential outreach network within your local community. Many churches have up to 50% of their club participants coming from families outside their regular church attenders.

Specific Benefits of Pioneer Clubs for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church:

1. Pioneer Clubs' emphasis on discipleship and spiritual growth, combined with its high quality, educational, biblically based materials, is ideally suited to the EPC's theology and educational philosophy. Pioneer Clubs would be an outstanding complement to the denominational Christian Education resources offered to local EPC churches.
2. Pioneer Clubs provides a significant and unique source of outreach for a denomination already committed to grow at the local level.
3. Utilizing Pioneer Clubs would provide high quality, consistent club programming and ministry throughout the denomination.
4. Pioneer Clubs is also utilized by hundreds of Presbyterian churches outside of the EPC. As some of these churches already running Pioneer Club programs consider EPC affiliation, Pioneer Clubs becomes another common link between denominations and congregations.
5. Pioneer Clubs is currently used by 14 churches within the denomination - including Ward Presbyterian.
6. Pioneer Clubs provides training and ministry experience for its leaders which benefits the entire local church - short-term and long-term.
7. Pioneer Clubs provides a national platform which corresponds to the growth of the EPC nationally.
8. As EPC churches participate in field testing, the EPC will have the opportunity for continuous product enhancement and development, thereby contributing to the ongoing benefit of Pioneer Clubs programming for the EPC.

PROPOSED WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
AND
PIONEER CLUBS

I. Purpose

The purpose of the working agreement is to assist the EPC Christian Education Committee in establishing Pioneer Clubs weekday ministries in local EPC congregations in an effort to encourage evangelism and discipleship with young people.

II. Editorial Privilege

The EPC Christian Education staff will be invited to participate in appropriate long-range planning sessions when product development plans relating to the club ministry are explored.

EPC churches will be involved in ongoing field testing of Pioneer Clubs materials.

III. Training and Consultation

Pioneer Clubs will provide EPC Christian Education staff with appropriate training in Pioneer Clubs curriculum so that they could respond directly to EPC churches when requests for club consultation arise.

Pioneer Clubs staff members are willing to participate in national or regional EPC workshops and seminars when schedules permit.

Pioneer Clubs will provide training and ongoing consultation to any EPC church conducting the club program. This will be done in accordance with Pioneer Clubs national strategy of service to churches running club. This strategic plan is available to the EPC Christian Education Committee annually.

IV. Promotion and Distribution

Pioneer Clubs will work with the EPC in developing direct mail packages to be used in introducing local congregations to the club ministry. Pioneer Clubs will be responsible for all costs related to this promotion.

Pioneer Clubs would be willing to send out a letter of endorsement and an introductory brochure to all EPC churches. This letter could come from the recommending person/committee of the EPC and Pioneer Clubs would be able to draft the letter for the EPC's approval.

PROPOSED WORKING AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE
AND
PIONEER CLUBS

page 2

APPENDICES

Club curriculum material will be Pioneer Clubs' responsibility to develop, fund, warehouse, and distribute.

Should the EPC desire to publish supplementary items to complement the Pioneer Clubs program in local EPC churches they will be responsible for the development and distribution of such items (for example, if the Missions Committee of the EPC wanted to develop a special missions education booklet relating specifically to your denomination, but for use primarily in the club context).

Pioneer Clubs and the EPC Christian Education Committee will exchange articles in magazines and/or reprint appropriate articles.

V. Arrangements

EPC churches will register clubs, purchase curriculum materials, and contribute to Pioneer Clubs under the standard system currently in operation (see mutual ministry section of enclosed brochure).

Pioneer Clubs will create a denominational logo patch with artwork supplied by the EPC and submit it to the approving agency/person of the EPC for approval.

This working agreement will be in effect for two years. After two years, the terms of the agreement will be re-evaluated by both parties.

NOTE: The terms of this agreement apply only to Evangelical Presbyterian Churches in the United States of America. It is recommended that Pioneer Clubs of Canada and the EPC representatives in Canada work out their own arrangements.



DENVER SEMINARY

October 2, 1996

Beth E. Brown, Ed.D.
Associate Professor of
Educational Ministries
and Administration

APPENDICES

Carolyn Nystrom, Chm.
Christian Education & Publications Committee
38 West 566 Sunset
St. Charles, IL 60175

Dear Carolyn,


In response to your committee's request for professional opinion regarding the task of evaluating the *Christian Reformed Curriculum*, I offer the following comments.

The *Christian Reformed Curriculum* for four quarters per year in three tracks from nursery through senior high, including student and teacher editions, contains more than two hundred manuals. A thorough review of the material for educational methodology, theological integrity, suitability, etc. would require several hundred hours of work, which is well beyond the capability of the volunteer committee asked to undertake the task. Paid staff, of course, could be assigned to perform this very large project.

The only reasonable way in which the committee could perform the assignment, in addition to its other duties, would be to exercise considerable selectivity. Such a procedure, however, would not guarantee thorough review of the material for faithful biblical and theological content.

Curriculum materials are generally evaluated by comparing them with other publishers as to theological content, approach to the Scriptures, clear learning objectives, age-level appropriateness, relevance to student needs, teacher helps, and cost. For the optimum reception of selected materials by the teachers who will actually use them, most would agree that representative teachers in the churches should be involved in the evaluation process.

Faithfully yours,



Beth Brown, Ed.D.
Associate Professor
Educational Ministries & Administration
Denver Seminary
Member, Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church
Englewood, Colorado

January 29, 1997

APPENDICES

Mrs. Elizabeth Hicks
2223 East Eagle
Zachary, LA 70791

Dear Mrs. Hicks,

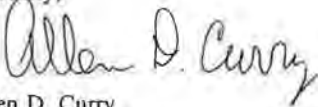
As per our conversation last week about the cost of doing a complete curriculum evaluation of all of the material published by Christian Reformed Publications, let me try to respond to your questions.

If you are looking for someone who has credentials in both theology and Christian Education, then I think you probably are looking at something that will be expensive. This is simply my judgment. I have not reviewed the material to this point. When I was employed by Great Commission Publications, it was my practice to review each quarter of GCP material. On the basis of that I think it would take approximately one week to cover all departments for one quarter. If CRC Publications produces material for eight different departments, then it would take approximately eight weeks of work. On that basis I would judge that it would cost approximately one-sixth of an individual's yearly salary. I would judge that it would cost in excess of \$5000 plus the cost of material.

I am assuming the review will be thorough, that all the material will be examined, and that a comprehensive report will be written. All of these are time-consuming activities. I do not know anyone who would be equipped to undertake the project at this time.

I trust that this information will be helpful to you in your work as a member of the committee.

Sincerely,



Allen D. Curry
Vice President for Academic Affairs

AC:sg



COMMUNICATION 97-1
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

29140 BUCKINGHAM AVENUE, SUITE 5 LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154
(313) 261-2001 Fax (313) 261-3282

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June, 1997

The Reverend Dr. L. Edward Davis
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154

Dear Ed:

The *Rules for Assembly* state that the Moderator is to appoint a chairman for the Nominating Committee, and to nominate persons to fill vacancies on the Nominating Committee. The Moderator is also to nominate the chairman for the Board of Pension and Benefits for the forthcoming Assembly year.

I am pleased to offer the following names:

1. Nomination: Elder Stewart Fleming chairman, Board of Pension and Benefits.
2. Nominations: Nominating Committee, Class of 2000
Elder John Sherard, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic
Rev. Nancy Stewart, Presbytery of the East
Elder John Ward, Presbytery of the Southeast
3. Appointment: Elder Homer Graham, chairman, 1998, Nominating Committee

It is my blessing and privilege to place these names before the Assembly and in so doing, to commend these fine people for service to our denomination and to our Lord.

In Christ,

Buck Russell, Moderator
16th General Assembly

COMMUNICATION 97-2



Dr. George R. Callahan
Senior Pastor
Rev. James A. Letizia
Associate Pastor
Kelly Nevius
Pastor, Youth Ministries

3311 N.W. 9th Avenue, Pompano Beach, Florida 33064 • (South of Sample Rd. at N.W. 33rd St.) • (954) 781-3170/FAX 781-8382

May 14, 1997

Dr. L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
The General Assembly
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Ed:

I would personally like to express to the denomination-at-large a summary of my comments to the Presbytery of South Florida at my retirement service, at which I was pleased you were able to attend.

If it had not been for the affectionality, fraternity, and connectional system of our denomination....New Covenant Evangelical Presbyterian Church would not be in existence today; at least in terms of its building, property and multiple ministries which are dependent upon the same. I thank God for both the willingness and enthusiasm of so many of the individual congregations throughout this great denomination who were willing to respond to the needs of New Covenant Church during those tumultuous days in the early summer of 1994. Of course we remain deeply indebted to those congregations which extended to us the loan of monies which enabled New Covenant from being seized and sold "on the block" by the abortionists and their attorneys. We are also continually indebted to the denomination-at-large for the letters of encouragement, the prayers, and the abundance of affirmation which our church received during that period of time.

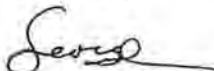
I am reminded of that powerful scripture of David, "How good it is when brothers dwell together in unity".

Again I wish to thank the denomination-at-large and especially those churches whose support, affection, and tangible expression of Christian fraternity brought us through that period of time.

I also rejoice in the fact that we are making every effort to repay the balance of that loan to the individual churches which extended their tangible love to us during that crisis.

Thank you again for being with us over the weekend of May 9 & 10. May this year's General Assembly be a special celebration of our fraternity and our mutual concern to bear one another's burdens.

In His Victory,


George R. Callahan

The Evangelical Covenant Church

COMMUNICATION 97-3

June 23, 1996


Dr. L. Edward Davis
Stated Clerk, Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Suite - #5
Livonia, Michigan 48154-4572

Dear Dr. Davis:

The Covenant Church highly prizes its relationship with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and is grateful to God for its faithfulness to the apostolic and evangelical witness in today's world.

Therefore: The Evangelical Covenant Church, gathered in Annual Meeting, sends fraternal greetings to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, with its prayers and every good wish for continued and effective ministries in the name of Christ throughout the coming year.

Sincerely yours,


Paul E. Larsen
President

PEL/iw



PAUL E. LARSEN, PRESIDENT 5101 North Francisco Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60625-3699 312/784-3000



COMMUNICATION 97-4

Faith Presbyterian Church

"BRINGING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST INTO THE FAMILY"

December 5, 1996

APPENDICES

Dr. Paul Heiderbrecht, Chairman
Fraternal Relations Committee
Immanuel Presbyterian Church
29W260 Batavia Road
Warrenville, Illinois 60555

Dear Dr. Heiderbrecht,

This last summer, I had the honor of serving as our denomination's fraternal correspondent to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). The meeting was convened at the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on June 18th. and met through the 21st. of June.

There were three fraternal delegates to the Assembly:
William Allen Church Associated Reformed Presbyterian
Doug Aldrink Christian Reformed Church
John Hilbelink Orthodox Reformed Church

Teachings Elders Church and Aldrink addressed the Assembly, while Teaching Elder Hilbelink was introduced by Rick Perrin the PCA's Chairman of the Interchurch Relations Committee. I was one of two fraternal correspondents who had the opportunity to address the Assembly. The other was TE Allan Harmon from the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

To my knowledge, this is the first time that representatives from other denominations were introduced but not given the privilege of addressing the Assembly. Mr. Perrin indicated that future Assemblies will probably alternate from year to year which representatives will be introduced and which will be allowed to speak. Your committee might want to consider whether or not to send a representative, incurring costs and time, if we will only be introduced. Perhaps, a letter might be a more reasonable approach.

As this was the first opportunity I had to serve as a representative to any assembly, one of my concerns was my feeling of not knowing what was expected of me. Future delegates would probably fair better if there would be a time of "briefing" by our FRC prior to going to an assembly.

PCA General Assembly
Page 2.

As for the information that might be considered relevant to your committee's work, Mr. Perrin and I had an opportunity to talk about the World Fellowship of Reformed Churches as a possible fellowship open to us. This organization was mentioned as we talked about the EPC and NAPARC.

One of the more interesting items to come from the Assembly is the PCA's letter to the CRC regarding the CRC's refusal to change its synod vote regarding women ministers. The PCA basically said that it would give the Christian Reformed Church until the next PCA Assembly to rescind its vote to ordain women ministers. Although no indication of action that might occur was mentioned, the general consensus was a break in fraternal relationship might be forthcoming. We will have to wait and see. Curiously, Since the CRC is a member of NAPARC it will be interesting to see how that issue is handled.

Having graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, attending the PCA Assembly seemed like "old home week" for my wife and me. We had an opportunity to renew old acquaintances and catch up on the latest happenings with friends and faculty. All-in-all, I was blessed by the time spent with our brothers in Christ. Thanks for the chance to be a part of that.

In Christ's Service,

Dr. R.C. DiNunzio

encl: 1

COMMUNICATION 97-5

EVANGELICAL
COUNCIL FOR
FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY

October 17, 1996



Dr. L. Edward Davis
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Ave. #5
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Dr. Davis,

The ECFA Review and Compliance team has completed its careful evaluation of your organization's 1996 ECFA Annual Membership Review (AMR). It is my privilege to notify you that your 1996 AMR has been approved, and Evangelical Presbyterian Church remains listed as an ECFA member in good standing. We congratulate Evangelical Presbyterian Church for continuing to exhibit a sincere commitment to steadfast conformity with the *ECFA Standards of Responsible Stewardship*.

ECFA will continue to promote your membership and its significance to the public through our individual Member Profiles and Member Lists, not to mention responses to phone inquiries and media interviews. Thousands receive the ECFA Member List each year, along with the *ECFA Giver's Guide* and a copy of the ECFA Standards. By these means, donors are informed of your organization's resolve to perform its mission with excellence.

A copy of the updated Member Profile for your organization is enclosed. Please notify ECFA immediately if any changes are necessary.

By far the best way to communicate your organization's demonstrated accountability is by consistently displaying the ECFA logo on any correspondence with your donors and constituents.

We appreciate and value your membership in ECFA, and so do your supporters! Please let us know how we may serve you further.

Sincerely,

Cindi B. Repass
Director of Member Services

Enc.

H: Letters From VAMROK 961

The ARP

THE ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN

Ben Johnston, Editor

May 8, 1997

L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Ave., Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Ed,

The spring issue of Reflections arrived recently, and it is an attractive, well-rounded publication. It is a joy to see what you are doing in establishing a vehical of communication for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church! Donna Rae Alberta is quite obviously a multi-talented editor, finding the right mix of denominational news, inspiration, education and challenges to include in the "package."

I was particularly interested in the article on Craig Strickland and Hope Church, having met Craig at the mission developer assessment center on several occasions and being myself an ex-Memphian. It is good to see how that ministry has blossomed!

Reflections, like the other printed materials produced within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, is to-the-point informative and attractive to the eye. May its ministry increase!

Best wishes,



Ben Johnston

APPENDICES



Joy!

COMMUNICATION 97-7

October, 1996

Dear Clerk of Session:

The Christmas season approaches and our hearts begin to warm. What a glorious time of joy and refreshment!

Each year at Christmas time, our churches receive a **Gratitude Gift**. Please place the enclosed Moderator's letter on your Session agenda.

The need grows yearly! Currently we have thirty-three retired ministers on the rolls of the presbyteries who, with spouses, number a total of sixty-five people. What a beautiful legacy! Let's make a difference in their lives through the **Gratitude Gift**. As a family of churches, let's "come alongside" with our love.

Last year, 53 churches participated and contributed \$31,297 to the **Gratitude Gift** fund. I am asking your Session to be a participant this year, and to make this a priority. *Your* influence can move others to respond.

Enclosed are samples of a special bulletin insert and envelope. Following your Session meeting, please return your response postcard, indicating your participation and the number of inserts and envelopes you would like.

Looking forward to hearing from you, I remain

In the joy of His gift,

Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
for the Gratitude Gift Fund

LED/mb
Enclosures

cc: The Pastor (*letter and materials only; response card sent to Clerk of Session*)

COMMUNICATION 97-8

*Report from the President
National Association of Evangelicals
to the
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
May, 1997*

Greetings to all in attendance at the annual meeting of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

We now have statistical evidence of spiritual renewal in the Nation. The percentage of people reporting a born-again experience is up five percent over the previous five years. This is a statistically significant number. Also, this is the first upturn in five years. These statistics were gathered the first three months of this year, so they are current. Be encouraged!

Alistar McGrath, in his book, *Evangelicalism and the Future of Christianity*, concludes that "the Christian vision of the future now seems increasingly to belong to evangelicalism, which is coming more and more to constitute the mainstream of American Protestant Christianity.

"Evangelicalism is a high-octane faith that seems set to continue its upswing into the next millennium. In a 1990 survey of the 500 fastest-growing Protestant congregations in the United States, 89 percent were found to be evangelicals.

"Evangelicalism is one of the powerhouses of the modern Christian church in the Western world. . . . Evangelicalism, once regarded as marginal, has now become mainline, and it can no longer be dismissed as an insignificant sideshow, sectarian tendency or irrelevant."

At a critical time in our nation's history, God brought NAE into existence. For over 55 years, people of Bible-based faith have discovered *cooperation without compromise*. Evangelicals *standing* for biblical truth, *speaking* with a representative voice and *serving* the evangelical church have had a greater impact working together than they would have accomplished/realized individually. Today, NAE includes 49 member denominations, 43,000 churches from 70 denominations, 255 parachurch ministries and educational institutions. We are told that with our affiliates, NAE speaks for approximately 27 million people.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church has been a vital part of the National Association of Evangelicals.

NAE has been involved in vital areas since you last met. The following are just a few examples:

- Fasting and prayer
- Evangelism
- Racial reconciliation
- Rebuilding of burned Black churches, in partnership with the National Black Evangelical Association and World Relief Corporation
- Leadership on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world

Page two

When the Evangelical Presbyterian Church joins with 48 other denominations and thousands of churches through NAE, your impact is multiplied many times.

NAE is a *forum* for evangelical leaders, a *voice* to the church and secular world, and a *resource* for programs that network evangelicals.



Don Argue
President

DA/kf

Signed in Dr. Argue's absence to expedite mailing.



COMMUNICATION 97-9

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

29140 BUCKINGHAM AVENUE, SUITE 5 LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154
(313) 261-2001 Fax (313) 261-3282

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OFFICE OF PLANNED GIVING

June 4, 1997

Dear EPC Member or Friend,

The EPC Committee on Administration recently enacted a Planned Giving Stewardship program. This program will present education and information on wills, financial and estate planning so that our church members and friends may become aware of the various helpful options available.

Periodically you will see notices in our magazine "Reflections," brochures, and occasional notices in some of our church bulletins.

We are calling this program "Sowing/Reaping" because when one's financial matters are carefully put in order, step by step, very good things happen. Families benefit, taxes are minimized, and many times when these kind of ideas are planted, the spreading of the Good News about Jesus is significantly advanced. Most people are greatly relieved when they know that their financial affairs are set in order.

The objectives of **Sowing/Reaping** are:

1. To teach biblical stewardship principles and good practices.
2. To render a mature obedience to Christ.
3. To train EPC Members and Friends wise and careful financial planning.
4. To provide opportunities to exercise stewardship in new areas of life.
5. To provide income as people choose to include EPC ministries in their plans.

It is our feeling that a carefully designed gift or estate plan, not only honors God, but also minimizes taxes and accomplishes family goals. Any time you need helpful literature or counsel, please call EPC and ask for **Sowing/Reaping**, or the office for Financial and Estate Planning. Your name and number will be taken, and a trained representative will return your call.

Richard Oestreicher
Sowing/Reaping Program
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." II Corinthians 9:6



COMMUNICATION 97-10
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5 - Livonia, MI 48154
(313) 261-2001 Fax (313) 261-3282

To: The 17th General Assembly
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue #5
Livonia MI 48154

June 19, 1997

APPENDICES

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The following represents a joint advisory letter to the Assembly from the Board of Pension and Benefits and the Ministerial Vocation Committee:

Whereas, ministers have been afforded a rather unique privilege of being able to "opt-out" of Social Security and,

Whereas, this privilege was provided only because of moral or religious objections to the concept of governmentally provided insurance for individuals and,

Whereas, if an individual "opts-out" of Social Security coverage he would also not primarily be eligible for any other government sponsored coverage including Medicare and,

Whereas, Medicare provides that an "opted-out" individual can obtain Medicare coverage by paying a substantial premium and (in our situation) EPC medical benefits can be obtained by these pastors only by paying our appropriate medical benefits premium plus the Medicare premium and,

Whereas, doing so seems to contradict the original reason for choosing out of the system;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church does not formally endorse any moral or religious belief that would preclude participation in Social Security, nor does it deny the right of its pastors to so refuse to participate. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church, however, does strongly urge its pastors to be aware of the significant adverse consequences of non-participation in Social Security and Medicare and urges pastors to participate in these programs. *(Adopted 9-20-96)*

We, as a joint committee, ask the Assembly's support of the above position.

In Christ,

Orin Littlejohn, M.D., Chairman
Board of Pension and Benefits

William Moore, Chairman
Ministerial Vocation Committee



COMMUNICATION 97-11

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

29140 BUCKINGHAM AVENUE, SUITE 5 LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154
(313) 261-2001 Fax (313) 261-3282

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

May 31, 1997

Hello, Dick (and all):

We're having a very good trip across Africa -- out a month now. We have completed two furlough workshops: Congo and Cameroon -- with about 12 attending each. Tomorrow we fly to Cote d'Ivoire for the next two week workshop -- then on to Nairobi, Kenya.

Last weekend we had the privilege of baking a bus 300 miles northwest into the mountain area to visit translator friends of out -- nationals -- translating the Bible into their own Bafut language. I preached in English (which was translated into Bafut) for 350 attending their Presbyterian Church Sunday morning service. We also attended an afternoon (monthly) Revival/Outreach Meeting -- and Margaret helped lead a daily 6 am prayer meeting, attended by around 50 -- as the sun rose! The pastor and elders of this church wanted us to extend their Christian love and greetings to the EPC -- as I had greeted them on behalf of their brothers and sisters in the EPC. Please convey this to Ed Davis -- and consider this a communication to General Assembly, please. Thanks.

Thanks for your prayers and provision. Please continue to pray for us -- for travel mercies and continued good health.

Our ride to the Yaounde airport is about to arrive, so I must sign off this Friday noon.

In His Service,

Phil and Margaret Muir



WORLD EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP
"THE WORLD FOR JESUS CHRIST"

International Office: 141 Middle Road, #05-05 GSM Bldg., Singapore 0718 Phone: 65-339-7900 Fax: 65-338-3756

APPENDICES

Dr. L. Edward Davis
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Ave. #5
Livonia, MI 48154-4572

October 25, 1996

Dear Ed,

I wanted to drop you a short note along with the enclosed copy of the *World Evangelical Fellowship Progress Report* to let you know how God has used the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on September 29, 1996. What we have seen is that this day, in reality, was a kick-off day where many churches had special emphasis, and are continuing throughout November with special days or emphasis based on their own church calendars.

One hundred twenty-one countries participated in this special emphasis. It is estimated that there was at least 150,000 individual churches worldwide where prayer went up on behalf of fellow believers who are persecuted. I am grateful for the support of the national evangelical fellowships worldwide, like NAE here in the United States, who promoted and made this known among member denominations and churches.

In anticipation for next year, September 28, 1997, will be the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. I would appreciate any comments or suggestions you may have so that materials may be better prepared for your denomination or for individual churches to make this situation known. We anticipate having the initial material and background available at the NAE Convention next March, so that there is more lead time for churches to prepare.

Again, thank you for your special interest and the participation of churches in your denomination in this special emphasis.

Sincerely in Christ,

Dwight L. Gibson
North American Director

DLG:js
NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE

P.O. Box WEF, Wheaton, IL 60189-8004 USA
Telephone: 630/668-0440. Fax: 630/668-0498
E-Mail: INTERNET:WEF-NA@XC.Org

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR: Agustín B. (Joa) Vencer, Jr., Philippines INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL: Tokuboh Adeyemo, Abuja, Nigeria; W. Harold Fuller, vancouver, Canada; John E. Langlois, Miramichi, Channel Islands; Faith Forster, United Kingdom; Aisako Kunanitsu, Fiji; Paul Negru, Romania; Kenneth Ragoonath, Trinidad; Eva Sanderson, Zambia; J. Norberto Saracco, Argentina; Karl Schäfer, Germany; Joshua Tsutsuda, Japan; Key Yuasa, Brazil; Isaac Zokoué, Central African Republic.



CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

COMMUNICATION 97-13

May 21, 1997

APPENDICES

Dr. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Ed:

Thank you for the invitation to send a fraternal delegate to your General Assembly in June. Our Interchurch Relations Committee has decided that we will send fraternal delegates on an every-other-year basis. The rotation we developed calls for our sending a delegate to your meeting in 1998.

May God bless your work for the EPC as well as your new assignment for the National Association of Evangelicals and World Relief. May you find joy and satisfaction in what you do.

Yours in Christ's service,

Dr. David H. Engelhard
General Secretary

DHE:mo

2850 Kalamazoo Avenue SE
Grand Rapids MI 49560
Voice: 616-241-1691
Fax: 616-224-5895

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
Burlington ON L7R 3Y8
Voice: 905-336-2920
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IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

29 W 260 Batavia Road, Warrenville, Illinois 60555
630-393-4400

May 23, 1997

Dr. L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
Office of the General Assembly
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154

Dear Ed,

I want to express my gratitude to the General Assembly for asking me to represent the Evangelical Presbyterian Church at the 10th General Assembly of the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) held in Vancouver, British Columbia from May 9-15. It was a great honor and a profound blessing to be part of this unique gathering of church leaders from 88 nations of the world.

WEF is the global association of evangelical alliances in over 100 nations (the National Association of Evangelicals is the U.S. member). The EPC belongs to both the NAE and WEF. The theme of the 10th Assembly was "focusing the strength of local churches" and it was fitting that local churches in the Vancouver area hosted this event. The purpose of the Assembly was to pray, strategize and encourage each other in the task of discipling the nations for Jesus Christ. The Assembly was the worldwide church at work. Partnerships and networks were established and enhanced by spending this week together.

We were challenged by such speakers as Ravi Zacharias, Leith Anderson, Peter Kuzmic, Luis Palau and Clive Calver. Perhaps most rewarding were the times of fellowship and prayer as we joined hands as brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. I was constantly astounded to hear what God was doing around the world through his people. We were all stirred in our hearts by the opportunity to pray with and for church leaders in such nations as Rwanda, Albania, China, Laos and Mongolia, where the church suffers for the cause of Christ.

I will mention a few items of interest to the EPC:

1. A network of Reformed and Presbyterian denominations is taking shape within WEF. Known as the World Fellowship of Reformed Churches, this affiliation of like-minded bodies will

Robert Harvey, Senior Pastor
Paul Heidebrecht, Minister of Congregational Life and Growth
Vince Morris, Youth Minister

(Affiliated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church)

provide a context for exchanging resources and building bridges. The EPC has been invited to join. This network will meet at every WEF General Assembly.

2. WEF is promoting an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. This year it will be observed on November 16. EPC teaching elder, Steve Haas, is coordinating this campaign of prayer and action by churches on behalf of persecuted Christians. We have been silent and indifferent while more Christians are dying for their faith this century than any previous one.

3. The WEF Commission on Women's Concerns made an impassioned plea to "release women for service" and to mobilize the vast number of Christian women in all nations to accomplish the Great Commission. Giftedness rather than gender should be the basis of service in the Lord's work. Sadly, in many churches around the world, the gifts of women are not being used fully. The EPC can add its voice to this important call.

I look forward to further conversations about WEF with the Fraternal Relations Committee.

In Christ,



Paul Heidebrecht

Chairman

Fraternal Relations Committee



Shatter
the Silence

COMMUNICATION 97-15

June 10, 1997

APPENDICES

Dr. L. Edward Davis
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Ave. Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154-4572

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As our office phone will attest, the movement known as the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) is gaining steam and platform across the country. Daily we are receiving reports of persons that are waking up to the plight of persecuted Christians whether through radio/television programs, ads or through newsprint and personal interactions. It is our strong belief in this strategic nerve-center that the Lord is moving to "Shatter the Silence" of the Church to the suffering of their Brothers and Sisters for a "time such as this!"

As you are aware, IDOP has been busy developing quality materials to serve the variety of Christian and concerned constituencies of various denominations and organizations. This labor of love has resulted in some of the best minds in the area of Christian persecution issues and abilities of leading journalists and design people coming together to produce resources with the capacity to serve the church long after IDOP is over. Delivery date for all IDOP resource kit items to the printers is July 15; first dispatch of items will be early August.

I'm writing you with the opportunity to place an order for the official IDOP Resource Kits for your key leadership. With this "early order" opportunity, you will be able to personalize the material with a cover letter and at a fraction of the cost for which we will be making the materials available to the public (early bulk mailing eliminates a warehousing and fulfillment charge). The cost for orders of 2,500 units and above will be \$6.50 per unit. The cost for all orders over 2,500 units will be \$6.00. An official IDOP Resource Kit (unit) is described below:

- A. Video: A video divided into three sections for multiple usage by homes, communities and churches will be ready July 15.

Part 1: A 3-4 minute clip highlighting the size and scope of Christian persecution utilizing evolving story boards with a background track of very emotive music. The purpose will be to awaken audiences to the reality of Christian persecution and call them to "Shatter the Silence". (running time - approximately 4 minutes)

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Voice 630-668-1754 • Fax 630-668-0498 • E-Mail IDOP@XC.ORG • www.persecutedchurch.org • P.O. Box WEF Wheaton IL 60189


Part 2: A documentary style format highlighting three stories of Christian persecution (China, Sudan, Iran). Expert as well as personal testimonies shows the compelling nature of this issue for informed and uninformed viewers alike. By personalizing the issue of Christian suffering for religious convictions, people will be able to more fully identify with the victims of the abuse (running time - approximately 10 minutes).

Part 3: A "What Do I Do Now?" section with helpful suggestions on how interested and concerned individuals can play a vital role in aiding persecuted Christians worldwide.

- B. Magazine:** A four-color, 20-page resource tool, written by a wide cross-section of Protestant and Catholic leadership. Created for the purpose of informing others, leading the prayer movement and outlining specific action steps, this journal will prove to be an invaluable source for a quick and accurate understanding of the basic issues of the persecuted church. The magazine will be ready July 15 and is being designed by the top design firm of Hanon McKendry (Grand Rapids).
- C. Prayer Map:** A four-color (16"X21") global map showing the countries where Christ-followers are currently experiencing persecution. The map serves as a tremendous guide to thoughtful and prayerful consideration.
- D. Cover Letter:** From the IDOP Coordinator (could be replaced with a personalized letter from a denomination or organization's leader).
- E. "Their Blood Cries Out" Booklet:** Small booklet with excerpts and discount coupon for Their Blood Cries Out by Paul Marshall.

I hope to speak with you this next week concerning this issue and the best way IDOP might serve your constituency in "Shattering the Silence." I remain

Sincerely Yours,



Steve Haas
US Coordinator

SH:glc

Report:

International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

September 29, 1996

Remember those in prison, as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

Hebrews 13:3, NIV

Dr. Agustín B. "Jun" Vencer, International Director of World Evangelical Fellowship states, "A global evangelical prayer initiative on September 29 for the persecuted church was urgent.

Believers in many countries, marginalized and powerless to help themselves, are suffering for their faith in Christ Jesus."

The 20th century is clearly the century of persecution. Story upon heart-wrenching story tell of people suffering merely because they have faith in Jesus Christ. In fact, there have been more Christians martyred for their faith in the twentieth century than in all the previous nineteen combined.

On January 23, 1996, the directors of many of the leading Christian organizations in America came to a meeting convened by Freedom House in Washington to discuss strategies for counteracting mounting persecution faced by Christians in much of the world. On that day, the National Association of Evangelicals issued a "Statement of Conscience and Call to Action" in which they pledged to end "our own silence in the face of the suffering of all those persecuted for their religious faith."

Last April, in response to the increase of discrimination, harassment and persecution of Christians worldwide, the Religious Liberty Commission of World Evangelical Fellowship called churches worldwide to an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church to be held annually on the last Sunday in September.

Especially in light of the increase in Christian persecution, the worldwide body of believers needs to join together in support of those being persecuted. Not only has the church often been unaware and therefore silent before government and media, but they have been silent before Almighty God.

International Day of Prayer Logo provided in cooperation with Christianity Today



Three goals were established

GOAL #1 Churches in 110 countries praying for persecuted Christians on the last Sunday in September.

Result: Churches in 117 countries participated: Asia: 22 countries; Europe: 33 countries; Latin America: 12 countries; South Pacific: 4 countries; North America and Caribbean: 11 countries; Africa: 22 countries; Middle East and North Africa: 13 countries.

At presstime, churches from around the world were just beginning to share what took place. A few of those reports include:

In Romania over 3,000 churches participated in the Day of Prayer. The organizers said, "To understand persecution, that is why we want to pray for others."

Bulgarian church officials determined that over 1,000 churches with parishioners totaling more than 110,000 members, joined together to fast and pray.

More than 2,000 people prayed together during services at Briercrest Bible College in Saskatchewan, Canada.

GOAL #2 Focus Christians on the Problem of Worldwide Persecution of Fellow Believers

Result: To bring the problems of persecution of the Christian church, a church resource kit was prepared and distributed for nearly 70,000 churches in the United States including the Southern Baptist Convention, Assemblies of God and Presbyterian Church of America.

Press kits and news releases were sent to over 1000 media contacts. Interviews were conducted with Michael Horowitz, Nina Shea, Dianne Knippers, Dwight Gibson, Chuck Colson, Bill Bright, Gary Bauer, Brian O'Connell, and former Senator Bill Armstrong. Day of Prayer was featured on Chuck Colson's

Continued on page 4

Breakpoint and Focus on the Family. Information has been heard on USA Radio Network, Family Radio, United Press International and Associated Press. An article appeared in the New York Times. Large and small newspapers covered September 29 activities all across the nation.

Ravi Zacharias urged, "Christians are being persecuted around the globe because of their beliefs. I call on all believers to be concerned for those being persecuted. This is a heart-rending need that calls all of us to join together to pray for those suffering persecution."

Dr. Frank Barker, Briarwood Presbyterian Church stated, "With the political restructuring of the Soviet Union many Christians in the West thought an end had come to persecuting Christians for their faith. But still, worldwide, people are martyred each year. We should all join in a renewed commitment to uphold our brothers and sisters in prayer."

GOAL #3 Encourage Christians to Take Appropriate Action

Result: Charles Colson, Prison Fellowship told us "No Christian should sleep well at night while our brothers and sisters are being martyred. We should be praying ceaselessly demanding our Government to act and stirring moral outrage within the church." Elizabeth Elliott, author, wrote, "We are diligently committed to spreading the gospel in these foreign lands. Yet, once God brings these precious ones to salvation, do we then abandon them—to be tortured or killed for that very gospel?"

Churches and individuals have responded in mighty and creative ways to the leading of God.

- Patrick Clinton, pastor of Faith Evangelical Free Church in Davis, Illinois said his church decided to intensify prayers on behalf of the persecuted church, get on mailing lists to keep ourselves informed, and budget money to support those ministries who are advocates for our brothers and sisters overseas.
- The First Assembly of God in Souix Falls, South Dakota lined the aisles with people desiring to pray publicly on behalf of the persecuted.
- At Lake Zurich Community Church in Lake Zurich, Illinois, the pastor placed 17 wooden crosses around the sanctuary to remind people that during the service 17 people worldwide had been persecuted for their faith.
- Willowcreek Community Church of South Barrington, Illinois is planning two special communion services in October in remembrance of persecuted Christians worldwide.
- Several Churches in Kissimmee, Florida had an unprecedented joint prayer service the afternoon of September 29, while in Palatka, Florida the community came together to hold an outdoor prayer service.
- After viewing the video, a church in Georgia is ordering kits to send to their state representatives.
- Victory Christian Church in Chantilly, Virginia commissioned a song entitled, "A Thousand Martyrs" in honor of those being persecuted.
- Following their prayer service, Park Cities Church in Dallas, Texas ordered extra resource kits to share with other churches.
- Grace Community Church in Sun Valley, California held a special prayer service and screening of the video "Breaking the Silence," for 2000 people following their evening service.
- East Haven Community Church in Connecticut has established an on-going committee to keep the issues of the persecuted before the church.
- New Song Christian Fellowship in Nashville dedicated the entire service for their 1000 people to Day of Prayer. After showing the video and hearing the sermon, the congregation broke into groups of three for prayer.
- Wheaton (IL) Wesleyan Church called a spontaneous prayer service after hearing the morning sermon and prayer time on the persecuted church. A significant percentage of the church came to this special service.

Dr. Don Argue, President of National Association of Evangelicals says, "Preliminary numbers indicate that this prayer emphasis may be one of the largest cooperative efforts of Evangelical churches in the history of our nation. This is a powerful statement to the government that when people pray, things happen. We expect sovereign intervention as a result of the prayers of God's people."

In connection with his crusade in Charlotte, North Carolina, Billy Graham said, "This was supposed to be the Christian Century. And yet, more people have been murdered, kidnapped, and raped in THIS century than any other century in history. What happened? The fact is that we have allowed our theology to get mixed up, and we didn't warn people that there is an enemy out there that we have to battle."

U.S. HOUSE AND SENATE RESOLUTION

Bipartisan House and Senate Resolutions passed to encourage the president to appoint a White House Special Advisor on Religious Persecution and to recognize and applaud the uniting of the religious community for the first International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church on September 29, 1996.



OVERTURE 97-A

*Office of Stated Clerk
Presbytery of the Central South
201 Magnolia Place
Natchez MS 39120
601.445.5010*

OVERTURE TO THE 17TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS, we learned at our 16th General Assembly that the original text of our Book of Government clearly did not capitalize, italicize, and embolden “the essentials of the faith” in 14-1-A-4 and 14-1-E-4; and that the change was most likely made by editorial error and without any specific action by any General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, these changes should only be made according to our constitutional process (Book Of Government 17-2); and

WHEREAS, this single error has added much confusion concerning the place of “The Essentials of Our Faith” as non-constitutional; and

WHEREAS, our third ordination vow (Book Of Government 14-1-A-3 and Book Of Government 14-1-E-3) unquestionably commits our officers to subscribe to the Westminster Standards; and

WHEREAS, the correction of this error would more clearly restore the historic practice of having each individual presbytery and session function as the credentialing judicatory making initial judgments as to whether exceptions to the Westminster Standards are in fact “essentials of the faith”; and

WHEREAS, the Church of Jesus Christ is called ‘from darkness’ to ‘walk in the light’, and as God requires of us that we ‘speak the truth in love’;

THEREFORE, we the Presbytery of the Central South do respectfully overture the 17th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to correct the inadvertent error in our Book Of Government 14-1-A-4 and 14-1-E-4 by removing the italics, bold print, and capitalization of “the essentials of the faith.”

(9-17-96)

OVERTURE 97-B

PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST

Of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PROPOSED OVERTURE TO THE 17TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WHEREAS, as learned at our 16th General Assembly that the original text of our Book of Government clearly did not capitalize, italicize, and embolden "the essentials of the faith" in 14-1-A-4 and 14-1-E-4; and that the change was most likely made by editorial error and without any specific action by any General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, these changes should only be made according to our constitutional process (Book of Government 17-2); and

WHEREAS, this single error has added much confusion concerning the place of "The Essentials of Our Faith" as non-constitutional; and

WHEREAS, our third ordination vow (Book Of Government 14-1-A-3 and Book Of Government 14-1-E-3) unquestionably commits our officers to subscribe to the Westminster Standards; and

WHEREAS, the correction of this error would more clearly restore the historic practice of having each individual presbytery and session function as the credentialing judicatory making initial judgments as to whether exceptions to the Westminster Standards are in fact "essentials of the faith"; and

WHEREAS, the church of Jesus Christ is called 'from darkness' to 'walk in the light'; and as God requires of us that we 'speak the truth in love';

THEREFORE, we the Presbytery of the East do respectfully overture the 17th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to correct the inadvertent error in our Book Of Government 14-1-A-4 and 14-1-E-4 by removing the italics, bold print, and capitalization of "the essentials of the faith."



OVERTURE 97-C

PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

11373 East Alameda Avenue

Aurora, Colorado 80012

Telephone (303) 364-7271

APPENDICES

PROPOSED OVERTURE TO THE SEVENTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
from the
PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

WHEREAS, we have struggled with the relationship between the Westminster Confession of Faith, and the "Essentials of the Faith" since the 1993 General Assembly; and,

WHEREAS, we lack confidence that a clarification of, or correction to, the wording of the fourth ordination vow (Book of Government, 14-1.A.4 and 1.E.4) will solve this problem because we have concluded that a more foundational issue, the nature of subscription to the third ordination vow (Book of Government, 14-1.A.3 and 1.E.3) is the real source of the controversy; and,

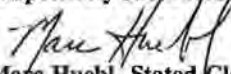
WHEREAS, in discussion about subscription to the third ordination vow, the use of the terms as varied as "jot and tittle," "tight," "loose," "full," and "systemic" are used to define and describe subscription, and this produces confusion, misunderstanding and division;

WHEREAS, the impact of this discussion is drawing our denomination into "camps," which potentially could pull us apart; and,

THEREFORE, in an attempt to move toward a more complete resolution of this issue, and to preserve the peace, purity and unity of the church, we, the Presbytery of the West, do overture the Seventeenth General Assembly to clarify, define and explain the meaning of the third ordination vow, "Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?" (Book of Government, 14-1.A.3 and 1.E.3).

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST AT ITS 51st MEETING, MAY 17, 1997.

Respectively submitted on behalf of the Presbytery of the West,


Marc Huebl, Stated Clerk



OVERTURE 97-D

PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST, E.P.C.

29140 BUCKINGHAM AVENUE, SUITE 5 • LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154

(313) 261-7706 • FAX: (313) 261-3282

OVERTURE TO THE 17TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

APPENDICES

WHEREAS, there was significant debate at the 16th General Assembly regarding the document entitled "Essentials of the Faith" in connection with Ascending Overtures 96-B and 96-C;

WHEREAS, given the comments made by pastors and elders from several of the Presbyteries, there is much greater reliance on these "Essentials of the Faith" than many at the 16th General Assembly understood to be the case;

WHEREAS, implied in many of these comments was the belief that these "Essentials" are not given proper weight in (i) the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, (ii) the vows of ordination for pastors and elders, (iii) relations with other denominations, and (iv) the teaching and edification of lay persons; and

WHEREAS, a direct attempt to introduce the subject matter of the instant overture at the 16th General Assembly was ruled to be new business not timely filed;

NOW THEREFORE, Midwest Presbytery at its 73rd Stated Meeting of May 9, 1997, voted to overture the 17th General Assembly, in the form set forth below, to direct the permanent Committee on Theology to undertake a comprehensive study of the relationship that now exists and that should exist between the document entitled "Essentials of the Faith" and The Westminster Confession of Faith.

The permanent Committee on Theology shall be directed to undertake a comprehensive study of the relationship that now exists and that should exist between the document entitled "Essentials of the Faith" and the Westminster Confession of Faith, to include, but not be limited to, an examination of the relevance of each to (i) the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, (ii) the vows of ordination for pastors and elders, (iii) relations with other denominations, and (iv) the teaching and edification of lay persons.

Adopted at the 73rd Stated Meeting of the Midwest Presbytery.

Alton L. Bennett, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of the Midwest

(overture)
5/15/97



OVERTURE 97-E

Presbytery of the Southeast Evangelical Presbyterian Church

6001 Hixson Pike • Hixson Tennessee 37343

Phone (615) 843-0314

FAX (615) 843-0314

Samuel M. Harris, Stated Clerk

Bill Johnson, Treasurer

OVERTURE TO THE 17th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Whereas:

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes that it is our mission to lift up Jesus as the Truth in loving proclamation of the Christian gospel, and

Whereas:

One of the goals of the EPC is the development and implementation of solid programs in Christian nurture, rooted in the teaching of the Bible to all ages, and

Whereas:

The EPC has developed strong and effective ministries to youth and women, and

Whereas:

There is a growing movement throughout the United States seeking to help men grow in their knowledge of and commitment to the Word of God, and

Whereas:

The EPC has not developed a specific department or General Assembly Committee to address the ministerial and fellowship needs of men, to keep them up to date on events that are oriented to men, and to facilitate venues for men's ministry.

Therefore, be it resolved:

That the 17th General Assembly request the appropriate permanent committee to consider the creation of a men's ministry, the possible funding of a part-time director, and to report back to the 18th General Assembly with recommendations.

Respectfully,

Sam Harris
Stated Clerk

Approved by the 40th Stated Meeting, Presbytery of the Southeast, February 8, 1997

DESCENDING OVERTURES
The Vote of the Presbyteries

	CENTRAL SOUTH	EAST	FLORIDA	MID- AMERICA	MID- ATLANTIC	MIDWEST	SOUTH- EAST	ST. ANDREWS	WEST	
Overture 96-A To adopt the <i>Proposed Book of Discipline</i> , Parts 1 and 2	53-0	27-8	24-0	21-0	79-0	54-0	55-0	<i>Vote not taken</i>	58-0	Passed
Overture 96-B To amend G.1-5 on the distinguishing marks of the Church	45-1	19-14	13-26	21-0	74-4	50-15	59-0	20-0	25-33	Passed
Overture 96-C To amend G.12-2D on the relationship between a candidate and the ministerial advisor and the pastor	49-1	34-0	38-0	21-0	76-1	55-1	57-0	20-0	43-15	Passed
Overture 96-D To amend G.12-2H on oversight of extraordinary candidates	52-0	1-33	0-40	17-4	5-66	55-1	0-57	19-0	1-57	Lost

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 1996
(With Comparative Totals for December 31, 1995)

APPENDICES

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS December 31, 1996

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Activities	3
Statement of Functional Expenses	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to Financial Statements	6-9
Supplementary Information	10

KARL L. DRAKE, P.C.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the General Assembly of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (a non-profit organization) as of December 31, 1996, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 1996 and the changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The supplementary information on page 10 is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.



Karl L. Drake, P.C.
Certified Public Accountant

February 19, 1997

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 1996
(With Comparative Totals for 1995)

ASSETS

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and Equivalents:		
Unrestricted	\$ 2,014,298	\$ 2,150,724
Restricted	1,705,108	1,695,320
Investments	233,792	233,595
Accounts Receivable	800	--
Inventory	<u>25,155</u>	<u>25,155</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>3,979,153</u>	<u>4,104,794</u>
Property and Equipment		
Furniture and Equipment	151,038	93,356
Less Accumulated Depreciation	<u><62,276></u>	<u><55,605></u>
Net Property & Equipment	<u>88,762</u>	<u>37,751</u>
Other Assets		
Notes Receivable	399,500	293,670
Deposits	<u>6,129</u>	<u>6,129</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>405,629</u>	<u>299,799</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 4,473,544</u> =====	<u>\$ 4,442,344</u> =====

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 31,776	\$ 22,123
Accrued Expenses	<u>1,072</u>	<u>1,045</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>32,848</u>	<u>23,168</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	383,184	314,210
Temporarily Restricted	4,015,326	4,063,762
Permanently Restricted	<u>42,186</u>	<u>41,204</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>4,440,696</u>	<u>4,419,176</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 4,473,544</u> =====	<u>\$ 4,442,344</u> =====

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For The Year Ended December 31, 1996
(With Comparative Totals for 1995)

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>1996 Total</u>	<u>1995 Total</u>
REVENUES					
Contributions	\$ 640,522	\$ 1,210,245	\$ --	\$ 1,850,767	\$ 2,071,442
Investment Income	59,988	159,600	982	220,570	342,826
Literature Sales	30,750	--	--	30,750	39,053
Program Income	16,581	2,447,896	--	2,464,477	2,673,607
Other Income	8,489	--	--	8,489	9,933
Assets Released From Restrictions	<u>3,866,177</u>	<u><3,866,177></u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>4,622,507</u>	<u><48,436></u>	<u>982</u>	<u>4,575,053</u>	<u>5,136,861</u>
EXPENSES					
Program Expenses	3,762,018	--	--	3,762,018	4,234,953
General & Adminis.	781,101	--	--	781,101	711,636
Fund Raising	10,414	--	--	10,414	26,769
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>4,553,533</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>4,553,533</u>	<u>4,973,358</u>
INCREASE <DECREASE> IN NET ASSETS	68,974	<48,436>	982	21,520	163,503
NET ASSETS					
BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>314,210</u>	<u>4,063,762</u>	<u>41,204</u>	<u>4,419,176</u>	<u>4,255,673</u>
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 383,184</u>	<u>\$ 4,015,326</u>	<u>\$42,186</u>	<u>\$ 4,440,696</u>	<u>\$ 4,419,176</u>

APPENDICES

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
For the Year Ended December 31, 1996
(With Comparative Totals for 1995)

APPENDICES

	PROGRAM SERVICES			
	<u>Medical Ins. Plan</u>	<u>Pension</u>	<u>World Outreach</u>	<u>Church Assistance</u>
Compensation	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --	\$ --
Employee Benefits	--	--	--	--
Payroll Taxes	--	--	--	--
Repairs and Maintenance	--	--	--	--
Travel	--	--	--	--
Committee Expenses	--	--	--	--
Contingencies	--	--	--	--
Printing and Promotion	--	--	--	--
Professional Fees	--	--	--	--
Rent and Property Taxes	--	--	--	--
Van Expense	--	--	--	--
Depreciation	--	--	--	--
Office Supplies	--	--	--	--
Telephone	--	--	--	--
Utilities	--	--	--	--
Insurance	--	--	--	--
Postage	--	--	--	--
Development	--	--	--	--
Fraternal Relations	--	--	--	--
Support and Training	--	--	--	--
General Assembly Expense	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous	--	--	--	--
Premiums	371,961	--	--	--
Claims	1,672,702	--	--	--
Administrative Expense	33,581	4,397	--	--
Restricted Expenses	--	--	1,030,228	197,631
Technology Support	--	--	--	--
Literature	--	--	--	--
Totals	\$2,078,244	\$4,397	\$1,030,228	\$197,631

<u>Special Projects</u>	<u>Church Loan</u>	<u>General & Adminis</u>	<u>Fund Raising</u>	<u>1996 Total</u>	<u>1995 Total</u>
\$ --	\$ --	\$332,456	\$ --	\$ 332,456	\$ 290,806
--	--	66,085	--	66,085	64,262
--	--	22,953	--	22,953	22,462
--	--	8,464	--	8,464	18,791
--	--	55,315	--	55,315	43,357
--	--	43,966	--	43,966	55,571
--	--	3,655	--	3,655	4,805
--	--	--	10,414	10,414	26,769
--	--	3,000	--	3,000	3,866
--	--	63,557	--	63,557	61,168
--	--	2,161	--	2,161	--
--	--	21,123	--	21,123	14,307
--	--	8,069	--	8,069	7,152
--	--	15,158	--	15,158	17,515
--	--	5,781	--	5,781	5,860
--	--	3,525	--	3,525	1,757
--	--	24,592	--	24,592	18,369
--	--	8,173	--	8,173	10,010
--	--	8,848	--	8,848	11,138
--	--	2,103	--	2,103	10,868
--	--	23,397	--	23,397	15,000
--	--	2,528	--	2,528	3,615
--	--	--	--	371,961	376,847
--	--	--	--	1,672,702	2,008,347
--	1,539	--	--	39,517	56,693
449,979	--	--	--	1,677,838	1,793,066
--	--	25,865	--	25,865	--
--	--	30,327	--	30,327	30,957
<u>\$449,979</u>	<u>\$1,539</u>	<u>\$781,101</u>	<u>\$10,414</u>	<u>\$4,553,533</u>	<u>\$4,973,358</u>
=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended December 31, 1996
(With Comparative Totals for 1995)

APPENDICES

	1996	1995
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 21,520	\$ 163,503
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	21,123	14,307
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease <Increase> in accounts receivable	<800>	--
Decrease <Increase> in inventory	--	<46>
Decrease <Increase> in prepaid expenses	--	1,347
Increase <Decrease> in accounts payable	9,653	8,943
Increase <Decrease> in accrued liabilities	27	1,035
Decrease <Increase> in notes receivable	<105,830>	<19,587>
NET CASH FLOWS FROM <USED BY> OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<54,307>	169,502
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Sale <Purchase> of Fixed Assets	<72,134>	<31,754>
Sale <Purchase> of Investments	145,772	<35,865>
NET CASH FLOWS FROM <USED BY> INVESTING ACTIVITIES	73,638	<67,619>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	--	--
INCREASE IN CASH	19,331	101,883
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,846,044	3,744,161
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 3,865,375	\$ 3,846,044
OTHER DISCLOSURES		
Cash used for:		
Income taxes	\$ --	\$ --
Interest	--	--

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1996

NOTE 1 - NATURE OF ACTIVITIES

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a church denomination with member churches who are evangelical in spirit.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

GENERAL

The financial statements include only the accounts of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and do not include the accounts of affiliated local Presbyteries of member churches.

PROMISES TO GIVE

Contributions are recognized when the donor makes a promise to give to the Organization that is, in substance, unconditional. Contributions that are restricted by the donor are reported as increases in unrestricted net assets if the restrictions expire in the fiscal year in which the contributions are recognized. All other donor-restricted contributions are reported as increases in temporarily or permanently restricted net assets depending on the nature of the restrictions. When a restriction expires, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES

During the year ended December 31, 1996, the value of contributed services meeting the requirements of recognition in the financial statements was not material and has not been recorded.

ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

Donations of property and equipment are recorded as support at their estimated fair value. Such donations are reported as unrestricted support unless the donor has restricted the donated asset to a specific purpose. Assets donated with explicit restrictions regarding their use and contributions of cash that must be used to acquire property and equipment are reported as restricted support. Absent donor stipulations regarding how long

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 December 31, 1996

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

those donated assets must be maintained, the Organization reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service as instructed by the donor. The Organization reclassifies temporarily restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets at that time. Property and equipment are depreciated using the straight-line method. Depreciation expense for the year 1996 totaled \$21,123.

INCOME TAXES

The Organization is a not-for-profit organization that is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

INVENTORY

Inventory consists primarily of books and other publications. Inventory is stated at the lower of cost or market on the first-in, first-out basis.

INVESTMENTS

Investments are carried at market value, including accrued interest.

NOTE 3 - NOTES RECEIVABLE

Notes receivable consists of loan agreements made to member churches at interest rates below the current market rates. The churches make principal and interest payments on a monthly basis. Details of this account consist of the following:

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
Ashville EPC	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
Heartland	24,570	29,570
Westkirk	26,667	31,666
Argentina	39,581	44,167
Faith EPC	39,583	44,167
North Park EPC	40,416	45,000
Elkton EPC	40,000	45,000
Tabernacle EPC	45,000	50,000
Cornerstone EPC	45,833	--
Christian Fellowship	46,250	--
Covenant Community	<u>47,500</u>	<u>--</u>
Total	\$399,500 =====	\$293,670 =====

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1996

APPENDICES

NOTE 4 - NET ASSET RESTRICTIONS

At December 31, 1996, temporarily restricted net assets consisted of the following:

World Outreach	\$ 499,383
Church Development	128,652
Church Loan	541,638
Programs	1,140,545
Medical Insurance Plan	<u>1,705,108</u>
	\$ 4,015,326
	=====

At December 31, 1996, permanently restricted net assets consisted of the following:

Ministerial Endowment	\$ 42,186
	=====

NOTE 5 - SELF INSURANCE

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church currently utilizes a self-funded medical program using an insurance company to administer the claims. The program covers employees of member churches and their families, and clergy and their families. The program loss is limited by the use of a reinsurance policy.

Following is a summary of transactions for the self insurance program for 1996 and 1995.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
Premiums Collected	\$ 1,991,361	\$ 2,154,437
Interest Income	104,924	134,044
Gain <Loss> in Mkt. Value	<8,253>	60,464
Premiums Paid	<371,961>	<376,847>
Claims Paid	<1,672,702>	<2,008,347>
Transfer to Medical Benevolence Fund	--	<21,146>
Administrative Expense	<u><33,581></u>	<u><49,953></u>
Excess <Deficiency> Of Revenues Over Expenses	\$ 9,788	\$ <107,348>
	=====	=====

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1996**

APPENDICES

NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN

The General Assembly Office participates in a multi-employer pension plan administered by the Board of Pensions and Benefits as elected by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The plan is a defined contribution type. Contributions by the General Assembly Office to the plan for participants for 1996 and 1995 were \$20,565 and \$20,181 respectively. Any employee may participate in the salary reduction aspect of the plan. Also, the Assembly may make contributions for the benefit of employees at its discretion.

The assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the pension plan are not included in the accompanying financial statements.

NOTE 7 - CHANGES TO PRIOR YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Certain 1995 amounts have been reclassified to conform to current year's financial statement presentation.

NOTE 8 - LEASE AGREEMENT

The Assembly has entered into a lease agreement for office space effective February 1, 1993. The lease has a five year term with monthly rent of \$4,512 during the first year. Total minimum lease payments are as follows:

1997	\$ 57,758
1998	\$ 4,822

A security deposit of \$6,129 was paid to secure the lease. Total lease expense for 1996 and 1995 was \$56,489 and \$55,255, respectively.

NOTE 9 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Assembly considers all highly liquid debt instruments with maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents. At December 31, 1996, cash and cash equivalents included:

	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Book Value</u>
Amounts covered by FDIC Insurance	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Amounts covered by SIPC Insurance	2,296,092	2,296,092
Amounts covered by brokerage company insurance	816,694	816,694
Amounts Uninsured	<u>391,576</u>	<u>406,620</u>
Total Cash and Equivalents	\$ 3,704,362	\$ 3,719,406
	=====	=====

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 SCHEDULE OF UNRESTRICTED REVENUES AND NON-PROGRAM EXPENSES
 BUDGET TO ACTUAL
 For the Year Ended December 31, 1996

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES			
Contributions	\$ 716,725	\$ 640,522	\$ <76,203>
Investment Income	65,000	99,993	34,993
Program Income	15,000	16,581	1,581
Other Income	11,000	8,489	<2,511>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 807,725	\$ 765,585	\$ <42,140>
EXPENSES			
Compensation	\$ 346,925	\$ 332,456	\$ 14,469
Employment Benefits	72,300	66,085	6,215
Payroll Taxes	26,000	22,953	3,047
Repairs and Maintenance	6,000	8,464	<2,464>
Travel	50,000	55,315	<5,315>
Committee Expenses	55,000	43,966	11,034
Contingencies	4,000	3,655	345
Printing and Promotion	35,000	10,414	24,586
Professional Fees	7,000	3,000	4,000
Van Expense	2,000	2,161	<161>
Rent and Property Taxes	68,000	63,557	4,443
Depreciation	-	21,123	<21,123>
Office Supplies	8,000	8,069	<69>
Telephone	17,000	15,158	1,842
Utilities	7,000	5,781	1,219
Insurance	3,500	3,525	<25>
Postage	24,000	24,592	<592>
Development	27,000	8,173	18,827
Fraternal Relations	12,000	8,848	3,152
Support and Training	2,000	2,103	<103>
General Assembly	15,000	23,397	<8,397>
Miscellaneous	4,000	2,528	1,472
Technology Support	10,000	25,865	<15,865>
Pension Fund Administration	6,000	4,397	1,603
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 807,725	\$ 765,585	\$ 42,140

APPENDICES

Fraternal Relations Committee Report



Paul Heidebrecht, Chairman

The following is a progress report, as the committee will be meeting after the deadline for the *Commission's Handbook*, but prior to the Assembly.

The Fraternal Relations Committee finds itself at an important juncture in its work on behalf of the Assembly. Much of the "old business" that has occupied its attention in recent years is being completed in one form or another. On the horizon are some new opportunities for the committee. Joining Charles Wickman and me on the committee are four new members elected by the 16th Assembly: Dexter Kuhlman, Graham Smith, James Currie and Frank Kik, each of whom bring fresh insight and energy to the task of cultivating interchurch relationships for the benefit of the EPC.

Sister relationships with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church and the Association of Charismatic Presbyterian Churches in Puerto Rico have been solidified in the past several years with mutual exchange of representatives and various joint projects between our denominations. We can never take these relationships for granted but must always seek additional opportunities to meet together and plan activities that are mutually beneficial.

NAPARC MEMBERSHIP DENIED

This past November, Ed Davis and I traveled to Pittsburgh for the annual meeting of NAPARC to be present for the vote by NAPARC members on the EPC's application for membership. This vote had been delayed for a year while NAPARC member denominations examined materials we had submitted.

When our application was formally placed before the Council, a discussion lasting about an hour ensued. The major issues raised the previous year were again discussed. The fact that some of our congregations permit baby "dedications" as alternatives to infant baptism troubled some Council members. Our position ordained women as elders was not debated though it was apparent that few on the Council supported such a position. There was also skepticism by some that our position on prophecy and tongues does not constitute extra-biblical revelation.

Despite our efforts to persuade the Council to view the EPC as a denomination moving toward a consistently Reformed posture, the majority of member denominations were convinced that we are outside the circle of strict Reformed interpretation and practice. Because organic unity is considered a desirable goal of NAPARC, they were unable to accept us as "of like faith and practice." The vote was 4-3 in opposition (five yes votes were needed to be received). The same three denominations (Christian Reformed Church, Presbyterian Church in America, Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America) which voted positively for us the year before again voted yes this time.

This decision was truly disappointing though certainly not unexpected. The Stated Clerk, in particular has labored for a dozen years to obtain a public identification of the EPC with a conservative Reformed body or network. This is a crucial aspect of our identity and NAPARC membership would have solidified that dimension. Unfortunately, our brothers in NAPARC are predisposed toward a narrow conception of Reformed thought, which we suspect will ultimately lead to the removal of the CRC from their ranks.

Our committee has now fulfilled its mandate from the Assembly, bringing the matter of NAPARC membership to a conclusion. We must now move on to other matters.

NEW BUSINESS

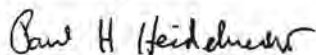
The 16th Assembly urged the committee to begin exploring the possibility of some new relationships with other denominations. This will be a major topic at the committee's spring meeting. Included in this discussion will be the EPC's participation in the National Association of Evangelicals, Mission America and the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. The 17th Assembly will receive a report of the committee's discussion on these matters.

WORLD EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP

The EPC, through its Fraternal Relations Committee, was represented at the General Assembly of the World Evangelical Fellowship in Vancouver in May, 1997. This event, held only once a decade, is a great opportunity to meet leaders of denominations across North America and the world. A new global alliance of Reformed bodies, known as the World Fellowship of Reformed Churches, met at the WEF Assembly. The chairman of the Fraternal Relations committee attended these meetings and will report to the committee about the possibility of membership. The committee continues to explore alternative relationships to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, which earlier EPC Assemblies have asked our committee to re-evaluate, since no conservative Presbyteries belong to it any longer.

The prayer support and guidance of those in the EPC concerned about our denomination's interactions with the larger Presbyterian and evangelical world will be much valued by the committee as we seek to discern future directions for our denomination.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Paul Heidebrecht, chairman
May, 1997

FRC-1

REPORT OF FRATERNAL DELEGATE TO ARP GENERAL SYNOD, 1996

Here is a summary of my visit to the Associate Reformed Presbyterian General Synod (June, 1996) as the EPC fraternal delegate.

APPENDICES

1. The ARP were very gracious hosts and gave me a warm, friendly welcome. We are the only denomination to be invited annually. Three other fraternal delegates were on the podium with me (CRC, PCA, RPCNA) but they only attend every few years. It was apparent that the ARP value their relationship to us and believe we have much in common. In particular, I wish to note the hospitality of their outgoing Inter-Church Relations Committee chairman, Neely Gaston, an ARP pastor from Greenville, South Carolina.
2. The issue of the EPC's application for membership in NAPARC surfaced several times on the floor of Synod. There seems to be fairly unanimous agreement that we do not qualify for membership in NAPARC (based on previous NAPARC disagreements over our positions on women elders and charismatic gifts to which we have not responded to their satisfaction). Yet at the same time, many in the ARP express a strong desire for a close relationship to the EPC and hope that NAPARC will not be an obstacle. The delegation at the November, 1995 NAPARC meeting was, according to some reports, anguished over its vote. It did not want to vote *against* us but could not vote *for* us. Interestingly, the ARP endorsed the action of NAPARC to create a "suspension" category for membership that will undoubtedly be applied to the CRC.

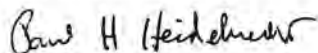
My own impression of the ARP is that they will continue to maintain a hard line on doctrinal issues and avoid any appearance of doing what mainline liberals do. Yet this does not always lead to a separatism on their part. There is also a healthy evangelistic zeal in their ranks and they find the EPC to be attractive partners. The ARP seems leery of ordaining women as elders even though they ordain deaconesses. It appears they are comfortable with NAPARC restricting its membership to those denominations that refuse to ordain women.

3. There is considerable concern toward the PCA over numerous cases of violations of the comity agreement. PCA church plants have started in very close proximity to ARP churches without consultation and often with blatant disregard of complaints. The Synod ordered its fraternal delegate to convey their displeasure to the next PCA Assembly. The ARP has also chosen to join the ICRC global alliance rather than the WFRM because the latter has been launched by the PCA.
4. I could not help noticing the strong influence of RTS Charlotte in the ARP. There are considerably more students at RTS than Erskine. This made for some awkwardness at the Synod. Erskine is still not as conservative theologically as many in the ARP desire

though it is moving in that direction. Though Erskine is an ARP institution, it does have a fairly diverse student body. Jay West, the college chaplain, has brought a strong emphasis on spiritual development. Jim Rimmel, EPC representative on the Erskine board, is highly regarded. I believe we can demonstrate our support of the ARP by giving attention to Erskine.

5. The ARP Inter-Church Relations committee meets this October and will consider the next joint meeting with us, as our Covenant calls for. Our own committee looks forward to the same.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Heidebrecht, Chairman
Fraternal Relations Committee

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS MEETING

EPC/IPB

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

October 17-19, 1996

APPENDICES

Present

Richard Oestreicher, Chairman - EPC-JCM

Elder Claude Russell, EPC Moderator

Elder William Johns, EPC-JCM

Reverend Guilhermino Cunha - Chairman - IPB-JCM

Reverend Wilson de Souza Lopes - IPB-JCM

Reverend Osvaldo Henrique Hack - IPB-JCM

Reverend Olson Pemberton Jr. - IPB/EPC - Official Translator

Sr. Custodio Filipe de Jesus Pereira - IPB, Recording Secretary

October, 17

The first session began at 9:20 p.m. Elder Oestreicher presided, noting it is an historic occasion in the lives of the IPB and the EPC, expressing the thanks of the EPC delegation for the warm welcome, and congratulating the IPB delegation for the organization of the documents. Elder Oestreicher brought greetings from the Reverend Edward Davis, Stated Clerk of the EPC and also noted that the first phase in the Andrew Jumper Center for Post-Graduate Theological Studies would be completed in June, 1998.

Two members from each delegation prayed. Elder Oestreicher read I Cor. 16:15-18 and noted the parallel between this text and the joint work of the IPB and the EPC, to serve one another and to serve Christ.

The Reverend Guilhermino Cunha welcomed the visitors. Each member of the two delegations presented himself, with a brief description of his work in the Church.

Presentation

Others present and introduced: Mrs. Mary Johns, Mrs. Bobbi Oestreicher and Mrs. Sandy Russell, wives of the EPC delegation.

Elder Azor Ferreira, President of the Board of Foreign Missions of the IPB, Elder Custodio Filipe de Jesus Pereira, member of the Commission on Inter-Church Relations (CRIE) of the IPB, Elder Nilson de Oliveira, office manager for the Moderator of the IPB, Reverend Heber Carlos de Campos, coordinator of the Andrew Jumper Center for Post-Graduate Theological Studies, Reverend Jonas Zulske, President of the National Commission on Evangelism of the IPB and Reverend Olson Pemberton Jr., official interpreter.

Mrs. Sueli de Oliveira, professor and wife of Elder Nilson de Oliveira and Mrs. Sueli Fernandes, secretary of the Presbyterian Cathedral of Rio de Janeiro.

The meeting ended at 10:00 p.m. with prayer.

October 18, 1996

The second session began at 9:15 am, Reverend Guilhermino Cunha presided. Reverend Wilson lead the devotional service based on Acts 6:1-7. Elder Russell led in prayer.

The following were introduced: Elder Adonias Costa de Silveira, president of Mackenzie Presbyterian Institute; and the Reverend Carlos Aranha Neto, president of the Board of National Missions (JMN).

Docket

1. Information about the EPC
2. Information about the IPB
3. Andrew Jumper Center for Post-Graduate Theological Studies
4. Boards of Foreign and National Missions; National Commission on Evangelism
5. General overview of projects

Elder Russell, Moderator of the EPC, gave information relative to that denomination. It is 16 years old. Its Stated Clerk is elected for three years, with the possibility of being reelected for three more years. The Moderator is elected for one year, with the moderatorial office rotated annually between ruling and teaching elders. All committees are to have a ratio of two elders to one minister. The Executive Committee includes the Stated Clerk, Moderator, the two past Moderators, Finance Chairman and one at-large member from the Committee on Administration. The EPC has ten boards and committees, with members chosen from various presbyteries and elected for three years. There is an Executive Committee and an Administration Committee. There are 180 churches in the denomination. During the EPC's early years, growth was by churches transferring from the PCUSA. More recently, evangelism is responsible for most of the growth. There are no synods. The motto of the EPC is: *"In essentials, unity; In non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."* The EPC hopes to learn more about church planting from the IPB, with its 137 years of growth and maturity.

Elders Johns compared the "young" EPC with an adolescent - change with pain. It needs to define its self-identity, what it is as a church.

Elder Oestreicher reported that the EPC works in four principal areas:

1. Women's Ministry, including special projects and a bi-annual retreat.
2. Youth Ministry, with a variety of projects including providing ideas for local churches, two annual retreats and five or six mission trips per year.
3. National Outreach, principally church plantings with rather slow growth in variant years. The National Outreach Committees is encouraging local churches to found daughter churches. There are a few large churches, a number of medium sized churches (400-500 members) and many small churches (40-70 members).
4. World Outreach: The World Outreach Committee has recently defined who we are and what we are to do in foreign missions. The partnership with IPB helps us in this sense. The EPC's foreign mission program concentrates on three areas - Latin America (Brazil and Argentina), Muslims and the former Communist nations. It is hoped that the IPB and the EPC can cooperate in Argentina. Sixty percent of EPC missionaries work with Muslims. The work is difficult and results are few.

The Reverend Wilson reported on the IPB, which had its 137th birthday in August of this year. The national House of Representatives scheduled a special session to celebrate this date.

Strategic Plan

This involves all sectors of the IPB, including the Center for Church Planting, being developed in partnership with the PCA. The goal is to plant 300 new churches by century's end and expand the work into areas where there is now no Presbyterian presence.

The local churches are being challenged to develop work in areas adjacent to them; the presbyteries will be responsible for areas not adjacent to any local churches and the synods for regions not adjacent to local churches or presbyteries, The Board of National Missions will be responsible for regions outside of synod boundaries.

The preparation of church planters will be done by the Center for Missionary Training (CTM), which will initiate its work in 1997.

Theological Education:

This is being re-thought by the Board of Theological Education. The Andrew Jumper Center is moving forward with the preparation of workers in the Master's program, to teach in IPB seminaries.

Pastors:

A retirement plan for pastors, including those already retired, is being developed through the Bank of Brazil. Another project is to make it possible for pastors to acquire their own houses for retirement.

Education:

The National Federation of Presbyterian Schools is encouraging local churches to organize schools using their building for this purpose.

Social Action:

The Commission on Social Action has urged local churches to become involved in projects of health care, child care, etc. In the state of Tocantins all of the churches have built schools.

Communications:

The Church's official journal, the *Brazil Presbyterian* (Brasil Presbiteriano) has improved greatly and is now considered to be Brazil's best evangelical journal.

There are supplements for all sectors of the church. A communications network is connecting together all sectors of IPB work, such as national and foreign missions and evangelism, with the denominational headquarters.

Liturgy:

A Commission on Doctrine is developing orientation for the Church. Special attention is being given to liturgies, due to certain extremes.

The whole Church is in a dynamic and progressive phase and almost all parts are connected by Internet.

The meeting was recessed at 10:30 am for refreshments and was resumed at 11:00 a.m. A letter from Dr. Edward Davis was read, informing that deposits had been made to the account of the IPB for the following projects:

	<u>US\$</u>
JMC Seminary Library	1,270
Work in Angola	30,242
Work in Ghana	2,171
Work in Tocantins	2,110
SAMMAAR	<u>300</u>
TOTAL	38,153

A second letter from Dr. Edward Davis expressed his disappointment at not being present for this meeting and noting:

1. The objective to have an event of celebration in June, 1998, to commemorate the end of the first phase of the Andrew Jumper Center.
2. The year 1998 will offer us the opportunity to move into a new phase of cooperation.

The Reverend Guilhermino Cunha noted that our understanding is that future cooperation will be a joint effort with equal participation by both Churches. He also said that the IPB is not a member of the World Reformed Fellowship (WRF). Although the IPB has participated in WRF meetings, the executive committee has not yet made a decision as to membership, awaiting action by the WRF on changes in its by-laws, which the IPB requested:

1. That acceptance of memberships of churches be approved by the WRF Assembly rather than by its Executive Committee.
2. That the by-laws clarify that member churches of the WRF also be able to be members of other international organizations. The WRF has decided that this is possible.
3. That the by-laws, which presently permit denominations which are members of certain international organizations to automatically belong to the WRF, be changed to require that all candidate churches for membership be voted on by the WRF Assembly.
4. The IPB is a member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC). At the next meeting of the Executive Committee in March, 1997, membership in the WRF will be considered. A delegation of four from the IPB will attend the next meeting of the WRF in Hungary as observers.

Andrew Jumper Center of Post-Graduate Theological Studies:

Dr. Adonias Silveira, president of the Board of Theological Education, reported on the Jumper Center; Drs. Mauro Meister and Alder Matos will arrive in a few days.

The Reverend Ricardo Gouvea will begin his work in 1997 and the Reverend Davi Gomes probably in 1998. The Center has requested official recognition by the Brazilian government.

Some of the needs are more space, scholarships, books for the library, preparation of more teachers with doctorates. Thought is being given to developing a doctoral-level program.

The second session ended at 12:20 p.m. with prayer by the Reverend Carlos Aranha Neto.

The third session began at 2:00 p.m. with prayer by Elder Oestreicher. The Reverend Breno Prudente was introduced.

The Reverend Heber de Campos, coordinator of the Andrew Jumper Center, spoke. There are 31 students in the Master's program. All are required to read and to understand spoken English. The Reverend Guilhermino Cunha told of possible plans to transfer the Center to MacKenzie Institute which could make it possible to receive government scholarships.

Professors of the Center will continue to be chosen by the Board of Theological Education. As the Center enters its second phase, there could be triple cooperation: the IPB, the EPC and Mackenzie.

Board of Foreign Missions:

Elder Azor Ferreira, President of the Board of Foreign Missions, thanked the EPC for its cooperation and mentioned the very serious sickness of the daughter of the Reverend Fernando Luiz in Angola. In Angola, doors have been opening for evangelism.

Argentina: The Reverend Breno told of the works of Korean Presbyterians among Koreans and their desire to help support non-Korean workers among Argentines.

The EPC is cooperating with the Saint Andrews Presbytery, whose president is Julio Lopez.

In Ghana, the work has prospered. There are 400 church members. The Reverend Lidorio plans to turn that work over to Ghanaians in 1997 and develop work further north.

In Paraguay, there are plans for a school in Concepcion.

In 1986, the IPB had two missionaries in one country. In 1996, there are 71 missionaries in 22 countries. Local churches in Brazil are being urged to assume a certain percentage of the support of individual missionaries.

The meeting was suspended at 3:30 p.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m..

Board of National Missions:

The Reverend Carlos Aranha Neto, president of the Board of National Missions reported on its growth. The Board is now 57 years old and has work in 19 of Brazil's 24 states. He spoke of plans for the expansion of the work and of continuing to have schools related to the National Mission Churches.

The Boards of National and Foreign Missions and the Commission on Evangelism are to be fused into one organization.

This plan is to be presented to the General Assembly in 1998.

Elder Russell spoke of the importance of adequate preparation of the workers and for the psychological evaluation. It was noted that the IPB is adopting this criterion.

The Reverend Jonas Zulske, president of the Commission on Evangelism of the IPB, read Ezekiel 34:11,12,16. He spoke of the program to plant more churches with the goal of 300 by the end of the century. He presented the objectives and plan of action of the Commission on Evangelism.

Projects:

Elder Custodio gave details of the material distributed relative to the IPB's projects. The IPB has special interest in standardizing its projects, as well as following closely the chronological and financial development of each project.

Exchange Program for Youth and Adolescents:

Elder Custodio emphasized the importance of such programs for future generations to increase interest in missions. An invitation was extended to the EPC to send a group of young people to visit the IPB work in Brazil in 1997. Hosts will cover expenses in the country and the visiting country will pay transportation.

Elder Custodio noted that there is much interest in such a project among young Brazilian Presbyterians, including the National Secretary for work among adolescents. The session was closed in prayer at 5:40 p.m.

October 19, 1996

The 4th session began at 12:00 noon on Oct. 19, 1996. Elder Oestreicher presided and prayed. Gifts were exchanged between the two delegations.

The Brazilian delegation reported that the IPB priorities are:

1. Theological Education

- Completion of Revs. Alderi's and Davi's courses.
- Preparation of a doctoral candidate in Ethics.
- Improvement of the library with more books.

The IPB offers a scholarship in the Andrew Jumper Center for a student from the St. Andrews (Argentina) Presbytery to the chosen by the EPC, who meets the entrance requirements of the Center.

2. Missions

- Continuation of the Ghana Project (Reverend Lidorio).
- Continuation of the Angola Project (Reverend Fernando Luiz).

3. Exchange Program

- Cooperation of the EPC, the IPB, and the Korean Church in Buenos Aires in Church planting in Argentina.
- Pulpit exchange between IPB and EPC. The EPC is invited to send one of its ministers to Brazil to preach in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.
- Missionary travel exchange program for youth and adolescents. The IPB invites a group from the EPC to visit the IPB work.

4. Moderatorial Visit

The IPB invites the Moderator of the EPC and a minister to attend the March 17-22, 1997 meeting of the Executive Committee of the IPB in Sao Paulo. (Be here March 20 to preach in Sunday services both Rio and Sao Paulo. Leave Monday March 24.)

The IPB asks the EPC to advise as to the dollar amounts needed for the scholarships and for the mission projects. Elder Oestreicher says that this will be done as soon as possible. The EPC will try to raise seventy-five thousand dollars (US\$75,000) for EPC projects.

Reverend Guilhermino Cunha gave copies of the IPB-PCA plan of cooperation to the EPC delegation. Reverend Guilhermino Cunha expressed thanks for Reverend Pemberton's work as translator. Elder Oestreicher thanked the IPB and its leadership for wonderful and warm hospitality. Elder Russell and Johns also expressed their thanks to the IPB.

The final session was closed with prayer and the benediction by Reverend Guilhermino Cunha at 1:10 p.m..

Chairman of EPC

Chairman of IPB

Members: _____

Ministerial Vocation Committee Report



The Ministerial Vocation Committee met at the EPC office on September 19-21, 1996 and again on February 21& 22, 1997. The members of this committee are Mr. John Allman, Chaplain Mark Jumper, Rev. Bob Harvey, Mr. Leon Niemann, Mr. Bill Goessling, Rev. William Moore, chairman (*left*). Rev. Ed Davis, our Stated Clerk, met with this committee and his guidance and insights were invaluable to us.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED

- 1. The Andrew Jumper Fund:** the present goal of this project is \$300,000, to provide scholarships for EPC students attending Reformed Seminary. Raised to date is about \$120,000.
- 2. Extra-Ordinary Candidate Process:** The files on our extra-ordinary candidates were reviewed.
- 3. Chaplain's Subcommittee:** The procedure of responding to and encourage candidates for chaplaincy was reviewed and found to be adequate. Mr. Jumper noted that the U.S. Army will engage in massive chaplain recruiting the next two years.
- 4. General Assembly Events:** Dr. David Chadwick will speak at the 'Newly Ordained Ministers Dinner' with a devotional message. Cmdr. Jumper will host a breakfast for all chaplains on Friday morning of GA; and all chaplains present at GA will be recognized as part of the MVC report. Cmdr. Jumper will also plan a Pre-Assembly Chaplain Training Event. Retired Col. Jim Edgren is scheduled to speak. The 'Face to Face' process of connecting interested churches with seeking pastors was discussed and suggestions were made to enhance the process.
- 5. Clergy Appreciation Thrust:** MVC reaffirmed the importance of encouraging EPC churches to undertake an annual pastor (and staff) appreciation process through a program called 'Pastor Encouragement Program,' to be implemented in the fall of each year.
- 6. Moderator's Request for Career Direction for Clergy:** MVC responded favorably to the Moderator's request for a study commission to discuss the needs for evaluation of pastors, assistance with their career development, training, compensation, direction to the search and call system.
- 7. The Ministerial Procedural Manual:** Members of the MVC invested many hours revising the Ministerial Procedural Manual. Ed Davis, Leon Niemann and William Moore met for an entire day, in May to complete the revision.
- 8. The Minister's Continuation in Social Security:** MVC agreed to join the Board of Pensions and Benefits in recommending that pastors *not* opt out of the Social Security system.

MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE 16TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. **Overture 95-D** relating to the oversight of ministers serving in 'out of bounds' ministries: The MVC noted that out of bounds ministers create significant exposure to legal liability for the EPC. Legal exposure lessens if an organization is making progress towards a policy and its execution, even if a policy has not yet been fully adopted or implemented.

ON MOTION that the EPC Executive Committee of the General Assembly Committee on Administration be asked to investigate the legal and fiscal feasibility of engaging reputable counsel to compile a legal audit of the EPC, focusing on potential liability of the denomination and all its part in relation to the status and activities of ministers serving "out of bounds."

ON MOTION that the General Assembly Stated Clerk and the MVC chairman be authorized to execute said study, should its feasibility be affirmed.

2. **Overture 95-F (EPC Internship Training Program):** Determined not to be practicable as a denominational program for the majority of our congregations. Discussion about the feasibility of an intern program identified the following factors:
 - a. finances: is financing available- does the church pay all?
 - b. commitment of the church: does the church value such a program?
 - c. mentoring leadership: is the pastor committed and capable of undertaking such a role and responsibility?
 - d. motivation of the intern: would the seminary/graduate be motivated to pursue such a program instead of moving into a church position?
 - e. program implementation: who and how will such a program be implemented?
3. **Request To Specify Reasons For Suggested Change:** G.13-5 be amended by '*An ordained minister coming from a non-Reformed denomination or an independent congregation shall be examined* substituting for the phrase 'A person coming from any other tradition shall be examined. . .' with 'An ordained minister coming from a non-Reformed denomination or an independent congregation shall be examined

ON MOTION that the following grounds be substituted in support of the proposed G.13-5 revision:

Your committee believes that the amendment addresses a candidate coming to the EPC in three cases 1) A non-Reformed denomination-we recognize the ordination; 2) An independent congregation-we recognize the ordination; 3) A non-ecclesiastical or para-church organization--we do not recognize the ordination, because we understand ordination to be an act of the church, a commission conferred only by an ecclesiastical body. In every case, any ordained minister coming from a non-Reformed body, should be examined in the same manner as a candidate.

MATTERS PENDING

Review of the *Denominational Goals for Pastoral Care*
 Discussion of Ministerial Ethics
 The 'Interim Pastor's Manual'

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Andrew Jumper Scholarship Fund be placed in the 1998 GA Benevolence Askings for \$50,000.
2. That the Newly Ordained Minister's Event be included in the 1998 GA Benevolence Askings for \$3000.
3. That G.13-5 be amended by substituting for the phrase 'A person coming from any other tradition shall be examined. . . ' with '*An ordained minister coming from a non-Reformed denomination or an independent congregation shall be examined...*' so that the section reads:

G.13-5 The examination of an ordained Minister coming from another denomination: A Minister seeking to become a member of a Presbytery in the Evangelical Presbyterian church from another denomination from within the Reformed family shall present credentials of education required by those seeking ordination. Further, such person shall be examined on views and beliefs in the same fashion as one transferring from one Presbytery to another within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. ~~A person coming from any other tradition shall be examined~~ *An ordained minister coming from a non-Reformed denomination or an independent congregation shall be examined* in the same manner as a candidate for ordination. Each person seeking admission shall always be examined on personal Christian experience and progress in spiritual growth.

Grounds:

Your committee believes that the amendment addresses a candidate coming to the EPC in three cases 1) A non-Reformed denomination-we recognize the ordination; 2) An independent congregation-We recognize the ordination; 3) A non-ecclesiastical or para-church organization--We do not recognize the ordination, because we understand ordination to be an act of the church, a commission conferred only by an ecclesiastical body. In every case, any ordained minister coming from a non-Reformed body, should be examined in the same manner as a candidate.

Respectfully submitted.

William C Moore

William C. Moore, Chairman

May, 1997

Moderator's Report



What a fantastic year this has been since you elected me to be the Moderator of the 16th General Assembly. I take this opportunity to thank the commissioners for this honor which I will forever cherish.

At the outset, my wife Sandy and I decided that we were being called to visit as many churches, pastors, pastors' wives, and presbyteries as we possibly could, concentrating as much as possible on the smaller, more remote locations. To do this, it necessary for us to forego our local commitments to our church (Faith Presbyterian) and Presbytery (West). We are most grateful for the support we have received from them, permitting us to be the ambassadors you called us to be.

This year, Sandy and I traveled over 27,000 driving miles to visit 85 churches, over 200 pastors, about 75 pastors' wives, and eight presbyteries, many ruling elders, two foreign countries (Argentina and Brazil), one Summer Jam, and many meetings at the General Assembly Office.

Our purpose has been to encourage our teaching and ruling elders and their spouses as they minister to God's people. We have taken them information from and about the General Assembly, toured their facilities, discussed their plans and vision for the future, listened and learned from them and brought their recommendations to the General Assembly for consideration. We prayed with and for them, and have developed an extensive prayer list that we continue to lift up to our Lord on a daily basis.

We are continually asked, "How is our denomination doing? What is the state of the church? What do we find significant?" In response, I must say that in the past two years, although our growth has slowed significantly, I am convinced that this time has been utilized to consolidate our earlier gains. Our greatest strength rests in the qualifications and dedication of our people. We have outstanding spiritually-led pastoral leadership with a passion for preaching and teaching the gospel as it is contained in the scriptures, and not some watered down version that appeals only to those not committed to our Lord, Jesus Christ. As a consequence, our lay leadership and congregations have been and are being equipped spiritually and obediently to be God's ambassadors in this modern world. We are now poised for a great spiritual revival within our denomination, praise be to God.

Evangelism must continue to be our number one priority. Christ gave this to us in the Great Commission and our *Book of Order* affirms it. We must not be dependent on pastors and committees to be the sole evangelists. We must recognize that when we embrace Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we become evangelists. One-on-one evangelism—let's all participate.

Other strengths of our denomination are our unity and our diversity. Paul said it best in I. Cor. 9:22-23, "I have become all things to all men, so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings." He stresses unity in the gospel message yet recognizes there are different methods by which people can be reached and saved. We encourage diversity in such areas as style of worship, music, dress, worship, locations and outreach programs, permitting each church to develop its own approach to presenting the Gospel. We must be careful that diversity not become divisive. In the non-essentials we have freedom. Let's keep it that way.

One of my concerns is that in the past two years, 1/3 of our churches have not been represented at the General Assembly, and our ratio of RE to TE is about 1:1, rather than 2:1. We are encouraging churches and presbyteries to emphasize the importance of participation and, where necessary, provide financial assistance. We have also established the Moderator's Scholarship Fund on the GA level to provide further financial assistance. We don't want to become a denomination controlled only by those financially able to attend or only by clergy. We want representation from all churches, and input from ruling elders. We encourage the use of host homes at the Assembly and presbytery, not only for financial reasons but also for making new friends. I have made numerous life-long friends with commissioners and their families and would encourage you to avail yourselves of this hospitality opportunity.

Another concern is in the area of giving. Our per member askings are by far the lowest of any like-minded denomination by at least 3 to 1. As a result, we have a very lean budget to provide all the services and programs approved by the General Assembly. Last year only 50% of our churches met or exceeded their per member asking. This means that 50% have not, and this translates to reduced expenditures in a budget approved by the Assembly. We cannot continue this nickel and dime approach and grow into the denomination that you want. If your church is one of the 50% which has not met its commitment, please reevaluate your priorities and support God's work financially.

My year as Moderator has been made possible by the effort and support of many people. I would take this opportunity to let them know how grateful I am. I thank our home church, Faith Presbyterian (Aurora, Colo.) for their prayers and the Presbytery of the West for placing me on sabbatical leave, and for providing prayer and financial support. I have appreciated the support of the GA staff, especially Carol Ann Buchanan who arranged travel details, schedules, and provided administrative support, and Marilyn Bartel and Amy Barnhart for their special attention to other details. Ed Davis has been the rock upon which we have depended. His guidance, encouragement, advice, patience and hospitality could not have been better. Without him we would not have been able to complete the mission of the Moderator. We thank the churches we have visited for their hospitality, especially those pastors and laymen who have opened their homes to us and provided such warm welcomes, joyful times and friendship. Sandy and I treasure those times, and hope we may do the same for you in the future.

Last, but not least, I am grateful to my wife, Sandy, who has been my constant companion for the past year. She has been my navigator and co-pilot for all 27,000 miles, my supporter and sounding board. She has been of immeasurable help in discussing women's ministries and pastors wives' concerns. Above all, she has joyfully prayed, literally for hours on end, for those concerns brought to our attention.

Let me again thank you for allowing me to serve as your Moderator. May God richly bless the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as we face the challenges and the opportunities of the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,

Claude E. "Buck" Russell
16th General Assembly
June, 1997

National Outreach Committee Report



Charles Overstreet, Chairman

The past year has been exciting for the National Outreach Committee as it began to understand its mission and put that mission to action. Under the leadership of Corbett Heimburger, our National Outreach Director, the committee has a better sense of purpose. No doubt, if the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is to make an impact for Christ in our nation, the planting of vibrant churches and encouraging our current churches to reach the lost is an absolute necessity. We hope our mission, *to trust God to build a multiplying movement of growing churches which will so impact the lives of individuals and communities through the power of the Gospel that the heart of our nation is radically transformed*, will inspire each of our churches to take up the challenge.

CHURCH PLANTING

In process are several church planting projects which will continue our committee's development and growth.

1. **Mobilizing for Church Growth** - This seminar was held in Detroit on April 4-5, 1997. Several leaders from all stateside EPC presbyteries were in attendance and were provided information concerning the when, where, and how of planting churches. It was exciting to watch Church Development Committees of the presbyteries working to develop *proactive* plans, rather than simply reacting to opportunities for church planting as they come along.
2. **Findings from the Church Planting Survey** - The summary of findings from the Church Planting Survey were completed and are in the Commissioner's Handbook. Preliminary review by churches and church planters indicate the findings to be extremely helpful in designing the implementation process for new church plants.
3. **Orientation for New Church Planters Guide** - A guideline for the orientation of new church planters was approved for distribution. The purpose of the guide is to improve the startup process for the church planter so that critical success factors are addressed.
4. **Key Cities Plan** - In the commissioner's materials is the Key Cities Plan. The National Outreach Committee is asking that churches begin praying that God will show us where He is working in these cities and to raise up groups and church planters to be involved in this work. Committee has been contacted by groups in Richmond and Cleveland.
5. **Church Development Manual** - Preliminary work toward the creation of a *Church Development Manual* as a guide for use by the presbyteries is being developed. Its purpose is to provide more consistency within and between Church Development Committees of the presbyteries. Most of the input has come from the presbytery committees.

CHURCH VITALITY

1. **Church Revitalization Project**—One objective of the Church Development Plan approved in 1995 was to assist churches under 200 members who have a desire for making an impact in

their communities and to grow to over 200 members by the year 2000. Though too early to measure results, there are currently 15 churches who have projects underway.

2. **Innovation Award**—The committee approved an annual award process to recognize that EPC church demonstrating the most innovative approach to church growth and revitalization.

CRITICAL NEED

To undertake church planting, realizing the importance of this objective to the future of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, requires substantial support through prayer and finances from all churches in the denomination. It is a known fact in business that any new venture will be impacted negatively if there is either too much or too little financial support. Too much money will stifle innovation while too little will eventually kill the project. In the very near future, the denomination will need to develop a plan, with the support of all our churches, to fund appropriately new church plants. Very few of our churches are currently providing financial support to the Orlando Project. The issue is not the piecemeal approach to funding the Orlando Project, but how to begin to have a “war chest” of funds to meet the enemy and his forces in areas where God is working. Our reaction time to provide the right person to the right place at the right time with the right financing can only be reduced with an organized approach to funding. **It is critical that this funding be addressed quickly.**

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10.

Recommendations

1. That the Assembly approve the EPC Key Cities Plan as presented by the National Outreach Committee.
2. That a task force be appointed to study the needs for funding the church planting initiatives of the EPC, and to recommend funding alternatives for approval at the General Assembly in 199.
3. That the Assembly approve the following response to the “Disney Overture”: That we as a church body respond and try to influence the position being taken by the executives of the Disney Corporation concerning family values.

Whereas the 16th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church approved the Disney Overture, and

Whereas, the Disney Overture made specific suggestions to the National Outreach Committee to consider planting churches in those areas in America that the Disney Corporation has a significant presence, and

Whereas, the overture was assigned to the National Outreach Committee for a response, and

Whereas, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church desires to create a positive and Godly atmosphere, to minister to those specifically employed by the Disney Corporation and take a pro-active stance against the evil influences recently condoned by the Disney Corporation, and

Whereas, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church desires to plant churches in areas that show the greatest need and potential,

Therefore be it resolved that Dan and Barbara Lacich be commended for their efforts to reach out to the Orlando community both through the church they are planting in Oviedo and through Barbara's employment with the Disney Corporation; and

That National Outreach be urged to do all it can to establish a mission church in the Los Angeles area that can work toward reaching into the Disney corporate community; and

That General Assembly adopt the following statement as its position on addressing controversial social issues:

As a denomination, the EPC desires to be a body of believers that stands for our country, to work as agents of salt and light for its transformation. Through engagement with our society, we seek to make a visible difference in the quality of its life—spiritually, socially, culturally, and economically.

We do not want to be a denomination that merely stands against our society, to denounce and scorn it. That is a fortress mentality that only condemns and castigates our society for its wickedness. Instead we want to interact with our society as servants, peacemakers and healers.

We do not want to be a denomination of our society, only reflecting and confirming its practices and thought forms. Through a proactive proclamation of the saving grace of the Gospel and a practical demonstration of the wholesome and holy lifestyle to which God calls His people, we confront thought forms and lifestyles that stand contrary to God's revealed Word.

We do not want to be a denomination that simply stands above our society, only using for our own personal gain, then escaping it by retreating for our Sunday holy huddles. Rather, we desire to be a people in the world but not of it.

Therefore, we believe it to be in the best interest of our outreach for the Gospel to act in the following manner when responding to a controversial issue:

- Pray ... for wisdom and discernment as we plan a response;
 - ... that those who are promoting or are involved in the offensive sinful behavior be changed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ;
 - ... for wisdom on the part of community leaders to respond in a godly way to the issue.
- Set an example in the community by abstaining from any behaviors contrary to biblically approved practice
 - ... wherever possible, seek to build a relationship with those who are involved with the issue at controversy, trying to understand their reasons for taking the position they have and trusting God for an opportunity to address the question from a biblical perspective;
 - ... wherever possible, become involved in a proactive response to the issue (for example, crisis pregnancy centers in response to abortion);
 - ... from a position of direct involvement in providing a solution to the problems created by the offensive position or behavior, address the community about the dangers created by the behavior.

We pray, fund, and seek leadership for a church in this area in the year 1998 and that we change our key city location to Anaheim in order to be closer to Disney. This would require funding in the amount of \$20,000 by the 17th General Assembly to search for leadership and a core group in this area.

We pray, fund and seek to get support from the church in the Orlando area to establish a mission congregation closer to Disney World. This effort to be funded by the 18th General Assembly so work could proceed starting in early 1999. The amount of funding for this project would be \$20,000 and would be used to search for leadership and a core group for this undertaking.

4. That the General Assembly approve the "Bartlett L. Hess Award" that will be given annually to the church that has demonstrated the most innovative approach to church growth or revitalization.
5. That the Assembly approve combining the Church Development Plan (1989) and the Church Development Plan (1995) using the newly approved Mission Statement and Core Values of the National Outreach committee into a **1997 Master Plan for Church Development**.

For the Committee and under His Grace,



Charles W. Overstreet, Chairman
June, 1997

“Findings from the Church Planting Survey”

Prepared by:

D. DeWayne Rush

&

L. Corbett Heimburger

For

The National Outreach Committee

of

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church

St. Louis, MO.

March, 1997

Findings from the Church Planting Survey

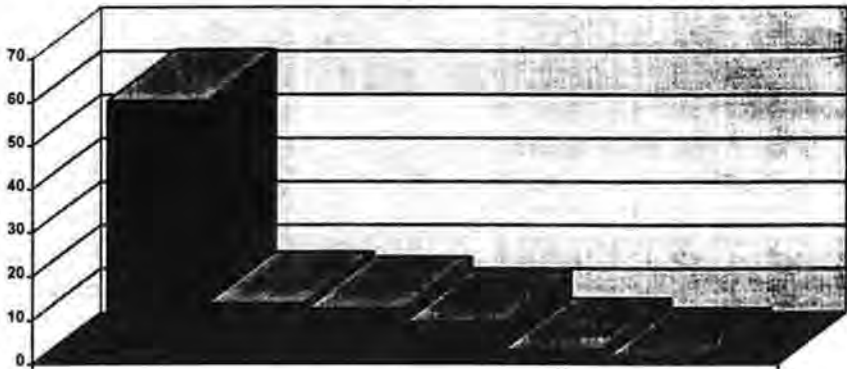
Part One

Introduction

The National Outreach Office received 69 replies to the recent church planting survey (copy attached). The surveys revealed several statistically significant items. Questions concerning a church plant's history, its finances, particulars, and the individual who planted it all pointed to factors that affected church growth. The sections of this report correspond to the survey. Only those questions which produced statistically significant information have been included below. However, the conclusion lists those items not included in the body of the report which did not appear to impact church growth. Part One reports the findings from churches which moved through the mission phases of their development and went on to become organized congregations. Part Two compiles the figures from those churches that were forced to close.

Church History

Type of Start-Up
Figure 1



NOC - 2 - 1

Figure 1 above graphically illustrates the various ways in which church plants were started. The average attendance of all churches surveyed was 276. When the average current attendance is analyzed based on start-up type, one statistic is glaring. Of the churches surveyed, only 13.9% were started as daughter churches. However, the average attendance of churches that were planted on the daughter model is 665 members! Thus, daughter church attendance is 240% above average.

This statistic would indicate that the daughter church model of planting has a significantly better chance of success than the other methods. The resources and support received by a church plant in the daughter model provides it with enormous opportunity to succeed.

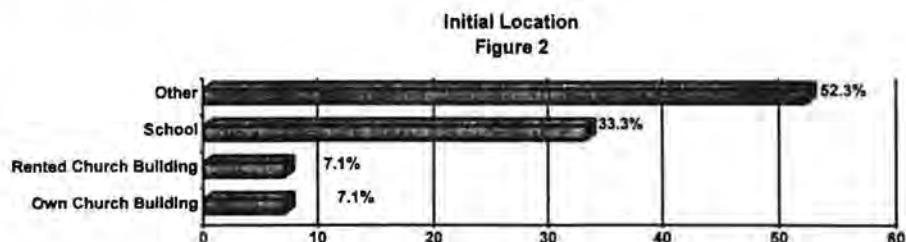
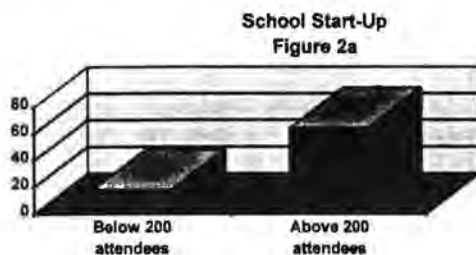


Figure 2 above gives the breakdown of the location type for initial church meetings. This statistic does not stand out unless you also examine the average current attendance. Of all the churches surveyed, 33.3% initially met in schools. Figure 2a below breaks this down further by illustrating the average current attendance of churches which initially met in schools.



NOC - 2 - 2

Of the churches which average less than 200 current attendees, 17.8% initially met in schools. Of the churches which average more than 200 current attendees, 64.2% initially met in schools. The average attendance of churches which initially met in schools is 498 (average attendance of all churches surveyed was 276).

There could be various local explanations for higher average attendance found in churches which initially met in schools. However, such across-the-board high attendance numbers hints at a transcendent explanation. Many surveys and studies have been done in order to determine why the unchurched decide to start attending church. One factor that is consistently mentioned is the desire to instill moral education and guidance in their children. As a result, churches that are perceived to be concerned with the needs of children are attractive. Churches which initially meet in schools are able to capitalize on this desire by identifying themselves with an institution generally perceived to have the best interests of children in mind. It also must be noted that churches which meet in schools have access to spaces which are similar to those of a church (i.e. auditorium/sanctuary, cafeteria/fellowship, classrooms/Sunday School, etc.).

Church Finances

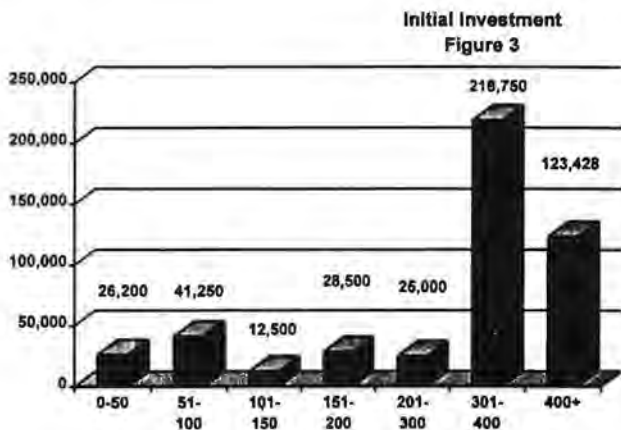


Figure 3 above shows the dollar amount of initial investments in church plants. Many churches surveyed (28.6%) received no initial investment other than regular tithes and offerings from its core group. The impact of the size of the initial investment can be seen when all churches are averaged together.

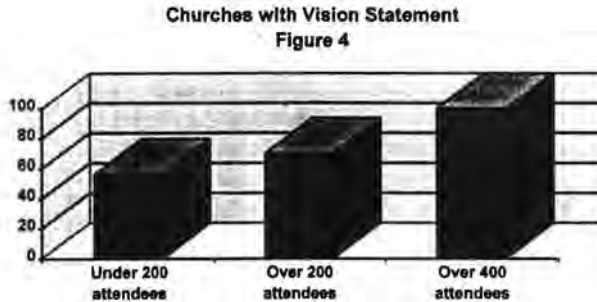
- Average initial investment of churches with a attendance below 200: \$6,778.00
- Average initial investment of churches with a attendance above 200: \$30,598.00

Some churches which average over 300 attendees began with a sizable initial investment (\$200,000+). This tends to inflate the numbers somewhat. However, churches above 300 hundred consistently showed initial investments in the low six-figure range. The survey clearly shows that the amount of initial investment affects the growth potential of a new church plant.

Church Particulars

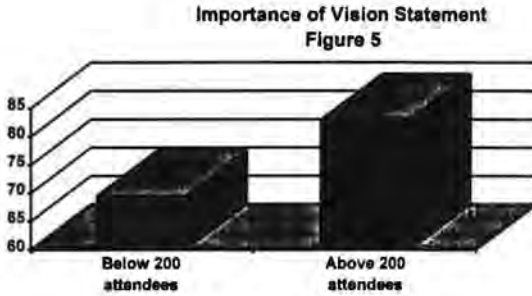
Vision

Two questions on the survey concerned whether or not a new church plant had a vision statement and whether or not that statement was important to the church's direction, planning, and goals. Figure 4 below shows the percentage of churches which had a vision statement, broken down according to average attendance.



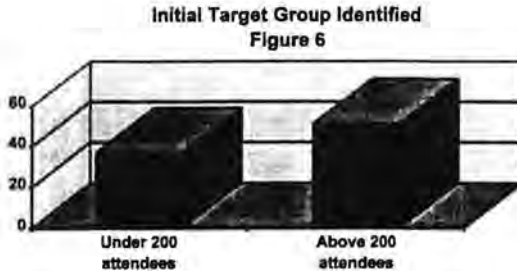
The existence of a vision statement is important to church growth. More important, however, is whether or not this vision statement was incorporated into the long range planning, as well as the

day to day decision making of the church. Figure 5 below represents the percentage of churches having a vision statement which responded that it was at least moderately important in the church's direction, planning and goals.



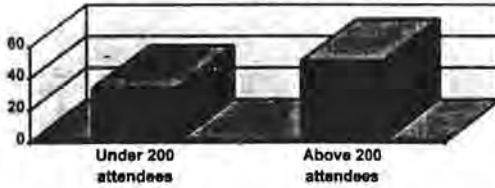
Targeting

One question on the survey asked if the church plant began with a particular target group in mind. While targeting remains a controversial subject in church growth, the statistics show that churches which devote the majority of their resources and efforts to reach a specific audience fare better in overall church growth. Figure 6 below shows this to be true in the EPC's survey.



Promotional Campaign

Churches Using a Promotional Campaign
Figure 7



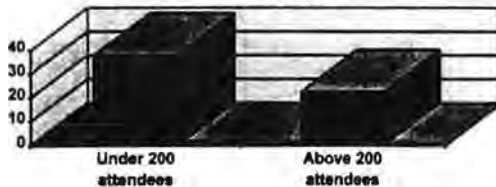
Some churches elected to begin their services with a special promotional campaign. Survey respondents could choose telemarketing, mass mail, newspaper ads, radio, invitation to friends, or others. The surveys indicated no statistical significance between options. However, there was a statistical significance regarding whether or not a promotional campaign was used at all.

Figure 7 explains this fact.

Evangelism/Discipleship

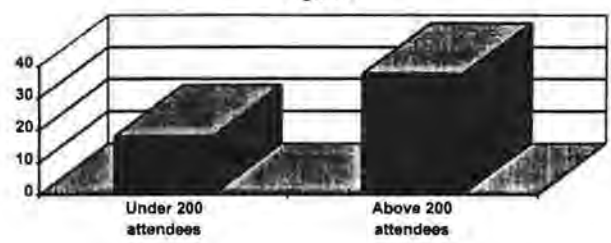
This was the most surprising statistic in the entire survey. The question concerned whether or not the church began with an outreach/evangelism program. Figure 8 below graphs the response.

Churches Beginning with an Outreach/Evangelism Plan
Figure 8



This statistic becomes more interesting when compared with responses regarding whether or not the church began with a programmatic discipleship program. Figure 9 graphs this response.

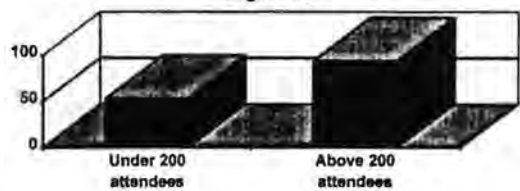
Churches Beginning with a Discipleship Program
Figure 9



Here the situation is reversed. Why did churches which began with an evangelism program grow more slowly? Why did churches which began with a discipleship program grow more rapidly?

Children's Ministry

Two or More Provisions for Children's Ministry
Figure 10



Perhaps one of the most significant statistics of the survey concerned provisions for children's ministry (see figure 10).. Respondents were asked which of the following ministries were initially available in their churches: Sunday School, VBS, children's outreach, Pioneers, or special staff. As in promotional campaigns, there was no statistical significance regarding the types of children's ministries. The most popular was Sunday School, followed by VBS. What was significant, however, was the number of children's ministries available to the congregation.

Overwhelmingly, churches that averaged over 200 attendees had more than one provision for children's ministry. Far fewer churches that averaged below 200 attendees had more than one provision for children.

An earlier statement in this report suggested that the moral education of their children was one of the main reasons people are returning to church. This statistic seems to reinforce this theory. When the unchurched see more than one provision for children's ministry, they are attracted to that church. It communicates a concern and care for children which they desire.

Church Planter Particulars

Experience

The survey requested information regarding two areas of experience. The first concerned pastoral experience. The second concerned church planting experience. Regarding the latter, there was no statistical significance between churches. Only 12.8% of respondents reported prior church planting experience. The amount of pastoral experience, however, did prove insightful. Figure 11 below illustrates the differences.

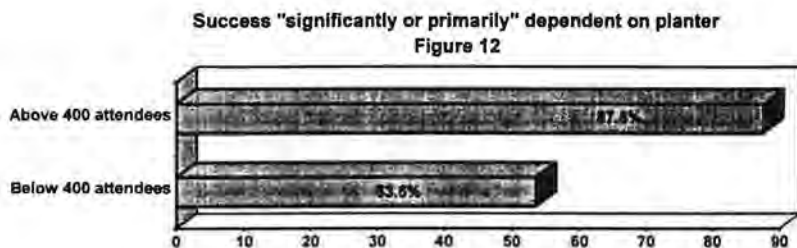


Pastors of the EPC's largest churches (400+ members) had an average of 10.1 years of pastoral experience. This is compared to an average of 16.2 years of pastoral experience for all other respondents to the survey. This is one of the more surprising findings in the survey results. Possible explanations are speculative at best. Two possible explanations are: 1) Younger

planters may be willing to take more risks. 2) Perhaps, because of inexperience, younger planters are more open to outside input and influence from books, mentors, and seminars.

Dependence on the church planter

Respondents were asked whether they felt the success of the mission depended on them. Their choices were: "not at all", "a little", "moderately", "significantly", and "primarily". An interesting statistical phenomenon occurred when the largest EPC churches (400+ members) were compared to the remainder. Figure 12 illustrates the phenomenon.



Many church experts point out the personality factor in church growth. Although most don't like to admit it, successful churches are often built around a strong leader who provides the impetus for church growth. This is not to diminish the fact that God is ultimately responsible for all church growth. However, a strong leadership personality which has a long tenure at the planted church is conducive to growth.

Conclusion

Many factors on the survey proved to be statistically insignificant. This is not to say that they were not important factors. An example would be the subject of prayer. There were questions on the survey concerning:

1. Organized prayer meetings when the mission first started
2. Outside prayer support for the planter
3. Number of hours a week the planter spent in personal prayer

All churches surveyed responded positively to the issue of prayer in one way or another. However, the pastor of a church of several hundred said he spent an hour a week in prayer, while one pastor of 50 prayed ten hours a week. In the next two surveys, these characteristics were reversed. There was no discernible pattern between churches on the issue of prayer. Other issues raised in the survey for which there was no statistical difference was:

- The length of time the mission church stayed in its initial meeting place
- The amount of tithe on church income
- The length of time it took a church to become financially independent
- Whether or not the mission church performed preliminary work
- The existence of small groups
- When leadership training began
- Whether or not the mission initially had multiple staff
- The type of worship
- Whether or not the church planter attended CPAC
- Whether the planter had prior church planting experience

There were, however, many factors that did prove statistically significant. These factors were illustrated above. To summarize once again, they were:

- The daughter church model of planting
- Using a school as an initial meeting site
- The amount of initial investment
- Whether or not a vision statement was in place
- Whether or not the vision statement was important to church decisions
- Whether or not the mission practiced targeting
- The presence of an early promotional campaign
- The number of provisions for children's ministries
- The amount of pastoral experience of the church planter
- Whether or not the planter viewed the success of the ministry as being dependent on him

Part Two

Introduction

The first part of our survey highlighted results from church plants that matured into organized congregations. This segment compiles statistics from churches that were forced to close. Through an exhaustive process that included three mailings and multiple phone calls, we tracked down persons from almost all of the 51 missions that either closed or left the denomination. Some of those missions appeared only as a name on the presbytery record and never did get started. In one case the couple who had attempted to plant one church had died. After paring down the total list, we calculated that we could possibly receive information from 35 churches. We received 25 responses back from individuals who represented 23 of these 35 missions – a 71% response rate. For some the simple act of reviewing the history of their work was too painful. Others just simply did return their forms even after several reminders. Jim Currie's persistent efforts over the last two years have enabled us to achieve the results we did. We owe him a debt of gratitude.

These surveys pointed to possible factors that may have made the opportunity for success less favorable. Those factors are listed below.

Finances

Initial Investment

Church plants that were successful had a significantly higher initial investment than church plants that closed. Successful church plants averaging over 200 in Sunday morning attendance had an average initial investment of \$30,598.00. Closed church plants that reported an initial investment averaged \$9,128.00. Only seven churches reported having an initial investment. Some of these were as low as \$900.00.

Church Particulars

A Unified Core Group?

The results of this survey question were perhaps the most telling of all. The question asked if the core group was unified in purpose before the church began. The three possible answers were: no, somewhat, and yes. 72.1% indicated that the core group was either not unified or only somewhat unified.

Vision

Church planting materials are replete with descriptions on the importance of vision. As a result, most churches begin with a vision. However, merely having a vision is often not enough. The vision statement must exert an influence on the long range planning and day-to-day decisions of the church. One question on the survey asked whether or not the church's vision was important in these areas. The possible answers were: not at all, some, moderate, and very important. Of all the closed church plants only 46.6% reported that the vision statement was very important. 83% of successful church plants reported that the vision statement of the church was important in its decision making structure.

Targeting

72.1% of closed church plants reported that they either had no target ministry group in mind or that they were only vaguely aware of one. The 22.2% of churches that reported a target group were an odd assortment. Some were too broad—Boomers. Others were too narrow—new residents. One closed church identified a target which read, "Other church members who might be interested in the EPC."

Church Planter Particulars

Average Years of Experience

The survey asked how many years of pastoral experience the church planter had before embarking on the field. Closed churches reported that the planter had an average of 8.3 years

ministry experience before starting their church. Successful church planters averaged 15.2 years of previous ministry experience.

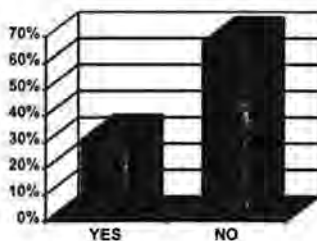
Assessment Center

Only 26.3% of closed churches reported that the planter had attended an assessment center prior to beginning a work. The vast majority of planters did not attend assessment. It is plausible to believe that many of these church planters would not have taken the call to start the work they did if they had been told that the gifts God had given them did not match the calling of a church planter.

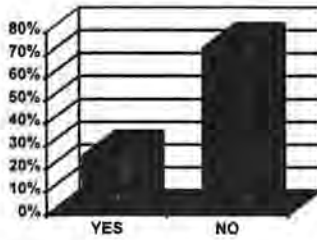
Lack of Essential Ministry Systems

Three questions on the survey were designed to measure whether essential ministry systems were in place when the church began worship. Outreach/evangelism, discipleship, and small group programs are considered vital to a successful launch. Survey results show that a lack of such systems can be a significant factor in church plant failure.

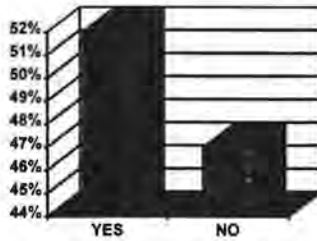
Did these closed churches begin with an outreach/evangelism program?



Did these closed churches begin with a discipleship program?



Did these closed churches begin with small groups?



Conclusion

In summary, the factors that were statistically significant and may point to unfavorable circumstances affecting a new church plant were:

- A small initial investment
- Lack of unity in the core group
- No clear target ministry group defined
- A vision that did not significantly affect decision making
- A small amount of previous ministry experience on the part of the planter
- No pre-field assessment opportunity
- Essential ministry systems were not in place when the church started.

General Comments

The survey also gave respondents the opportunity to respond to individual questions. Their general comments have been summarized under each question below.

What were some of the factors that contributed to the church's closing?

- Inadequate financial base: This was stated by about 35% of the churches. Many times this forced the planter into a position where secular employment had to be sought.
- Those involved in the plant did not have the skills necessary to interpret and assess demographic material.
- Issues surrounding targeting were pointed out by several respondents:
 - Multi-ethnic congregation tended to alienate one particular people group
 - Target was too narrow
 - Lack of vision in relation to target
- Issues surrounding planning and leadership were stated as contributing to the close:
 - Lack of pastoral leadership for two years
 - Impatient lay leadership
 - Inexperience on the part of the planter
 - Pastoral burnout
 - Lack of solid lay leadership
 - Better strategic planning with benchmarks were needed
- Several respondents commented on the the lack of a solid core group
- Lack of support was cited by some:
 - Lack of presbytery support
 - Lack of prayer support
- The church plant tended to attract desperately needy people who drained time and resources.

What are some of the things that you would have done differently?

- More pre-launch preparation
 - Evangelism program
 - Broader targeting
 - Mother/Daughter relationship
 - More prayer support
 - Vision in place before beginning
 - Better demographic research
- Would have done more in the area of core group cultivation
 - Started with a dedicated core group
 - More careful screening of the core group
 - Would have dealt with potential flash points earlier

- More ongoing church planting training
- Become more directly involved with presbytery on both a relational and financial level.
- Would have considered a team planting approach

Summary of Critical Differences

One of the chief goals of the survey is to discover factors that will lead to improvements in the church planting process. A comparison between the results from church plants continuing to operate and those which closed points to certain critical differences. Taking note of these critical differences can serve to highlight areas for future emphasis and training in order to avoid certain pitfalls in church planting efforts.

Core Group Dynamics

Twenty seven percent of successful church plants reported that their core group was either “not” or “only somewhat” unified in purpose when the work started. Seventy two percent of church plants forced to close reported that their core group was in this category.¹ The fact that almost a third of successful plants flourished in spite of a lack of initial core group unification demonstrates that core group difficulties do not preclude a successful planting effort. Core group dynamics, however, do have the potential to derail a project. An increased emphasis in training relating to core group assessment and screening, dynamics of change, and leadership skills would be a wise investment.

Initial Investment

Average initial investment for successful church plants averaged almost three times the amount for churches that were forced to close.² The ripple effect of a lack in adequate funding could be seen in areas crucial to a successful start: necessary support staff, provisions for children’s ministry, initial marketing and demographic research, and promotional campaigns. This factor points to a need to broaden the funding base for church planting efforts. Involving

¹ Many of the core group problems reported by closed churches hinted at serious levels of dysfunction. Some were characterized by open animosity or hostility.

² The average for successful churches was \$30,598. The average for closed churches was \$9,128.

more churches in the planting process, training in fundraising and donor cultivation, and an increased awareness of financial issues could be stressed in order to begin making progress in this area.

Vision

The critical difference in this area rests in elevating the church's vision into an active and vital component of day-to-day decision making. Most churches reported having a vision statement. However, when asked if this vision statement was influential in long range planning and the day-to-day decisions of the church only 46% of churches that were forced to close reported that it was very important. 83% of successful church plants reported that the church's vision was very important in this area. This disparity reflects a shortcoming in much thinking concerning vision. Attention must be focused on the steps necessary to implement a vision into the active life and focus of a church plant.

Church Planter Experience

Successful church planters had an average of 15.2 years of ministry experience. Planters who started churches that were forced to close had an average of 8.3 years.³ This factor should serve to place a continued emphasis on the church planter assessment process, as well as fuel continued efforts in the establishment of church planting internship programs.

Lack of Essential Ministry Systems

This critical difference was the most obvious of all the survey results. The survey asked questions regarding the following essential systems: an outreach/evangelism program, a discipleship program, and small groups. Churches that were forced to close simply did not have these systems in place before the church launched its public worship services.⁴ A church plant must have a plan to reach the unchurched and assimilate them into the life and body of the church in order to grow. The time and effort needed to create such essential ministries demands

³ Less ministry experience cannot, however, preclude the possibilities of a successful church plant. EPC church plants that average over 400 in attendance were started by men with an average of only 10 years experience.

⁴ 68% had no outreach/evangelism program; 73% had no discipleship program; and 47% had no small group program

that they be in place before people start attending a new church. Capturing and cultivating the amount of initial interest a new church generates is crucial to early and long-term survival

National Outreach Director's Report



During this assembly I want to put a nasty rumor to rest once and for all. What is that rumor? That God cannot work through the EPC to plant churches. After many years of painful disappointments when one mission church after another closed, we have seen God's graces poured out upon us. We have begun to reap some of the fruit of the initiatives we undertook.

The National Outreach Committee sponsored three church plants this year. Together those three churches combined for a total of **more than a thousand people** in attendance in services this Easter. More than half of those were not in any church a year ago.

Abundant Life Church in Chesapeake, Virginia started its first public worship service this January. One hundred thirty people attended that service. In the first three weeks, sixteen people made commitments to Christ, reports Danny Gilbert, church planter. His wife, Mary Beth, hosted an outreach luncheon for women in the area. One hundred ladies enjoyed the fashion and craft show as well as the Gospel presentation. At Easter, they had 175 people in attendance.

When Dan and Barbara Lacich arrived in Oviedo, Florida, in January, 1996, they knew only a few families and no one was committed to the new church they hoped to plant. By the time they held their first worship service that November, about 35 people claimed Cypress Pointe Church as their own. Their opening service received 275 people, most of them previously unchurched. Since then, a number of people have come to know Christ. Several outreach projects included cookie, literature, and balloon giveaways at the Taste of Oviedo, golf outings, an out-reach breakfast with pitcher Greg McMichaels, and rehabbing local homes. At Easter, 225 were in attendance.

Shawn and Patty Robinson came to us from another denomination with a passion to plant a church in the suburban East Bay of San Francisco. A strong core group from the church Shawn had served previously, partnered with them to start the work. From the beginning God has abundantly blessed this work. Since they started last September, more than 50 people have made professions of faith. Their average attendance is now about 450. At Easter, more than 600 gathered for worship.

The other main initiative our committee took was to hold the first ever **Presbytery Mobilization Conference**. Leaders from all the continental US presbyteries met together to plan strategies for church planting and renewal. National Outreach gave them the gift of time to plan together and some of the essential tools to do that effectively. I look forward to the months and years before us as presbyteries forge ahead with a clear sense of God's leading to spread the Gospel through new and vitalized churches.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Corbett Heimbarger".

Corbett Heimbarger, National Outreach Director

June, 1997

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(as adopted)

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 Greg Garrett
 Art Kaufmann
 Jim Killgore
 Dexter Kuhlman, Recording Clerk
 David Lovell
 Sheldon MacGillavray
 Tom Masterson
 W. Price Morrison
 Carol Osborn
 John Patterson
 Russ Ragon, Chairman
 Vance Rutan
 Dennis Saffron
 Reg Smith
 Larry Townsend
 Bob Walton
 Steve Wilkinson

Theology

Percy Andrews
 Judy Bloss
 Bill Branham, Jr., Recording Clerk
 Thom Burbridge
 Jimmy Carr
 Donovan Coley, Sr.
 Roger Derksen
 Thomas Dolch
 Howard Finkel
 John Gruneisen
 Debbie Hess
 Bill Hyer
 Bill Lindner
 John Mathieu
 David McLean
 Albert Neutel
 Davis Nichols
 Tom Pitman
 John Quigley
 Tony Register
 Steve Riser, Chairman
 Alan Roes
 Ray Sawmiller
 David Shira
 Bruce Spear
 Bob Stauffer
 Fred Stifel
 Mark Vanderput

Women's Ministries

King Brown
 John Dewald
 Michael Gatliff
 Joan Merritt
 Ron Odum
 James Orr
 Chaluy Ruangchan
 John Sims
 Nancy Stewart, Chairman
 John Ward

World Outreach

Bill Bumford
Bernard Draper
David Franklin
Michael Frison
Doug Graham
John Griffith
Don Hardman
Rister Jenkins
Jeanene King
Milton Knowlton
Bob Little
Bob Mathews
Charles Ming
David Moncla
Mark Moore
Jim Murphy
Abram Norton
Traverse Read, III
Bill Roberts
Ron Sadlow
Dave Satterthwaite, Recording Clerk
Rick Scarborough, Chairman
Bryan Slater
Jim Spencer
John Splinter
John Taylor
Ted Tubbesing
Lynn van der Harst
Jim Wallace
Rosemary Walton

POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE STATED CLERK

REPORTING RESPONSIBILITY:

The Assistant to the Stated Clerk will be a staff position reporting to the Stated Clerk.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Committee on Administration:**
Will review, in concert with the Executive Committee and the Stated Clerk, the schedule and agenda for the meetings of the COA and shall see that all necessary arrangements are made including the distribution of agendas to members of the Committee prior to the meeting.

- **All Program Committees:**
Will coordinate the scheduling of all committee meetings with the various committee chairs and likewise, will review and see that agendas for each meeting have been prepared and distributed to the members of each committee prior to the meeting.

- **The Assistant to the Stated Clerk will be responsible for assuring that appropriate minutes of these meetings are reviewed and distributed. This may be done personally or through assignment to a specific person. He will be the librarian of all Assembly committee minutes.**

- **The Assistant to the Stated Clerk will be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the General Assembly office.**

- **The Assistant to the Stated Clerk will be a resource person from the General Assembly office. In this activity his role is to be administrative with a pastoral spirit and he should utilize the gift of encouragement in applying himself to his work. He shall seek to enhance the effectiveness of presbyteries, while respecting regional or personal differences in style.**

- He will provide timely responses to inquiries, both verbal and written, that come to the Assembly office. He will respond to persons inquiring about EPC.
- He will be a staff resource to the Ministerial Vocation Committee.
- For each General Assembly, on behalf of the Moderator and Stated Clerk, coordinate plans with the local arrangements committee for all logistical matters and will be Operations Manager of the Assembly.

ANNUAL REPORTING AND ANALYSIS:

The Assistant to the Stated Clerk will be responsible for timely requesting and following up on a timely basis to insure receipt of reports that are due from each local church and presbytery, including end of year congregation and presbytery data.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Assistant to the Stated Clerk will be given specific financial responsibilities at an appropriate time.

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY

The Assistant to the Stated Clerk will be given specific supervisory responsibility at an appropriate time by the Stated Clerk.

OTHER DUTIES

The Assistant to the Stated Clerk will assume such other duties as may be assigned by the Stated Clerk.

Adopted 17th General Assembly, 1997

Permanent Judicial Commission Report

The Commission met for its regular pre-Assembly session on May 14th, 1997 in the General Assembly offices. Present were Jimmy McGuire, Moderator; Hal Polk, Clerk; Evelyn Cisney, Harold Haddon, Bob Hess, Leonard Pilgrim, Jim Rimmel and Jim Wall. The resignation of Albert Stancliff for health reasons was noted with regret. The Commission was joined in its work by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Ed Davis.

The meeting was convened at 9:10 A.M. by the Moderator with a reading from I Corinthians 1 and prayer. New members were welcomed and the work of the PJC outlined by the Moderator.

I. Request for Ruling from 16th General Assembly

The Commission reviewed the request of the 16th General Assembly for a ruling regarding the legitimacy of the current form of the third ordination vow (G 14-A-4, 14-E-4). A thorough review of the history of the language of the Book of Government as well as the history of changes in the title of "The Essentials of Our Faith" was conducted.

RULING: The PJC sustained the assessment of the Stated Clerk that the current form of the 4th ordination vow is the result of an unauthorized typographical alteration; that the words "essentials of the faith" should be printed in small case, plain letters; and that future editions of the Book of Government should be printed to conform to this correction.

Overtures from the Presbyteries of the East and Central South relating to the above matter were reviewed and received as matters of information.

II. Review of Ascending Overtures

A. From Presbytery of the West on the third ordination vow

An overture from the Presbytery of the West seeking clarification of the meaning of the third ordination vow was reviewed and received as a matter of information. While it is regarded as falling outside the parameters of the PJC's direct constitutional responsibilities, the following observations are made with respect to it with unanimous agreement:

Every Assembly, Presbytery and Session of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has lawfully required every ordinand to affirm his or her personal faith in the doctrines taught by the Westminster Confession of Faith and its catechisms as wholly consistent with Holy Scripture. Doctrinal affirmation by the ordinand is clearly focused in the third ordination vow (G.14-A-3, 14-E-3). It is the nature of a vow to settle the question being asked. There are no conditional vows, by design as well as by definition. To "...receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures..." means that the ordinand holds these teachings as his own, and will teach them as truth.

B. From Presbytery of the Midwest on relationship between the Essentials and The Westminster Confession of Faith

An overture from the Presbytery of the Midwest requiring the permanent Committee on Theology to conduct a study of the relationship between the Westminster Confession and the Essentials was reviewed and received as a matter of information.

C. From the Committee on Administration amending G.11-10

An overture from the Committee on Administration regarding G.11-10 was reviewed and is recommended for approval in the following expanded and altered form:

Present wording:

"In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that person without a valid call. The dismissing Presbytery shall be informed by the calling Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action."

COA proposed wording:

The COA recommends adding at the end of the section the following sentence, "The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate" so the section reads:

"In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that person without a valid call. The dismissing Presbytery shall be informed by the calling Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. *The Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate.*"

PJC proposed wording

The PJC further recommends that the entire paragraph be worded as follows:

"In the event the Minister being called is from some other Presbytery or other church body, the receiving Presbytery shall not enroll that person without a valid call. The dismissing *Presbytery church body** shall be informed by the calling Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. ~~The~~** Presbyteries shall deal directly with each other through their stated clerks in certifying both the call of the church and the credentials of the Minister or Candidate."

*Because not all ecclesiastical organizations are Presbyteries.

**The word "The" is removed to make this sentence applicable only to those situations in which a Presbytery is dealing with another Presbytery, in our or a sister denomination.

The Commission affirms the intent of the overture because it defines and requires the use of proper channels of official correspondence between Presbyteries in the transfer

of Ministers and Candidates.

III. Recommendations from the PJC

- A. Recommendation regarding G.11-6 on an Associate Pastor succeeding the Pastor**
Some consternation has arisen in the Church because of a lack of clarity regarding the intended sequence of steps required by G.11-6 (the nomination of an Associate Pastor to the position of Pastor of the same church). After much discussion of the history and nature of the issues involved in this paragraph and the recognition that there is indeed a lack of precision in the required steps which must be followed the Commission concluded that this section should be changed.

The Commission recommends the following:

- That the entire third sentence of G.11-6 be deleted.
- That this sentence be inserted in its place:
“However, should a Search Committee desire to consider an Associate Pastor as Pastor, approval by a three-fourths-vote of Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee to proceed.”

The section would then read:

“A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. Ordinarily, an Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor. ~~However, if by a three-fourths vote of the Church Session, request is made to Presbytery through the Ministerial Committee for an exclusion, the Presbytery may approve the Search Committee of the Congregation to nominate the Associate to the congregation as Pastor.~~” However, should a Search Committee desire to consider an Associate Pastor as Pastor, approval by a three-fourths vote of Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee to proceed.”

- B. Recommendation to amend G.16-9 regarding the source of a Moderator for a Session of a church without a Pastor)**

Confusion has been caused by what appears to be a contradiction involving G.16-9 and G.16-A-4 (regarding the source of a Moderator for a Session of a church without a Pastor). To rectify this disparity the Commission recommends the following changes in G.16-9:

- Delete the sentence that begins, “If there is no Pastor...”
- Amend the next sentence to read:
“Presbytery will appoint a Minister of the Presbytery to serve as Moderator when a church has no Pastor.”

The section would then read:

Officers of the Church Session: The Pastor shall be the Moderator. An Associate Pastor, at the request of the Pastor and with the consent of the Church Session, may serve as Moderator for the Pastor. ~~If there is no Pastor, the Church Session may elect one of its member to serve in that capacity. Also, Presbytery at its discretion, may~~ will appoint a Minister of the Presbytery to serve as Moderator when a church has no Pastor. The Pastor(s) elected by the particular church is a full member of the Church Session and has the privilege of voting. If the Pastor wishes to make motions or otherwise participate in debate, some other member of the Church Session should serve as Temporary Moderator. In addition to the Moderator each Church Session shall elect a Clerk.

The rationale of the PJC was twofold:

1. To address the discrepancy.
2. To have the Book of Government express in all its parts the proper relationship that subsists between Sessions and Presbyteries.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy McGuire, Moderator

Harold Polk, Clerk

Report of the Committee to Evaluate the Office of the Stated Clerk

APPENDICES

In accordance with the Acts of the Assembly (90-07), the Committee to Evaluate the Office of the Stated Clerk composed of RE Zelda Artz, RE Jan Bole, TE Graham Smith, TE Richard Little, and TE Wayne Hoffman, chairman met on January 27, 1997 at the General Assembly Office.

The committee reviewed the position description of the Stated Clerk and the reports of previous evaluation committees. The committee conducted several staff interviews and reported on visits with various pastors. The Committee finds that Stated Clerk, Dr. L. Edward Davis, has served the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, its pastors, congregations, presbyteries, and various committees and commissions in an exceptional fashion. He has faithfully executed the office of the Stated Clerk by demonstrating responsible stewardship of the resources of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. He is an exemplary ecumenical representative. He is a careful and prudent fiscal officer.

RECOMMENDATION: That the General Assembly renew the calling of Dr. L. Edward Davis to serve as Stated Clerk for an additional three-year term.

We recognize that this three year term is likely to be the last for Dr. Davis.

Accordingly, he has set the following goals for himself and the EPC:

1. To set the household in order to facilitate a healthy succession;
2. To vigorously support our theological balance and defend the basic affirmations of the Reformed faith;
3. To defend our historic freedoms of conscience both individually and locally in non-essential matters;
4. To maintain the parity of office in the life of the church.

Motion to adopt the recommendation of the committee was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wayne Hoffman, chairman
June, 1997

Stated Clerk's Report



What a privilege to be living on the threshold of the 21st century. Looking back to 1981, little did we realize how faithful and good the Lord would be to us across these 17 years. The years have produced an abundance of joys and tears, surprises and disappointments. But like David, the psalmist, we enthusiastically proclaim, "My soul rejoices!"

A denomination presbyterian in character is constituted of three basic entities: congregations, presbyteries, plus its General Assembly. As representative of the larger church, the General Assembly seeks to faithfully achieve those mission goals and ministries determined by its membership through representative assembly. The ministry of the Assembly between stated meetings is carried forward

through the oversight and consideration of appropriate administrative bodies, a variety of program committees and the office of the General Assembly.

The stated mission of the Assembly is "to glorify God by helping presbyteries and congregations fulfill Christ's mission for His Church in those regions and communities God calls them to serve." The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is uniquely postured within the presbyterian and evangelical community. As such, it is absolutely imperative for our denominational family to reaffirm our commitment and be renewed in our confidence that truly God has called us to this place "for such a time as this."

Taking stock each year is like taking a family picture. A family picture shows it all—blessings and blemishes. Although recent Lilly Foundation research insists that distinctive identities of mainline denominations are fading, and "brand loyalty" has significantly weakened in the pew, I believe the EPC will continue believing itself to be a family committed to the biblical truth but fully evangelical and loving in spirit.

History

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church was birthed in God's providence in 1981. We were a people called out of a larger church which had left us in certain matters of faith and freedom. In that "kairos" moment, we affirmed a number of distinctive historic values which were to characterize the life of this young church. Briefly stated, these historic values, in my judgment, are:

- In authority, bound by conscience to the Word of God and always being reformed by its testimony;
- In beliefs, evangelical and reformed in its understanding of Scripture without becoming doctrinaire;
- In freedom of conscience, liberty to be guided by Word and Spirit in matters not essential to salvation of the fundamental tenets of the Confession. In practice,
 - the carrying forth of the mission of the church defined and initiated by the appropriate court of the church;
 - the absolute indispensability of the presbytery as a governing body in the life of the church;
 - the parity of the offices of the church;
 - the inclusiveness of like-minded congregational families irrespective of size or location.

- In life, a spiritual vibrancy demonstrating the living presence of Christ but protected by the discipline of the Word from scholasticism or mysticism.

CONCERN...

King Solomon the sage once said, "The little foxes are ruining the vineyards." To be reformed is to live under the ceaseless scrutiny of God's living Word. To gain greater clarity and understanding of one's historic values follows. However, to alter historic foundations and distinctive may prove perilous.

Growth

In what follows, you will find a handful of statistical footprints which afford small pictures of the family's life. A succinct overview of congregational and presbytery growth in membership and attendance is provided for reflection (Attachment I).

I. **Active Membership**

1994	1995	1996	% Change
52004	52031	53100	2%

The inclusive membership is:

1. Active adult members:	53,100
2. Members on baptized roll:	4,402
3. Ministers on presbytery rolls:	410
	<u>57,912</u>

II. **Number of churches** reported this Assembly year is 183, including both particular and mission churches.

1994	1995	1996	% Change
177	177	183	+3.4%

New churches added this Assembly year:

1. New Covenant Natchez, MS)	7. Hope Church (Richmond, VA)
2. City of Refuge (Houston, TX)	8. Lakeland Community. (Lees Summit, MO)
3. Grace Community (Montgomery, AL)	9. Stonebridge Church (Perrysburg OH)
4. Glendale Presbyterian (DeFuniak Springs, FL)	10. Clearwater Community (Buena Vista, CO)
5. Bridgeway Church (Chesapeake, VA)	11. Christ Covenant (Leoti, KS)
6. Abundant Life (Chesapeake, VA)	

Offsetting greater gain was the loss of the following churches:

1. First Presbyterian (Louisville, KY) dissolved
2. First Presbyterian (Atmore, AL) dismissed to PCA
3. New Life Presbyterian (Gaithersburg, MD) dissolved
4. Redeemer, New Kensington, PA (dismissed to CCCC)
5. New Hope (Matthews, NC) dissolved

III. **Internal growth factors**, when separated and considered individually, provide encouragement and yet call forth some degree of soul searching.

	1994	1995	1996	% Change
Churches reflecting gain in membership	51%	50%	45%	-5%
Churches reflecting loss in membership	34%	32%	32%	0%
Churches reflecting no change	15%	12%	8%	-4%
Total professions of faith recorded	1,438	1,362	1,518	+11%
Adult professions	921	858	1,062	+24%
Youth professions	517	504	456	-10%
Total baptisms		1,505	1,465	-3%
Adult baptisms	568	586	576	-2%
Infant baptisms		919	889	-3%
Sunday School enrollment	33,221	34,069	35,075	+3%

IV. Reflections...

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church continues to enjoy a very modest growth. Continuing positive growth obviously depends on a variety of factors. Note the statistics of congregational growth by presbytery in Attachment 1.

A particular trend deserves serious attention. In Attachment 2, a roster of churches dissolved or dismissed from 1990-1997 may be seen. Note the following:

Total churches:	49
1. Dissolved	33
2. Dismissed	16
a. to independence:	9
b. to other denominations	6
c. to merger	1

For a period of seven years, dismissing 16 churches to another evangelical body (PCA, Vineyard, CCCC, etc.) seems not highly unusual. However, to see 33 churches dissolved for a 67% of the total should concern us. New commitment and strategies by the respective presbyteries are a must. The smaller church must be nurtured and cared for. A priority called for.

To focus more clearly on denominational demographics, note Attachments 3A and 3B. To date, 68% of our churches have memberships under 200. Another statistic unique to the EPC is that in 6% of our churches, 44% of the denominational membership may be found. The mid-sized church (300-899) reflects 39% of membership, with churches under 200 members holding 17% of membership.

Another brief thought. In my judgment, a base line of 35 churches exists who have the potential of "daughtering" a church. At the moment, I'm aware of two to three churches actively engaged in daughter church planting, while a few others are contemplating the possibility. Planting churches by daughtering has been a real historic strength. Let's rediscover it!

CONCERN...

Although evangelism by profession of faith increased 11% this past year, it does not seem evangelism, when seen in the larger picture, yet has the priority it needs. Our Moderator has spoken clearly on this matter.

CONCERN...

The word is commitment. Evangelism is commitment to Christ. But what of membership, lay ministry, giving and other categories? When you study Attachment I on congregational growth, note the handsome increase in worship attendance reflected in several presbyteries. By contrast, the conversion of attendance into membership suggests a need to place new priority on a commitment to membership and all within the covenantal framework which such suggests.

CONCERN...

In his recent book, *The Healthy Church*, Peter Wagner suggests that many churches today suffer from "koinonitis." While "koinonia" is "an essential feature of the life of a dynamic, healthy church...koinonia can be easily overdone until it becomes...fellowship inflammation." In his judgment, if the disease of "koinonitis" sets in, "interpersonal relationships tend to become so mutually absorbing that they can be regarded as the central focal activity for almost all church activity." The consequence—the church cannot grow as it should.

"Before anyone realizes it, a church can degenerate into an exclusive circle of spiritual navel-gazers." His prophetic warning is clear, "...to emphasize discipleship, teaching, and community at the expense of evangelism as a top priority" is deadly. Wagner pleads with evangelicals to discard the "bless me" syndrome, and take seriously again our Lord's command to "make disciples of all nations." On this one, I think Peter is correct.

Giving

Denominational Giving reflects, in the words of a former moderator, the index of "the commitment to our denomination that we should have." This year, the picture offers both encouragement and concern. Here are some footprints.

Per Member Denominational Giving:

1994	1995	1996	% Change
567,139	646,860	640,522	-1%

Presbytery Giving:

1994	1995	1996	% Change
603,700	616,508	677,161	+10%

Benevolence Giving: Total benevolence giving of \$1,313,941 may be contrasted with \$1,078,245 in 1995, a difference of 22%. Of the \$1,121,660, \$929,379 came from EPC churches. The difference of \$192,281 was provided by individual giving, mostly designated for personal missionary support.

Total Benevolence Giving:	1995	1996	% Change
Missionary Support	711,124	888,614	25%
World Outreach	182,236	177,834	-2%
Women's Ministries	33,534	54,541	63%
Special Offerings	46,210	44,724	-3%
National Outreach	59,351	72,471	22%
Church Loan Fund	10,950	11,185	2%
Youth Ministries	297	719	142%
Other Designated Giving	34,543	63,854	85%
	<u>1,078,245</u>	<u>1,313,941</u>	22%

Let me summarize. In 1996, EPC membership gave a total average of \$33.17 per member. The per member giving breakdown is as follows:

Administration Budget	\$12.06 per member
Benevolence Budget	8.00 " "
Missionary Support	13.11 " "
	<u>33.17 per member</u>

Denominational Benevolence Giving

Approved Benevolence Asking Project	Goal	Actual	%
1. Orlando Church Planting	50,000	49,204	98%
2. Church Loan Fund	25,000	11,185	45%
3. Church Planting	50,000	22,941	46%
4. Youth Ministries	8,000	673	8%
5. Per Woman Asking	25,000	12,903	52%
6. Faith Focus '96	30,000	41,449	138%
7. Siberia Team Ministry	15,000	6,849	46%
8. Kazakhstan Team Ministry	15,000	5,000	33%
9. Russian Study Bibles	5,000	4,855	97%
10. China Project	50,000	27,730	55%
11. World Impact/Military Avenue	30,000	26,408	88%
12. Appalachian Project	5,000	4,054	81%
13. Brazil Theological Scholarships	55,800	38,090	68%
14. Brazil Foreign Missions	10,000	14,678	147%
15. Ghana New Ministry Development	13,000	2,478	19%
16. Brazil National Missions - Tocantins Outr.	10,000	2,728	27%
17. Brazil National Missions - Sammaar	5,200	--	0%
18. Portuguese Study Bibles	6,000	--	0%
19. Muslim Team Development	10,000	6,300	63%
20. Argentina Field Development	40,000	10,687	27%
21. Argentina Leadership Development	15,000	8,152	54%
22. Argentina Church Planting	30,000	3,279	11%
23. Argentina IBBA Library Development	5,000	5,000	100%
24. Argentina Spanish Resource Center	1,500	--	0%
25. Ministerial Endowment Trust	5,000	83	2%
26. Newly Ordained Ministers' Dinner	3,000	333	11%
27. Andrew A. Jumper Scholarship Fund	106,000	19,201	18%
28. EPC Reflections Magazine	45,000	8,616	19%
	<u>668,500</u>	<u>332,876</u>	<u>50%</u>

Last year, the standing Administration Committee drafted a letter adopted by the Assembly, reflecting concerns. Those concerns arose from the context of a 43% response to '95 askings.

1. How well are the Benevolence Askings being communicated to the membership?
2. How are the benevolence goals arrived at and how realistic are they?

The above statistics do provide a measure of encouragement. Of the denominational benevolence askings, giving this year represents a 50% response. Missionary support increased by 25%. In fact, the total of all benevolence giving (\$1,313,941 vs. \$1,078,245) reports a 22% increase. Encouragement.

CONCERN...

The General Assembly continues to face a major challenge in communication and ownership of its determined benevolence and mission program. Many EPC dollars are going elsewhere. Better communication of vision, goals and programs must reach the pews with sessional ownership. A must for us all.

Some Additional Notes

1. The dream of having a **Church Loan Fund** to which young churches may come for help in land acquisition and building began some years ago. The Church Loan Fund is alive and well. Ten loans are currently out.

<u>Loan</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Balance</u>
a. Heartland (Kansas)	50,000	24,570
b. Westkirk (Iowa)	50,000	26,667
c. La Mision (Argentina)	50,000	39,580
d. Faith (Ohio)	50,000	39,583
e. North Park (Pennsylvania)	50,000	40,417
f. Elkton (Virginia)	50,000	40,000
g. Tabernacle (Ohio)	50,000	45,000
h. Cornerstone (Texas)	50,000	45,833
i. Christ Fellowship (Colorado)	50,000	46,250
j. Covenant Community (Colorado)	50,000	47,500
	CLF Cash Balance:	147,652
	Loan Balance:	<u>395,401</u>
	Fund Balance	543,053

2. The denominational **Group Insurance Plan** is alive and well. Note the following:

Insurance	
Reserves:	\$1,669,923
Employee enrollment	414
Employees with dependents	316
Claims paid in 1996	\$1,719,928
Claims paid January-April, 1997	\$453,223
Pension	
Participating churches	114
Employees with active accounts	435
Passive accounts	89
Plan assets	\$9,003,233

Future

Our Moderator, Buck Russell, noted how often he faced such questions as, "How is our denomination doing? What is the state of the church?" These questions are expected. They are good and reasonable questions.

Some years ago in an address, I heard Martin Marty, the eminent church historian asked the question, "Is there a future for denominations?" "Yes!" he quickly responded, "there is a future, but it will be different." Marty continued, "In the future, denominations will be families of churches characterized by elective affinity and bonded with affectionality."

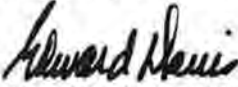
Note the essential components:

- a family of churches
- defined by chosen values
- bonded by the affection of the Spirit.

As the Evangelical Presbyterian Church faces the 21st Century, may God increase its family vision—that of being "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God in order to declare the praises of him who called us out of darkness into his wonderful light."

And may the family never be reluctant to affirm its motto, "In Essentials, Unity; In Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity."

Respectfully submitted,



Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
June, 1997

CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH - 1996 (By Presbytery)

*Current information approximated from previous year.

- Mission church status

Attachment I

APPENDICES

CENTRAL SOUTH								
CHURCH	1994	1995	1996	% CHANGE	95 SUN. AM	96 SUN AM	% CHANGE	
Atoka Presbyterian	42	44	44	0%	50	50	0%	
Christ Community	39	28	21	-25%	22		-100%	
Christ EPC	686	696	628	-10%	520	500	-4%	
Christ Pres.-Decatur*	35	35	35	0%				
Christ Pres. - Cape Girardeau	50	38	45	18%	40	41	3%	
Church of the Saviour	58	58	58	0%				
Church of the King	100	49	39	-20%	80	105	31%	
City of Refuge#			104			250		
Cornerstone Presbyterian	55	69	74	7%	61	85	39%	
Covenant Presbyterian	49	37	38	3%	30	30	0%	
CrossPoint Community	69	73	93	27%	130	140	8%	
Crossroads Community	39	39	32	-18%		79		
EPC of Marshall	177	200	222	11%	155	167	8%	
First EPC - Anna	150	159	164	3%	280	311	11%	
First Pres. - Atmore	88	80						
First Pres. - Houma	79	66	71	8%	40	45	13%	
First Pres. - Meridian	424	444	466	5%	310	460	48%	
First Pres. - Waskom	27	25	23	-8%	25	25	0%	
First Pres. - West Point	145	144	148	3%	125	125	0%	
Golden Rule*	52	52	45	-13%				
Grace Community*			65					
Hope Presbyterian	392	408	645	58%	600	1,225	104%	
Lakeside Presbyterian	558	546	533	-2%	315	315	0%	
Louisville Presbyterian*	65	65	65	0%				
New Covenant Presbyterian#			18					
Providence Presbyterian	70	77	68	-12%	110	110	0%	
Redeemer EPC	65	68	68	0%	70	70	0%	
River of Life # *	55	106	106	0%	150			
Second Presbyterian	3,303	3,104	3,138	1%	1,160	1,455	25%	
Trinity Presbyterian	55	58	66	14%	85	58	-32%	
Tunica Presbyterian	133	132	127	-4%	100	110	10%	
Westminster Presbyterian	277	281	287	2%	200	180	-10%	
Zachary Presbyterian	40	54	87	61%	47	58	23%	
TOTAL	7,377	7,235	7,623	5%	4,705	5,994	27%	
EAST								
Ashland EPC	413	406	413	2%	270	365	35%	
Calvary EPC	194	168	171	2%	90	87	-3%	
Dundak Presbyterian	276	264	282	7%	210	230	10%	
Faith Presbyterian	222	218	234	7%	196	218	11%	
Fourth Presbyterian	2,302	2,331	2,367	2%	1,370	1,425	4%	
Goodwill Presbyterian	93	88	96	9%	125			
Montclair Community Church	31	27	27	0%	40	40	0%	
New Covenant	219	220	237	8%	158	157	-1%	
New Hope #	50	50	58	16%	80	115	44%	
New Life Presbyterian	48	46			45			
North Park EPC	546	429	418	-3%	375	379	1%	
Pohick Valley Presbyterian	46	43	43	0%	30	25	-17%	
Redeemer EPC #	14	12			25			
TOTAL	4,454	4,302	4,346	1%	3,014	3,041	1%	

CHURCH	1994	1995	1996	% CHANGE	1995 SUN. A	96 SUN AM	% CHANGE
FLORIDA							
Abundant Life EPC	35	26	26	0%	22	17	-23%
Christ Covenant	117	119	133	12%	85	80	-6%
Cornestone EPC	129	138	149	8%	122	133	9%
Cypress Pointe# *		0	100				
EPC of Plant City			328			275	
Faith EPC	348	339	343	1%	275	320	16%
First Presbyterian	143	157	142	-10%	140		
Glendale Presbyterian*			65				
New Covenant	1,085	1,150	948	-18%	800	650	-19%
Trinity EPC	122	124	110	-11%		95	
TOTAL	2,270	2,053	2,344	14%	1,444	1,570	9%
MID-AMERICA							
Baldwin Community	42	41	40	-2%	25	25	0%
Central Presbyterian	2,804	2,914	2,881	-1%	812	1,249	54%
Covenant Chapel	228	251	222	-12%	403	360	-11%
Emmanuel Presbyterian	205	205	65	-68%	65	70	8%
Faith EPC*	7	7	8				
Grace EPC	180	225	271	20%	370	610	65%
Heartland Community	304	321	400	25%	1,000	925	-8%
Immanuel Presbyterian	264	288	281	-2%	280	290	4%
Lakeland Community*			40				
New Harvest Community #	28	45	.48	7%	50	65	30%
Sutter Presbyterian	106	107	105	-1%	84	90	7%
West Highlands EPC # *	41	41	65				
Westkirk Presbyterian	249	292	272	-7%	205	195	-5%
TOTAL	4,511	4,737	4,699	-1%	3,294	3,879	18%
MID-ATLANTIC							
Abundant Life*			50				
Bethesda Presbyterian	61	61	50	-18%	50	60	20%
Bridgeway Church*			50				
Brunswick Presbyterian	33	36	33	-8%	30	20	-33%
Christ Church EPC	77	68	83	22%	130	140	8%
Christ EPC -Midlothian	43	43	33	-23%		35	
Christ Fellowship	51	47	45	-4%		93	
Cleveland Presbyterian	62	62	38	-39%	40	36	-10%
Covenant Community - Charlotte	61	62	47	-24%	56	79	41%
Covenant Community - Albemarle #	27	25	21	-16%	32	23	-28%
Covenant Fellowship - Shelby	55	55	64	16%	75	75	0%
Cramerton EPC	49	42	37	-12%	30	54	80%
Cregmore Church	33	39	54	38%	65	135	108%
EPC - Elkton	83	111	139	25%	100	100	0%
EPC of Fredericksburg	39	12	16	33%	35	25	-29%
Emmanuel Presbyterian	29	40	39	-3%	58	58	0%
Faith EPC	38	33	35	6%	27	30	11%
Fellowship of Christ	123	135	143	6%	200	200	0%
First EPC - Clover	22	32	34	6%	45	67	49%
Forest Hill - Charlotte	1,773	1,656	1,589	-4%	1,201	1,726	44%
Forest Hills Presbyterian - Wilson	81	85	94	11%	90	50	-44%
Kempsville Presbyterian	1,397	1,465	1,316	-10%	1,180	1,148	-3%
Lebanon Presbyterian	55	56	59	5%	70	70	0%
Lee Park	80	50	80	60%	45	68	51%
Linwood Presbyterian	73	64	64	0%	38	34	-11%

CHURCH	1994	1995	1996	% CHANGE	1995 SUN AM	96 SUN AM	% CHANGE
MID-ATLANTIC cont'd.							
Myrtle Grove Presbyterian	1,389	1,367	1,312	-4%	900	900	0%
New Hope Presbyterian	45	49					
New Hope Church - Richmond *			25				
Northampton Presbyterian	109	111	99	-11%	50	50	0%
Overbrook Community	92	102	116	14%	120	120	0%
Perrow Presbyterian	340	315	312	-1%	510	500	-2%
Reynolds Presbyterian	817	780	835	7%	555	745	34%
St. Giles	362	346	335	-3%	388	268	-31%
Trinity Presbyterian	455	470	448	-5%	280	355	27%
Westminster Presbyterian	548	553	508	-8%	346	284	-18%
Woodside Presbyterian	44	45	33	-27%	60	31	-48%
TOTAL	8,546	8,417	8,236	-2%	6,806	7,579	11%
MIDWEST							
Calvary Presbyterian	583	627	638	2%	415	420	1%
Community EPC	76	98	116	18%	275	305	11%
Cornerstone Presbyterian	643	714	880	23%	1,160	1,450	25%
Covenant Presbyterian	82	83	72	-13%	140	140	0%
East Crossing #	58	42	43	2%	50	52	4%
Evangelical Presbyterian Fellowship	152	152	170	12%	175	209	19%
Faith EPC - Richmond	126	122	138	13%		195	
Faith EPC - Lake Orion	250	203	272	34%		577	
Fellowship EPC	197	226	218	-4%		300	
First Presbyterian	797	797	823	3%	502	554	10%
Grace Chapel	449	454	452	0%	447	423	-5%
Highview EPC	86	85	84	-1%	85	85	0%
Hope Evangelical Fellowship	77	85	91	7%	65	60	-8%
Kensington Community	355	444	603	36%	2,100	2,700	29%
Knox Presbyterian - Ann Arbor	195	256	281	10%	400	400	0%
Knox Presbyterian - Harrison Twp.	483	521	548	5%	650	890	37%
Lake City EPC	79	76	75	-1%	100	120	20%
Military Avenue EPC	71	75	80	7%	150	125	-17%
Mt. Pleasant Community	222	252	267	6%	314	342	9%
North Oaks Community	42	42	60	43%	110	120	9%
Oakland Avenue EPC	231	227	247	9%	100	190	90%
St. Andrew EPC	64	84	101	20%	91	110	21%
Stonebridge Church'			50				
Tabernacle EPC	483	526	483	-8%	435	457	5%
Trinity Presbyterian - Columbia	171	167	218	31%	115	110	-4%
Trinity Presbyterian - Plymouth	595	615	602	-2%	610	610	0%
Ward Presbyterian	4,601	4,520	4,191	-7%	2,657	2,949	11%
TOTAL	11,168	11,493	11,803	3%	11,146	13,893	25%
SOUTHEAST							
Brainerd Presbyterian	479	475	485	2%	255	240	-6%
Christ Presbyterian	27	29	33	14%	40	38	-5%
Community Bible	102	120	124	3%	200	184	-8%
Cornerstone EPC	79	79	76	-4%	77	101	31%
Faith Presbyterian	112	106	92	-13%	67	48	-28%
First Presbyterian - Rome	1,075	1,119	1,143	2%	585	500	-15%
Flatrock Covenant Community	50		25				
Gateway Evangelical Presbyterian			15			18	
Grace EPC - Franklin	71	86	91	6%	94	100	6%
Grace Presbyterian - Marietta	85	83	79	-5%	70	70	0%

CHURCH	1994	1995	1996	% CHANGE	1995 SUN. A	96 SUN AM	% CHANGE
SOUTHEAST cont'd.	80	89	115	29%	158	267	69%
Harvest Church	80	89	115	29%	158	267	69%
Hope EPC	60	62	65	5%	85	65	-24%
Lookout Valley Presbyterian	107	110	101	-8%	75	70	-7%
Lynn Garden Presbyterian	98	91	90	-1%	145	110	-24%
Mount Calvary Presbyterian	46	53	54	2%	72	58	-19%
New Beginning Presbyterian	149	132	128	-3%	120	104	-13%
Northshore Presbyterian	55	57	63	11%	55	75	36%
Plumtree Presbyterian	149	160	110	-31%	105	110	5%
Valleybrook Presbyterian	124	129	137	6%	210	200	-5%
TOTAL	2,948	2,980	3,026	2%	2,413	2,358	-2%
WEST							
Bear Creek	564	530	541	2%	464	482	4%
Canyon Creek Community	200	70	78	11%	234	252	8%
Cherry Creek Presbyterian	1,098	1,027	1,066	4%	1,297	1,155	-11%
Cherry Hills Community	3,598	3,671	3,387	-8%	3,250	3,000	-8%
Christ Covenant Fellowship*			50				
Christ's Family Presbyterian	25	14	39	179%	43	27	-37%
Christ Fellowship	46	53	53	0%	120	70	-42%
Clayton Community Church#			150				
Cleanwater Community*			50				
Cornerstone Community	231	180	218	21%	185	220	19%
Covenant Community	66	70	78	11%	80	90	13%
Faith Evangelical	360	390	391	0%	450	440	-2%
Faith Presbyterian - Folsom #	18	23	33	43%	50	45	-10%
Faith Presbyterian - Aurora	1,305	1,165	1,108	-5%	814	770	-5%
First EPC - Renton	545	562	589	5%	585	612	5%
Greenwood Community	508	581	578	-1%	850	1,000	18%
Lookout Mountain Community	187	232	328	41%	670	950	42%
Morningside Presbyterian	142	145	143	-1%	100	95	-5%
New Community Christian#			63			250	
New Covenant Presbyterian	53	61	70	15%	75	100	33%
Northwest Presbyterian	31	32	37	16%	71	101	42%
Parker Presbyterian*	203	256	256	0%	300		
Santa Maria Community	76	77	78	1%	50	50	0%
Thai EPC*	36	45	45	0%	40		
Trinity EPC	158	165	163	-1%	179	185	3%
Valley Community Church		53	55	4%		75	
West Bowles Community*	484	554	554	0%	884		
TOTAL	9,934	9,956	10,201	2%	10,791	9,969	-8%
ST. ANDREW'S							
Belgrano*	25	25	25				
City Church - Buenos *	73	73	73				
Metro - Buenos Aires*	75	150	150				
Olivos*	332	337	347		150		
Paranacito *	50	50	50				
Quilmes*	35	40	40				
San Antonio de Padua*	33	33	33				
Temperley*	133	150	160				
TOTAL	735	858	878		150		
GRAND TOTAL	51,943	52,031	53,156	2%	43,763	48,283	10%

Attachment 2

CHURCHES

DISSOLVED OR DISMISSED (1990-1997)

Allegheny

1. New Hope (Steubenville, OH) dissolved 9/91

Central South Presbytery

1. Resurrection Life (Birmingham, AL) dissolved 1990-91
2. EPC mission church (Jackson, MS) 1990-91, dissolved
3. Calvary (McComb, MS) dismissed to independence 3/92
4. Northport EPC (Northport, AL) dismissed to independence 7/92)
5. Covenant Community (Waco, TX) dissolved 10/92
6. Freedom Presbyterian (Tulsa, OK) dissolved 10/93
7. First Presbyterian, (Atmore, AL) dismissed to PCA 10/25/96

East Presbytery

1. Oakwood Presbyterian (State College, PA) dismissed to PCA 1989-90
2. First Love (Babylon, NC) dismissed to independence 10/89)
3. Christian Covenant (Rockville, MD) dismissed to independence 1990-91
4. Jea Ja (Boston, MA) dissolved 5/94
5. Redeemer (New Kensington, PA) dismissed to CCCC
6. New Life Presbyterian (Gaithersburg, MD) dissolved 4/97

Far West

1. New Life EPC (Chandler, AZ) dissolved 12/91

Florida Presbytery

1. First Presbyterian (Niceville, FL) dismissed to PCA
2. Trinity (Naples, FL) dissolved 1996

Mid-America Presbytery

1. Grace Fellowship Presbyterian (St. Peters, MO) dissolved 4/93
2. Christ Chapel (Chesterfield, MO) dissolved 1996

Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

1. First EPC of Rock Hill (Rock Hill, SC) dissolved 1989-90
2. EPC (Columbia, SC) dissolved 6/89
3. Trinity mission church (Chapel Hill, NC) dissolved 1990-91
4. First, Gastonia (merged with Linwood EPC)
5. Fairview Christian Fellowship (Asheville, NC) dismissed to independence 2/92)
6. EPC of Burlington (Burlington, NC) dissolved 2/92
7. First EPC (Richmond, VA) dissolved 1/93
8. New Beginnings (Greensboro, NC) dismissed to Vineyard 8/94
9. New Hope, (Matthews, NC) dissolved 4/96

Midwest Presbytery

1. Bay Pointe EPC (Lake Orion, MI) dismissed to independence

Southeast Presbytery

1. Christ Community (Chattanooga, TN) dissolved 2/90
2. Winchester (Winchester, KY) dismissed to independence 8/91
3. Prince of Peace (Knoxville, TN) dissolved 1990-91
4. Grace Christian Fellowship (Knoxville, TN) dissolved 1990-91
5. Trinity (Tucker, GA) dissolved 10/91
6. Stones River (Nashville, TN) dissolved 3/94
7. Grace EPC (Murphrysboro, TN) dissolved 5/94
8. New Covenant (Atlanta, GA) dismissed to independence 1995
9. First Presbyterian (Louisville, KY) dissolved 1996

St. Andrews Presbytery**West Presbytery**

1. Korean Presbyterian (Colorado Springs, CO) dissolved 1990-91
2. EP Communion (Albuquerque, NM) dissolved 1990-91
3. Colorado Springs Project (Colorado Springs, CO) dissolved Spring, 1992
4. New Life (Amarillo, TX) dissolved 2/92
5. EPC (Tekoa, WA) dissolved 10/92
6. Sunrise Christian Fellowship (Phoenix, AZ) dissolved 1/93
7. Foothills EPC (Arcadia, CA) dissolved 2/93
8. Seaside (Encinatas, CA) dismissed to independence 6/93
9. Lincoln Mission Church (Lincoln, KS) dissolved 10/93
10. Christ Community (Arcadia, CA) dissolved 2/95
11. Christ Our King (Aurora, CO) dismissed to Vineyard 1996

Student and Young Adult Ministries Committee Report

The Student and Young Adult Ministries Committee gives praise to God for his faithfulness and provision during the last year. As a committee, we assembled twice, once in October and again in March. We continue to marvel at how God chooses to work with us and in our midst as we strive to do his will.



Rick Stauffer chairman

VISION, MISSION, CORE BELIEFS

As a committee we are always working to polish our purpose for existence as we set out our vision statement, mission statement, and our core beliefs. Our vision is as follows:

The Student and Young Adult Ministries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church desires to bring about radical change in student and young adult lives across the nation and around the world. We want to positively affect the culture in every arena the EPC has a ministry. We hope that revival will come to our country and spread throughout the world through the SYAM and the ministries of our congregations.

From this statement we have further developed the following mission statement:

Our mission is to make disciples of students and young adults for Jesus Christ by joining with EPC congregations to provide them with growth and ministry opportunities, cutting edge resources, ministry training, and loving support all for the glory of God.

Finally, the foundation of who we are and what we believe is found in our core beliefs which are as follows:

- We believe students and young adults are important to God and a vital part of His church today and in the future.
- We believe the church of Jesus Christ has the answers to student and young adults' questions about identity, significance, security, and belonging.
- We believe the Great Commission commands the church to reach and make disciples of students and young adults throughout the world.
- We believe a disciple-making ministry is one that penetrates a student's and young adult's culture and meets them at their level of spiritual interest.
- We believe students can be effective in reaching their world for Christ.

This work has helped us to effectively focus our work on four key areas:

Cutting edge resources: We are at work to identify curriculum conferences, and study material that will enhance the ministries of our churches all over the country. We are also at work to develop curriculum that will assist EPC churches specifically in youth ministry.

Ministry training: From our Youth Leaders Getaway in September to our regularly distributed newsletter, *The Link*, we are reaching out to full-time, part-time and volunteer youth leaders from all over the country.

Ministry opportunities: Summer Jams and mission trips will see almost 1000 kids from EPC churches this summer. We feel that we are offering excellence at this very demanding level of ministry.

Loving support: We have a growing desire to network youth leaders and develop mentoring relationships among youth leaders in our denomination.

GENERATION X

The committee has worked diligently in thinking through the whole area of ministry to Generation X, who are really the young adults of our churches, or more correctly, the young adults whom our churches are failing to reach. We have offered some excellent seminar material, such as the pre-assembly workshop at this year's assembly. This fall we hope to make a giant step forward in this area as we gather several who are ministering to this age group as an advisory group to our committee. Our prayer and hope is that churches begin to take a good hard look at reaching out and ministering to this age group for the glory of God.

In connection with our discussions on Generation X, the committee has begun to look carefully at what the EPC could be doing on college campuses across the country. We are looking at a couple of models and brainstorming on our own to see if a college ministry is a viable option for us as a denomination.

OUR PRAYER REQUESTS

Please take the above information, especially pending decisions and areas for which we need direction, and pray for us as a committee. Please pray for our returning members Gary Koerth, Ken Roberts, and Kris Decker, as well as those who will join us this year. Pray diligently for our Director of Student and Young Adult Ministries, Dan Weidman, along with his wife Lisa and their children Alyssa, Sean, and Eric. Dan works very hard and is an incredible asset to our denomination. Finally, pray most of all that we will be used for the glory and honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Stauffer, Chairman
June, 1997

Student and Young Adult Ministries Director's Report



Dan Weidman, Director

The Lord's grace abounds and He continues to provide faithful direction and blessing to the Student and Young Adult Ministries (SYAM) of the EPC. It is with a grateful heart that I report to you *some* of what He has been doing through this ministry this past year and what is planned in the future.

Vision

My desire as director of SYAM is to bring about radical change for Jesus Christ across the nation and around the world through student and young adult lives. We want to positively affect the culture in every arena the EPC has a ministry. We pray that revival will come to our country and spread throughout the world through students and young adults, and that the Student and Young Adult Ministries of the EPC will be a catalyst for this movement of God. Let's change the world!

Summer Events

Summer of 1996 Participation Statistics

Last summer 48 churches participated in Student Ministries summer events. The breakdown is as follows:

- Churches with membership under 200: 18 of 102 (18%) churches participated
- Churches with membership of 200-600: 23 of 48 (48%) churches participated
- Churches with membership of 600+: 7 of 17 (37%) churches participated

Total participation for all EPC churches in summer events is 29%. I hope to reach 45% involvement by the year 2001. I firmly believe each church in our denomination could benefit from the quality summer experiences offered through SYAM summer ministries

Summer Jam, overall, was the best yet with sound Biblical teaching, quality times of worship, great recreational opportunities, and group building times that all focused on bringing students into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Over 500 students committed to reading a chapter of the Bible every day for one month or more.

Each of our SYAM mission opportunities--Appalachian Impact, Mission Mexico and Detroit Alive--were used by God to effectively minister to people in need, and provide a quality experience for students and adults attending.

1997 Planned Events

We have an outstanding line-up of summer opportunities for EPC youth groups. We are offering two Summer Jam events, and five mission experiences for junior and senior high students. Summer Jam Colorado, Mission Mexico and all three Appalachian Impact trips are full. The Guatemala trip has two youth groups ministering at orphanages. Detroit Alive, the urban trip

which assists our own Military Avenue church in Detroit received no formal responses. I am a bit puzzled, since last year's Detroit Alive trip was an outstanding ministry with five churches involved. I am also moderately concerned that the EPC may not be doing enough to expose its people (students included) to the needs of urban America and to minister in the inner-city. The committee and I would like to continue offering an inner-city short term trip to assist ministries already in place. Pray for us as we attempt to discern what the Lord's will is in this realm.

Congregational Prayer Teams

Speaking of prayer, we have developed a prayer base of prayer warriors willing to bathe all of our summer events with prayer. I sent a flyer to all churches inviting them to participate in one of our summer trips through prayer. We are calling it One Trip for One Week. We have had many positive responses, but it is not too late for you to join in praying for our teens this summer. Let me know if you would like to participate.

17th General Assembly GenX Workshop

As one of this year's General Assembly pre-conference events, Student and Young Adult Ministries is hosting a workshop/forum called "Shaping Your Church for a Generation of Hope: Reaching and Keeping Today's Young Adults." The leaders for the Workshop/Forum include authors of *Reckless Hope*, Todd Hahn and David Verhaagen and Lay Renewal Ministries' Young Adult specialist, David Lovell. The purpose is to give practical guidance to church leaders on how to build and grow ministry to GenX young adults. Additionally, we have follow-up consulting available to help churches implement plans to put together ministries to young adults. **Caution:** I am fearful that our denomination has grown to believe that this is a "student ministry" issue. Ministry to young adults is not just a student ministries concern, it affects our whole church. It will continue to do so - perhaps adversely - unless we become more proactive. Either the church learns how to minister to today's young adults, helping them integrate into the larger church body, or we resign ourselves to the fact that a whole generation will be lost to the church.

Youth Worker Conference

I am extremely excited about our Youth Worker Conference in September. It is aimed at those in the EPC ministering to junior high students, senior high students, and young adults. My goal is to provide encouragement for the soul, fellowship with other EPC youth workers, resources and ideas for ministry, and training in student and young adult ministry. I want each person attending to return home refreshed, resourced and recharged for ministry. Last year we had a last minute venue change due to a hurricane on the east coast. Still, over 20 youth workers were able to join us for a great weekend. This year our host will be Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis (fairly safe from hurricanes). We have expanded the conference by adding a formal student ministry workshop. This year's training will be on *Family Based Youth Ministry* conducted by Mark DeVries author of the book Family Based Youth Ministry. I have also invited Sandy Willson, pastor of Second Presbyterian to be our evening speaker and address the *heart of the youth worker*. Encourage the youth workers in your church to attend. It will be fantastic!

Closing Encouragement

God has been doing great things through the Student and Young Adult Ministries of the EPC. It has been an exceptional year for me personally as well as in my ministry. I thank the Lord for the SYAM committee chairman Rick Stauffer's leadership. The committee has been focused and purposeful. Continue to pray for me and the committee that we would keep in step with the Spirit of God. Also, pray for my new secretary (my first), Sue Ferrell, who is working diligently to keep up with all I give her as well as learn the *Weidman* system. It has been a blessing to have her on the team.

I encourage you and your church to take advantage of the trips, the training, the support and the resources this denomination provides through the Student and Young Adult Ministries. Let me know how I can help you and/or your church become more effective in reaching and discipling young lives for Jesus Christ. My prayers are with your congregations.

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Weidman
Director of Student and Young Adult Ministries
June, 1997

Theology Committee Report

The permanent Committee on Theology met September 20-21, 1996 and April 26-26, 1997 at the General Assembly Office in Livonia, Michigan. Committee members are Rev. Michael Glodo, Rev. Paul Husband, Rev. Paul Johnson, Elder James Russell, chairman (*right*), Elder Vance Rutan and Elder George Schneider.

Matters currently before the Committee

The following matters were referred to the Committee by the 16th or previous General Assemblies:

- Civil Disobedience:** The *Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience* was adopted without any changes except that the permanent committee was asked to develop a purpose statement to introduce the paper and that it define the term "pastoral letter."
- Reproductive Technology:** The Assembly was asked to rewrite the proposed *Pastoral Letter on Reproductive Technology* by providing more depth and detail, possibly attaching a recommended supplemental reading list.
- Marriage and the Family:** The 10th General Assembly (1990) directed the committee to develop a position paper on "Marriage and the Family." Various actions have been taken as described below. In 1991, the committee decided to break this work down into sections which would take several years to produce. The 16th General Assembly (1996) adopted the *Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage*. The permanent committee is continuing in its work to develop papers on additional topics related to marriage and the family.
- Out-of-Bounds Ministries:** The 15th General Assembly adopted the following motion:
"That the General Assembly recognize the growing problem of oversight of ministers serving in out-of-bounds ministries and to provide consistent guidance to the presbyteries in the matters of calls for ministers to serve outside the bounds of presbyteries be referred to the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation for study and recommendations to be brought to the 16th General Assembly. As part of this study, the Committee on Ministerial Vocation is to consult with the Theology Committee concerning how the call to ministry and ordination in the EPC relate to ministers who serve outside the bounds of presbytery."

Work Performed

The committee accomplished the following with respect to the work before it.

- Civil Disobedience:**

The committee drafted an introductory paragraph for the *Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience* as follows:



James Russell, chairman

“This pastoral letter sets forth theologically the biblical principles which should be applied to the questions we face as Christians and churches in evaluating and responding to the moral issue of civil disobedience.”

The committee drafted a general explanation for pastoral letters as follows:

“A pastoral letter is intended to shine the light of God’s word broadly on a general area of concern to the Church. Requiring the approval of only one General Assembly, it is not as definitive as a Position Paper which requires the approval of two General Assemblies (including a minimum of one year circulation among the presbyteries). The primary purpose of a pastoral letter is to guide churches within the EPC rather than to identify our positions to the world.”

2. Reproductive Technology:

The permanent committee made revisions to last year’s proposed *Pastoral Letter on Reproductive Technology* by adding more discussion of detailed examples and by developing a recommended reading list to accompany the letter.

3. Marriage and the Family:

The permanent committee began developing outlines for papers on a theology of children and a theology of Christian marriage. We will present the result of these efforts at a future Assembly.

4. Out of Bounds Ministries:

The permanent committee appointed two of its members, Paul Husband and James Russell, to be available for consultation with the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee. As yet, we have not received any request for consultation from the Ministerial Vocation Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

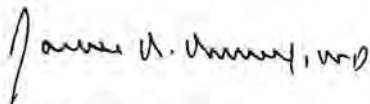
Recommendation #1:

That the General Assembly adopt the introductory and explanatory paragraphs for the *Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience* which was adopted by the 16th General Assembly and send it to the presbyteries and churches for their guidance.

Recommendation #2:

That the General Assembly adopt the proposed *Pastoral Letter on Reproductive Technology* as revised with its recommended reading list and send it to the presbyteries and churches for their guidance.

Respectfully submitted,



James Russell, Chairman

June, 1997

CTH-1
PASTORAL LETTER ON CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

This pastoral letter sets forth theologically the biblical principles which should be applied to the questions we face as Christians and churches in evaluating and responding to the moral issue of civil disobedience.

A pastoral letter is intended to shine the light of God's word broadly on a general area of concern to the Church. Requiring the approval of only one General Assembly, it is not as definitive as a Position Paper which requires the approval of two General Assemblies (including a minimum of one year circulation among the presbyteries). The primary purpose of a pastoral letter is to guide churches within the EPC rather than to identify our positions to the world.

The people of God, redeemed by his grace, have always lived their lives in a state of dynamic tension with the world. By "the world" we mean the sum total of every thought, word, attitude and action contrary to God's revealed Word. In this secular society whose values are in-different and often contrary to God's word, the Christian earnestly endeavors to follow the "paths of righteousness" for the sake of the Lord's name. For the most part and especially in nations with a Christian heritage the Christian can pursue this pilgrimage as a law-abiding citizen, often living a quality of life above the laws of the community, as he walks in obedience to God. There are times, for the sake of his own loyalty to God or for concern for others who are suffering injustice, when the Christian feels compelled to take a public stand against the ways of the world. Often this can be done without breaking a civil law. For instance, a merchant can choose to close his business on the Lord's Day, a physician can refuse to perform abortions, a public school teacher may in many school districts strongly encourage chastity before marriage rather than sexual experimentation. Christian people can conduct an orderly pro-life demonstration or hold an evangelistic meeting in a public place, if they secure a permit.

There are times, however, when the laws of the land permit or command behavior which is clearly contrary to the will of God in Scripture. Injustice, harm to people, and oppression are of such a degrading and evil nature that the Christian as an individual or united with other Christians faces the question of breaking a civil law in order to bring about justice or preserve human life. Sometimes also laws are directly contrary to the Great Commission. When Soviet Russia's civil law prohibited the importation of Bibles, Christians for years smuggled them into the country. Some nations have laws against active evangelization. Should a Christian disobey such laws in order to be faithful to Christ's command?

The Bible gives us numerous examples of civil disobedience in which God's people sought to do what is right in obedience to God in spite of violating a civil law or decree. The Hebrew midwives defy an order by Pharaoh to kill all Hebrew males at birth, covering their action with a half-truth to Pharaoh (Exodus 1:1 5ff). Rahab hides the Israelite spies and refuses to surrender them to the messenger from the king of Jericho (Josh. 2:1ff.) During several years of David's life he and his band of followers are fugitives from Saul, the civil authority of Israel (e.g. 1 Samuel 22). Daniel and his companions seek and gain permission from an official under King Nebuchadnezzar to set aside an assignment of the king to eat his delicacies and test their health with a simpler diet (Daniel 1). Later Shadrach, Meschach, and Abednego refuse to bow and worship King Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold (Daniel 3). Then under King Darius, Daniel refuses to obey the decree which prohibits prayer for 30 days to anyone except the king (Daniel 6). Likewise in the book of Esther, Mordecai refuses to kneel and pay honor to Haman, disobeying the command of King Xerxes (Esther 3). In all of these instances a supreme loyalty to God which includes his plan for his people prompts them to set aside obedience to a civil law in order to be obedient to the will of God.

Throughout the New Testament there is a tension between the calling of God's people to be faithful to their Lord and the authority of civil government. During the life of Christ in which the setting is for the most part in Israel, the supreme civil authority is Rome. The Jews are also under a subordinate authority, the puppet kings of the Herodian family. Ecclesiastical authority under the chief priests is closely related to the Jewish civil authority. Following Pentecost, when the gospel begins to spread beyond Israel, the supreme civil authority remains Rome and the sub-ordinate authorities are the various magistrates of the area in which the apostles and disciples are witnessing and teaching. With remarkable consistency we observe both in teaching and in practice the principle of supreme loyalty and obedience to God with a sincere effort to be respectful law-abiding citizens obedient to civil authority to the limits of conscience.

The examples of this tension are too numerous to include them all. Joseph and Mary are obedient to the decree of Caesar Augustus to journey to Bethlehem for the census. The Magi refuse to obey the command of Herod to report to him the exact location of the infant Christ. They disobey because of a warning in a dream (Matthew 2:8,12). John the Baptist encourages Roman soldiers to be honest and content in their vocation (Luke 3:14). He also denounces the religious leaders (Matthew 3:7) and rebukes Herod Antipas for his immorality.

Christ's teaching and ministry often come into conflict with the ecclesiastical authorities (e.g. Matthew 12:1ff). He straightforwardly teaches complete obedience to the law of God from the heart (Matthew 5:17ff) and acknowledges one's responsibility to the authority of Caesar (Matthew 22:15-22). He pays the temple tax (Matthew 17:24-27), yet as rightful Lord of the temple drives out the corrupt money-changers (John 2:12ff.; Matthew 21:12, 13). He counsels his disciples not to use violence at his arrest and submits to the Jewish authorities even though he has abundant power to overcome them (Matthew 26:52). In humble majesty he stands before Pilate declaring the distinct nature of his spiritual kingdom (John 18:36) and the supremacy of God's authority over that of Roman authority (John 19:11).

Following Pentecost, the apostles refuse to let the Jewish authorities silence their witness of Christ (Acts 5:29). Throughout the book of Acts the Christian leaders practice law-abiding earthly citizenship as they witness of the kingdom of God and the Gospel of Christ (e.g., Acts 22:25; 25:10, 11). Paul and Peter both teach submission to governing authorities (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter. 4:12-17). At the same time there is a victorious witness to the supreme Lordship of Christ (e.g. Philippians. 2:9-11). There is also the frequent teaching that allegiance to Christ may involve suffering and death (e.g. 2 Timothy 4:6-8; 1 Peter. 4:12-17; Revelation 13:9, 10). The weapons of Christian warfare are spiritual, not physical (2 Corinthians 4:10ff.) and the Christian always lives within the assurance of victory in Christ (Romans 8:37; 1 Corinthians.15:57; 2 Corinthians.2:14).

By what biblical principles can a Christian live as he endeavors to live a faithful Christian life in a world whose values and laws often are contrary to the will of God?

1. **The Christian's supreme loyalty and devotion is to God.** (Matthew 22:37; Acts 4:29; Philippians 2:10, 11) He must never compromise loyal obedience to the revealed authority of God's Word. He stands in accord with Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms, a diet which included both civil and ecclesiastical authority. When asked to recant, Luther stated, "Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me, Amen."¹

¹Roland H. Bainton, *Here I Stand* (Nashville: Abingdon, 1950) 144.

2. **The weapons of Christian ministry are spiritual rather than physical.** (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5; Ephesians 6:10-18). The Kingdom of God is primarily a spiritual reign of God in the hearts of men and in the church rather than a political authority. The Christian is, as Chrysostom stated, "a bearer of momentous truth." He is a witness of the Gospel, "the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes..." (Romans 1:16). The Christian stands for the right and opposes the wrong by prayer, persuasion, preaching, witnessing, teaching, and doing acts of compassion and mercy, rather than by violence or physical striving. Paul teaches "And the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him, he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth." (2 Timothy 2: 24, 25). Os Guinness writing in *Eternity* reminds us that we do not ordinarily make headlines through clear persuasive communication of truth, but we do make far more headway than those who use conflict and physical confrontation.² Every Christian should be a prepared and ready apologist for the Christian faith with reverence toward Christ and respect for his hearers (1 Peter 3:15).
3. **The Christian's calling is to exemplary citizenship.** (Romans 13:17; 1 Peter. 2:12-17) The Christian is to be not only obedient and submissive to authority, but he should earnestly aim to do what is right and good, show respect for authority and pray for those in authority in order that Christians may live "peaceful and quiet lives in godliness and holiness" (1 Timothy 2:1, 2).

What then is a Christian's responsibility when civil laws are bad? Martin Luther King, Jr. had one solution: good laws are to be obeyed, but bad laws are to be disobeyed. Consequently many of his followers in the early 1960's participated in sit-ins at lunch counters, wade-ins at pools and other challenges to various ordinances which promoted segregation. Likewise Corrie Ten Boom's family disobeyed the German occupation law by hiding and protecting Jews. In a democracy, such as we have in our nation, the Christian as an individual and in groups should make every effort to change the laws within the democratic process. The people of God are to turn to a sovereign God in earnest prayer for change in their land (2 Chronicles 7:14). Christians ought to courageously bear witness to biblical principles of truth in the matter before them. There is a ring of truth to biblical principles and morals even to a secular society. Christians who are oppressed should endeavor to overcome evil with good.

In spite of all of these efforts if evil still prevails what then should be done? Kenneth Kantzer in *Christianity Today* offers this advice:

It is rarely good for a Christian to disobey even a bad law. That is why the Scripture so frequently urges Christians to obey even evil governments and laws that create trouble for them. Still, there are times when a Christian becomes thoroughly convinced that the total welfare of others would be significantly better if he disobeyed rather than obeyed a particular law. When that moment arrives he must obey God rather than man. God has commanded him to be concerned for the well-being of all human beings, and the well-being of human beings demands disobedience to that particular law at that particular time. The Christian in such a case must humbly, yet boldly, and with a prayer to God for forgiveness if he has judged wrongly, disobey the law and be willing to suffer the consequences of his disobedience.³

²*Eternity* 39.1 (Nov. 1988) 79.

³Kenneth Kantzer "Christians Must Obey the Laws-But Which Ones?" *Christianity Today* 26.13 (August 6, 1982): 10-12.

Such action, if it is necessary, must be as a last resort. It must be preceded by searching the Scripture, much prayer and consulting with the Church. Christians must never operate on the principle that the end justifies the means. We must remember the warning Scripture gives to those who say, "Let us do evil that good may result." Paul writes, "Their condemnation is deserved." (Romans 3:8b) Peter also gives us a word of caution:

But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. —1 Peter 2:20

Furthermore, Christ warns us about responding in violence, when at the time of his arrest he commanded Peter, "Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword." (Matthew 26:52) Hostile behavior is contrary to the Christian's calling to love, pray for and do good to our enemies (Luke 6:27). The militant private militia groups which plan terrorism and kill innocent people are in definite and serious violation of the revealed word of God. Likewise those who use overt force to prevent abortions may be sincere in their moral concern, but their radical methods do more harm than good to their cause.

When inalienable rights are unjustly removed, as in the American revolution, the biblical way is to first seek redress of grievances. As a very last resort other lawful authorities should form a government to exercise its God-given power to punish the evil doers (Romans 13:4). Some of the recent revolutions in Eastern Europe were of this nature. There was severe corruption, oppression and suppression of religion. The rulers had become tyrants. Francis Schaeffer, in *A Christian Manifesto* states

If there is no final place for civil disobedience, then the government has been put in the place of the Living God, because then you are to obey it even when it tells you in its own way at that time to worship Caesar. And that point is exactly where the early Christians performed their acts of civil disobedience even when it cost them their lives.⁴

How should an individual respond when his rightful liberties are violated? Schaeffer, in the above volume, draws three principles from Samuel Rutherford's *Lex Rex*.

First, he must defend himself by protest (in contemporary society this would most often be legal action); second, he must flee if at all possible; and, third, he may use force, if necessary to defend himself by protest and the employment of constitutional means of redress. Rutherford illustrated this pattern of resistance from the life of David as it is recorded in the Old Testament.⁵

We as Christians living in a democratic society are able to exercise our freedoms as law-abiding citizens. There are many ways within the law to oppose evil and promote what is good. Praying for and working for righteousness within the civil law is the course that Christians should follow. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

In conclusion, the Christian should live his life as the salt of the earth and as a light for Christ in the world. He should "hate what is evil; cling to what is good" (Romans 12:9). He should live with the conviction that it is God through the Gospel of his Son who changes the hearts and ways of men. He should be a Christian persuader, bearing witness of God's way of life revealed in his Word. He should aim to be at peace with everyone (Romans 1:18). He should pray for the enemies of God and overcome evil with good (Romans 12:21). The spiritual power of God through the Christ-like lives of Christians bearing witness of his truth is the most powerful influence in a community or nation. "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people." (Proverbs 14:34)

⁴Francis A. Schaeffer, *A Christian Manifesto* (Westchester, Illinois Crossway Book) 130.

⁵*Ibid.* 103-104.

CTH-2
PASTORAL LETTER ON REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY

10 In response to the Fifteenth General Assembly's request that the Theology Committee consider the issue of reproductive technology, the Committee offers this letter of pastoral advice. A pastoral letter is intended to shine the light of God's word broadly on a general area of concern to the Church. Requiring the approval of only one General Assembly, it is not as definitive as a Position Paper which requires the approval of two General Assemblies (including a minimum of one year circulation among the presbyteries). The primary purpose of a pastoral letter is to guide churches within the EPC rather than to identify our positions to the world.

Reproductive technology, like many areas of medical science, is a rapidly evolving field. Even limiting this letter's scope strictly to the subject of infertility, excluding issues such as DNA grafting and gene manipulation, does not make the matter materially less complicated.

In approaching specific questions and situations related to reproductive technology, we must affirm and deny certain fundamental principles.

We affirm that God alone is the source of life. We deny that human efforts to create life are ever successful apart from providence.

20 We affirm that human life is unique among the creatures, having been constituted by the image of God in all human persons (Gen. 1:26-27). We deny that human life is contained in mere material existence.

We affirm that human life is sacred and, as must be inferred from Scripture, begins at conception (Jer. 1:5; Ps. 139:15; Is. 49:1; Lu. 1:15, 41). We deny that human life from its conception may be destroyed. ("You shall not murder." Ex. 20:13)¹

We affirm that children are a gift from God (Ps. 127:3). We deny that the conceiving and bearing of children are indications of greater character, spiritual maturity or merited divine favor.

30 We affirm that God rules over his creation down to the smallest detail by his decree of providence, including the means by which all things come to pass (WCF 10). We deny that, under the fall, any dimension of life is unaffected, including the ability of men and women to have children (Gen. 3:16).

In view of these affirmations and denials we offer the following pastoral advice:

¹See also the *Position Paper on the Value of and Respect for Human Life*; *Position Paper on the Problems of Suffering, Death, and Dying*; and *Position Paper on Abortion*.

Pastoral Letter on Reproductive Technology

Under the creation mandate, childbearing is to be the fruit of marriage and the fundamental of society is the nuclear family. It is contrary to the law of God a child to be other than be the progeny of a husband and his wife. Specifically, we do not allow for the donation of

egg or sperm. This in no way reflects upon the value and dignity of children born out of wedlock, but such is not the revealed will of God.

For those couples who experience fertility problems, we encourage them to pray for God to enable them to conceive. However, our prayers should always seek the conformity of our will to God's.

Attempts to achieve pregnancy should be conditioned by consideration of whether the parents are subordinating trust in God's providential care to their own desire for children. Parents struggling with infertility should regularly examine their hearts to ensure they are not valuing children over the glory which comes to God as his children persevere through difficulties (1 Sam. 1). Even though various technologies are permissible in principle, Christians have a responsibility to maintain a clear conscience before God. If there is doubt or serious reservations, they should not employ these technologies. "The faith which you have, have as your own conviction before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves...whatever is not from faith is sin." (Rom. 14:22-23, NAS)

Couples facing infertility should strongly consider adoption as a means of producing covenant children, as an act of compassion toward displaced children and to satisfy their own desires to be parents.

It is possible that God has called some couples to the place of childlessness. Infertility could be an indication of this calling (1 Cor. 7:7). If God has so called a couple, it should not be taken as an occasion of leisure in life, but rather seen as an extraordinary opportunity for Christian service.

God, as the Lord of Providence, provides means to fulfill the cultural mandate, including medical technology. The use of such reproductive technology, in principle, is commended. Such use should be in accordance with the above principles and conditioned by the responsible use of resources, both in the medical community and by the patient. The development and use of reproductive technology should be undertaken, but with great attention to whether it breaches a biblical view of life (e.g. fetal tissue research from electively-aborted children). Because life begins at conception, all fertilized embryos should be implanted. The serious implications of this should enter into the decision to use *in vitro* fertilization. Surrogacy involving the gestation of an embryo in a womb other than the mother's, applied in accordance with the above principles, is acceptable in principle.

Because of the rapid rate of technology development and the complicated nature of life in a fallen world, no formal statement could anticipate all of the challenging issues and decisions couples may face. We commend our members to seek the prayer and counsel of their session in making decisions in the area of reproductive technology so that they may discern the mind of Christ and, above all things, bring glory and honor to God in the process.

**Reproductive Technology
Suggested Reading List**

We recommend the following general works on biblical Christian ethics for providing a fundamental understanding of Reformed biblical ethics:

- Jones, David C. *Biblical Christian Ethics*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.
Murray, John. *Principles of Conduct*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1957.
Westminster Larger Catechism questions 98-148.
Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 41-81.

- 10 On the more specific subject of reproductive technology and related matters in bioethics, we recommend the following:

- Cameron, Nigel M. de S. *The New Medicine: Life and Death After Hippocrates*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1992.
Clark, David K. and Robert Rakestraw, eds. *Readings in Christian Ethics*, 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.
Davis, John Jefferson. *Evangelical Ethics: Issues Facing the Church Today*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing co., 1985.
Journal of Biblical Ethics in Medicine. Published by Biblical Medical Ethics, Inc., P. O. Box 14488, Augusta GA 30919-0488.
20 Rae, Scott B. *Brave New Families: Biblical Ethics and Reproductive Technologies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1996.

Women's Ministries Committee Report

The Women's Ministries Committee met twice in the denominational offices (September 20-21, 1996 and March 7-8, 1997) for meetings to plan program and develop ministry opportunities. A summary of the work of the committee follows.



Susan Nash, chairman

General Assembly Program Planning

- A Presbytery Chairmen's Training is scheduled for June 18 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., led by Jan Juday.
- A full program for Women's Ministries was planned, including Vonette Bright as the Women's Luncheon speaker, Suzy Wood as a workshop leader, a presentation of Bible study choices, a report on the Cyprus mission, promotion of the '97 Faith Focus project, a prayer time and an informal question and answer time.

National Women's Conference Planning

- Dates: September 25-28, 1997
- Hosting Presbytery and Chairman: Presbytery of the West, Barbara Dixon
- Conference Speaker: Nancie Carmichael
- Place: Cascade Resort and Club in Vail, Colorado
- Cost: Quad: \$223; Triple, \$257; Double, \$304; Single, \$446
Includes room, all means except lunches and registration

Workshops:

1. Caring for the Caregiver: Marcia Schultz, West
2. A Vision of Women's Ministries: Jan Juday, and the Women's Ministries Committee
3. Kill the Messenger! A Biblical Look at Friendship Evangelism: Paula Frost, Midwest
4. Prayer: Janet Kizer, Southeast
5. Mentoring: A Mirrored Heart: Karen Stafford, Central South
6. Teaching the Word of God with Power: Leesa Jensen, Central South

Special Workshop: June Cleaver Never Fried Bacon in a Bill Blass Dress: Mary LoVerde

Next National Women's Conference

The Committee voted to delay the next biannual conference one year to take place in the year 2000. This would allow the women to emphasize ministry in the new millennium and would also allow for an event connected to the 1998 Faith Focus.

Faith Focus

- 1996 Update: Over \$65,000 were raised for the Middle East Ladies Prayer Seminar (MELPS) - more than double the goal!
- 1997 Update: Goal is set at \$25,000 for the Church Vitality grants sponsored by the National Outreach Committee
- 1998: The committee made its own proposal to set a goal of \$30,000 for a Pastors' Wives Conference (the first ever) to be held in 1999.
- 1999: The Committee approved a goal of \$35,000 toward an EPC Missions Convention to be held prior to the General Assembly in 2000 sponsored by the World Outreach Committee.

Ad Hoc Pastors' Wives Committee

The Committee went on record endorsing the idea of a formation of an Ad Hoc Pastors' Wives Committee to respond to the growing concern that has been expressed over the last few years concerning the pastors' wives.

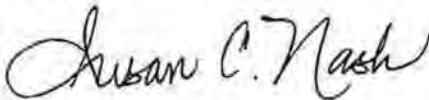
Bible Study Curriculum Selections

- Old Testament: *The Prophets* (A Fisherman study guide by Harold Shaw Publications)
Daniel (Life Application Series)
- New Testament: *Revelation* (Life Change Series by Nav Press)
- Topical: *Body Language* (Jill Briscoe series)
- Optional choices of topical studies:
Becoming a Woman of Prayer by Cynthia Heald (Nav Press)
How Can I Love Those Prickly People? by Juanita Purcell
Walking With God When You Have Feet of Clay (Potter, Durham, and Stedman)

Report on Cyprus

Jan Juday, Anne Blackley and I led a team of forty women from the EPC to Limassol, Cyprus April 9-22 for MELPS (Middle East Ladies Prayer Seminar). The seminar was a huge success and the USA team performed with integrity.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Nash, Chairman
June, 1997

Women's Ministries Director's Report



Jan Juday, Director

This has been a banner year for Women's Ministries. We have expanded our Presbytery Chairmen's training, added secretarial staff, and pioneered *hands-on* ministry with the Middle East Ladies Prayer Seminar on the Island of Cyprus.

Our purpose in Women's Ministries is *to provide an atmosphere for women to mature spiritually and to recognize and develop their God given gifts*. The MELPS Conference was an opportunity to do that in concert with other women throughout the denomination. Forty women served together in a beautiful blending of gifts and service. I had a deep sense of joy as I watched EPC women turn vision into reality and venture into uncharted areas of ministry thousands of miles from home. Probably most significant was that while forty women were actually part of this adventure, many across the denomination

were participating in prayer, giving, the collection of love gifts, as well as sending and encouraging participants. Our giving goal of \$30,000 was met and *doubled*, exceeding \$65,000 with those funds used to sponsor additional women from Muslim cultures in this one-of-a-kind seminar.

Hosted by EPC missionaries, Kundan and Iqbal Massey, over 170 nationals attended from 42 countries. From Iran to Kuwait, Pakistan to Israel, attendees gave testimony to God's mighty works among their people, sharing needs as well as triumphs.

EPC women served on 6 teams: administrative, counseling, prayer, music & dance, hospitality, and a special dental team headed by Dr. Kitsie Hendrix, a periodontal surgeon who offered critically needed dental care to attendees. Never before have I sensed such a spirit of unity and purpose among our women.

The excellent teaching of Kay Arthur, Evelyn Christenson, Mary Lance Sisk, Dr. Hyung Ja-Lee of Korea and Iqbal Massey was so appreciated by the women who listened to simultaneous translations through headsets and were challenged and equipped to return home as effective witnesses and prayer warriors. EPC women were also challenged to a renewed vigor in these areas in that our own means for *maturing and ministry* is through Bible study, prayer, fellowship, and outreach.

If the Cyprus Conference was the high point for Women's Ministries this year, it was by no means the only newsmaker. Jackie Houston joined Women's Ministries in the fall as our part time secretary. Her experience in Women's Ministries at Ward Church makes her a wonderful addition increasing our effectiveness in serving EPC Women's Ministries.

We were delighted to be able to print and distribute both a Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer edition of our newsletter, *Woman to Woman*. Over 30,000 copies will be in the hands of EPC women this year to encourage, inform, and provide a resource for Women's Ministries.

Our Faith Focus target this year is to raise \$25,000 for Small Church Vitality Grants and provide funding for needed projects in our small churches. Recognizing this will only scratch the surface of the needs in this area, we are nevertheless pleased to plant the vision in the hearts of our women and provide a focus of prayer on behalf of the larger body. Promotional packets, videos, and skits for presentation have been developed and made available through this office with hopes to heighten awareness of small church needs.

As director of Women's Ministries it's been my pleasure to visit the Southeast Presbytery in October to present a model for Women's Ministries and the Presbytery of the East in January. Speaking to the women at both presbyteries, I was able to share some of the vision we have for Women's Ministries as well as to bring words of encouragement to the leaders.

With the training of Presbytery Chairmen at General Assembly and visits to the various presbyteries, part of my focus is to strengthen Women's Ministries at the presbytery level as well as the effectiveness of our overall ministry to women. The enthusiasm generated by the MELPS Conference has been a wonderful springboard for this kind of growth and involvement beyond the local level. Unquestionably we learned the value and joy of participating corporately.

As we look forward to General Assembly programming and the 5th National Women's Conference in Vail, Colorado in September we expect to pick up where we left off. We hope that many will be inspired by the good things that are happening, and join in our expanding vision for the EPC women as we look forward to the year 2000 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet Juday, Director
Women's Ministries

June, 1997



World Outreach Committee Report

17th General Assembly

The World Outreach Committee met in three stated meetings since the 16th General Assembly: September 5-7, 1996; January 9-11, 1997; and March 20-21, 1997. Members of the World Outreach Committee include:

TE Todd Hahn	TE Perry Mobley, Chairman
TE William Meyer	RE Vern Porter
RE Ann Norton	RE John Haase
RE Emily Reid	RE Robert Healy

The World Outreach Committee, through its work this year, has been seeking to fulfill the stated global mission of the EPC "to plant, develop, and nurture the church of Jesus Christ in those cultures and people groups where particular opportunity and our ability to respond most closely coincide."

In fulfilling our responsibility, we have been overseeing the missionaries under our care. They are:

<u>Missionary</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Location</u>
Antonucci, Rob & Iris	Frontiers	Central Asia
Barany, Dick & Linda	Africa Inland Mission	Africa
Burns, Dan & Catherine	EPC	Kazakstan
Clark, Dan & Jan	Frontiers	England/Muslim World
Foote, Jim & Sally	EPC	Siberia
Foster, Nancy	Frontiers	US/Muslim World
Grimaldo, David & Marijane	World Impact	US
Haines, John & Margy	Arab World Ministries	France
Hamd, Robert & Joyce	Arab World Ministries	Middle East
Hampton, Bill & Janie	EPC	Kazakstan
Kelley, Stephen & Belinda	Arab World Ministries	England, Muslim World
Klakulak, Matt & Michelle	Pioneers	Northern India
Livingstone, Greg & Sally	Frontiers	England/Muslim World
Massey, Kundan & Iqbal	United World Mission	US/Muslim World
McCurry, John & Carlene	Frontiers	Middle East
Meeks, Chris & Gina	ARP-World Witness	Mexico
Mindling, Tim & Karen	Interserve	Central Asia
Muir, Phil & Margaret	Wycliffe	US

North, Tim	Arab World Ministries	Middle East
Padgett, Leroy & Kathy	SERVE	US
Robles, Marcelo	EPC	Argentina
Robles, Miguel & Azucena	EPC	Argentina
Rowen, Sam & Ruth	SEND	US/China
Sparling, Bud & Carol	Youth for Christ	US
Walker, Dave & Deb	OC International	Japan
Young, Jonathan & Fozia	United World Missions	Russia

We are pleased to announce the following EPC missionaries are serving as Team Leaders in their respective fields:

Antonucci, Rob	McCurry, John
Burns, Dan	Mindling, Tim
Kelley, Stephen	Robles, Marcelo
Livingstone, Greg	Robles, Miguel
Massey, Kundan	Young, Jonathan

We are working with a number of candidates who have applied to the World Outreach Committee and are in the process of completing their requirements. They include:

- Mary Combs-has been received as a candidate interested in serving as an EPC missionary in Kazan, Russia.
- Steve and Madeline Grossman-are awaiting assignment. They will attend candidate school through Arab World Ministries this June and plan to serve in the Middle East or Europe.
- John and Dawn Fain-are serving with Pioneers in Orlando, Florida. John is an EPC minister under the Florida presbytery and is the Director of Field Ministries for Pioneers.
- Jim and Grace Killgore-have accepted a call to serve as the pastor to the International Church of Islamabad, Pakistan. Jim is an EPC minister under care of the Midwest presbytery. They plan to move to the field this summer.
- Eric and Sheri Sholander-have expressed interest in serving as EPC missionaries under Wycliffe. They are members of Ward Presbyterian and Eric plans to work as a computer technician at the Wycliffe US office.

Fields of Service

- Siberia-Jim and Sally Foote have returned to Tyumen after renewing their visa. Classes and Bible studies are now being held regularly at the Cultural Center. Recruitment continues as we seek a pastor for the people of Siberia.
- Kazakstan-Our developing church in Almaty was forced to find a new location when the public schools were required to no longer provide space for religious groups. The new location is hard to find but is better suited to their needs. Attendance has increased to between 70 and 80.

- Argentina-La Mision, the new church in Buenos Aires, has been voted into the St. Andrews Presbytery. This is what we have been praying for since Miguel and Azucena were commissioned in October 1991.

A significant part of the World Outreach Committee's work this year has involved the oversight, encouragement and support of our missionaries. It has been a tremendous pleasure to partner with them in spreading the Gospel and establishing the Church. We ask you to continue to pray for them and encourage them in their ministry.

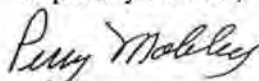
The 12th General Assembly strongly encouraged each Presbytery to establish its own World Outreach Committee to accelerate the foreign missions endeavor throughout the denomination. At the present time, all but two of our US Presbyteries have a World Outreach Committee. We continue to encourage and work with the Presbytery Committees in their work.

This year, through the World Outreach Committee, we had the opportunity to participate in Urbana '96. We were permitted to have an information booth and a presentation by Dick Oestreicher, our World Outreach Director. We received favorable reports on our participation. A total of sixty interviews were conducted with follow-up on fourteen possible candidates.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Proposed restatement of Section 409.1 in the World Outreach Mission Manual. (*attachment 1*)
2. To approve the Overseas Missionary Fellowship (OMF) as a Cooperative Agency. (*attachment 2*)
3. To amend the World Outreach Mission Manual, motion WOC 97-18, to include the Uniformed Missionary Support Application (*attachment 3*)
4. To amend the Cooperative Agreement with Wycliffe Bible Translators. (*attachment 4*)

Respectfully submitted,



Perry Mobley, Chairman
June 1997

**PROPOSED RESTATEMENT OF
SECTION 409.1
WORLD OUTREACH MISSIONS MANUAL**

409.1 Mission Properties

The EPC may acquire or own properties for its own use such as a headquarters for its missionary enterprise or housing for its personnel in the country being served. However, property acquired or purchased for mission expansion or national facility development shall be owned by the appropriate agency or court of the national church. Title of any property owned by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in countries other than the United States of America shall be held in the name of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a Michigan Ecclesiastical Corporation. In the event the national political and/or legal system in the country being served makes it impractical or impossible to hold title in the name of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, title may be held in the name of an EPC missionary as nominee for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church under a suitable agency agreement. Acquisition or disposition of properties shall be by action of the trustees/directors of the ecclesiastical corporation and only after consultation with the CWO.



OMF International Doctrinal Statement

We believe in the one, holy, sovereign, creating and redeeming God, eternally existing in three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the divine inspiration, the inerrancy of the original manuscripts and the entire trustworthiness of the Bible: its infallible teaching and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct; and its normative value for all peoples, at all times, in all cultures.

We believe that all people without distinction are made in the image of God, but all are now sinners and have incurred both God's holy wrath and their own shame and guilt. All are therefore in utter need of redemption.

We believe in Jesus Christ our Lord, the incarnate Son of God, uniquely God-man and the only Savior. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, sacrificial death, bodily resurrection and ascension. We believe He has achieved the final defeat of Satan and all evil powers.

We believe in the justification of sinners by God's grace, through faith in Christ alone.

We believe in the Holy Spirit and in His convicting, regenerating, sanctifying and reviving work. He guides and empowers individuals and churches in their service to God and man.

We believe in the unity and priesthood of all believers who together form the one, holy, universal, apostolic church. As an evangelistic agency, in fellowship with local churches in many countries, we are called to be a worshipping, praying, caring fellowship committed to world-wide evangelism.

We believe in the visible, personal return of Jesus Christ in power and great glory to judge both the living and the dead. We believe that the scriptures set out only two destinies for humanity: the joyful prospect of eternal life in the presence of God for those who have received Christ, and the agonizing prospect of eternal separation from God for those who have rejected Him.

Regarding the Charismatic Movement

The Fellowship emphasizes that the Holy Spirit plays an essential role in the salvation of each believer (Romans 8:9). We believe He continues sanctifying and enabling us until we are conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). We also recognize that God may visit believers in a crisis experience or experiences after conversion that result in a clear advance in spiritual life.

We also believe that our oneness in the Body of Christ demands that we do all we can to maintain our unity (Ephesians 4:3). Therefore, it is inappropriate to so press and emphasize any one interpretation of Scripture that it causes strife and division among believers (Ephesians 4:4,15).

Members of the Fellowship come from a variety of backgrounds and Christian traditions but are united in the common tasks of the Great Commission. We believe that working together to obey that Commission and basic truths that unite us are more important than the beliefs on which we differ (Principle and Practices III). Yet individually, we are responsible to be true to our home churches (whom we represent) and the distinctive emphasis they perceive as loyalty to the Word of God.

OMF's Doctrinal Bounds

1. The Fellowship as a whole does not endorse any teaching that requires a two-stage experience in the Christian life as normative. While members are free to hold a particular view, no one is to press his view as mandatory for others.
2. Under the sovereign grace of God, spiritual gifts are given to all believers. We do not link any postgeneration blessing to any particular spiritual gift or gifts. Therefore, no member of the Fellowship may propagate a teaching that links or limits the giving of any gift or gifts to a particular spiritual experience subsequent to regeneration.
3. In New Testament times, while the gift of tongues was one of the gifts of the Spirit, neither it nor speaking in tongues was an indispensable evidence of the baptism of the Spirit. The gift of tongues was given by the Spirit to specific individuals (1 Corinthians 12:11) and not everybody spoke in tongues (1 Corinthians 12:29,30).

While we recognize that members differ theologically concerning current manifestations, we affirm our basic unity in our desire to seek God, to know His blessings and to enjoy the power of His Spirit in preaching the Gospel (Acts 1:8). We also affirm our unity in the Body of Christ and in our desire to enjoy and practice those gifts of the Spirit on which we are all agreed.

Members must respect the feelings and convictions of fellow workers and church members when teaching and practicing spiritual gifts. No one is to press or practice his own view in such a way that would cause or threaten division.

Only candidates whose belief and practice are in harmony with the above statement will be accepted into membership.

Dear Pastor and Mission Committee:

The following Uniform Application for Missionary Support comes at the request of our EPC Missionaries who have filled out dozens of different forms, each unique to an individual EPC church but all requesting similar information.

This form presents information to assist your mission committee in making an effective support decision. If you have additional questions, please feel free to request further information from the individual missionary.

The EPC General Assembly has approved this form for use by World Outreach Missionaries in relating to EPC churches. We urge your church to accept this form as your own.

Cordially yours,



Richard Oestreicher
Director

Enclosure

Application for Missionary Support

Date of Application _____

PERSONAL DATA

Name _____

Spouse's name (include maiden name) _____

Address _____
(street)

(city) (state) (zip)

Phone number _____ Email address _____

If you have children, please list full name and date of birth of each:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Education: List schools you have attended (post high school), indicating dates attended, course of study, diploma or degree received. If married, give information for both spouses.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

APPENDICES

Experience: List the significant work experience you have had (including short-term missions), beginning with the most recent, going back chronologically, and indicating the years of service of each. If married, do so for both spouses.

CHURCH RELATIONSHIPS:

1. List your relationship (and, if married, that of your spouse) to our church. Please indicate membership (dates, if possible), degrees of active participation in the ministries of the church, and family ties to the church.

2. List churches, other than ours, to which you and/or your spouse are related. Indicate the nature of that relationship as above. Please give addresses.

3. Do you agree that the *Westminster Confession of Faith* contains the *system of doctrine* that is taught in the scriptures? If not, please explain any points of disagreement.

INTENDED MINISTRY

1. Give full name and address of the organization under which you expect to serve:

(agency) (street)

(city) (state) (zip)

Note: Please attach the organization's purposes and methods; statement of faith; personnel policies and financial support administration, methods of fund raising and copy of financial audit.

2. What is your present status with the above agency?

3. Full support \$ _____ Support pledged to date \$ _____

- What happens if your full amount is not received?

- What happens if you receive more than you need? How is the overage utilized?

- What provisions do you, or your sponsoring board, have for health and life insurance coverage? For retirement?

4. Area and people. Describe the area to which you are assigned and the people to whom you will minister.

- Geographical Area

- People

5. Type of ministry. Describe as fully as you can the specific ministry to which you have been assigned, indicating both primary and secondary responsibilities. If married, indicate the type of ministry of both spouses (use back of sheet if necessary).

6. To whom will you be responsible?

7. What are your goals for accomplishment?

8. How will you and your mission agency evaluate the results of your work?

9. What factors in your training (formal and informal), experience or background will make a significant contribution to the ministry(ies) to which you are assigned?

10. Give a simple statement of your faith including how and when you came to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

11. Please add any significant information which you feel may be helpful to members of the Missions department.

12. Please give names, addresses, and phone numbers of two individuals (other than members of your family) whom you know and who would be willing to provide additional information to the Missions department. Include how long you have known them.

World Outreach Director's Report



*Richard Oestreicher,
World Outreach Director*

"For all the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." Habakkuk 2:14

Progress Notes

Candidates-World Outreach has more candidates in the application process than at any time previously. Currently there are 14 which our office is working with, though some are in the early discussion stage and have several years of school remaining.

Kazakstan-Our developing church in Almaty was forced to find a new location when the public schools were required to no longer provide space to religious groups. The new location is hard to find but is better suited to their needs. Attendance has increased to between 70 and 80.

Argentina-La Mision, the new church in Buenos Aires, has been voted into the St. Andrews Presbytery. This is what we have been praying for since Miguel and Azucena were commissioned in October 1991.

Finance-World Outreach income topped one million for the first time in 1996. This brought a total increase of 18% over 1995 income. Praise the Lord.

Team Leaders-Several of our personnel are being recognized as team leaders. They include: Rob Antonucci, John McCurry, Greg Livingstone, Kundan Massey, Tim Mindling, Stephen Kelley, Dan Burns, Jonathan Young, Miguel and Marcelo Robles. This a tribute to the quality of EPC missionaries.

Urbana '96-Ten representatives from EPC exhibited at the 1996 Urbana Convention. At times, each of the team were engaged in interviews and a total of 60 reports were gathered. Several are pursuing candidacy.

Lebanon-Robert and Joyce Hamd are seeing far more interest to the gospel than they had ever imagined. It just may be that the Lord is preparing the Druze people, at least in one community, to respond in this generation.

Guadalajara, Mexico-Chris and Gina Meeks began worship services on January 26. Sixteen adults attended the first service which consisted of singing worship songs, a testimony, proclaiming the word, and a prayer time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Dick Oestreicher".

Richard Oestreicher

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PART III
DOCUMENTS

Rules for Assembly

(As amended through the 17th General 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 the 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 Meetings

- 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 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. The Committee on Nominations shall make its report and the floor shall be opened for additional nominations. There shall be only one nominating speech not to exceed five minutes for each nominee. No seconding speeches shall be permitted.
- 2-4 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 the 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. An address from the retiring Moderator is appropriate. If the Moderator is unable to act, the most immediate past Moderator present, or in the absence of any, the Stated Clerk, shall call the Assembly to order and preside over its session 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. (cf. Acts 82-09)
- 4-2 The Stated Clerk shall perform the duties assigned by the **Book of Government** and by the **Rules for 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, chairmen of Assembly committees, or any Commissioner request clarification of Assembly business.
- 4-6 The Stated Clerk shall be the parliamentarian of the General Assembly.
- 4-7 The Stated Clerk shall have surveillance over denominational archives and historical documents on behalf of the General Assembly, and shall be responsible for the right of access to such documents.

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. 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 other 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 the General Assembly upon a specific matter.
- 6-4 All overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received by the Stated Clerk less than sixty (60) days 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of assembled Commissioners.

VII. Reports to the General Assembly

- 7-1 The Moderator, Stated Clerk, permanent committees and special committees shall make annual reports. Such reports shall be transmitted to the Stated Clerk by May 1. These reports shall be referred to the Commissioners by the Clerk by June 1.
- 7-2 All ad interim committees shall make full reports in writing with the rationale for all recommendations included therein, and such reports shall be mailed to all Commissioners at least two weeks prior to the convening of the Assembly.

VIII. Assembly Committees

- 8-1 All business shall ordinarily come to the floor of the Assembly for final action through Assembly Committees, except reports of ad interim committees, which shall report directly to the Assembly. The following committees shall handle the matters indicated:
- A. Administration - concerning administrative matters
 - B. World Outreach - concerning world missions
 - C. National Outreach - concerning home missions and evangelism
 - D. Christian Education & Publications - concerning Christian education and publications
 - E. Ministerial Vocation - concerning preparation and care of ministers
 - F. Presbytery Review - concerning Presbytery ministry and action
 - G. Fraternal Relations - concerning other denominations and agencies
 - H. Memorials and Appreciation - concerning appreciation
 - I. Overtures and Resolutions - concerning communications
 - J. Theology - concerning theological matters under study
 - K. Women's Ministries - concerning ministries for the women of the church
 - L. Youth Ministries - concerning ministries for the youth of the church
- 8-2 The Moderator will appoint chairmen and secretaries of each Assembly committee. Representation on each committee shall be presbyterial. The Assembly Nominating Committee will elect committee personnel from Commissioner registrations mailed ten days prior to the Assembly convening. Ratio should be as close to 2:1 (RE:TE) as possible.
- 8-3 The committees may be scheduled to meet prior to the opening session of the Assembly to handle business referred by the Stated Clerk.
- 8-4 The Assembly Committees shall proceed as follows:
- A. At the assigned time, each committee shall assemble in its assigned place, review material in hand and begin its work.
 - B. Each committee shall be available to reconvene to consider additional matters referred from the Assembly floor.
 - C. A quorum is considered to be a simple majority.

- 8-5 The Assembly Committee's report shall be brief and concise. It shall include the following:
- A. A list of all items referred to and considered by the committee;
 - B. A statement of all issues discussed;
 - C. A report of all recommendations contained in reports, communications and overtures referred. Action taken by the Assembly committees to approve, modify or not approve those items referred shall be reported back to the Assembly with reasons.
- 8-6 Minutes of the corresponding permanent committee shall be submitted to the Assembly committee for review.
- 8-7 Informational presentation of special aspects of work reported by a particular Assembly committee shall be limited to five (5) minutes. The Moderator may extend this time up to an additional ten (10) minutes.
- 8-8 Any recommendation affecting the budget of the Assembly shall be referred to the Committee on Administration for review before presentation to the Assembly.
- 8-9 The completed report of an Assembly committee shall contain the full text of the report and handled as follows:
- A. Proofed and signed by chairman of committee and thereafter given to Stated Clerk for permanent record;
 - B. Presented to the Assembly during docketed time by chairman or designate.
- 8-10 No partial report of an Assembly committee shall be presented without consent of the Assembly.
- 8-11 A. Presbytery **Minutes** shall be examined for conformity to:
- 1. the constitutional standards of the church, as to substance of the action recorded.
 - 2. appropriate standards as to the use of the English language.
- B. Each set of Presbytery **Minutes** must be read by at least two members of the Committee on Presbytery Review.
- C. The findings of the Committee with respect to the **Minutes** of each Presbytery shall be reported under the following categories as appropriate:
- 1. **Notations:** Typographical errors, misspellings, improper punctuation, non-prejudicial statements of facts and other variations in form may be reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc., may be included here.
 - 2. **Exceptions:** Violations of constitutional standards of actions which in substance appear not to conform to EPC standards should be reported here.
- D. The Committee should prepare a report concerning the **Minutes** of each Presbytery. After action by the Assembly, two copies shall be given to the Stated Clerk, one for his permanent file and one to be mailed to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.
- E. Notations and exceptions in the Committee's report shall be handled as follows:
- 1. Notations shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery without being read to the Assembly or recorded in its **Minutes**.

2. Exceptions shall be read before the Assembly, recorded in its **Minutes**, and disposed of as the Assembly determines.
- F. The Presbyteries shall take note in their **Minutes** of exceptions and notations conveyed from the Assembly of the disposition they have made of such.

G. Guidelines for Presbytery Minutes

1. Date, time place of meeting. Presbytery must meet at least three (3) times a year. (G.16-17). Presbytery review year shall include those minutes approved by presbytery up to June 1 of each Assembly year. Minutes should reflect the names of Ruling & Teaching Elders present, visitors present, and include excused and unexcused absences. Minutes should reflect the number of the stated meeting.
 2. Meeting opened and closed with prayer.
 3. Declaration of quorum (G.16-18).
 4. Accurate record of motions passed and actions taken (G.16-19).
 5. Minutes should be typed with complete sentences, correct spelling and bound in hard cover.
 6. Minutes should be signed by Stated Clerk and Moderator.
 7. Minutes should reflect an accurate record of candidates received and dismissed.
 8. Minutes should reflect an accurate record of ministers received and dismissed including proper examination procedures leading to ordination and/or installation.
 9. Record of approved pastoral calls and any changes in calls and the granting of permission to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery (G.16-16.A).
 10. Minutes must reflect an annual review of sessional records.
 11. Minutes must reflect establishing, dissolving, dividing, uniting, receiving, and dismissing of churches (G.16-16.E).
 12. Minutes must reflect observations of and carrying out of General Assembly injunctions and instructions.
 13. Overtures to the General Assembly must be recorded.
 14. Minutes will reflect any judicial cases before Presbytery and the disposition thereof in accordance with the **Book of Discipline**.
 15. Minutes will include all actions of Presbytery appointed commissions.
 16. Minutes should include annual approved Presbytery budget and related financial reports.
- 8-12 The minutes of each day will not be read at the beginning of each day of Assembly but will be proofread by a committee of three commissioners in consultation with the recording clerks of the Assembly. The committee of three shall be nominated by the convening Moderator and the minutes shall be posted in a public place where they can be read by interested commissioners.

IX. Permanent Committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission

- 9-1 The ministries of the Assembly shall be conducted primarily through permanent committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission, to wit:
- A. Committee on Administration
1. Chaired by most immediate past Moderator.
 2. Committee Membership: Moderator, Stated Clerk, immediate past Moderator, immediate past Chairman, nine elected members, plus the chairmen of other permanent committees. The chairmen from other committees shall have voice but no vote.

3. Functions in the following ways:
 - a. Administrative oversight
 - Oversight and coordination of Administration Committee with World Outreach, Christian Education, Ministerial Vocation, National Outreach, Women's Ministries and Youth Ministries Committees.
 - Responds to emergency and disaster situations
 - Serve as Directors of the corporation
 - b. Denominational Development
 - General Assembly planning
 - Promotion/public relations
 - Personnel administration (staff hiring, staff accountability)
 - Budget development: receive projections from all committees and submit to General Assembly a proposed budget
 - All legal and corporate matters
 - Property and liability insurance
 - c. All other business of ecclesiastical matters not specifically assigned to any other committees.
- B. World Outreach Committee
 1. To be comprised of nine members on a three-year, three class system, with the Moderator and Stated Clerk to serve as ex-officio members. The permanent Nominating Committee will nominate replacement members from within EPC membership. Members may serve a maximum of two terms and then may not be reelected without at least one year's break. WOC members are to include three Teaching Elders and six Ruling Elders. The WOC is to meet at least twice a year, including the General Assembly.
- C. National Outreach Committee
 1. Membership to be nine members, including three "at large" members in order to add greater breadth and depth of experience. Chairman to be elected by committee.
 2. Duties: to give oversight and planning to the domestic ministries in church planting, evangelism, and church development.
- D. Committee on Ministerial Vocation
 1. Membership to be six members; chairman elected by committee.
 2. Monitors and aids ministerial committees of local Presbyteries.
 3. Assists in placement of pastors and helps churches to find pastors.
 4. Provides information on colleges and seminaries.
 5. Examines extraordinary candidates.
 6. Oversees theological testing.
- E. Women's Ministries Committee
 1. Membership shall be comprised of six women, currently active members of the EPC and as geographically representative as possible of the entire denomination. No more than one person from any given Presbytery may be elected.
 2. Duties: to provide an atmosphere for the women of the church to mature spiritually and to recognize and develop their God-given gifts.
- F. Christian Education & Publications Committee
 1. To be comprised of six members, two of whom may be non-elders qualified in Christian Education and who are active members of EPC churches. Chairman to be elected by committee.

2. Duties:
 - a. Curriculum development
 - b. Provide resources for church/Christian day schools (all levels)
 - c. Provide assistance in Sunday School development and operation
 - d. Publications other than curriculum
 - e. Camp and conference development
 - f. Lay leadership development
 - g. Worship and music resources
- G. Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries
1. Membership to be comprised of two Teaching Elders and four Ruling Elders in three rotating classes of two each. Two of the four Ruling Elder positions on the Student and Young Adult Ministries Committee may be filled with non-ordained EPC youth ministers who are active members of EPC churches.
 2. Duties: to be responsible for conference ministries, youth curriculum resourcing, youth ministry resources and other youth related concerns for grades 7-12.
- H. Committee on Theology
1. Membership shall be comprised of six people, one-half of whom shall be Teaching Elders and one-half of whom shall be Ruling Elders, to be in three rotating classes of two each.
 2. Duties: to receive and study such theological matters as may be referred to it by the General Assembly and to return to the General Assembly its opinions and requested papers or documents.
- I. Fraternal Relations Committee
1. Membership to consist of six members plus the immediate past Moderator, the Moderator, and the Stated Clerk as members ex-officio. The chairman is to be selected by the committee.
 2. Duties: to assist the General Assembly in identifying, developing, and implementing relationships with other bodies of Christians including denominations in the Reformed tradition, ecumenical agencies (evangelical or Reformed in character) and other groups working to advance the Kingdom of God through evangelism, nurture, and service. The committee shall receive, study, and pursue only such fraternal matters as may be referred to it by the General Assembly and shall report annually to the General Assembly on all matters referred and the development of existing fraternal relationships.
- J. Permanent Judicial Commission
- "The Permanent Judicial Commission: The General Assembly shall establish a PJC. The Commission shall consist of a minimum of nine persons in three classes of three each, and of which at least two-thirds must be Ruling Elders. The Assembly shall determine their eligibility to succession. Efforts shall be made to give fair representation to the various Presbyteries. During service on this Commission, no member may hold office or employment in the court. Its quorum shall be two-thirds of its membership. It shall elect its own moderator and a clerk from among its members and an accurate record shall be kept of its deliberations and actions, with a permanent record of these Minutes filed with the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly." *Duties of the PJC described in the Book of Government, 16-27.B*

K. Presbytery Review Committee

1. Membership: Committee to consist of three members, including at least one former stated clerk of Presbytery.
 2. Duties: To provide structure, order, and continuity in reviewing the minutes of the Presbyteries.
- 9-2 The power and authority of the permanent committees shall be those set forth in these **Rules** or by direction of the General Assembly.
- 9-3 Each committee shall be constituted on a three year, three class structure. All members shall be Teaching Elders or Ruling Elders except as noted. Insofar as practicable, the ratio of two Ruling Elders to one Teaching Elder shall be maintained.
- 9-4 In the event of a vacancy on a permanent committee of the General Assembly, when such vacancies seriously affect the work of the committee, and upon the request of the chairman of that committee, the Committee on Administration is authorized to appoint a person to fill the vacancy of that committee. Such appointees shall serve until the following General Assembly at which time the person shall be presented to the General Assembly by the Nominating Committee for approval. Upon approval of the General Assembly, the nominees shall then be approved for the terms and the classes according to the vacancies being filled.
- 9-5 A majority of a permanent committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 9-6 Each permanent committee shall elect its chairman for the forthcoming assembly year before the Assembly that initiates that assembly year. Persons not yet elected to the forthcoming year shall not be eligible.

X. Committee on Nominations

- 10-1 The membership shall consist of 9 members, in three classes of three each composed of four Teaching Elders and five Ruling Elders, with at least one person from each Presbytery. When the number of Presbyteries exceeds nine, membership shall be rotated fairly among the Presbyteries. A member may not succeed himself. The Stated Clerk shall work with the committee to insure compliance with the requirements of the **Rules for Assembly**.
- 10-2 The chairman shall be named from the next outgoing class by the outgoing Moderator of the Assembly. The chairman shall take office at the close of the Assembly.
- 10-3 Each year at the Assembly, the outgoing Moderator shall nominate three persons to the Assembly for membership on this committee. At that time, the floor will be opened for other nominations. However, all nominations must meet the requirements for Presbytery representation and for the Teaching Elder and Ruling Elder distribution. The Stated Clerk shall rule if a nomination from the floor is valid, and if it is valid, the Stated Clerk shall determine which of the Moderator's three nominees the nominee from the floor will run against. Those elected shall take office at the close of the Assembly.

10-4 Duties:

1. Nominees for Moderator: The committee shall advise each Presbytery following the meeting of the Assembly of the privilege of that Presbytery to recommend to the committee a person for Moderator of the General Assembly. Such recommendation shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year. After March 31, the committee shall evaluate the recommendations of the Presbyteries, as well as other recommendations it may receive, and at the next meeting of the Assembly shall recommend no more than two persons as its nominees for Moderator. At that time, nominations may also be made from the floor. Election shall be by a majority vote of the Assembly. Nominees of the committee shall be advised of their pending nomination, ordinarily no less than thirty days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly.
2. To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Sessions and permanent committees are encouraged to submit qualified names. A committee may submit names for that committee only. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or committee.
3. To name from the commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.

XI. The Board of Pension and Benefits

11-1 The Board of Pension and Benefits shall oversee the administration of the denominational Pension Plan and the Group Insurance Plan.

- a. Membership to consist of six persons in three classes of two each, with each person able to succeed himself for one term. A member may be reelected for additional terms after an interim of one year. The members of the Board shall be nominated to the Assembly by the Nominating Committee, with the chairman to be nominated at the Assembly by the outgoing Moderator.
- b. Duties: to serve as trustees under the Pension Plan adopted by the Assembly; to administer the Group Insurance Plan; to administer the proceeds of the "Gratitude Gift;" to make annual report of its proceedings to the Assembly.

XII. New Business

- 12-1 Any matter presented in any form which has not been received by the Stated Clerk prior to the opening of the General Assembly shall be treated as new business.
- 12-2 New business must be presented to the Assembly by noon of the second day of business. The Committee on Administration may assist the Stated Clerk in referring all new business coming to the Assembly.

XIII. Parliamentary Procedure

- 13-1 Except as otherwise specifically provided in these Rules, Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standard in parliamentary procedure.

- 13-2 In presenting the report of a committee, the chairman 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 vote of commissioners present. When a minority of a committee wishes to present a minority report, the member reporting for the minority shall have the privilege of presenting the minority report and moving it as a substitute for the portion of the majority report affected.
- 13-3 Each recommendation in each report must be read, considered, and acted on separately.
1. The chairman moves the adoption.
 2. The Moderator asks, "Is there objection or question?"
 3. Hearing no objection or question, the Moderator states, "It is adopted."
(Procedure known as "Short Form of Voting.")
- 13-4 Procedure in debating a question:
1. The committee chairman may answer questions concerning the report addressed through the Moderator.
 2. The chairman 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.
 4. Debate on the main motion shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes unless extended. A simple majority may extend debate in additional five (5) minute increments. No Commissioner may speak longer than three (3) minutes at one time.
 5. Debate shall be free, open, and responsible with equal time being given to proponents insofar as possible.
- 13-5 All motions shall be presented in writing and read before the vote.

XIV. Amendment or Suspension of Rules

- 14-1 **The Rules of the General Assembly** may be amended or suspended only by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the total enrollment of the Commissioners. A motion to amend is debatable. A motion to suspend is not debatable.

ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY INDEX

	Reference	Document Page
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY		
Acts of Assembly added to <i>The Book of Order</i>	91-09	3
Ad Interim Theology Committee established	84-10	1
Articles of Incorporation amended to add directors' liability insurance	89-07	2
<i>Book of Discipline</i> adopted	81-13	1
New <i>Book of Discipline</i> ratified	97-01	3
<i>Book of Government</i> ratified	81-12	1
<i>Book of Worship</i> ratified	81-11	1
"Chairman" approved as word of designation	85-01	2
Cost of Assembly operations: formula requested	94-16	3
Face-to-Face - opportunities for seeking churches and ministers	83-02	1
Growth experience for persons in ministry approved as annual event	94-27	3
Historical foundation established	86-15	2
Hotels - policy where pornographic movies are shown	87-05	2
Newly Ordained Ministers Gathering approved as annual event	94-26	3
Permanent Judicial Commission reporting procedure	90-21	2
Plan to be developed for goals, programs, priorities of General Assembly	94-15	3
Preliminary Position Paper statement adopted	84-09	1
Presbytery Review Committee established	97-28	3
<i>Rules for Assembly</i> adopted	81-10	1
Scheduling of annual General Assembly	89-08	2
Convenes Thursday after Father's Day	93-15	3
Weekend Assembly schedule	90-20	2
Statement of purpose	83-09	1
Theology Committee established	86-01	2
Theology Committee to announce meeting and agenda	86-02	2
Women's Ministries Committee formed	86-06	2
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY		
Assistant Stated Clerk position approved	96-16	4
Position description adopted	97-10	5
Certificates and forms made available	85-09	4
Christmas offering approved	85-08	3, 15, 28
Committee personnel to be recommended by presbyteries	86-13	4
Director of Resource Management position approved	90-06	4
Establishment of General Assembly Office	82-01	3
Evaluation Committee approved for GA Office personnel	90-07	4
Location of General Assembly office	82-02	3
	92-03	4
Outreach Department divided into World and National Outreach	92-22	4
Site for construction of General Assembly Office approved	88-01	4
Stated Clerk of General Assembly provided for	82-09	3
Women's Ministries Director (half-time) position approved	90-01	4
Youth Ministries Director (half-time) position approved	90-02	4
Youth Ministries Director position (full-time) approved	91-04	4
CONFESSONAL MATTERS		
Baptism guidelines for church court other than session	89-01	6
"Chicago Statement" adopted as resource	88-19	5
Children and participation in the Lord's Supper, a pastoral letter	93-08	6
Children's Catechism (modern version) endorsed	88-20	5
Essentials of the Faith adopted	81-01	5

Advisory letter on relationship to Westminster Confession	88-29	5
Fourth ordination vow corrected per PJC ruling	97-11	7
Inserted in <i>Book of Order</i> binder	87-03	5
Prefatory statement to Confession	85-15	5
Purpose of, clarified	93-17	7
Theology Committee to do comprehensive study on relationship between Essentials and Confession	97-12	7
Westminster Confession of Faith (Summertown edition) adopted	84-01	5
Westminster Confession of Faith Commentary endorsed	92-06	6

PRESBYTERIES

Allegheny Presbytery constituted	86-04	9
Boundaries amended to exclude Bluefield, WV	92-10	11
Dissolved	93-06	12
Called meetings, number required	81-02	7
	88-02	9
Candidate application forms (presbytery) approved	83-03	8
Candidate "Session Approval Forms" approved	83-04	8
Commissions, role of	91-05	10
Committee (permanent) members' names to be sent to presbyteries	85-02	8
Communion: Non-EPC minister may be approved to serve in EPC church	94-22	12
Councils, formation encouraged	85-14	9
Covenanting with educational institutions approved	88-06	10
Goals for meetings	81-03	7
Illinois and Texas churches choose presbytery	82-06	8
Minutes to be presented to General Assembly in English	94-28	13
Position Statement on Presbytery Development,	93-05	11
Presbytery of Central South constituted	83-12	8
Boundaries amended to include Missouri	85-03	8
Boundaries amended to include southern Illinois	86-05	9
Boundaries amended to include Kansas City (KS) metro area	87-08	9
Boundaries amended to include Kansas east of Highway 81	88-05	10
Boundaries amended to include entire Nashville area	92-08	10
Boundaries amended to exclude certain Arkansas counties	92-09	11
Divided into two presbyteries	91-06	10
Boundaries amended to include "boot heel" counties of Missouri	94-12	12
Presbytery of the East constituted	82-04	8
Boundaries amended to include Washington, DC and contiguous counties of Virginia	84-11	8
Boundaries amended to include Loudon & Prince William Counties	85-04	9
Boundaries amended to include eastern Ohio	84-12	8
Boundaries amended to include entire states of New York & Pennsylvania	93-06	12
Divided into two presbyteries	86-04	9
Presbytery of Far West constituted	83-10	8
Dissolved	93-07	12
Presbytery of Florida constituted	90-11	10
Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic constituted	88-04	10
Bluefield, WV church assigned to Mid-Atlantic Presbytery	92-10	11
Boundaries amended to include entire state of West Virginia	93-06	12
Boundaries amended to move five North Carolina churches to Presbytery of the Southeast	95-10	13
Presbytery of Mid-America constituted	91-06	10
Boundaries amended to include certain Arkansas counties	92-09	11
Boundaries amended to exclude "boot heel" counties of Missouri	94-12	12
Presbytery of the Midwest constituted	81-08	8
Boundaries amended to exclude state of Missouri	85-03	8
Boundaries amended to exclude Illinois south of I-70	86-05	9

Boundaries amended to exclude state of Illinois	91-06	10
Boundaries amended to include entire state of Ohio	93-06	12
Presbytery of the South constituted	82-05	8
Divided into two presbyteries	83-12	8
Presbytery of the Southeast constituted	83-12	8
Boundaries amended to include state of Florida	88-03	9
Boundaries amended to exclude state of Florida	90-11	10
Boundaries amended to add five North Carolina churches	95-10	13
Divided to constitute Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Presbyteries	88-04	10
Boundaries amended to exclude entire Nashville area	92-08	10
Presbytery of St. Andrews constituted	87-11	9
Boundaries amended to include province of Buenos Aires	90-09	10
Boundaries extended to include provinces of Entre Rios & Sante Fe	97-08	13
Partnership Agreement between Presbytery & General Assembly ratified	97-09	13
Presbytery of the West constituted	81-08	7
Boundaries amended to add Washington and Idaho	87-07	9
Boundaries amended to exclude Kansas City, KS metro area	87-08	9
Boundaries amended to include Kansas west of Hwy 81	88-05	9
Boundaries amended to include California and Arizona	93-07	12
Ruling Elders to be recommend for committee membership	86-13	9
Session is deposed; Presbytery to provide pastoral assistance but may not otherwise act except in certain cases	94-24	12
Session encouraged but not mandated to hear information from Presbytery committee following inquiry	94-23	12
Terms of call forms (ministers) approved	83-06	8
Women's Ministries Committee formation encouraged	93-16	12
World Outreach Committees formation encouraged	92-11	11
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER		
Assistant Pastor, presbytery voting member	85-06	15
Call for Pastor or Associate Pastor form approved	83-06	14
Candidates		
Candidates Educational Equivalency Program (CEEP)	83-07	14
Application for Gospel Ministry approved	83-03	14
Session Approval Form approved	83-04	14
Chaplains		
MVC to design process for maintenance of chaplaincy program	83-15	15
Presbytery of membership	88-07	16
Christmas offering approved for needy ministers, missionaries	85-08	15
	87-14	16
Compensation, annual review for	83-01	14
Continuing education for ministers program approved	83-14	14
Co-pastor, office not recognized	85-05	15
Eligibility for medical coverage extended	90-17	16, 39
Exception to co-pastor ruling for Myrtle Grove Church	90-19	16
Exceptions to required participation in Group Insurance Plan	88-08	16, 38
	88-09	38
Denominational Goals for Pastoral Care endorsed	87-22	16
Examinations for ordination, policy on retaking failed tests	91-03	16
Face-to-Face - opportunities for seeking churches and ministers	83-02	14
Gratitude Gift offering approved	87-14	16, 37
Growth experience for persons in ministry approved as annual event	94-27	17
Housing allowance, retirement pension may be applied	96-17	17, 41
Insurance: Churches urged to assume deductible and co-insurance as part of ministers' terms of call	82-10	14
Insurance Plan mandatory for ministers in EPC churches	81-06	13
Life insurance cap increased to \$50,000	97-03	17, 41

Manual for Candidates for Gospel Ministry approved	84-03	15
Medical Benevolence Fund approved	89-15	16, 39
Ministerial Endowment Fund approved	84-15	15
Ministerial Vocation Committee to evaluate pastoral vocational pressures and church environments	97-22	17
Missionaries in cooperative agreement may choose EPC insurance plan or sending agency's plan	93-13	17, 40
National (world outreach) pastors not required to participate in EPC Pension Plan	93-14	17, 40
Newly Ordained Ministers Gathering approved as annual event	94-26	17
Pension funds permitted to be used for housing allowance	96-17	17
Personal Information Form provided	83-05	14
Plan for pastoral care of ministers, families, congregations to be studied	86-03	15
Reading list for candidates requested	92-18	16
Reading list for candidates approaching ordination approved	93-18	17
Sacramental authority		
Administration of sacraments only by ordained ministers	84-02	15
By certain licensed candidates	84-07	15
By lawfully ordained minister in good standing of another denomination may serve communion with consent of Presbytery	94-22	17
Scholarship Fund (Andrew A. Jumper) endorsed	92-07	16
Self-funded plan by The Travelers approved	84-08	15, 37
Social Security, medical plan excludes persons who have opted out	95-02	17, 40
Terms of call for ministers to include EPC insurance plan	81-04	13
To include 18% benefit for insurance and pension	81-05	13
"Uniform Procedures on Candidacy, Licensure, and Ordination" adopted	82-07	13
Amended to delete section on licensure	94-25	17

NATIONAL OUTREACH

Bartlett L. Hess award established for innovative approaches to church growth	97-24	19
Church Development Committee to assist churches with ministry, finances, fundraising	82-12	18
Church Loan Fund concept approved	83-11	18
Church Loan Fund to be established	86-12	18
Church Loan Fund administration guidelines authorized	89-10	18
Church Loan Fund, loans to begin	89-11	18
Church Loan Fund policies amended on repayment clause	90-10	19
Church Loan Fund, church members encouraged to include in wills	89-09	18
Church planters assessment process endorsed	88-12	18
Church planting to be targeted in Los Angeles and Orlando	96-07	19
Corbett Heimburger, NOC Director, commended	97-27	20
Investors Church Development Loan Fund approved	89-12	18
Key cities for church planting to be targeted	96-13	19
Plan describing potential church development adopted	97-23	19
Strategy for funding to be studied	96-14	19
Leadership training and resources to be provided for sharing Christ individually and in the churches	97-26	20
Master Plan for Church Development approved	89-13	19
To be reviewed and revised if needful every five years	96-12	19
Combines 1989 & 1995 plans into 1997 <i>Master Plan for Church Development</i>	97-25	20
Mission to the Nation established	82-03	18
"Mission Statement and Values" adopted	96-11	19
National Outreach Department approved for Assembly Office	92-22	19
Redirect benevolence funds for church planting	92-15	19
Solicitation policy for church planting projects adopted	92-21	19

WORLD OUTREACH

Argentina Declaration affirmed	94-18	22
Bible League approved as mission agency	94-17	22
Cooperative Agreements approved		
Africa Inland Mission	95-15	23
Arab World Ministries	92-13	22
Logoi	86-14	21
Interserve	90-13	21
Frontiers	91-07	21
Middle East Media	95-16	23
Missionary Internship	85-12	20
Overseas Crusade	85-13	21
Overseas Missionary Fellowship	97-15	23
Pioneers	95-17	23
Send International	92-14	22
SERVE	95-18	23
Sudan Interior Mission (SIM)	92-12	21
United World Mission	93-11	22
World Impact	93-10	22
Wycliffe	86-11	21
Youth For Christ, USA	93-09	22
Definition of approved mission agency	87-02	21
Ethnic and urban ministries in North America assigned to World Outreach	84-04	20
Five-year Report to be distributed to church members	96-18	23
Literacy and Evangelism, an approved mission agency	93-12	22
LOGOI/FLET endorsed for use in Argentina	90-18	21
Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF), status approved	87-01	21
MERF approval withdrawn	91-08	21
Missionaries in cooperative agreement may choose insurance plan	93-13	22
Missionaries: plan to be formed to help in reentry from the field	94-19	23
National pastors not required to participate in EPC group insurance plan	93-14	22
Redirect benevolence funds for EPC World Outreach	92-15	22
Sons and Daughters program approved	83-16	20
Trans World Radio approved as mission agency	90-14	21
World Outreach Committee established	82-13	20
World Outreach Manual, Part I adopted	83-13	20
World Outreach Manual, Part II, adopted	84-15	20
World Outreach Manual, Part III, adopted	86-22	21
World Outreach presbytery committees, formation urged	92-11	21
World Outreach Master Plan approved	88-13	21
Churches asked to distribute to members	96-18	23

FRATERNAL MATTERS

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church fraternal relationship approved	85-10	24
More extensive relationships with ARP approved	89-19	25
Statement of Commitment, EPC & ARP	91-10	25
Geneva Statement, EPC & ARP	92-01	25
Yearly exchange of fraternal delegates approved	92-02	26
Christian Reformed Church fraternal relationship approved	87-10	24
More extensive relationships with CRC approved	89-19	25
Definitions of fraternal relationship approved	84-06	23
	88-14	24
Family conference with ARP to be explored	93-03	26
Fraternal Relations Committee established	83-17	23
Fraternal relationships with evangelical Reformed bodies to be pursued	82-11	23
Fraternal relationships with Presbyterian groups to be pursued	85-11	24
Fraternal relationships encouraged with some denominations outside the Reformed tradition	96-04	27

National Association of Evangelicals, application made	81-07	23
EPC churches encouraged to participate in NAE	97-05	27
NAE Director Billy Melvin extended thanks for 28 years of service	94-02	26
North American Presbyterian & Reformed Council (NAPARC)		
Membership to be pursued	87-09	24
Dialogue to become member to continue	89-21	25
Response on Holy Spirit and charismatic gifts	92-16	26
Membership application to be continued	94-04	26
PC(USA) requested to rescind charges against EPC (1988)	88-16	24
Presbyterian Church in Ireland, relationship to be pursued and explored	94-03	26
Protest lodged with WARC against PC(USA) action (1988)	88-18	25
Puerto Rico, fraternal relations established with Association of the Charismatic Presbyterian Churches of Puerto Rico	94-01	26
Reformed Church in America and Presbyterian Church in America to be studied for fraternal relationship	89-20	25
Solicitation of churches for denominational affiliation, policy	88-15	24
Statement on handling interdenominational and other disputes	88-17	24
World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC)		
Application for membership endorsed	84-05	23
Strengthen relationships with member denominations	89-21	25
FRC to explore membership in alternate organizations	94-05	26
World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF), application for membership endorsed	86-16	24
World Fellowship of Reformed Churches, application for membership endorsed	97-04	27

FISCAL MATTERS

Adoption of "benevolence giving goals" for congregations	87-20	28
Calendar year shall be fiscal year	82-08	27
Christmas offering approved	85-08	28, 3
Church Loan Fund to be established	83-11	28
Church Loan Fund - presbytery repayment guarantee	90-10	29
Church Loan Fund criterion on fee rates amended	94-13	30
Fiscal policy defined	83-08	27
Interest, principles on lending money	90-12	29
Medical Benevolence Trust promotion approved	90-16	30
Ministerial Endowment Fund approved	84-15	28
Pension Plan administrative expenses funded by Administration Budget	89-05	29
Per member asking set at \$5	81-09	27
Per member asking raised to \$8	83-08	27
Per member asking raised to \$10	89-18	29
Per member asking raised to \$12	92-23	30
Per member asking raised to \$15	94-14	30
Per member asking raised to \$18	97-06	30
Reflections funding or subscription program to be designed	95-08	30, 34
Scholarship matching fund program endorsed for Erskine College and Seminary	95-11	30
Solicitation policy set for church planting projects	92-21	30
Special offerings: materials to be sent five weeks prior to projected date	95-01	30, 34
Staff development funded by benevolence giving	85-07	28
Student & Young Adult Ministries directed to contact the churches for support of their benevolence askings	97-20	31
Women's Ministries "Second Mile Giving"	86-07	28
Women's Ministries half-time Director funded through Faith Focus	90-01	29
Youth Director (half-time) funded through benevolence giving	90-02	29

PROGRAM MATTERS

Abortion, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	31
Position Paper adopted	86-20	31
Aging, Task Force recommendations	86-08	31

AIDS/HIV, Position Paper adopted	94-20	34
Bethany Christian Services, agency approved	89-16	32
Booklets on baptism and the Reformed faith endorsed	88-24	32
Capital Punishment, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	31
Preliminary Position Paper rescinded	95-12	34
Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, a resource	88-19	32
Children's Catechism (modern version) endorsed	88-20	32
Christian Education Resource Network to be established	89-17	32
Christian Education Task Force to be formed to evaluate curricula according to EPC standards	95-09	34
Christian Education Committee excused from further work on LiFE Curriculum	97-18	36
Civil Disobedience, Pastoral Letter approved	96-09	35
Introductory paragraphs adopted	97-13	35
Conference (biannual) approved for ministers young in the ministry	88-23	32
Covenanting between presbyteries and colleges approved	88-06	32
Culture and the church: Theology Committee to study	97-14	35
Curricula distinctly Reformed to be recommended to the churches	90-04	33
Curriculum publishers consistent with EPC beliefs endorsed	88-22	32
Disney Company, Spirit led response to	96-06	35
Divorce and Remarriage, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	94-21	34
Family conference with ARP to be explored	93-03	33
Holy Spirit, Position Paper adopted	86-21	31
Homosexuality, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	31
Position Paper adopted	86-20	31
Replacement Position Paper adopted	94-20	34
Hotels - policy where pornographic movies are shown	87-05	31
Lay Renewal Ministries approved as resource	88-21	32
Men's ministry, formation to be considered	97-17	36
Mission experiences, short term, endorsed for senior high students	90-03	33
New members curriculum for adults and youth to be developed	90-05	33
Officer Training Program approved	87-04	31
Officer Training Manual endorsed	92-05	33
Ordination of Women, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	31
Position Paper adopted	86-20	31
Organ Donation and Transplantation, pastoral letter adopted	96-10	35
"Partial Birth Abortion Ban" opposed	96-05	34
Pioneer Clubs, relationship endorsed	97-19	36
Pornography, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	88-27	32
Problems of Suffering, Death, and Dying, Position Paper adopted	95-14	34
Promise Keepers program endorsed	95-20	34
Reading list approved for candidates approaching ordination	93-18	33
Reflections funding or subscription program to be designed	95-08	30, 34
Regional Pastor, joint project approved	92-17	33
Retreat and camping facility to be researched	92-04	33
Research set aside until funds are available	94-10	33
Screening procedures for child care workers approved	94-11	33
Secret Fraternal Organizations, Pastoral Letter Regarding Criteria for Evaluating Membership, adopted	95-13	34
Sonlife Strategy model approved for youth ministries	88-26	32
Special offerings: materials to be sent five weeks prior to projected date	95-01	30, 34
Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee		
Asked to provide direction to the churches	96-08	35
Authorized to investigate formation of committee for Single Adult Ministry	97-21	36
Committee directed to encourage support of SYAM through benevolent giving	97-20	36
Subcommittees on Evangelism and Caring established	92-20	33

Value of Human Life, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	31
Position Paper adopted	87-21	32
Westminster Confession of Faith Commentary endorsed	92-06	33
Westminster Catechism, resources for teaching children and youth	93-04	33
Women's Ministries Committee formation encouraged for presbyteries	93-16	33
Women's Ministries Constitution for local churches adopted	88-28	32
Women's Ministries reporting to church sessions encouraged	97-16	36
Youth Ministries to research retreat/camping facilities	92-04	33
Youth Ministries Committee changes name to Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee	96-15	35
Youth Speakers Bureau approved	88-25	32
Youth summer conference concept adopted	86-09	31

BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS

Group Insurance Plan		
Administration placed under Board of Pension & Benefits	90-08	39
	91-01	39
Adopted children to be covered when custody begins	94-07	40
Approved for ministers	82-10	36
Benefit Services vendor for plan administration	96-02	41
Carrier changed to Provident for health and life coverage	87-19	38
CHAMPUS participants exempted	87-15	37
Conversion option eliminated	95-04	41
Dependents of retired and disabled employees may be covered by medical plan	94-08	40
Deductibles for medical coverage reduced	90-15	39
"Disabled employee," category created and defined	92-28	40
Eligibility for medical coverage extended	90-17	39, 16
Enrollment for churches of record 12/21/93 may be reconsidered	94-09	40
Exceptions to required participation	88-08	38, 16
	88-09	38
Expenses for insurance allocated on percentage basis	83-19	37
Extended health coverage for 3 months after termination	93-02	40
Geographical 3-tier system for premiums begun	89-14	38
"Gratitude Gift" offering approved	87-14	37, 16
Immunizations, coverage for eligible dependent children	95-03	41
Insurance Plan mandatory for ministers in EPC churches	81-06	36
Life insurance cap increased to \$50,000	97-03	41, 17
Long term disability cap raised to \$40,000	86-18	37
Mammogram paid at 80%	97-02	41
Medical Benevolence Fund approved	89-15	39, 16
Medical Benevolence Trust approved in concept	90-16	39
Medical Benevolence Fund document adopted	92-29	40
Medical Benevolence Fund eligibility increased to \$25,000	97-07	41
Medicare: Board to determine cost of medical coverage for Plan participants not covered by Medicare	94-06	40
Ministerial Vocation Committee to solicit bids for better insurance coverage	83-18	37
Missionaries in cooperative agreement may choose EPC insurance plan or sending agency's plan	93-13	40, 17
National (world outreach) pastors not required to participate in EPC Pension Plan	93-14	40, 17
Organ transplants, coverage defined	92-25	39
Pancreas added to list of covered organ transplants	95-05	41
Participation of at least 80% of each church staff encouraged for Group Insurance Plan	88-10	38
Pre-existing conditions clause amended	87-16	37
Premium structure for medical plan revised to four categories	95-06	41
Procedures for diagnostic tests covered at 80% are added	92-27	40

Radial keratotomy excluded	87-17	37
Retired persons eligible to participate in medical plan	86-19	37
"Retiree" redefined	91-02	39
Second surgical opinion requirement eliminated	92-26	39
Self-funded plan by The Travelers approved	84-08	37
Social Security, medical plan excludes persons who have opted out	95-02	40, 17
Terms of call for ministers to include EPC insurance plan	81-04	36
To include 18% benefit for insurance and pension	81-05	36
Vendor for life and disability insurance changed	96-03	41
Pension Plan		
Pension Plan adopted	89-02	38
Administrative expenses funded by Administration Budget	89-05	38
Adoption Agreements accepted from churches	89-04	38
Enrollment period extended	92-19	39
Enrollment, for churches of record 12/31/93	94-09	40
Board of Reference formation approved	89-06	38
Board of Reference eliminated	95-07	41
Board of Pension & Benefits, removal from office	89-03	38
Group Insurance Plan, Pension Board oversees	90-08	39
	91-01	39
Housing allowance, retirement pension may be applied	96-17	41, 17
Restated Pension Plan adopted	93-01	40
Retirement age defined as 59 1/2	92-24	39
TSA program approved and participation urged	87-12	37
Vendors for benefit and pension plans:		
COA may authorize	96-01	41

**A Digest of the
ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
1981-1997**

"An act of the General Assembly represents the expressed will of the Assembly and provides definitive guidelines for the life and mission of the church until either amended or superseded by the action of a subsequent Assembly." Stated Clerk, 1985 (Italicized print indicates a subsequent change in an act.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 81-10 The document, *Rules for Assembly*, is adopted, governing procedures for carrying out the business of the General Assembly. *Rules* may be amended as desired by each General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 1-6)
- 81-11 The provisional *Book of Worship* is ratified. (**Minutes**, 1-22)
- 81-12 The provisional *Book of Government* is ratified. (**Minutes**, 1-22)
- 81-13 The *Book of Discipline* is adopted. (**Minutes**, 1-29)
- 83-02 Opportunity is to be provided at each General Assembly for pastors seeking a call to meet with churches and ministries seeking to issue a call. (**Minutes**, 3-37)
- 83-09 The General Assembly endorses a three-fold statement of purpose for General Assembly meetings:
1. To do the business of the Assembly;
 2. To be a time of celebration and fellowship;
 3. To provide an opportunity for growth in ministry skills. (**Minutes**, 3-53)
- 84-09 A Preliminary Position Paper is not intended to be a thorough theological statement nor a complete exegetical Biblical study on a particular issue. Rather, such a Paper is intended to set forth in a preliminary way the "mind" of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church on some particular issue or subject. The purpose of such a Preliminary Position Paper is to enable the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to make a statement to itself, or the Christian community, or the world in general on some issue or subject so that our general position is quickly made clear while the thorough theological or exegetical study may be done in due time. Such a Preliminary Position Paper may be adopted by one Assembly and modified or changed at any succeeding Assembly.
- Ordinarily such a Preliminary Position Paper shall have an Ad Interim Committee appointed to send the Paper to the presbyteries and congregations for study and comment and for further development theologically and Biblically in order that such Paper might be presented to some subsequent Assembly as a "Position Paper." (**Minutes** 4-38)
- 84-10 An Ad Interim Committee on Theology is established to enable the Assembly to continue the development of its posture on crucial issues facing its church. Preliminary position papers shall be initiated by the Committee on Administration but individuals, sessions, and presbyteries may also develop such which shall be forwarded to the General Assembly through its Administration Committee. (**Minutes**, 4-38) *Assembly voted in 1988 to establish a permanent Committee on Theology, thus discontinuing the Ad Interim Committee.*

- 85-01 All heads of committees, boards, agencies, or commissions, whether male or female, are to be designated as "chairman," and the Assembly shall refrain from usage of the term "chairperson." (**Minutes**, 5-25)
- 86-01 The General Assembly approves establishment of a permanent Committee on Theology, to be comprised of three Teaching Elders and three Ruling Elders. (**Minutes**, 6-24)
- 86-02 The Assembly instructs the permanent Committee on Theology to make known to all Ministers and Clerks of Session the date and place of its meetings and the agenda of items to be deliberated, and to welcome input from the constituency regarding said matters. (**Minutes**, 6-28)
- 86-06 Establishment of a permanent Committee on Women's Ministries is approved, with one representative from each presbytery (appointed initially by the Moderator) to serve a 3-year term after which the regular electoral process of rotation of class will be used. (**Minutes**, 6-52) *Assembly of 1989 regularized election process with eligibility being extended to any active church member.*
- 86-15 Formation of an historical foundation is approved, and a committee to oversee its development shall be appointed with instructions to prepare a history of the origins of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Committee for the Historical Foundation shall be responsible for collecting, cataloging, and preserving historical documents, artifacts, and other items of historical significance in the origins and ongoing life of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. (**Minutes**, 6-75)
- 87-05 The Assembly decides not to do business with hotels and motels promoting pornography for their customers in the cities where future General Assemblies are held, and further will encourage its constituents to refrain personally from patronizing such establishments. (**Minutes** 7-38)
- 89-07 The Assembly approves amending the Articles of Incorporation by adding a section on volunteer directors' liability limitations. (**Minutes**, 9-48)
- 89-08 The Assembly directs that future General Assemblies be held during a time in June which does not include the weekend of Father's Day. (**Minutes**, 9-48)
- 90-20 The 12th General Assembly is ordered to convene from Thursday evening through Monday afternoon on a trial basis with the subsequent Assembly to evaluate this time frame. (**Minutes**, 10-45) *(The 13th Assembly approved convening on the Thursday in June following Father's Day through Saturday. Cf. Act 93-15.)*
- 90-21 The Assembly approves a reporting procedure for the Permanent Judicial Commission in reference to overtures and recommendations as follows:
1. PJC will send a written report to the Assembly relative to any overture or recommendation purposing to change the Constitution.
 2. Report will be assigned to a standing committee.
 3. Standing committee will provide the Assembly a written copy of referred matters along with PJC recommendations after which the committee's recommendations will be presented. (**Minutes**, 10-46).

- 91-09 The Assembly instructs the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to index and print the *Acts of the Assembly* for inclusion in the *Book of Order* binder under a new section entitled, "Rules and Acts of the Assembly" to be updated following each General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 11-40).
- 93-15 The Assembly shall meet on Thursday through Saturday, to convene the Thursday in June following Father's Day. (**Minutes**, 13-28)
- 94-15 The Committee on Administration is instructed to develop a strategic plan to set for the vision, goals, and programs of the General Assembly for the next several years, to include goals, programs, activities and priorities for the life of the plan. (**Minutes**, 14-26)
- 94-16 Committee on Administration is instructed to investigate alternative formulas for allocating the costs of General Assembly operations among the churches and take appropriate action to implement the agreed-upon alternative. (**Minutes**, 14-26)
- 94-26 The Assembly shall hold annually a Newly Ordained Ministers Gathering annually beginning in 1995, and provide a speaker addressing current issues facing new ministers, along with a time of informal sharing. (**Minutes**, 14-37)
- 94-27 In keeping with the *Denominational Goals for Pastoral Care*, the Assembly approves holding an annual "growth experience for persons in ministry focusing on spiritual, emotional, marital, family and church life" beginning with the 15th General Assembly (1995). (**Minutes**, 14-37)
- 97-01 The Assembly ratifies a new *Book of Discipline*. (**Minutes**, 17-7)
- 97-28 A permanent Presbytery Review Committee is established, to consist of three members at least one of whom is to be a former stated clerk of presbytery. (**Minutes** 17-46)

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 82-01 The General Assembly approves the establishment of an Office of the General Assembly and authorizes the employment (calling) of an Administrative Coordinator who shall also serve as Stated Clerk, and a Director of Church Development who shall be primarily responsible for church planting and congregational development. (**Minutes**, 2-32).
- 82-02 The Administration Committee shall select a permanent place for the Office of the General Assembly to be approved by the Administrative Commission. (**Minutes**, 2-32) (*In 1992, the Assembly affirmed locating the permanent assembly office in the Detroit metropolitan area. Cf. Act 92-03.*)
- 82-09 The General Assembly shall provide an amount sufficient for salary and housing, insurance, pension, travel, and entertainment to establish a permanent position of Stated Clerk. (**Minutes**, 2-50)
- 85-08 General Assembly endorses a special denominational voluntary Christmas offering to help needy ministers or missionaries, and authorizes EPC churches to receive such an offering whose funds shall be administered by the permanent Committee on Administration. (**Minutes**, 5-43) (*Cf. Act 87-14, Board of Pension and Benefits, for subsequent Assembly action, the Gratitude Gift.*)

- 85-09 The Christian Education and Publications Committee is authorized to develop, for sale to the churches, standardized forms such as certificates for infant baptism, church membership, etc. (**Minutes**, 5-46)
- 86-13 The Assembly instructs the stated clerks of presbyteries to request every congregation to recommend Ruling Elders willing and qualified to serve on specific permanent committees; further, to instruct the Stated Clerk of General Assembly to produce a brief description of duties and responsibilities for each permanent committee along with upcoming vacancies. Clerks of presbyteries are requested to submit a combined list of available Ruling Elders from member congregations, along with their qualifications, experience, and brief biographical sketch. Copies of pertinent documents are to be transmitted to each member of the Nominating Committee prior to its meeting. (**Minutes**, 6-70) (Cf. *Rules*, §10, for description of permanent Committee on Nominations.)
- 88-01 The Assembly approves the purchase of a 10-acre parcel of land adjacent to and owned by Trinity Presbyterian, Plymouth, Michigan for future construction of the General Assembly Office. (**Minutes**, 8-64)
- 90-01 The Assembly approves position of half-time Director of Women's Ministries and grants an exception to its fiscal policy (Act 83-08) permitting the position to be funded for a period not exceeding three years through the Women's Ministries "Faith Focus" benevolence asking. (**Minutes**, 10-24)
- 90-02 The Assembly approves a half-time Director of Youth Ministries position and granted an exception to its fiscal policy (Act 83-08) permitting the position to be funded by benevolence giving for a period not exceeding five years. (**Minutes**, 10-25) *The 1991 Assembly approved establishment of full-time Director of Youth Ministries. Cf. Act 91-04.*
- 90-06 The position of Director of Resource Management (Business Administrator) for the Office of the General Assembly is affirmed. (**Minutes**, 10-28)
- 90-07 The General Assembly approves the establishment of an Evaluation Committee for the annual evaluation of the Stated Clerk, and to review with the Stated Clerk the evaluation of the General Assembly staff. Committee will report annually to the Administration Committee. (**Minutes**, 10-28).
- 91-04 The General Assembly approves the establishment of a full-time Director of Youth Ministries. (**Minutes**, 11-27) (Cf. Act 90-02.)
- 92-03 The Assembly approves the continuation of the General Assembly Office in the Detroit, Michigan area, specifically one of the western suburbs, and to continue monitoring the needs of and services to the particular churches to determine any shifts in location criteria. (**Minutes** 12-25)
- 92-22 The Assembly approved the division of the Department of Outreach into two departments: World Outreach and National Outreach. Each is to have its own director. (**Minutes**, 12-46)
- 96-16 The Assembly approves the designing of a procedure to create a position description for an

Assistant Stated Clerk, with financing arrangements, and to report to the 17th (1997) General Assembly. The Assembly's desire is to have this person in place by the 18th (1998) General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 16-36)

- 97-10 The Assembly adopts a position description for an Assistant to the Stated Clerk. (**Minutes** 17-25).

CONFESSONAL MATTERS

- 81-01 The intent of the Essentials of the Faith shall be 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. (**Minutes**, 1-12) (*Act 93-17 further clarifies the purpose of the Essentials.*)
- 84-01 The General Assembly shall print the Summertown edition of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (published by Attic Press) with introduction and appropriate table of contents, appendices #1 and #2, and shall exclude the Declaratory Statement. (**Minutes**, 4-23)
- 85-15 The *Westminster Confession of Faith* (EPC edition) shall include as a prefatory statement "The Essentials of the Faith." (**Minutes**, 5-28)
- 87-03 The Assembly endorses the addition of the *Westminster Confession of Faith, the Essentials, and the Shorter Catechism* to separate sections in the loose leaf *Book of Order*. (**Minutes**, 7-36)
- 88-19 The Assembly adopts as resource for its congregations "The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy." **Minutes**, 8-56; text of statement pp. 70-73 of 8th Assembly **Minutes**)
- 88-20 The Assembly endorses for distribution to its churches *The Children's Catechism: A New Modern Version*, published by Summertown Texts, Signal Mountain, Tennessee (1988). (**Minutes**, 8-55)
- 88-29 The Assembly concurred with the Committee on Theology, which was given the task of studying the relationship between "The Essentials" and the **Westminster Confession of Faith**. This referral came out of a motion to the 7th General Assembly to make "The Essentials" a part of our Constitution.

The Committee concurs with the Stated Clerk that "The Essentials" should not be made a part of our Constitution and given that authority. This document now carries the authority of an Act of the Assembly (reference Acts of the Assembly §81-1).

In order to further understand the relationship between "The Essentials" and the **Westminster Confession of Faith**, it is important to remember our historical context. As Presbyterians, we hold the **Westminster Confession of Faith** to be our standard of doctrine as it is found in Scripture. This standard is held not only in the intellect but also in the heart. The **Westminster Confession of Faith** is a positive statement of what we believe Scripture teaches.

"The Essentials" is a distillation for the **Westminster Confession of Faith** and is helpful in stating what we believe. The two are not in contradiction but are in harmony with one another as an expression of Reformed doctrine.

Courts of the EPC should encourage their members to continue studying our Confession in the light of the Word of God that we may grow theologically and spiritually together, unto the stature of the fullness of Christ. (*Minutes*, 8-60)

- 89-01 Baptisms at some court of the church other than the session shall be done only by a Pastor and at least one Ruling Elder from the same particular church (*Book of Worship*, §3-2E) and shall conform to the stipulations of the *Book of Worship* on baptism. As members of the EPC, members of the court may participate in the responses to the questions proposed to a congregation. Further, it may not be done unless:
1. One of the parents is a member in good standing of a particular church which is a true branch of the visible Church and to which notification of the baptism is made in accordance with W.3-2G1.
 2. Or, if the only presenting parent is a member of the presbytery and therefore does not belong to a particular church, that person shall stipulate prior to the baptism in what particular church the baptized person shall be enrolled. It is not within the jurisdiction of a presbytery or the General Assembly to authorize baptisms since that is a duty of a session. However, a baptism may be performed at such a court provided the above considerations are met. (*Minutes*, 9-52)
- 92-06 The Assembly encourages the use of the *Westminster Confession of Faith Commentary* (Summertown Texts) in EPC churches. (*Minutes*, 12-27)
- 93-08 Assembly adopts "Pastoral Letter on Children and the Lord's Supper" as guidance to the churches on the subject of young children and their participation in the sacrament of communion, and that Roger Beckwith's article (*Westminster Theological Journal*, Fall, 1975) "Age of Admission to the Lord's Supper," should accompany this letter. (*Minutes*, 13-26)

PASTORAL LETTER ON CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

The permanent Committee on Theology issues this pastoral letter to the General Assembly in response to its request for guidance on the subject of young children and their participation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Administration of and participation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper must be done in accordance with Scripture as expressed in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapters 27 & 29, the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Questions 96 & 97, and the *Westminster Larger Catechism*, Questions 168 through 177.

The history of the Reformed tradition on this matter is fairly clear that young children have not been admitted to the Lord's Supper. However, the early church until the twelfth century did permit the practice. In recent years, greater interest has developed among the Reformed denominations in allowing such to participate.

It is the conclusion of this committee that Scripture, as explained by our confessional standards, permits only those who are of faith in Christ to participate in the Lord's Supper. Further, none who are of saving faith in Christ are to be prevented from it (WLC, 173). Those who do participate must be able to discern the nature of the sacrament (WLC, 170 & 174), must prepare themselves for worthy participation (WLC 171 & 173), and be able to engage in self-examination at the time of and following participation (1 Cor. 11: 26-30, WLC, 175).

The Session of the church is charged with the responsibility to discern the credibility of the profession of those who wish to participate in the Lord's Supper, regardless of age. This is explained in the *Westminster Larger Catechism*, # 173.

Q. May any who profess the faith and desire to come to the Lord's Supper be kept from it?

- A. Such as are found to be ignorant or scandalous, notwithstanding their profession of the faith, and desire to come to the Lord's Supper, may and ought to be kept from that sacrament, by the power which Christ hath left in his church, until they receive instruction and manifest their reformation.

The advice of this committee is that, though a local session is not required to admit young children to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, it may permit them if the following criteria are met:

1. The child has been administered the sacrament of Christian baptism.
2. The child presents a credible profession of faith as determined initially by his or her parents, and determined ultimately by the Session of the church.
3. The child is able to evidence to the Session a basic understanding of the nature of the sacrament as it is set forth in the Scriptures and in the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The Session must still continue to exercise diligence in its covenant responsibilities toward those children who are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The Session may or may not choose to admit the child into active membership at that time.

- 93-17 The Assembly sustains the opinion of the Permanent Judicial Commission concerning the purpose of the *Essentials of the Faith*:

The purpose of the *Essentials of the Faith* is to provide an explicit and concise expression of the essentials of the Christian faith, but also leave room for Christians to disagree on non-essentials. It is never to be used as an explicit standard for a minimal core of beliefs for candidates, ordination, or ministerial exams. It is not to duplicate the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, or to be construed as a substitute for the WCF. Because it is not part of the Constitution, it is never to be used as such. Theoretically, a person could affirm the *Essentials*, as all knowledgeable Christians would do, but disagree with the WCF. Such a person would be unacceptable as a Teaching or Ruling Elder in the EPC, being out of accord with its Constitution. On the other hand, a person cannot affirm the WCF and disbelieve any part of the *Essentials*. The *Essentials* are to be subscribed to in addition to the full WCF (G.14-1A.4). (Minutes 13-38) (The 16th General Assembly (1996) voted to delete the last sentence of this Act #93-17. (Minutes, 16-26)

- 97-11 The Assembly adopts the ruling of the Permanent Judicial Commission that the current form of the fourth ordination vow is the result of an unauthorized typographical alteration and that the words "essentials of the faith" should be printed in small case and plain letters. Future editions of the *Book of Government* are to be printed to conform to this correction. (Minutes 17-26)
- 97-12 The Assembly instructs the permanent Committee on Theology to undertake a comprehensive study of the relationship that now exists and that should exist between the "Essentials of the Faith" and the Westminster Confession of Faith to include, but not be limited to, an examination of the relevance of each to the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the vows of ordination for pastors and elders, relations with other denominations and the teaching and edification of lay persons. (Minutes 17-29)

PRESBYTERIES

- 81-02 Presbyteries shall meet at least twice during the year and a third time during the General Assembly (Minutes, 1-24). (Modified in Act 88-02 to require minimum of three annual meetings but not during General Assembly.)
- 81-03 Presbyteries shall have as their goals for presbytery meetings the following:
- a. To develop fellowship and support for pastors and elders;
 - b. To share resources with other churches;
 - c. To encourage church planting strategies. (Minutes, 1-24)

- 81-08 The first two presbyteries are constituted: The Presbytery of the Midwest and the Presbytery of the West. The boundaries are as follows:
1. Presbytery of the Midwest consists of the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri.
 2. Presbytery of the West consists of Colorado and the states north, south, and west of Colorado. (**Minutes**, 1-24)
- 82-04 The Presbytery of the East is constituted and shall include the states of Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC. (**Minutes**, 2-32)
- 82-05 The Presbytery of the South is constituted and shall include the states of Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. (**Minutes**, 2-32)
- 82-06 Churches in Texas and southern Illinois shall be given their choice as to which contiguous presbytery each respective church belongs. (**Minutes**, 2-32)
- 83-03 Presbyteries shall use the approved standardized "Application - Candidates for Gospel Ministry" for persons seeking to come under care of presbyteries. (**Minutes**, 3-48)
- 83-04 Session shall use the approved "Session Approval Form" for commending candidates to presbyteries. (**Minutes**, 3-48)
- 83-06 Presbyteries shall use the approved "Call for Pastor or Associate Pastor" form for ministerial terms of call. (**Minutes**, 3-48)
- 83-10 The Presbytery of the Far West is constituted and shall include the states of California and Arizona (**Minutes**, 3-54)
- 83-12 The Presbytery of the South is divided into two Presbyteries: the Presbytery of the Southeast and the Presbytery of the Central South. Presbytery of the Southeast shall include the states of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, plus eastern portions of Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Presbytery of the Central South shall include states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, plus western portions of Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee. (**Minutes**, 3-54)
- 84-11 Boundaries of the Presbytery of the East are extended to include those churches which fall within the bounds of the greater Washington, DC metropolitan area and the Fairfax County, Arlington County, and Alexandria areas of Virginia. (**Minutes**, 4-40)
- 84-12 Boundaries of the Presbytery of the East are extended to include those churches in eastern Ohio which lie east of Interstate 77. (**Minutes**, 4-40)
- 85-02 The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly shall annually forward to each presbytery the names of persons from that presbytery who are members of General Assembly permanent committees. (**Minutes**, 5-25)
- 85-03 The boundaries of the Presbytery of the Central South shall be amended to include the state of Missouri. (**Minutes**, 5-29)

- 85-04 The counties of Loudon and Prince William (Virginia) shall be added to the Presbytery of the East. (**Minutes**, 5-29)
- 85-14 The General Assembly encourages all presbyteries to develop presbytery councils consisting at least of its clerk, moderator, and immediate past moderator. Council shall be responsible for planning arrangements for presbytery meetings, including the service of worship. (**Minutes**, 5-25)
- 86-04 The Presbytery of the East shall be divided into two presbyteries: East and Allegheny. The Allegheny Presbytery shall have as its eastern boundary a line running from and including Rochester, New York, to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania and 1-81. The southern boundary shall include the state of West Virginia except for the eastern panhandle. Western boundary shall include eastern Ohio from 1-77 eastward including the city of Cleveland.
- Presbytery of the East shall include the rest of New York, the eastern part of Pennsylvania, the New England states, all of New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware. Also the eastern panhandle of West Virginia, the District of Columbia, and the Washington, DC metropolitan areas of Virginia which include the counties of Loudon, Prince William, Arlington, Fairfax, and the cities of Alexandria and Fairfax. (**Minutes**, 6-51)
- 86-05 The EPC, Anna, Illinois is placed within the bounds of the Central South Presbytery. Boundaries of the presbytery would then include all of the state of Illinois south of 1-70. (**Minutes**, 6-51)
- 86-13 The Assembly instructs the stated clerks of presbyteries to request every congregation to recommend Ruling Elders willing and qualified to serve on specific permanent committees. Further, to instruct the Stated Clerk of General Assembly to produce a brief description of duties and responsibilities for each permanent committee along with upcoming vacancies. Clerks of presbyteries are requested to submit a combined list of available Ruling Elders from member congregations, along with their qualifications, experience, and brief biographical sketch. Copies of pertinent documents are to be transmitted to each member of the Nominating Committee prior to its meeting. (**Minutes**, 6-70). (Cf. *Rules*, §10, for description of permanent Nominating Committee.)
- 87-07 The boundaries of the West Presbytery are extended to include the states of Washington and Idaho. (**Minutes**, 7-44)
- 87-08 The metropolitan area of Kansas City and contiguous counties of that city within the state of Kansas (West Presbytery) shall be placed totally within the bounds of the Central South Presbytery. (**Minutes**, 7-44)
- 87-11 The Presbytery of Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andres, formed in Buenos Aires, Argentina shall be received, consisting of five particular churches. (**Minutes**, 7-51)
- 88-02 Presbyteries shall meet at least three times per year. (**Minutes**, 8-64)
- 88-03 The entire state of Florida is placed within the bounds of the Southeast Presbytery. (**Minutes**, 8-31)

- 88-04 The Presbytery of the Southeast is divided into two smaller presbyteries: The Mid-Atlantic Presbytery and the Presbytery of the Southeast. Mid-Atlantic Presbytery shall include the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, and the portions of Virginia previously included in the Southeast Presbytery. Southeast Presbytery shall include the states of Florida, Georgia, and the eastern portions of Tennessee and Kentucky. (**Minutes**, 8-31)
- 88-05 The boundaries of the Presbytery of the Central South are amended to include that section of Kansas which lies east of Highway 81 to include all of the city of Wichita. Western portion of Kansas remains with the Presbytery of the West. (**Minutes**, 8-31)
- 88-06 The Assembly approves the concept of presbyteries covenanting with colleges and other educational institutions but disapproved the General Assembly entering into such agreements. (**Minutes**, 8-55)
- 90-09 Boundaries for the Presbytery of St. Andrews shall consist of the province of Buenos Aires. (**Minutes**, 10-36)
- 90-11 The Presbytery of Florida is established, encompassing the state of Florida. The boundaries of the Presbytery of the Southeast are adjusted accordingly. (**Minutes**, 10-36)
- 91-05 A commission can be created only by an appointing court to serve as a commission for a limited time as specified by presbytery. No committee of presbytery shall have continuing authority to serve as a commission except as specifically authorized by G.16-26B and G.16-27A. 12. No committee has the authority to create commissions. The rationale is that a committee is not a court of the church. (**Minutes**, 11-35)
- 91-06 The Presbytery of the Central South is divided into two presbyteries:
1. **Central South:** Northern boundary extends from I-65 at (but excluding) Louisville, along the Ohio River to the confluence of the Wabash and Ohio Rivers, westward along Highway 13 to Murphysboro, Illinois, then due west to the Mississippi River. Then is extended from the Mississippi River due west of Murphysboro south to the Arkansas state line. Across the northern state line of Arkansas westward to the western state line. South on the Arkansas state line to the junction of the present boundary at the Texas state line. Boundaries of the continuing Presbytery of the Central South would remain as presently established.
 2. **Mid-America:** Southern boundary follows I-40 from and including Oklahoma City to the Arkansas state line. Northward on the Arkansas state line to the junction of the Missouri-Arkansas state line, then eastward to the Mississippi River. North along the Mississippi River to the point due west of Murphysboro, Illinois, and due east to Murphysboro along Highway 13 to the confluence of the Ohio and Wabash Rivers. Northward along the eastern boundary of Illinois and westward across the northern state line of Illinois to the Iowa state line. Northward on the eastern state line of Iowa and westward on the northern Iowa state line to the western state line. Southward on the western Iowa state line to the present junction of the Kansas state line. Westward to US 81 and southward along US 81 (I-135, I-35) to and including Oklahoma City. (**Minutes**, 11-37)
- 92-08 The Assembly amends the boundaries of the Central South and Southeast Presbyteries so that the Nashville metropolitan area is included in its entirety in the Central South Presbytery.

The boundaries of the Central South Presbytery shall be as follows: From the Kentucky-Tennessee state line at I-65 east to the Sumner-Macon County, Tennessee line; south on the Sumner-Macon county line to the intersection of Wilson County; south on the Wilson} Trouseale, Wilson-Smith, and Wilson-DeKalb county lines to the Wilson-Rutherford county line; west on the Wilson-Rutherford county line to the intersection of US 231; south on US 231 to the Tennessee-Alabama state line; west on the Tennessee-Alabama state line to the intersection of the Alabama-Georgia state line. (Minutes, 12-29)

- 92-09 Boundaries of the Presbyteries of Mid-America and Central South are amended so that the Arkansas counties of Benton, Washington, Carroll, Boone and Madison are included in the Presbytery of Mid-America. (Minutes, 12-29)
- 92-10 Assembly approves amending the boundaries of the Allegheny Presbytery to exclude the city of Bluefield, West Virginia and its county, assigning the designated area to the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic. (Minutes 12-29)
- 92-11 Presbyteries are encouraged to establish World Outreach Committees to accelerate the foreign missions endeavor throughout the denomination. (Minutes, 12-42)
- 93-05 The Assembly adopts "Position Statement on Presbytery Development."

POSITION STATEMENT ON PRESBYTERY DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this position statement is to be a guide to the General Assembly in making decisions concerning the establishment of new presbyteries or the realignment of current boundaries.

The church as the body of Christ is composed of all those persons who profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior, together with their children. The church on earth is not limited to particular forms of government or denominational structures; nevertheless, the government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be Presbyterian in form. Such is government by Elders meeting in church courts in regular gradation. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes the perfecting of the visible church is best established where the scriptural doctrine of government by Elders gathered in church courts is practiced.

The courts of the church shall be the Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. Presbytery shall be composed of all Ministers belonging to it, and two Ruling Elders for each Minister drawn from the particular churches within its bounds.

The Presbytery has jurisdiction over all that belongs to the worship and ministry of a group of churches within the designated bounds. In its spiritual oversight, the mission of the Presbytery shall be:

1. The nurture and care of persons called to the office of Minister, and oversight of all transactions pursuant to call.
2. The provision of spiritual discipline according to the *Book of Discipline*.
3. The oversight of church Sessions through annual review.
4. The maintenance of peace and unity within the congregations.
5. The establishment and development of churches.
6. The encouragement of evangelism, renewal and ministries of compassion within the congregations and Presbytery.
7. The active participation in the life of the General Assembly.
8. The organization of the Presbytery for maximum advancement of the Gospel and the Kingdom.
9. The provision of resources to member congregations promoting effective evangelism, education, stewardship, officer training and the like.

In pursuit of its mission, the question naturally arises as to what constitutes a viable Presbytery. Viability may be defined as "the ability with maximum efficiency to achieve a stated mission." The basic components of a viable Presbytery within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be understood as the following:

1. **LEADERSHIP:** A Presbytery must have adequate personnel resources to support the local church as well as Presbytery's committees and commissions.
2. **FINANCIAL RESOURCES:** Sufficient resources must be available to support the mission and life of a Presbytery. A minimum budget of \$100,000 ('93 dollar basis) per year is necessary.
3. **COMMITMENT:** Leadership and resources are of little value if the solid commitment of Teaching and Ruling Elders of each church to the connectional form of government is absent.
4. **DEMOGRAPHICS:** The minimum requirements for a Presbytery need to be:
 - a. a large church (1000 + members);
 - b. twelve organized churches;
 - c. a composite membership base of 2,500.
5. **OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK:** The Stated Clerk shall be provided with office equipment and necessary support staff to carry out the duties of the office as defined in the Presbytery by-laws.
6. **GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY:** Presbytery boundaries should be established to keep travel distances between churches to a reasonable minimum. (**Minutes**, 13-25)

93-06 Assembly approves dissolution of the Allegheny Presbytery, realigning the state of West Virginia with the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic, the states of New York and Pennsylvania to the Presbytery of the East, and the state of Ohio to the Presbytery of the Midwest. (**Minutes**, 13-25)

93-07 Assembly approves dissolution of the Presbytery of the Far West, realigning the states of California and Arizona with the Presbytery of the West. (**Minutes**, 13-25)

93-16 Presbyteries are encouraged to consider having a Women's Ministries Committee, and to devise an effective means of coordinating the input of that committee with the other committees of the Presbytery. (**Minutes**, 13-35)

94-12 The Assembly approves redrawing the boundaries of the Mid-America and Central South Presbyteries, so as to move the extreme southeastern portion of Missouri (including the "boot heel" counties of Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Wayne, Carter and Oregon) from the Presbytery of Mid-America to the Presbytery of the Central South. (**Minutes**, 14-25)

94-22 A lawfully ordained minister in good standing of a non-EPC church may be authorized to serve communion in an EPC church, with the concurrence of the Presbytery. (PJC opinion, **Minutes**, 14-36)

94-23 While a Session is encouraged in the spirit of church unity to receive information from a Presbytery committee resulting from a committee inquiry, the Session cannot be forced to hear information from a Presbytery committee. (PJC opinion, **Minutes** 14-36)

94-24 In cases where a Session has been deposed, an Administration Commission of Presbytery shall be authorized to provide pastoral assistance to the congregation, but shall not otherwise act, even temporarily, with sessional powers defined in G.16-10 with the following exceptions:

1. To call and conduct a congregational meeting (G.8-1B) within 30 days;
2. To train, if necessary, those elected as required in G.12-3.
3. To examine those elected, as required by G.13-7,8, and 9.
4. To promptly and in a manner consistent with G.13-7 and 14-1E,F install those favorably examined.

Every effort shall be made to preserve the church's right to elect its own officers. (PJC opinion, **Minutes**, 14-36)

- 94-28 Presbytery minutes shall be maintained in English in addition to any other language the court wishes to maintain, and this edition shall be rendered in a timely fashion. (**Minutes**, 14-38) [*The 15th General Assembly reaffirmed this action. (Minutes, 15-39)*]
- 95-10 Boundaries of the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Presbyteries are realigned to move five churches formerly in the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery into the Southeast Presbytery. These churches are Community Bible Church (Highlands, NC), Plumtree (Plumtree, NC), Grace and Cornerstone (both of Franklin, NC) and Harvest Church (Asheville, NC). (**Minutes**, 15-28) [*COA clarified geographic boundaries encompassing the above to be that portion of North Carolina west of State Routes #221 and #194.*]
- 97-08 The boundaries of St. Andrews Presbytery (Argentina) are extended to include the Entre Rios and Santa Fe provinces. (**Minutes**, 17-25)
- 97-09 The Proposed Partnership Agreement between the St. Andrews Presbytery and the General Assembly (October 28-29, 1996) is ratified. (**Minutes**, 17-25)

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

- 81-04 Terms of call for any minister of member churches shall provide for participation in the denominational hospitalization and disabilities programs. (**Minutes**, 1-32)
- 81-05 Terms of call for any minister shall provide a minimum of 18% benefit to provide for group hospitalization, disability, and pension. The pension factor shall be not less than 10%. This benefit shall be computed on the gross effective salary base, i.e., salary and housing/utilities allowance. (**Minutes**, 1-32)
- 81-06 The denominational group insurance plan providing health, disability, and life coverage shall be mandatory for all ministers within member churches. (**Minutes**, 1-36)
- 82-07 *Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination:*
1. Requirements for ordination shall be:
 - a. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university;
 - b. Seminary degree - M.Div. or equivalent including Koine Greek and Hebrew;
 - c. Care of presbytery for a minimum of one year;
 - d. Examinations - four written and one oral examination must be sustained;
 - e. Valid call;
 - f. Other evidence - Assurance those spiritual gifts needed for effective ministry are present and being developed.
 2. All exceptions to fulfilling standards for ordination (extraordinary circumstances) will be referred to the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation for a recommended course of action, including continuing education and reading requirements. The presbytery of jurisdiction shall, in conjunction with the Committee on Ministerial Vocation:
 - 2-1. Mail necessary documentation (personal history, etc.) to the permanent committee for its review and counsel, and

- 2-2. Proceed with process of ordination only after receiving recommendations from the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation.
3. Persons seeking membership within a presbytery may be received as enrolled members only upon evidence of a call endorsed by the presbytery.
 4. Terms of call: The amount of annual vacation time: one month.
 5. Terms of call: The amount of time to be given for study leave: two weeks, cumulative up to six weeks. *The 14th General Assembly amended this document, originally adopted in 1982 (Minutes 2-42), by dropping "Licensure" from the title as well as paragraphs 1, 4, and 5 having to do with licensure. (Minutes, 14-37)*
- 82-10 The General Assembly approves the concept of self-funding insurance and instructs its Committee on Administration to execute a plan in trust as appropriate. Individual churches are urged to assume the deductible portion of the health insurance program and cost of co-insurance as part of a minister's compensation. **(Minutes, 2-52)**
- 83-01 The Committee on Ministerial Vocation shall annually provide the presbyteries a letter encouraging each session to annually review pastoral and staff compensation, taking into account such factors as changes in cost of living, performance, capabilities of the congregation, and economic conditions of the community. Each presbytery shall determine how best to use the letter. **(Minutes, 3-37)**
- 83-02 Opportunity shall be provided at each General Assembly for pastors seeking a call to meet with churches and other ministries seeking to issue a call. **(Minutes, 3-37)**
- 83-03 Presbyteries shall use the approved standardized "Application - Candidates for Gospel Ministry" for persons seeking to come under care of presbyteries. **(Minutes, 3-48)**
- 83-04 Session shall use the approved "Session Approval Form" for commending candidates to presbyteries. **(Minutes, 3-48)**
- 83-05 A standardized "Personal Information Form" shall be provided for ministers seeking admission into the EPC and for EPC ministers seeking a change in call. **(Minutes, 3-48)**
- 83-06 Presbyteries shall use the approved "Call for Pastor or Associate Pastor" form for ministerial terms of call. **(Minutes, 3-48)**
- 83-07 The denomination shall provide an approved "Candidates Educational Equivalency Program" (CEEP) for presbyteries preparing candidates for the ministry who have extraordinary circumstances. Program shall be under general oversight of Ministerial Vocation Committee. **(Minutes, 3-50)**
- 83-14 The General Assembly charges its Ministerial Vocation Committee with the responsibility for developing a thorough Continuing Education Program for Ministers. To be included in such study are the following needs:
- a. the need for pastoral development in study leave;
 - b. the need for quality content in the study leave;
 - c. the need for non-pastoral professional staff to be included in professional development time.

While encouraging all churches to participate in continuing education programs, the Assembly urges the Ministerial Vocation Committee, in devising such a plan, to preserve the ministers' and

local session's liberty to choose those quality programs which best meet their needs, whether or not they be denominationally sponsored. (**Minutes**, 3-30)

- 83-15 The General Assembly instructs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to proceed to design a process for the proper maintenance of the military chaplaincy program (**Minutes**, 3-37)
- 84-02 The General Assembly sustains the Permanent Judicial Commission's opinion that "It is contrary to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (27-4) and the Constitution of the Church, *Book of Worship* (3-1), to allow persons who are not ordained Ministers of the Word to administer the sacraments." Document entitled "Uniform Procedures on Candidacy, Licensure, and Ordination" (**Minutes** 1983) shall be amended accordingly. (**Minutes**, 4-23)
- 84-03 General Assembly approves for printing the proposed *Manual for Candidates for the Gospel Ministries*. (**Minutes**, 4-23)
- 84-07 Licensed candidates with extraordinary status having been previously granted sacramental authority for their congregations may be given special dispensation to continue (cf. Act 84-02) while diligently pursuing ordination. Only candidates on record as of the 4th General Assembly given such authority may continue. No new candidates may be so treated. (**Minutes** 4-36)
- 84-08 General Assembly adopts the self-funding group insurance plan offered by The Travelers and gives authority to the permanent Committee on Administration to approve and establish all details relative to the establishment of proposed plan.

General Assembly requires pastors and employees of all member congregations, all presbyteries, and the Assembly who meet minimum requirements to enroll in the program.

This major medical program shall be reviewed annually and a full report made to the General Assembly (**Minutes**, 4-37).

- 84-15 The Ministerial Endowment Fund is established to meet specific, extraordinary financial needs of Ministers of the Word, missionaries and other full-time Christian workers who are members of or working under the auspices of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. (**Minutes**, 4-23)
- 85-05 The General Assembly sustains the Permanent Judicial Commission's opinion regarding the office of co-pastor as being non-existent. Relationships between teaching elders and EPC congregations sanctioned by the *Book of Government* are those of Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Assistant Pastor. (**Minutes**, 5-40)
- 85-06 Assistant Pastors are full voting members of their presbyteries. (**Minutes**, 5-40)
- 85-08 General Assembly endorses a special denominational voluntary Christmas offering to help needy ministers or missionaries and authorizes EPC churches to receive such an offering whose funds shall be administered by the permanent Committee on Administration. (**Minutes**, 5-43). *Cf. Act 87-14 for establishment of Christmas "Gratitude Gift" offering.*
- 86-03 The General Assembly instructs the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation to investigate, evaluate, and develop a plan to assist with the pastoral care of our pastors, their families, and congregations. (**Minutes**, 6-43)

- 87-12 The Assembly approves the establishment of an employer-sponsored tax-sheltered annuity program for the required minimum (10%) of gross effective salary for retirement for each minister and missionary, and urges each congregation to participate in such program (**Minutes**, 7-53).
- 87-14 An annual "Gratitude Gift" offering in connection with the Christmas season is approved. Monies received to be used by the Pension Committee to supplement income of our retired ministers and missionaries who participate in the denominational program. (**Minutes**, 7-53)
- 87-22 The General Assembly endorses the document, "Denominational Goals for Pastoral Care." (**Minutes**, 7-60)
- 88-07 Chaplains are encouraged to hold membership in the presbytery allowing the greatest participation and most effective ministry. (**Minutes**, 8-41)
- 88-08 Assembly amends participatory requirements for group health insurance plan by requiring participation of all ministers on the rolls of presbyteries with the exception of:
1. missionaries laboring in cooperative agreements with mission agencies;
 2. ministers laboring in institutional agencies providing their own group insurance plan;
 3. ministers afforded group insurance coverage as part of retirement benefits from a previous employer;
 4. ministers without call, and ministers laboring less than 20 hours in a place of ministry (**Minutes**, 8-24).
- 89-15 The Assembly approves the establishment of a General Assembly benevolence fund for medical care costs, concentrating its benevolence health care efforts on ministers without call, mission church pastors, and retired ministers and their families (**Minutes**, 9-33).
- 90-17 The Group Insurance Plan (medical portion) is amended to make ministers of fraternal bodies laboring within EPC congregations as missionary-in-residence or graduate school student-in-residence eligible for participation if such are understood as full-time staff in the life of the church (**Minutes**, 10-39).
- 90-19 The Assembly grants to the Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church (North Carolina) a one-time exception to Act #85-05 in order that the present co-pastors of Myrtle Grove may be received when church and pastors are dismissed to the EPC by virtue of Article 13. Such exception shall not be understood as precedent-setting and shall pertain exclusively to this church and these two pastors only. (**Minutes**, 10-43)
- 91-03 *The Candidates Care Manual* in Section 11, "Ordination Exams," shall be amended by requiring that in the event an exam is not sustained, it may not be retaken sooner than 30 days thereafter. If a third retest is necessary, it may not be administered until at least six months have elapsed. (**Minutes**, 11-33)
- 92-07 The Assembly endorses the Andrew A. Jumper Scholarship Fund for ministerial students at Reformed Theological Seminary and encourages the church session to participate in its support. (**Minutes**, 12-28)
- 92-18 The Assembly directs the Ministerial Vocation Committee, in consultation with the Theology Committee, to compile a reading list for candidates approaching ordination with focus on the

areas of theology and sacraments, the Reformed tradition, and the Reformed office of Minister of the Word. (**Minutes**, 12-45)

- 93-13 World Outreach missionaries in cooperative agreements may choose insurance coverage with either the EPC or their sending agency. In unique situations, other alternative coverage approved by World Outreach Committee may be appropriate (**Minutes**, 13- 27).
- 93-14 National pastors under appointment by World Outreach are not required to participate in the EPC Pension Plan (**Minutes**, 13-28).
- 93-18 The Assembly approves the "Recommended Reading List for Ordination Preparation" to be used in the task of preparing candidates approaching ordination examinations, especially in the areas of the Reformed tradition and the Reformed office of the Minister. (**Minutes**, 13-39)
- 94-22 A lawfully ordained minister in good standing of a non-EPC church may be authorized to serve communion in an EPC church, with the concurrence of the Presbytery. (**Minutes**, 14-36)
- 94-25 The document "Uniform Procedures on Candidacy, Licensure, and Ordination" is amended to delete sections having to do with licensure (paragraphs 1,4, and 5), and redesignating the remaining sections accordingly. Document is renamed "Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination." (*Cf. Act #82-07*) (**Minutes**, 14-37)
- 94-26 The Assembly shall hold annually a Newly Ordained Ministers Gathering beginning in 1995, and provide a speaker addressing current issues facing new ministers, along with an informal time of sharing. (**Minutes**, 14-37)
- 94-27 In keeping with the *Denominational Goals for Pastoral Care*, the Assembly approves holding an annual "growth experience for persons in ministry focusing on spiritual, emotional, marital, family and church life" beginning with the 15th General Assembly (1995). (**Minutes**, 14-37)
- 95-02 Group Medical Plan is amended to exclude persons who have opted out of the Social Security System and who are not otherwise eligible or entitled to Social Security or Medicare coverage, upon retirement or attainment of age 65 (whichever occurs later). Coverage, however, may be continued upon participation in the Medicare Voluntary Enrollment Plan, Parts A and B, and upon payment of the required monthly premium to both Medicare Voluntary Enrollment Plan and the EPC Medical Benefits Plans. (**Minutes**, 15-22)
- 96-17 The Assembly approves designating up to 100% of a minister's early and normal retirement pension or disability pension for 1996 and 1997 as housing allowance for United States income tax purposes (IRS Ruling 1.107-1) but only to the extent that the pension is used to rent or provide a home. (**Minutes**, 16-36)
- 97-03 The Assembly amends the Group Insurance Plan to double the current life insurance cap provided EPC pastors and employees from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for an additional premium. (**Minutes** 17-20)
- 97-22 The Ministerial Vocation Committee is instructed to evaluate the issue of pastoral vocational pressures from the perspective of identifying warning signs and seeking preventive measures for creating healthier church environments. (**Minutes** 17-41)

NATIONAL OUTREACH

- 82-03 The Assembly shall establish a three-year program (1982-85) called "Mission to the Nation" which shall have as its goal church development and new church planting. The permanent committee is instructed to propose appropriate projects and to develop a church-wide campaign to raise \$2.5 million for this program. Congregations are encouraged to place priority to giving to Mission to the Nation. (**Minutes**, 2-32)
- 82-12 The Church Development Committee is instructed to establish a procedure for assisting EPC churches with ministry and financial needs, and to develop a procedure that will assist EPC churches in their fundraising for Mission to the Nation. (**Minutes**, 2-32)
- 83-11 The General Assembly shall establish a loan fund for church site and building development whereby on a revolving capitalization basis, low interest monies will be available to mission churches and other churches in need. Special campaigns are to be implemented by the permanent Church Development Committee to raise at least the amount of one and one-half million dollars through means of designated gifts, special church offerings, and short-term loans. (**Minutes**, 3-54)
- 86-12 The Assembly approves a new Church Loan Fund with an initial target goal of \$300,000. Monies would be available at a favorable rate to EPC congregations seeking to acquire land or building facilities. Steps to launch Fund:
1. Promote congregational giving by individual gifts, legacies, endowments, outright gifts, and inclusion in local church budgets;
 2. Designate 1986 and 1987 Thanksgiving Offerings to this Fund. (**Minutes**, 6-64)
- 88-12 Assembly endorses the concept of an assessment process designed to identify gifted persons called and qualified for church planting. (**Minutes**, 8-31)
- 89-09 The Assembly authorizes the Church Development Committee to conduct a campaign to encourage members of the EPC to include the Church Loan Fund in their wills. (**Minutes**, 9-45)
- 89-10 The Assembly directs the Church Development and Administration Committees to jointly develop detailed administrative guidelines for the managing of the Church Loan Fund, and qualifications for churches and presbyteries requesting loans, and of assigning priorities to such requests. No requests for loans may be made until the presbyteries and churches have been advised of the guidelines. (**Minutes**, 9-48)
- 89-11 The Assembly authorizes the Church Development Committee to begin making loans to established EPC churches and to presbyteries in this Assembly year with appropriate fees to cover administrative costs and to provide challenge contribution goals from such churches and presbyteries to help build the Fund, enabling them to make more loans to needy congregations. (**Minutes**, 0-48)
- 89-12 The Assembly approves the establishment of an Investors Church Development Fund and authorizes the Church Development Committee to prepare a preliminary plan to present to the 10th General Assembly (1990) and to select subcommittee members with expertise in this field as needed. (**Minutes**, 9-45)

- 89-13 The Assembly approves for implementation the Master Plan for Church Development. (Minutes, 9-45)
- 90-10 The Church Loan Fund policies shall be amended to include the following: "A presbytery shall contractually guarantee timely repayment of principal and fees upon the recommendation of its Church Development Committee following its determination that the loan is a sound financial venture. (Minutes, 10-36)
- 92-15 The Assembly adopts a resolution encouraging each local church to (a) redirect 10% of its non-denominational benevolence budgets to the EPC, designated for World Outreach and/or new church development; and (b) increase its support for all missions by 10%. (Minutes, 12-46)
- 92-21 Policy is established that financial solicitations of any type for support of an EPC church planting project be limited to the organizing context for the project, viz. daughter church project to its mother church, presbytery plant to its presbytery, Assembly-supported plants to Assembly-approved National Outreach Committee (formerly called Church Development Committee) benevolence projects. (Minutes, 12-46)
- 92-22 The Assembly approves division of the Department of Outreach into the National Outreach Department and the World Outreach Department. (Minutes, 12-46)
- 96-07 In light of recent actions by the Disney Corporation that are contrary to Scripture and detrimental to the family, and in view of the major role Disney Corporation plays in shaping our culture, the Assembly resolves to make every sacrifice it can to plant more churches in the metro Los Angeles and metro Orlando areas, one goal of which will be to win as many employees of Disney Corporation to salvation in our glorious savior, Jesus Christ, as Providence allows. Thus we intend to change our culture by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. (Minutes, 16-31)
- 96-11 The Assembly adopts the National Outreach "Mission Statement and Values." (Minutes, 16-34)
- 96-12 The Assembly instructs the National Outreach Committee to review the 1989 Church Development Master Plan prior to the 17th (1997) Assembly, and every five years thereafter, revising as necessary. (Minutes, 16-34)
- 96-13 The Assembly instructs the National Outreach Committee to identify key cities for future church planting, along with a rationale for their selection and to report findings to the 17th (1997) General Assembly. (Minutes, 16-34)
- 96-14 The Assembly instructs the National Outreach Committee to study and detail a strategy for increasing the funding for Key Cities Program before the 17th (1997) General Assembly. (Minutes, 16-34)
- 97-23 The Key Cities Plan describing potential church development is adopted. (Minutes, 17-44)
- 97-24 The Assembly approves the Bartlett L. Hess Award, an annual honor for the church that has demonstrated the most innovative approach to church growth or revitalization during that year. (Minutes 17-44)

- 97-25 The Assembly approves combining the Church Development Plans of 1989 and 1995, using the newly approved *Mission Statement and Core Values* of the National Outreach Committee into a *1997 Master Plan for Church Development*. (**Minutes**, 17-44)
- 97-26 The National Outreach Committee is instructed to provide training and resources for the leadership in our churches in how to share their faith in Christ, individually and in group settings, with those in their communities who have not yet come to Christ. (**Minutes**, 17-44)
- 97-27 The Assembly commends Rev. Corbett Heimburger for his work as National Outreach Director, having built a foundation and provided sound direction and support in this area of ministry, and pray for the Lord's guidance for Rev. Heimburger's future ministry. (**Minutes**, 17-45)

WORLD OUTREACH

- 82-13 The Assembly approves establishment of permanent World Outreach Committee. Until such time as the EPC contains 200 member churches, committee shall consist of six members on a three-year, three-class system, with the Moderator and Stated Clerk to serve as ex-officio members. Committee will elect replacement members from within EPC membership. Members may serve a maximum of two terms, and then may not be reelected without at least one year's break. CWO members will include two teaching elders and four ruling elders. CWO is to meet at least twice a year, including General Assembly. When the EPC reaches a membership of 200 churches, an enlarged structure is to be presented at the next General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 2-41)
- 83-13 *World Outreach Manual, Part I (Theology and Practice of Missions)* is adopted by the Assembly. (**Minutes**, 3-46)
- 83-16 A "Sons and Daughters" program is approved, to encourage those who are presently serving as missionaries with EPC roots to become EPC missionaries through World Outreach.
- Qualifications:**
1. Home church or present membership in an EPC church;
 2. Substantial financial support from EPC sources.
- Benefits to Missionaries:**
1. Greater prayer and care base from entire EPC constituency;
 2. EPC initiative in gathering support and other necessary funds;
 3. Ministry among EPC churches within a primary region (preferably within a presbytery) to reduce travel time and costs during home service (furlough);
 4. Scheduling assistance from the World Outreach office.
- Benefits to EPC**
1. Strong sense of missions from within EPC family, leading to ownership from all of EPC;
 2. Sons and daughters of one church become adopted by others within a region;
 3. Opens a way for maximum but realistic growth rapidly and from within. (**Minutes**, 3-46)
- 84-04 Oversight of Ethnic and Urban Ministries in North America shall be given to the permanent Committee on World Outreach. (**Minutes**, 4-24)
- 84-15 *World Outreach Manual, Part II (The Handbook for Candidates)* is adopted. (**Minutes**, 4-24)
- 85-12 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Missionary Internship. (**Minutes**, 5-24)

Acts - Page 20

- 85-13 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Overseas Crusade. (**Minutes**, 5-24)
- 86-11 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Wycliffe Bible Translators. (**Minutes**, 6-67)
- 86-14 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and LOGOI. (**Minutes**, 6-67).
- 86-22 *World Outreach Manual, Part III (Handbook for Missionaries)* is adopted. (**Minutes**, 6-67)
- 87-01 The Assembly grants approved mission agency status to the Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF). (**Minutes**, 7-30). (*Cf. Act 91-08 for Assembly action rescinding approval.*)
- 87-02 The General Assembly adopts definition of approved mission agency as follows:
- * authentic evangelical confessional identity;
 - * historical integrity and explicit mission statement;
 - * mission objectives compatible with the EPC mission statement;
 - * clarity in ministry goals and objectives;
 - * financial credibility as measured by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability or by comparable standards;
 - * membership in the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association, or meet comparable standards
- (**Minutes**, 7-30)
- 88-13 The General Assembly adopts the **World Outreach Master Plan**. (**Minutes**, 8-43)
- 90-13 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and InterServe. (**Minutes**, 10-37)
- 90-14 Trans World Radio is ratified as an approved mission agency according to the standards set forth in Act 87-02 (**Minutes**, 10-37).
- 90-18 The Assembly endorses the LOGOI/FLET program as an acceptable equivalency program of theological education for ministerial candidates pursuing ordination in Argentina. (**Minutes**, 10-43).
- 91-07 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Frontiers. (**Minutes**, 11-36)
- 91-08 The Assembly withdraws approved agency status of the Middle East Reformed Fellowship (**Minutes**, 11-36). (*Cf. Act 87-01*)
- 92-11 The Assembly encourages presbyteries to establish World Outreach Committees to accelerate the foreign missions endeavor throughout the denomination (**Minutes**, 12-42).
- 92-12 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Sudan Interior Mission (SIM) (**Minutes**, 12-42).

- 92-13 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Arab World Ministries. (**Minutes**, 12-42)
- 92-14 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Send International. (**Minutes**, 12-42)
- 92-15 The Assembly adopts a resolution encouraging each local church to (a) redirect 10% of its non-denominational benevolence budgets to the EPC, designated for World Outreach and/or new church development; and (b) increase its support for all missions by 10%. (**Minutes**, 12-46)
- 93-09 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Youth For Christ, USA. (**Minutes**, 13-27)
- 93-10 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and World Impact. (**Minutes**, 13-27)
- 93-11 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and United World Mission. (**Minutes**, 13-27)
- 93-12 The Assembly grants approved mission agency status to Literacy and Evangelism, International (**Minutes**, 13-27)
- 93-13 World Outreach missionaries in cooperative agreements may choose insurance coverage with either the EPC or their sending agency. In unique situations, other alternative coverage approved by World Outreach Committee may be appropriate. (**Minutes**, 13-27)
- 93-14 National pastors under appointment by World Outreach are not required to participate in the EPC Pension Plan. (**Minutes**, 13-28)
- 94-17 The Bible League is granted approved mission agency status. (**Minutes**, 14-33)
- 94-18 The Assembly affirms the Argentine Declaration.

Argentine Declaration

Whereas we, the participants in the Argentine Consultation, thank God that in his providence our denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, has become a redemptive instrument for the Presbytery of St. Andrews, whereby an awareness of purpose and mission, within Reformed doctrine, has revitalized the life of its member churches. We further trust that this process in the years ahead will be one of mutual blessing and resound to the glory of God.

The participants of the Consultation make the following declaration:

1. The Argentine Consultation reaffirms the principle of connectionalism as expressed within the EPC. It further reaffirms that the Church is best established where the scriptural doctrine of government by elders gathered in church courts is practiced.
2. The Consultation upholds the necessity to put this principle into practice in every aspect with reference to the St. Andrews Presbytery, emphasizing the principle of reciprocity.
3. The Consultation further states its vision for Argentina as follows:
 - a. To develop a self-governing evangelical Presbyterian church;
 - b. To establish a church displaying the following characteristics:
 1. Rooted in the Word of God, based on the best Reformed/Presbyterian tradition.
 2. Guided by the Holy Spirit.
 3. Continually growing in sanctification.
 4. Permanently developing missionary activity.
 5. Interdependent, multi-formed and diverse in its unity. (**Minutes**, 14-33)

- 94-19 World Outreach is instructed to develop a re-entry plan or procedure for missionaries and their families returning from the field. (**Minutes**, 14-33)
- 95-15 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Africa Inland Mission. (**Minutes**, 15-35)
- 95-16 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Middle East Media. (**Minutes**, 15-35)
- 95-17 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Pioneers. (**Minutes**, 15-35)
- 95-18 SERVE (Sending Experienced Retired Volunteers Everywhere) is recognized as an approved mission agency. (**Minutes**, 15-35)
- 96-18 The Assembly encourages all the particular churches to make available to their members copies of the 5-year report and the new World Outreach Master Plan. (**Minutes**, 16-37)
- 97-15 The Assembly approves Overseas Missionary Fellowship as a cooperative agency. (**Minutes** 17-31)

FRATERNAL MATTERS

- 81-07 The Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall seek membership in the National Association of Evangelicals. (**Minutes**, 1-39)
- 82-11 The Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall pursue with the highest ethical conduct, fraternal relationship with other evangelical Reformed bodies. (**Minutes**, 2-56)
- 83-17 The Assembly establishes and elects a permanent Fraternal Relations Committee, consisting of six members. The Stated Clerk is instructed to draw up a job description for the committee. (**Minutes**, 3-31)
- 84-05 The General Assembly instructs the Stated Clerk to make denominational application for membership into the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. (**Minutes**, 4-26)
- 84-06 The General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church seeks, through its Fraternal Relations Committee, to identify, develop, and implement relationships with other bodies of Christians which will promote the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the unity of His Body, and the strengthening of the Kingdom of God on earth. To this end, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, through its Fraternal Relations Committee, seeks to build relationships with those denominations in the Reformed tradition, ecumenical agencies which are evangelical or Reformed in character and in spirit, and other groups and organizations which are working to advance the Kingdom of God through ministries of evangelism, nurture, and service.
- A fraternal relationship** may include one or more of the following:
1. A formal relationship with the highest representative body of another denomination. Such a relationship is more commonly understood as "being in correspondence with" that body.
 2. Less formal relationships, which may include exchange of information, exchange of observers, and shared ministries at different judicatory levels.

3. Memberships in ecumenical agencies which proclaim the Word of God, promote the unity of the Body of Christ, and share resources for effective ministries.
4. Relationships which endorse and support ministries lying outside conventional ecclesiastical structures but are of significance to the Kingdom.

A fraternal relationship may be constituted only by the General Assembly which shall also approve the terms of such relationships. (**Minutes**, 4-26)

- 85-10 The General Assembly shall establish fraternal relations with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, and send a delegate to its Synod every other year beginning in 1986. (**Minutes**, 5-47) *Cf. Act 88-14 for definition of this relationship. The 12th General Assembly approved an annual exchange of delegates. Cf. Act 92-02)*
- 85-11 The General Assembly shall pursue fraternal relations with the Presbyterian Church of America, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America, the Christian Reformed Church, and the Orthodox Presbyterian Church as soon as mutually convenient. (**Minutes**, 5-47)
- 86-16 The Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall seek membership in the World Evangelical Fellowship. (**Minutes**, 6-74)
- 87-09 The Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall seek membership in the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council. (**Minutes**, 7-51)
- 87-10 The Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall enter into a fraternal relationship with the Christian Reformed Church. (**Minutes**, 7-51)
- 88-14 Definition of "fraternal relationship" established by the 5th General Assembly is as follows:
1. exchange of fraternal delegates at major assemblies;
 2. occasional pulpit supply;
 3. intercommunion;
 4. joint action in areas of common responsibilities;
 5. communication on major issues of joint concern;
 6. exercise of mutual concern and admonition with a view to promoting the fundamentals of Christian unity. (**Minutes** 8-50)
- 88-15 The Assembly states that the official policy of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is, as it has been, not to solicit churches to leave the Presbyterian Church (USA) or any other denomination. Further, that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall limit itself to responding to churches requesting information about the EPC. (**Minutes**, 8-50)
- 88-16 In a spirit of brotherly concern, the 8th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church requests that the Presbyterian Church (USA) reconsider its action relative to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and consider rescinding said action until such time as the Evangelical Presbyterian Church receives information from the Presbyterian Church (USA) about the charges leveled against the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and these charges can be responded to after investigation. (**Minutes**, 8-50)
- 88-17 The Evangelical Presbyterian Church will take every measure possible to handle all matters of disputes between her and all others, the just and the unjust irrespectively, before Christian mediators and will eschew civil litigation unless she is named as the defendant. (**Minutes**, 8-50)

Acts - Page 24

- 88-18 The Stated Clerk shall convey to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) a protest on behalf of the 8th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church regarding the action of the 200th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to censure and condemn the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a sister denomination in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, without adequate communication and without an attempt to resolve the alleged problems between our bodies; and further, we request the World Alliance of Reformed Churches assist the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in resolving this dispute between sister denominations in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches. (**Minutes**, 8-50)
- 89-19 The Assembly instructs the Fraternal Relations Committee to explore with both the Christian Reformed Church and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church the possibilities of more extensive relationships and/or cooperative ministries. (**Minutes**, 9-49)
- 89-20 The Assembly instructs the Fraternal Relations Committee to explore the desirability and feasibility of establishing fraternal relationships with the Reformed Church in America and with the Presbyterian Church in America. (**Minutes**, 9-49)
- 89-21 The Assembly instructs the Fraternal Relations Committee to continue dialogue with NAPARC concerning our application for membership in the organization; to continue to strengthen our relationship with member denominations in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches; and to continue to affirm our relationship with the National Association of Evangelicals. (**Minutes**, 9-49) (*Cf. Act 87-09*)
- 91-10 The Assembly approves a statement of commitment between the EPC and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church authorizing the Interchurch Relations Committees to continue meeting for the purposes of finding areas of mutual commitments, discovering areas of differences and exploring ways of resolving those differences, exploring new and creative ways of working together. They shall report back to the respective parent bodies each year, until such time as either committee may ask to be discharged from this duty, or until the appointing body may discharge the committee from such duty. (**Minutes**, 11-26) (*Cf. Act 92- 01 for the Geneva Statement.*)
- 92-01 The Assembly approves *The Geneva Statement*, to be added to the joint statement adopted by the EPC and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. (**Minutes**, 12-21) (*Cf. Act 91-10*)

The Geneva Statement

Being persuaded from Scripture that all Christians are united together as one body in Christ, we acknowledge our responsibility to God and one another to labor together in the work of Christ so as to promote the peace, purity, and unity of the church, and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in the world.

We share a common understanding of the Scriptures as expressed in the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*, for laboring together in ministry. Recognizing that some differences exist between us in our understanding of certain issues concerning God's will for his church, we also recognize that that which we hold in common far outweighs that which differentiates us. It is understood that our common labors shall not compromise the consciences of either church. The integrity of each church concerning its standards and policies must be maintained and respected.

We therefore pledge ourselves to labor together in love to advance the work of Christ in both our common and separate ministries, seeking to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We promise that if ever we should offend one another in our common labors, we shall do everything possible to resolve the matter and to maintain cooperation. We commit ourselves to labor in support of our church courts,

faithfully reporting our activities to the appropriate board or agency, and our respective committees concerning interchurch relations.

We further believe that such practical fraternity, apart from any quest for organizational union will be pleasing to God and promote the advancement of the Gospel in the world. For these reasons we commit ourselves to this Agreement of Cooperation which is to be attached to the joint statement previously adopted by our churches.

- 92-02 The Assembly approved an annual exchange of fraternal delegates to the meetings of the EPC and Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, rather than the present alternating year exchange. (**Minutes** 12-21) (Cf. Act 85-10)
- 92-16 The Assembly responds to questions raised by the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC) concerning our stance on charismatic gifts by referring them to the Position Paper on the Holy Spirit, along with the following interpretive statements:
1. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church holds that baptism in or with the Holy Spirit is to be identified with regeneration and adoption;
 2. Evangelical Presbyterian Church views the gifts of the Holy Spirit as these are specified in such passages as I Corinthians 12, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and I Peter 4 as valid for the church at the present time.
 3. The Position Paper on the Holy Spirit distinguishes between the Word of God on the one hand, and the gifts of the Spirit, including the gift of prophecy, on the other. Whatever the exercise the gift of prophecy may involve, it is plain that its exercise is subject to the Holy Scriptures and to the local session.
 4. Clearly the implication of the Position Paper on the Holy Spirit is that because pre-eminence is ascribed to the Holy Scriptures, one would have to draw a very sharp distinction between the Bible (the Word of God) and any other form of revelation mentioned in the New Testament. (**Minutes**, 12-44)
- 93-03 The Assembly instructs the Christian Education Committee to explore with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church the feasibility of a joint family conference to be held at Bonclarken Conference Center. (**Minutes**, 13-18)
- 94-01 The Assembly establishes fraternal relations with the Association of the Charismatic Presbyterian Churches in Puerto Rico as defined in Acts #84-06 and #88-14. (**Minutes** 14-18)
- 94-02 The Assembly extends a resolution of thanks to Dr. Billy Melvin upon his retirement as director of NAE, expressing appreciation for 28 years of faithful service to NAE. (**Minutes** 14-18)
- 94-03 The Assembly instructs the Fraternal Relations Committee to pursue and explore fraternal relations with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to include, but not be limited to possible world outreach. (**Minutes**, 14-18)
- 94-04 The Fraternal Relations Committee is instructed to continue to pursue membership in the North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC). (**Minutes**, 14-18)
- 94-05 The Assembly instructs the Fraternal Relations Committee to study the membership of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and ascertain if any alternate organizations are available for churches in the Reformed world. (**Minutes**, 14-18)

- 96-04 The Fraternal Relations Committee is instructed to investigate the possibilities of creating as many mutually beneficial and kingdom enhancing denominational relationships, even if outside the Reformed family, as seems appropriate. (**Minutes**, 16-23)
- 97-04 The Assembly shall seek membership in the World Fellowship of Reformed Churches, a new global network of Presbyterian and Reformed bodies that will meet in conjunction with the World Evangelical Fellowship General Assemblies. (**Minutes** 17-22)
- 97-05 The Assembly encourages its churches to participate more fully in the National Association of Evangelicals, such as participating more fully in its commissions. (**Minutes**, 17-22)

FISCAL MATTERS

- 81-09 The Assembly adopts suggested guideline of \$5 "per member" contribution by EPC congregations. (**Minutes**, 1-24)
- 82-08 The fiscal year of the Assembly shall be a calendar year. (**Minutes**, 2-50)
- 83-08 Fiscal Policy: **Unified Budget Proposal**
The administration and operation of the General Assembly ought to be supported entirely by per member giving.

Aside from Assembly operations, the programs and activities of the Assembly in such areas as world missions, new church development, etc., are to be supported by the benevolence offerings of the various congregations as follows:

1. Each committee shall make a request to the Assembly through the Administration Committee for specific project funding in the succeeding year.
2. Upon the Assembly's approval, this shall become the Benevolence Askings of the denomination.
3. Local congregations may give to this objective in the following manner:
 - a. Undesignated giving to all objectives which gifts shall be applied according to the percentage of the budget for each program.
 - b. Designated giving to a specific program. All designated giving shall go to the program for which it was given. However, when the full budget of a program is reached, while designated giving shall continue to go to that program, undesignated giving shall then be distributed to other programs proportionately until 100% of budget for each program is reached. Once each program has reached 100% of benevolence, undesignated gifts shall then be distributed according to the percentage of budget as was done previously.

The Administration Committee shall present to the Assembly a recommended calendar of all events for the coming year. Such calendar shall include specific seasons, times of emphasis, times for prayer and education of the congregations for the various benevolence objectives of the General Assembly. The asking of special offerings shall be left to the discretion of local sessions.

To move toward the support of the administration and operation of the Office of the General Assembly entirely by per member giving, for 1984 the per member giving shall be set at \$8 and based on the current membership as of December 31, and in 1985, with the approval of the

General Assembly, shall be set at a figure to cover that cost.

As staff is added to boards, agencies, and other offices of the Assembly, such staff shall be funded out of the General Assembly Administration Budget. The purpose of this policy is to unify staff operations and equipment use as much as possible and to maintain parity of salaries and benefits.

As soon as practical, through the Administration Committee, the budget for the following year and a preliminary budget for the year after that shall be presented to the General Assembly each year.

All financial appeals by any committee, agency, or persons must be submitted to the Administration Committee for prior approval. (**Minutes**, 3-53)

- 83-11 The General Assembly shall establish a loan fund for church site and building development whereby on a revolving capitalization basis, low interest monies will be available to mission churches and other churches in need. (**Minutes**, 3-54)
- 84-15 Ministerial Endowment Fund is established to meet specific, extraordinary financial needs of Ministers of the Word, missionaries, and other full-time Christian workers who are members of or working under the auspices of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Stated Clerk and chairmen of the World Outreach and Ministerial Vocation Committees are appointed administrators of the Fund, responsible for making specific grants from the income of the Fund. (**Minutes**, 4-23)
- 85-07 The General Assembly shall set aside its fiscal policy (Unified Budget #5) which states, "additional staff be funded out of the General Assembly Administration Budget" for a period of five years during which time new staff development may be funded by benevolence giving. (**Minutes**, 5-43)
- 85-08 General Assembly endorses a special denominational voluntary Christmas offering to help needy ministers or missionaries and authorized EPC churches to receive such an offering whose funds shall be administered by the permanent Committee on Administration. (**Minutes**, 5-43)
- 86-07 The Assembly endorses the concept of "2nd Mile Giving" for Women's Ministries to be part of the Benevolence Askings Budget. (**Minutes**, 6-60)
- 87-20 The Assembly approves the adoption of a per member benevolence goal for each congregation, to be determined by the total benevolences approved by the Assembly. Assembly Office shall provide to each session and congregation information on the approved benevolences along with the suggested per member goal by September 1 following the meeting of the General Assembly, along with the suggested per member contribution for the Assembly's Administration Budget.

Each session and congregation is assured that such per member goal is not an assessment but only a suggestion, and that contributions to approved Assembly benevolences be designated for specific causes and those contributions shall be used only for such designated causes.

The Assembly urges each congregation to notify the Assembly Office no later than February of each year of its intended giving goal for that year to approved Assembly benevolences, with the

understanding that the local church's goal is not a pledge but only a goal towards which the church will strive. (Minutes, 7-55)

- 89-05 The Assembly decides that the Administration Budget will bear the administrative expenses of the Board of Pension and Benefits and the Pension Plan for the next two years. (Minutes, 9-48)
- 89-18 Per member asking is raised from \$8 to \$10. (Minutes, 9-48)
- 90-01 The Assembly approves a half-time Director of Women's Ministries and granted an exception to its fiscal policy (Act 83-08) permitting the position to be funded for a period not exceeding three years through the Women's "Faith Focus" benevolence asking. (Minutes, 10-24)
- 90-02 The Assembly approves a half-time Director of Youth Ministries position and granted an exception to fiscal policy (Act 83-08) permitting the position to be funded by benevolence giving for a period not exceeding five years. (Minutes, 10-25)
- 90-10 The Church Loan Fund policies shall be amended to include the following: "A presbytery shall contractually guarantee timely repayment of principal and fees upon the recommendation of its Church Development Committee following its determination that the loan is a sound financial venture. (Minutes, 10-36)
- 90-12 The Assembly approves and endorses the following eight principles regarding the propriety of lending money at interest:
1. It is always right and honoring to God that the church make gifts and/or interest-free loans to mission congregations situated in severely disadvantaged areas, and to congregations in need of special assistance.
 2. The Old Testament prohibition of usury had in view Israel as a national entity, a commonwealth, a body politic unique in its position in redemptive history, a prohibition which therefore cannot be directly applied to the New Testament church. Here we take the general position clearly set forth in *The Westminster Confession of Faith* (Chapter XIX, "Of the Law of God" paragraph iv); "To them [i.e., Israel] also as a body politic, he gave sundry judicial laws, which expired together with the state of that people, not obliging any other, now further than the general equity thereof may require."
 3. The prohibition of usury, or the lending of money at interest, through never absolute (for example, interest could be charged when loans were made to non-Israelites) was designed by God for the commonwealth of Israel, and intended to govern its life in the period prior to the coming of Christ and the fulfilling of the law by him (Matthew 5:17-18). The principle of love which underlay that prohibition continues to be relevant to the lives of believers and to the life of the church. We believe, however, that the laws themselves are no longer directly applicable "further than the general equity thereof may require."
 4. The preservation of the value of the principal by means of the charging of interest, given administrative costs and the prevalence of inflation, and even some increasing of the principal itself for the good of Christ's kingdom, cannot be said to be a violation of biblical teaching for the reasons set forth in the preceding statements.
 5. Underlying the Old Testament teaching on interest and its New Testament implications is always the great truth that relations among believers in the area of finance, the lending of money, and the charging of interest, as in all others, are to be governed by the requirements of love, equity, and justice.
 6. Given the principles enunciated in this paper, we believe that in administering the funds available for loans to congregations, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church must take into

Acts · Page 29

- consideration the diverse nature of those congregations applying for assistance. It is clear, for example, that some congregations are in a much more favorable position to repay loans with interest than is the case with others. What may be applicable in one set of circumstances may not be at all applicable in another.
7. It is clear from the Scriptures (I Timothy 6:10) and from Christian history that churches, as individuals, are not immune to the temptations of avarice. Those responsible for the administration of funds belonging to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will remember the importance of proceeding with caution in this area and profit from the example of biblical teaching as well as from the broader history of the church.
 8. It is our conviction that a loan with interest ought not to be extended to a person, or persons, lacking collateral or the ability to repay the sum borrowed. Further, in our view a clear distinction must be made between a mission or ministry supported by the church through gifts given without any expectation of repayment, and support extended to church extension projects or congregations seeking to purchase property and construct a building. It is entirely proper to grant assistance to new or existing congregations by means of a loan to which interest is attached and which is to be repaid on a mutually agreeable schedule. (**Minutes**, 10-36).
- 90-16 The Assembly conceptually endorses the Medical Benevolence Trust with the understanding that the actual Trust Agreement would be presented to the 11th Assembly. Approval to begin promotion of the Trust is given. (**Minutes**, 10-41)
- 92-21 Policy is established that financial solicitations of any type for support of an EPC church planting project be limited to the organizing context for the project, viz. daughter church project to its mother church, presbytery plant to its presbytery, Assembly-supported plants to Assembly-approved National Outreach Committee benevolence projects. (**Minutes**, 12-46)
- 92-23 The Assembly approves an increase in the per member asking from \$10 to \$12. (**Minutes** 12-46)
- 94-13 The Church Loan Fund Criterion #1 is amended to read: "Fee rate: The original rate shall be established at the time the loan is made for a period of one (1) year and renewed on each succeeding anniversary date, and shall be based upon prevailing money market rates." (**Minutes**, 14-25)
- 94-14 Assembly approves an increase in the per member asking from \$12 to \$15. (**Minutes**, 14-26)
- 95-01 The General Assembly Office is instructed to provide information relative to special offerings at least five weeks in advance of the projected date of the offering. (**Minutes**, 15-20)
- 95-08 Permission is granted the Christian Education and Publications Committee to design a subscription or funding program for *EPC Reflections*, to begin with the June, 1996 issue. (**Minutes**, 15-23)
- 95-11 Assembly approves the matching scholarship program offered to EPC students by Erskine College, and a mailing to introduce the program. (**Minutes**, 15-29)
- 97-06 The "per member" factor is increased from \$15 to \$18. (**Minutes** 17-25)

97-07 Financial eligibility for the Medical Benevolence Funds is increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000. (Minutes 17-25)

97-20 The permanent Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries is directed to become more focused in its request for benevolence giving, and is further directed to send a letter to the clerks of session of EPC congregations encouraging support of the SYAM budget through benevolent giving. (Minutes, 17-37)

PROGRAM MATTERS

84-14 The General Assembly adopts Preliminary Position Papers on Homosexuality, The Value Of and Respect For Human Life, Capital Punishment, Abortion, and The Ordination of Women (Minutes, 4-38). (Cf. Acts 86-20 and 87-21) [*The 15th General Assembly (1995) rescinded its Preliminary Position Paper on Capital Punishment. Cf. Act 95-12*]

86-08 The Task Force on Aging shall continue its work with the goal of implementing the following recommendations adopted by the Assembly:

Short Range Goals:

1. To encourage each presbytery to assign the study of a ministry to older adults to an appropriate committee.
2. Produce and distribute resource material for the local church's use in developing ministries for older adults.
3. Provide consultation to Lifestyle Committees.
4. Conduct workshops on aging to be held at General Assembly and presbytery meetings.
5. Publish a quarterly newsletter.

Long Range Goals:

1. Promote awareness of the unique emotional, social, and spiritual needs of older persons.
2. Promote appreciation for the contributions older persons may make to the church body and fellowship through leadership, teaching, and outreach.
3. Encourage collecting information and sharing about effective ministries with older adults within the EPC as well as other denominations.
4. Provide information about current state and federal legislation as well as national public policy.
5. Emphasize the importance of individual Christians modifying their lifestyles to improve their physical, emotional, and spiritual health. (Minutes, 6-60)

86-09 The Youth Ministry concept for summer youth conference is adopted. (Minutes, 6-60)

86-20 Position Papers on Abortion, The Ordination of Women, and Homosexuality are adopted. (Minutes, 6-35, 6-36, and 6-37 respectively). (Cf. Act 84-14)

86-21 Position Paper on the Holy Spirit is adopted. (Minutes, 6-33)

87-04 The Assembly approves the development of an officer training program for the purposes of (1) continued resourcing of current officers and (2) resourcing new officers. (Minutes, 7-38)

87-05 The Assembly decides not to do business with hotels and motels promoting pornography for their customers in the cities where future General Assemblies are held, and further will encourage its constituents to refrain personally from patronizing such establishments. (Minutes, 7-38)

- 87-21 Position Paper on the Value Of and Respect For Human Life is adopted. (**Minutes**, 7-36)
(Cf. Act 84-14)
- 88-06 The Assembly approves the concept of presbyteries covenanting with colleges and other educational institutions, but disapproved the General Assembly entering into such agreements (**Minutes**, 8-55).
- 88-19 "The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy" is adopted as a resource for its congregations (**Minutes**, 8-56; text of statement pp. 70-73 of the Minutes).
- 88-20 The Assembly endorses for distribution to its churches *The Children's Catechism: A New Modern Version*, published by Summertown Texts, Signal Mountain, Tennessee (1988) (**Minutes**, 8-55).
- 88-21 The Assembly endorses the work and ministry of Lay Renewal Ministries as an excellent resource for EPC churches to use (**Minutes**, 8-31).
- 88-22 The Assembly adopts the concept of endorsing curriculum publishers consistent with our theology and beliefs, and the subsequent marketing of such materials (**Minutes**, 8-55).
- 88-23 The Assembly approves holding a biannual conference for all ministers with fewer than five years experience in pastoral ministry (**Minutes**, 8-41).
- 88-24 The Assembly endorses for its churches two booklets: *What is the Reformed Faith*, by John R. de Witt, and *Baptism*, by Francis Schaeffer (**Minutes**, 8-60).
- 88-25 The Assembly approves the establishment of a Youth Speakers Bureau for the purpose of providing quality speakers for both local church and presbytery functions (**Minutes**, 8-54).
- 88-26 The Sonlife Strategy for Youth Discipleship is endorsed as a Biblical, practical, uniform model for youth ministry in the local church (**Minutes**, 8-54).
- 88-27 A Preliminary Position Paper on Pornography is adopted, to be sent to the presbyteries for further theological and Biblical reflection to the end that a position paper may be adopted (**Minutes**, 8-60).
- 88-28 A proposed "Constitution for Women's Ministries" is adopted, and the churches are encouraged to work toward implementation of such constitution. (**Minutes**, 8-42)
- 89-16 Bethany Christian Services is approved as an agency for ministry to unmarried mothers and the unborn, providing alternatives to abortion including adoption services. Bethany is commended as deserving of the prayers of our people as well as worthy of financial support from those of our people who feel so led (**Minutes**, 9-39).
- 89-17 The Assembly approves the establishment by the Christian Education & Publications Committee of a Christian Education Resource Network utilizing qualified regional (3 regions) people who will serve as (1) interpreters of the committee's goals for presbyteries in the region, and (2) phone resources for churches in the presbytery needing consultations, and (3) assistance for presbyteries in workshop development (**Minutes**, 9-39).

- 90-03 International and domestic short-term mission experiences for senior high young people shall be made available through the Youth Ministries Committee (**Minutes**, 10-25).
- 90-04 Committee on Christian Education shall make every effort to inform churches of available curriculum which is distinctly Reformed, such as Great Commission Publications and Christian Reformed Church materials (**Minutes**, 10-26).
- 90-05 Committee on Christian Education is instructed to develop a curriculum for prospective new church members, one for youth and one for adults, which shall include Presbyterian history, doctrine, and polity (**Minutes**, 10-26).
- 92-04 Youth Ministries Committee is requested to research the establishment of a denominational retreat and camping facility, using Montreat and Young Life as models for this ministry (**Minutes**, 12-26).
- 92-05 The Assembly commends the *Officer's Training Manual* by Dr. Andrew Jumper for use in EPC churches, and recommends its printing in a spiral-bound format (**Minutes**, 12-27).
- 92-06 The Assembly encourages the use of the new *Westminster Confession of Faith Commentary* (Summertown Texts) in EPC churches (**Minutes**, 12-27).
- 92-17 Pilot project for a regional pastor is approved, to be sponsored jointly by the General Assembly and Mid-Atlantic Presbytery (**Minutes**, 12-45).
- 92-20 Establishment of two subcommittees is approved:
1. Evangelism, a subcommittee of National Outreach;
 2. Caring, a subcommittee of Ministerial Vocation (**Minutes**, 12-46).
- 93-03 Christian Education and Publications Committee is instructed to explore with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church the feasibility of a joint family conference to be held at Bonclarken Conference Center (**Minutes**, 13-18).
- 93-04 Christian Education and Publications Committee is instructed to develop resources for utilizing the *Westminster Catechism*, and for teaching Reformed distinctives to children and youth in local churches (**Minutes**, 13-23).
- 93-16 Presbyteries are encouraged to consider having a Women's Ministries Committee, and to devise an effective means of coordinating the input of that committee with the other committees of the Presbytery (**Minutes**, 13-35).
- 93-18 The Assembly approves the Recommended Reading List for Ordination Preparation, to be used in the task of preparing candidates approaching ordination examinations especially in the areas of the Reformed tradition and the Reformed office of the Minister (**Minutes**, 13-39).
- 94-10 The Assembly tables the instruction to research the establishment of a denominational camp and retreat facility until such time as resources or facilities are available. (Cf. Act 92-04) (**Minutes**, 14-24)
- 94-11 The Assembly encourages its churches to establish procedures whereby those who work with children may be screened for any felony or child abuse incidents, and to have policies and

guidelines concerning these areas. Resources are Christian Ministry Resources, 1/800/222-1840 and the Presbytery of the West. (**Minutes**, 14-24)

- 94-20 Position papers on AIDS/HIV and Homosexuality are replaced by new editions on these subjects (**Minutes**, 14-35)
- 94-21 A Preliminary Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage is adopted and sent to the churches for study, and the Assembly instructs the Theology Committee to include a more thorough study in this paper on the following subjects:
1. A definition which affirms the covenantal aspects of marriage.
 2. A strong statement relating reconciliation to covenant faithfulness in relationships.
 3. A strong statement regarding pre-divorce reconciliation to compliment the existing statement of post-divorce reconciliation.
 4. Expand statements on "hardness of heart" as related to divorce and/or reconciliation.
 5. Expand the discussion of forgiveness and restoration as it relates to service and leadership in the Church by divorced or remarried persons.
 6. A review of I Timothy 5:8 for possible inclusion as it relates to the issues of desertion and covenant unfaithfulness.
 7. A discussion of remaining unmarried in the context of the section entitled, "What About Remarriage?" (**Minutes**, 14-35)
- 95-01 The General Assembly Office shall provide information relative to special offerings at least five weeks in advance of the projected date of the offering (**Minutes**, 15-20)
- 95-08 Permission is granted the Christian Education and Publications Committee to design a subscription or funding program for *EPC Reflections*, to begin with the June, 1996 issue. (**Minutes**, 15-23)
- 95-09 The Christian Education and Publications Committee is instructed to form a task force composed of Christian educators and theologians to review and evaluate various curricula and make evaluations based on EPC standards, making this evaluation available to the churches in a simplified form. (**Minutes**, 15-23). *The 16th Assembly reaffirmed this instruction, and further requested the task force to complete a one-page simplified evaluation form on materials. Minutes 16-24*
- 95-12 The Assembly rescinds its Preliminary Position Paper on Capital Punishment (*Cf. Act 84-14*). (**Minutes**, 15-31)
- 95-13 A Pastoral Letter Regarding Criteria For Evaluating Membership in Secret Fraternal Organizations is adopted (**Minutes**, 15-31).
- 95-14 A Position Paper on the Problems of Suffering, Death, and Dying" is adopted (**Minutes**, 15-31).
- 95-20 Since the EPC does not have an organized men's ministry, the Assembly encourages men in the local churches to become involved in Promise Keepers. (**Minutes**, 15-23)
- 96-05 The Assembly encourages commissioners to send the following overture on the value of and sanctity of human life to their congressional senators and representatives in addition to the President, Vice-President, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Majority Leader of the Senate:

The 16th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church goes on record as opposing, in the strongest possible terms, the President's veto of the "Partial Birth Abortion Ban," and urges Congress to override his veto. Furthermore, that our denomination communicate its stand on this issue to the President, Vice-President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate. (**Minutes** 16-31)

- 96-06 The Assembly acknowledges that the Disney Company has openly promoted a morally destructive agenda which is hostile to traditional family values, and calls on its members to recognize and grieve over these developments at Disney Company and lead them to take whatever action the Holy Spirit leads them to do in response. (**Minutes**,16-30)
- 96-08 The Assembly challenged the Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries (formerly Youth Ministries Committee) to determine direction in the following areas:
- To establish student curriculum guidelines to assist churches in the Christian nurture of their children;
 - To establish a strategy for targeting more resources to establish student and young adult ministry as a top priority within the church. (**Minutes**, 16-31)

96-09 The Assembly adopts a Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience, and instructed the Committee on Theology to develop a purpose statement regarding this letter, and also to define the term, "pastoral letter." (**Minutes** 16-33)

96-10 The Assembly adopts a Pastoral Letter on Organ Donation and Transplantation. (**Minutes**, 16-33)

96-15 The name of the Committee on Youth Ministries is changed to "Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries." (**Minutes**, 16-36)

97-13 The Assembly adopts a new introductory section for the Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience which was adopted by the 16th General Assembly. That section reads as follows:

This pastoral letter sets forth biblically sound theological principles which should be applied to the questions we face as Christians and churches in evaluating and responding to the moral issue of civil disobedience.

*A pastoral letter is intended to shine the light of God's word broadly on a general area of concern to the Church. Requiring the approval of only one General Assembly, it is not as definitive as a Position Paper which requires the approval of two General Assemblies including a minimum of one year circulation among the presbyteries. The primary purpose of a pastoral letter is to guide churches within the EPC rather than to identify our positions to the world. (**Minutes**, 17-30)*

97-14 The Assembly instructs the permanent Committee on Theology to study the broad issue of the churches engagement with culture including but not limited to the following issues:

As a denomination, the EPC desires to be a body of believers that stands our country, to work as agents of salt and light its transformation. Through engagement with our society, we seek to make a visible difference in the quality of its life—spiritually, socially, culturally, and economically.

We do not want to be a denomination that merely stands against our society, to denounce and scorn it. That is a fortress mentality that only condemns and castigates our society its wickedness. Instead we want to interact with our society as servants, peacemakers and healers.

We do not want to be a denomination of our society, only reflecting and confirming its practices and thought forms. Through a proactive proclamation of the saving grace of the Gospel and a practical demonstration of the wholesome and holy lifestyle to which God calls His people, we confront thought forms and lifestyles that stand contrary to God's revealed Word.

We do not want to be a denomination that simply stands above our society, only using it for own personal gain, then escaping it by retreating for our Sunday holy huddles. Rather, we desire to be a people in the world but not of it. (Minutes, 17-30)

- 97-16 The Assembly recommends to all church sessions that an oral or written report be regularly received from a representative of that church's women's ministry. The rationale for this is two-fold:
1. so that there is a session record of the activities of the women's ministry;
 2. so that communication and accountability are enhanced. (Minutes 17-32)
- 97-17 The Assembly requests that the formation of a men's ministry be considered by the appropriate committee (CE&P) including the possible funding of a part-time director and to report back to the 18th General Assembly. (Minutes, 17-33)
- 97-18 The Assembly excuses the Christian Education & Publications Committee from further research on the LiFE curriculum beyond the assessment already completed on this series in 1994 as reported in the *Curriculum Evaluation Packet for Children*. (Minutes, 17-33)
- 97-19 The Assembly endorses a relationship with Pioneer Clubs as understood and defined in the working agreement. (Minutes 17-33)
- 97-20 The permanent Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries is directed to become more focused in its request for benevolence giving, and was further directed to send a letter to the Clerks of Session of EPC congregations encouraging support of the SYAM budget through benevolent giving. (Minutes, 17-37)
- 97-21 The permanent Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries is authorized to investigate the formation of a new committee to work specifically on a Single Adult Ministry by the year 2000. (Minutes, 17-38)

DOCUMENTS

BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS

- 81-04 Terms of call for any minister of member churches shall provide for participation in the denominational hospitalization and disability programs (Minutes, 1-32).
- 81-05 Terms of call for any minister shall provide a minimum of 18% benefit to provide for group hospitalization, disability, and pension. The pension factor shall be not less than 10%. This benefit shall be computed on the gross effective salary base, i.e., salary and housing/utilities allowance (Minutes, 1-32).
- 81-06 Denominational group insurance plan providing health, disability, and life coverage shall be mandatory for all ministers within member churches (Minutes, 1-36).
- 82-10 The General Assembly approves the concept of self-funding insurance and instructs its Committee on Administration to execute a plan in trust as appropriate. Individual churches are urged to assume the deductible portion of the health insurance program and cost of co-insurance as part of a minister's compensation (Minutes, 2-52).

- 83-18 The Assembly instructs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to continue to solicit bids for a standard health insurance plan with better benefits than current coverage and authorizes the Committee on Administration to approve such a plan between Assemblies. (**Minutes**, 3-37)
- 83-19 The General Assembly adopts a policy that, effective January 1, 1984, expenses for health, life, and disability insurance be allocated on the basis of a set percentage of the salaries of all participants. (**Minutes**, 3-37)
- 84-08 General Assembly adopts the self-funding group insurance plan offered by The Travelers and gives authority to the permanent Committee on Administration to approve and establish all details relative to the establishment of proposed plan.
- General Assembly requires pastors and employees of all member congregations, all presbyteries, and the Assembly who meet minimum requirements to enroll in the program.
- This major medical program shall be reviewed annually and a full report made to the General Assembly (**Minutes**, 4-37).
- 86-18 The denominational group insurance plan shall be amended by increasing the cap for long term disability insurance from \$25,000 to a \$40,000 maximum insurable salary (**Minutes**, 6-75).
- 86-19 The denominational group insurance plan shall be amended to make retired persons eligible by defining "retiree" as follows: "A retiree is one who has reached the 60th birthday and has served at least five (5) years in his or her EPC church. Such persons may continue to participate in the medical portion of the EPC plan indefinitely by contributing the appropriate monthly premium (**Minutes**, 6-75).
- 87-12 The Assembly approves the establishment of an employer-sponsored tax-sheltered annuity program for the required minimum (10%) of gross effective salary for retirement for each minister and missionary, and urges each congregation to participate in such program (**Minutes**, 7-53).
- 87-14 An annual "Gratitude Gift" offering in connection with the Christmas season is approved. Monies received to be used by the Pension Committee to supplement income of our retired ministers and missionaries who participate in the denominational program (**Minutes**, 7-53).
- 87-15 Persons otherwise required to be covered by the denominational group insurance plan may be exempted from such mandatory coverage when they have coverage under the Civilian Health and Medical Programs of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS) (**Minutes**, 7-53).
- 87-16 Restriction is eliminated of 6 months waiting period for pre-existing conditions for an employee coming in from another denominational insurance plan. The 12 months waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions of dependents of those employees is also eliminated (**Minutes**, 7-53).
- 87-17 Group Insurance Plan is amended to exclude coverage for radial keratotomy, a new procedure to correct nearsightedness, except when the physician (including second surgical opinion) verifies that myopia cannot be corrected by either glasses or contact lenses. (**Minutes**, 7-53).

- 87-19 Group Insurance Plan for health and life coverage is changed from The Travelers to the Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company. Disability insurance coverage remains with The Travelers (**Minutes**, 7-54).
- 88-08 Assembly amends participatory requirements for group health insurance plan by requiring participation of all ministers on the rolls of presbyteries with the exception of:
1. missionaries laboring in cooperative agreements with mission agencies;
 2. ministers laboring in institutional agencies providing their own group insurance plan;
 3. ministers afforded group insurance coverage as part of retirement benefits from a previous employer;
 4. ministers without call, and ministers laboring less than 20 hours in a place of ministry (**Minutes**, 8-24).
- 88-09 Non-ordained eligible employees of EPC churches shall be expected to participate in the denominational group insurance plan on a contributory basis with the exception of employees whose spouses carry certifiable medical insurance able to cover all eligible dependents, and employees offered group insurance coverage as a part of retirement benefits from a previous employer (**Minutes**, 8-24).
- 88-10 Churches are requested to move conscientiously toward (or maintain) at least 80% of non-ordained eligible employees participating in the plan to preserve the integrity and continuance of the Plan (**Minutes**, 8-24).
- 89-02 The Assembly adopts the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Pension Plan and Adoption Agreement as presented, with an amendment allowing the Board of Pension and Benefits to work with special cases, giving them the authority to make decisions for the General Assembly (**Minutes**, 9-22). (*The 13th General Assembly adopted a restated Pension Plan. Cf. Act 93-01*).
- 89-03 The Assembly approves the recommendation that members of the Board of Pension and Benefits be subject to removal from office in the same manner as set forth in Chapter 6 (*Book of Discipline*), with the Permanent Judicial Commission acting in the place of session or presbytery (**Minutes**, 9-22).
- 89-04 The Board of Pension and Benefits is authorized to accept Adoption Agreements from churches for a period of three years from and after January 1, 1990, or three years after a church is established as a particular Evangelical Presbyterian Church, whichever is later. An Adoption Agreement from a judicatory shall be accepted within three years from and after January 1, 1990 or within three years from and after the date of employment of its first employee, whichever is later (**Minutes**, 9-22).
- 89-05 The Assembly decides that the Administration Budget will bear the administrative expenses of the Board of Pension and Benefits and the Pension Plan for the next two years (**Minutes**, 9-48).
- 89-06 Formation is approved of a Board of Reference to provide information and advice to the Board of Pension and Benefits. Board of Reference should be appointed by the Board of Pension and Benefits from the broad constituency of the denomination to advise it concerning the acceptance, operation, and effectiveness of the Plan (**Minutes**, 9-22).
- 89-14 The Assembly approves a three-tier system based on regions (zip codes) to determine premium costs for the medical portion of the Group Insurance Plan (**Minutes**, 9-33).

- 89-15 The Assembly approves the establishment of a General Assembly benevolence fund for medical care costs, concentrating its benevolence health care efforts on ministers without call, mission church pastors, and retired ministers and their families (**Minutes**, 9-33).
- 90-08 The Group Insurance Plan shall be placed under the Board of Pension and Benefits no later than the summer of 1991 (**Minutes**, 10-28).
- 90-15 The Group Insurance Plan (medical portion) is amended to reduce the yearly deductibles from \$250 per year to \$150 per individual, and from \$500 to \$300 per family. The maximum yearly coverage for outpatient treatment of mental and nervous conditions, substance abuse, and biofeedback was reduced from \$2000 to \$1500. Substance abuse treatment was added to the category of nervous, emotional, or mental disorders for which a lifetime cap of \$50,000 exists. (**Minutes**, 10-39)
- 90-16 The Assembly conceptually endorses the Medical Benevolence Trust with the understanding that the actual Trust Agreement would be presented to the 11th Assembly. Approval to begin promotion of the Trust is given (**Minutes**, 10-39).
- 90-17 The Group Insurance Plan (medical portion) is amended to make ministers of fraternal bodies laboring within EPC congregations as missionary-in-residence or graduate school student-in-residence eligible for participation if such are understood as full-time staff in the life of the church (**Minutes**, 10-39).
- 91-01 The Board of Pension and Benefits shall assume administration of the Group Insurance Plan effective upon adjournment of the 11th General Assembly (**Minutes**, 11-14). (*Cf. Act 90-08*)
- 91-02 The Group Insurance Plan shall be amended so that the definition for retired employees shall be "A Retired Employee is one who has reached the 60th birthday and has served at least five (5) years in an EPC presbytery approved ministry." (**Minutes** 11-25)
- 92-19 The Assembly extends the initial period of enrollment and submission of EPC Pension Adoption Agreements for churches of record as of January 1, 1990 from December 31, 1992 to December 31, 1993 (**Minutes**, 12-46).
- 92-24 Pension Plan is amended to provide that normal retirement age shall be 59 1/2, rather than age 60. (**Minutes**, 12-13)
- 92-25 Group Medical Plan is amended to provide coverage for transplants of the following human organs only: cornea, kidney, liver, heart, lung and bone marrow. Total dollar amount payable for all charges related to organ transplants is limited to \$500,000 per person per lifetime. (**Minutes**, 12-13) [*Cf. Act 95-05. The 15th Assembly added pancreas to the list of organs for which transplant expenses will be covered. Minutes, 15-22*]
- 92-26 Requirement for second surgical opinion is eliminated, and Group Medical Plan will cover only up to 80% of second surgical opinions obtained. Additionally, all surgical procedures covered by the Plan are covered at 80%. Plan shall continue to pay 100% for pre-admission tests. (**Minutes**, 12-13)

- 92-27 Group Medical Plan extends normal co-pay of 80% to the following procedures: clinical breast examination between the ages of 20 and 40, and every year after age 40; mammography every year after age 50; sigmoidoscopy every three years after age 50; prostatic specific antigen test every year after age 50. **(Minutes, 12-13)**
- 92-28 An additional class of employees, "Disabled Employees" is created and defined under the Group Medical Plan as follows: "A disabled employee is one who has been determined to be totally disabled. To be totally disabled, the employee must be unable to perform all of the normal duties of his or her regular occupation or employment for pay or profit. This must be due to the disability. Such a person may continue to participate in the medical portion of the EPC Plan indefinitely by contributing the appropriate monthly premium." **(Minutes, 12-13)**
- 92-29 The Medical Benevolence Fund document is adopted (Cf. Documents, p.) **(Minutes, 12-13)**.
- 93-01 General Assembly adopts a restated Pension Plan, replacing the Plan adopted in 1989 **(Minutes, 13-12)**. (Cf. Act 89-02)
- 93-02 Board of Pension and Benefits is authorized to extend health insurance coverage for EPC employees up to three months following month of termination, with a prepaid premium increase of 5% to cover administrative costs and a \$.50 per participant per month charge for the privilege of conversion. **(Minutes, 13-12)**
- 93-13 World Outreach missionaries in cooperative agreements may choose insurance coverage with either the EPC or their sending agency. In unique situations, other alternative coverage approved by World Outreach Committee may be appropriate **(Minutes, 13- 27)**.
- 93-14 National pastors under appointment by World Outreach are not required to participate in the EPC Pension Plan **(Minutes, 13-28)**.
- 94-06 Board of Pension and Benefits is instructed to investigate and determine actual cost of medical coverage for persons on the Plan not covered by Medicare at time of retirement. **(Minutes, 14-22)**
- 94-07 The Group Insurance Plan shall provide benefits for adopted children at the time effective custody takes place. **(Minutes, 14-22)**
- 94-08 The Group Insurance Plan shall provide medical coverage to dependents of retired and disabled employees. **(Minutes, 14-22)**
- 94-09 Board of Pension and Benefits may review and enroll churches of record December 31, 1993 who wish to participate in the Pension Plan but who, because of extenuating circumstances, did not enroll during the period of eligibility. **(Minutes, 14-22)**
- 95-02 Group Medical Plan is amended to exclude persons who have opted out of the Social Security System and who are not otherwise eligible or entitled to Social Security or Medicare coverage, upon retirement or attainment of age 65 (whichever occurs later). Coverage, however, may be continued upon participation in the Medicare Voluntary Enrollment Plan, Parts A and B, and upon payment of the required monthly premium to both Medicare Voluntary Enrollment Plan and the EPC Medical Benefits Plans. **(Minutes, 15-22)**

- 95-03 The Group Insurance Plan (medical portion) is amended to add a section under "Preventative Care" to cover 80% of eligible expenses after the deductible is met, for immunizations for eligible dependent children to age 16. **(Minutes, 15-22)**
- 95-04 Group Medical Plan is amended to omit the current conversion option for medical care benefits. As of January 1, 1995 conversion charges increased by 400% for major medical coverage, 300% for comprehensive coverage, and 100% for hospital and surgical coverage. **(Minutes, 15-22)**
- 95-05 The Group Medical Plan is amended to include pancreatic transplants on the list of organ transplants covered. **(Minutes, 15-22)** *Cf. Act 92-25 for list as originally adopted.*
- 95-06 Assembly approves a revised premium structure for the Group Insurance Plan (medical portion) effective August 1, 1995 so that four categories ("employee only," "employee/spouse," "employee/children," and "employee/spouse/children") replace the former "single" and "family" categories. **(Minutes, 15-22)**
- 95-07 Assembly rescinds 1989 action (*cf. 89-06*) establishing a Board of Reference. **(Minutes, 15-22)**
- 96-01 The Assembly grants the COA authorization to select vendors for various benefit and pension plans on recommendation from the Board of Pension and Benefits. **(Minutes, 16-19)**
- 96-02 The Assembly changes the vendor for plan administration from Healthsource/Provident to a third party administrator, Benefit Services, Inc. For medical benefits, long term disability insurance and life insurance effective January 1, 1997. **(Minutes, 16-19)**
- 96-03 The Assembly approves changing vendors for long term disability insurance and life insurance from Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to UNUM Life Insurance Company for long term disability insurance, and Healthsource/Provident to The Lafayette Life Insurance Company for life insurance. **(Minutes, 16-19)**
- 96-17 The Assembly approves designating up to 100% of a minister's early and normal retirement pension or disability pension for 1996 and 1997 as housing allowance for United States income tax purposes (IRS Ruling 1.107-1) but only to the extent that the pension is used to rent or provide a home. **(Minutes, 16-36)**
- 97-02 The Group Medical Insurance Plan is amended to provide one routine mammogram per year, paid at 80% for women forty (40) years of age or older. **(Minutes, 17-20)**
- 97-03 The Assembly amends the Group Insurance Plan to double the current life insurance cap provided EPC pastors and employees from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for an additional premium. **(Minutes 17-20)**
- 97-07 Financial eligibility for the Medical Benevolence Funds is increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000. **(Minutes 17-25)**

2/98mb

Articles of Agreement

**Between The Evangelical Presbyterian Church
and**

The Presbyterian Church of Brazil

**aiming at a brotherly fellowship in which they
will help each other in the propagation of the
Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Preamble

The Presbyterian Church of Brazil has been created by God as one of His instruments to be a Reformed and Presbyterian witness in Brazil for Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church has also been created by God as a similar instrument in the United States. Each recognizes that the other has primary responsibility for the country where God has placed it. When one works as a helper in the regional field of the other, it shall do so under the authority of that church. However, in order for the helper church to have a voice in the missionary enterprise of the primary church, it is necessary to establish a means whereby the two churches may share in the planning, projecting, overseeing and strategizing for missions. It is always to be remembered that the primary church has final authority for approval of such plans for missions. The means for such joint planning shall be "**The Joint Committee for Missions.**" This Joint Committee shall assist both in Brazil and in the United States in recommending to the primary churches plans for developing the missionary enterprise in joint venture between the primary and the helper churches.

The Joint Committee for Missions

1. Recommendations for shared missions between a primary and helper church shall come to both churches through the JCM.
2. The JCM shall be composed of six (6) members, three (3) from each church. In addition, each church may appoint advisors without vote.
3. Each church shall designate one of its members as co-chairman and meeting shall be alternately chaired by the co-chairman. A secretary/recorder shall be provided by the host church and minutes shall be provided in both English and Portuguese. A permanent book of the minutes shall be kept in both languages and a copy provided for each Church for historical purposes. The Committee shall meet at least annually in November and at other times as necessary, such other meetings to be set by the JCM at its November meeting or upon call of the co-chairman. The regular meetings ordinarily shall be held alternately in each country.
4. The JCM shall make an annual report to the two churches, through the appropriate denominational committee, in order that shared missions may be kept before the two churches.
5. The approval, disapproval, or modification of recommendations from the JCM shall come from that board or agency so designated by the particular church. Also, such designated board or agency may submit recommendations and proposals to the JCM for its consideration.

6. No joint missionary enterprise shall be undertaken that has not been recommended by the JCM and approved in a manner required by each denomination.
7. Approved joint missionary enterprises shall have a time frame and financial parameters designated and shall have established procedures for evaluation and assessment.
8. The following stipulations shall govern missionaries (those appointed to serve within the bounds of the other church):
 - A. **Ordained**
 1. Shall be under the jurisdiction of the agency, institution or church court under which they serve.
 2. Shall be under the constitutional documents (confessional, polity, discipline, court decisions) of the church under which they are serving.
 3. May become members of an appropriate presbytery if they desire without affecting their membership in their own denomination.
 4. In the event of a need to exercise discipline, the matter shall be referred to the church of origin (sending church).
 - B. **Laymen**
 1. Shall be under the jurisdiction of the agency, institution or church court under which they serve.
 2. Shall be under the constitutional documents (confessional, polity, discipline, court decisions) of the church under which they are serving.
 3. May become members of a local congregation if they desire without affecting membership in their own home church.
 4. In the event of a need to exercise discipline, the matter shall be referred to the church of origin (sending church).
 - C. The sending church shall be responsible for matters relating to the maintenance of missionaries. An exception to this could occur when a request is made by the primary church of the helper church on the condition of taking the responsibility for the support of that person.
9. Fundings shall be guided by the following principles:
 - A. Donors may designate funds only to projects approved by the JCM and accepted by both churches. Each donor church shall designate an agent of facilitation for prospective donations.
 - B. Contributions of a helper church shall ordinarily be used for missions enterprises, including church buildings, or schools or manses. Mission enterprises include the support of personnel designated as internal missionaries by the primary church, but such support shall always be through the Board of National Missions.

- C. Mission projects ordinarily shall be supported by both the primary church and helper church so that there will be a sense of mutual ownership. However, the mutual ownership shall not be judged by the amount of financial participation.
 - D. The helper church may acquire or own properties for its own use such as a headquarters for its missionary enterprise or manses for its missionaries within the area of the primary church. However, when funds are provided for expansion or development of facilities shall be owned by the appropriate agency or court of the primary church.
10. Participation in the JCM does not preclude either church from establishing working relationships with other churches or groups in either Brazil or the United States, provided that through the JCM the other denomination is informed and has an opportunity to respond.
 11. However, the above freedom does not apply to relationships that may be established by either church with persons, agencies or dissident groups of the other church.
 12. While this agreement envisions a permanent mutual working relationship, it shall be reviewed periodically by the JCM which may also suggest revisions to both Churches, or either Church of itself may initiate suggested revisions. Either Church may revoke the agreement provided six months minimum notice is given. The union of either Church with another church body will automatically terminate the agreement after twelve (12) months following such union. The continued cooperation with the new entity will necessitate approval of new terms of agreement.
 13. Initially, and until changed by either church the coordinating agencies for the JCM shall be the World Outreach Committee of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Interecclesiastical Relations Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil.
 14. Initially, the priorities for the JCM shall focus on Brazil as the primary church with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church being the helper church. Those priorities shall be:
 - A. Theological Education, including:
 1. Graduate education for pastors;
 2. Library development;
 3. Capital development of seminaries.
 - B. Support of US Presbyterian missionaries already working with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil who wish to continue that working relationship by transfer to the jurisdiction of EPC as their sending church.
 - C. The sending of missionaries from EPC to work with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil, providing the Presbyterian Church of Brazil approves them.
 - D. The JCM may explore areas in the United States of Canada where it may be appropriate to place the missionaries from the Presbyterian Church of Brazil, provided it has the approval of the EPC.

- E. Cooperating in the national missions enterprise with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil in frontier areas especially but not to the exclusion of other significant opportunities for mission.
- F. Beginning to develop a mutual and cooperative missionary enterprise to the Americas and wherever there are places of special opportunities.
15. The details of the methods by which recommendations from the JCM go to each Church for approval and implementation may be attached to this Agreement as an official attachment for that Church.
16. These Articles of Agreement shall be in force when approved by both Churches. Amendments will be in force when approved by both Churches.



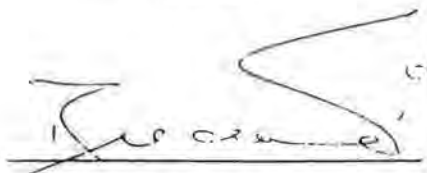
Rev. Andrew A. Jumper
Chairman



Rev. Boanerges Ribeiro
Chairman



Rev. L. Edward Davis
Stated Clerk



Dr. Paulo Breda Filho



Rev. Bartlett L. Hess

Jose Arantes Costa

Cooperative Agreement *

COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154

Cooperative Agreement with Evangelical Missionary Agencies

The terms of this agreement relate to the category of a member missionary relationship.

1. The missionary shall have dual membership status with both the Evangelical Presbyterian Church World Outreach and _____ (name of agency).
2. The appointment of the missionary shall be subject to the approval of both agencies in accordance with the standards established by each agency.
3. In the event that one agency requests confidential materials gathered by the other, such materials shall be shared with the understanding that the materials shall be kept confidential by that agency.
4. The missionary-candidate shall participate in the full candidate and training program of _____ (agency).
5. An appropriate time shall be allowed for the candidate to properly do itineration or deputation for the candidate coordination of the World Outreach within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church churches in order that adequate prayer and financial support can be realized.
6. _____ (agency) shall supervise the securing of visas and make other arrangements necessary for beginning field work.
7. World Outreach shall be the sponsoring agency for financial and prayer support of the missionary.
8. _____ (agency) shall be the directing agency in relation to missionary activities on the field.
9. Final discipline as relates to theology and morals rests in the proper church court of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
10. The World Outreach missionary is to have liberty in the full and free presentation of the Gospel as contained in and understood in the Reformed view.
11. While on the field, the missionary shall be under the jurisdiction of _____ (agency).
12. While on the field, the missionary shall be an integral part of the field staff, sharing equally in privileges and responsibilities as any other member and being subject to the policies and direction of _____ (agency).
13. The missionary's field director will initiate home service planning in consultation with World Outreach and also with _____'s U. S. Director. (agency)
14. While on home service (while traveling to and from the field), the missionary shall be under the jurisdiction of World Outreach. Among the missionary home service responsibilities, consideration will be given by World Outreach to assignments, projects, additional study or training requested by _____ (agency). Progress and activity information during home service will be provided for _____ (agency).
15. While on home service, the missionary shall be expected to carry on a deputation ministry for World Outreach within the constituency of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church congregations. Each agency shall assume the arrangements and expenses of deputation when the member is doing deputation for either agency. Primary deputation responsibilities will be with the EPC under World Outreach coor-

dination, but within the context of the proportion of support from EPC sources.

16. The missionary shall not solicit homeland constituencies of either agency for personal funds or field needs without the permission of the respective agency.
17. The financial relationship of the missionary with _____ (agency) shall be the same as that for all other members for all assessments. During the EPC portion of home service, adequate financial arrangements may be set by World Outreach.
18. At the time of departure, World Outreach will commit itself to a level of monthly support to _____ (agency). World Outreach support checks will be issued to _____ (agency) at that level. Semi-annually, in January and July, both _____ (agency) and World Outreach will report support income to each other so periodic adjustments can be made.
19. Compensation, hospitalization, retirement, and insurance plans shall be provided to Evangelical Presbyterian Church World Outreach missionaries by mutual agreement of both agencies.

Signed:

Director: _____ Richard Oestreicher, World Outreach Director

Date: _____ Date: _____

(Agency) _____ World Outreach _____

***World Outreach has cooperative agreements with the following agencies:**

1. Arab World Ministries
2. Frontiers
3. Interserve
4. Logoi
5. Middle East Media
6. Missionary Internship
7. Overseas Crusades
8. Overseas Missionary Fellowship
9. Pioneers
10. Send International
11. SERVE
12. United World Mission
13. World Impact
14. Wycliffe Bible Translators
15. Youth for Christ, USA

Church Development Master Plan

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The North American Mission of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be to establish and develop churches in strategic communities and people groups which have not been reached for Christ and who are most responsive to the uniqueness of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

GUIDELINES

In our faithfulness to God's calling, we as Reformed and Evangelical people commit ourselves to the following:

1. The growth and expansion of the Kingdom of God.
2. The prioritizing of reaching the unreached.
3. The prioritizing of those locations that are high growth areas for us.
4. The pursuit of this mission in cohesive and mutually accountable partnership of General Assembly, presbyteries, and congregations with priority on responsiveness to opportunity.
5. The joint partnership with our fraternal churches in order to achieve our common mission for Jesus Christ.
6. The pursuit of excellence in the context of our mission or the glory of Christ.

Goal 1-1

To equip the church with an understanding of Reformed evangelism as the key to successful proclamation of the Gospel.

Objectives

- A. Provide presbytery workshops using key resource people to teach Reformed evangelism.
- B. Make available instructional materials regarding Reformed evangelism.

Goal 1-2

To develop pastors with Reformed commitment and giftedness.

Objectives

- A. Evaluate the effectiveness of present seminary curriculum of the above goal.
- B. Evaluate the pastor by use of the assessment process with reference to the above goal.

Goal 1-3

To understand how God is at work in North America today.

Objectives

- A. Develop an understanding of the signs and wonders movement.
- B. Develop an understanding of North American churches and agencies which are reaching the unreached with a generational ministry.

Goal 1-4

To plant vibrant churches that will reproduce themselves.

Objectives

- A. Develop congregational strategies for church planting.
- B. Develop a key city strategy, including prioritizing.

Goal 2-1

To identify key population areas and people groups with high potential for EPC church planting and to identify specific strategies for reaching people of all racial and socioeconomic backgrounds with the Good News of the Gospel.

Objectives

- A. Evaluate and understand EPC strength and presence in key population areas as targets for church planting.
- B. Evaluate and understand key populations with no EPC presence but with high potential as targets for church planting.

Goal 2-2

To define and identify unreached people groups with high potential for planting an EPC church.

Objectives

- A. Resource and train people to conduct demographic studies for targeted areas.

- B. Conduct demographic studies of people groups in key target areas.
- C. Develop a metro cluster strategy for church planting.

Goal 3-1

To understand the EPC personality as it relates to the mission of reaching the unreached.

Objectives

- A. Develop an understanding of the EPC corporate personality to provide guidance for reaching the unreached.
- B. Study and understand the successful church planting history of the EPC.

Goal 4-1

To use cohesive partnerships in building and developing a financial base for making the mission possible.

Objectives

- A. Conduct a comparative study of churches of other denominations to identify models of success.
- B. Plan conferences enabling presbyteries and congregations to understand "in consultation with each other" (Book of Government, Chapter 5-1).

Goal 4-2

To develop and maintain a system of open effective communication among governing bodies of the church.

Objectives

- A. Publish a denominational newsletter.
- B. Encourage presbyteries in developing and/or maintaining an effective newsletter.

Goal 4-3

To train and resource leadership personnel at every level.

Objectives

- A. Hold an annual leadership conference on church planting.
- B. Provide persons experience in church planting development to equip presbyteries and congregations.

Goal 5-1

To develop working relationships with leadership personnel in church development within other fraternal bodies.

Objectives

- A. Participate annually in NAPARC Home Mission Consultation.
- B. Participate annually in strategic church planting Conferences.

Goal 5-2

Comity: To develop cooperative strategies with other denominations.

Objectives

- A. Study NAPARC paper on comity for possible adoption.
- B. Develop sensitivity to other Reformed or evangelical ministries in target areas.

Goal 6-1

To understand excellence as it provides direction in the context of our mission.

Objectives

- A. Determine the proper resources of leadership and ministry potential before making a final commitment to a target area.
- B. Publish and distribute case studies on church planting for denominational distribution.
- C. Inform EPC leadership who are not church planters in our mission of church planting.
- D. Encourage each presbytery to develop a manual or plan for planting and developing churches.

Goal 6-2

To select the highest caliber of potential leaders.

Objectives

- A. Equip and oversee the training of church planters.
- B. Develop an EPC Assessment Center.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." (Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV)

Denominational Goals for Pastoral Care

Introduction:

Clergy stress has been identified as a growing problem within all denominations. Burnout is often seen as the end result of increasing pressures upon the minister, impacting both his or her professional and personal life. Numerous health problems are now understood as stemming directly from stress and/or stress-induced illnesses. The impact on the individual's spiritual life can be devastating. The Sixth General Assembly assigned the Ministerial Vocation Committee the task of developing a strategy to address this problem.

The following goals reflect many hours of study, discussion, and prayer by the Committee. Documents studied represent evaluation and experiences from such noted counselors and pastors as Stuart and Jill Briscoe, David McKenna, Mary L. Bouma, Ted Engstrom, Chuck Swindoll, and Craig Ellison. Preliminary investigation also produced an astounding revelation: Few if, any, mainline denominations have formally addressed ministerial stress. We could not find any who have developed an official strategy for reducing stress among clergy. It is our conviction that pressures on ministers will not lessen in the future. In the following goals, we have sought to consider both immediate and long-range needs. Some of these goals can be immediately implemented. It is our prayer that through God's grace, wisdom, and direction, constructive responses can be realized, to the edification of the Body as a whole and of its individual members.

GOAL #1: To encourage a balanced perspective on spiritual and numerical growth by developing tools for measuring the spiritual health of congregational life beyond those of statistical comparisons, such as growth, finances, size.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Evaluate the present process of annual review as to its helpfulness for both denominational reporting and congregational growth and development.
- 1.2 Development of evaluative instruments for the measurement of spiritual health and vitality of the congregation to be used by the Session.
- 1.3 Evaluate the influence of the Church Growth Movement upon the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- 1.4 Identify learning experiences that incorporate a balanced perspective between the values of both numerical and spiritual growth.

GOAL #2: To establish processes for annual review of identifiable needs within congregational life in relationship to an intentional mission statement and specific goals.

Objectives:

- 2.1. Develop a working bibliography of evaluative and assessment tools presently available.
- 2.2. Develop a self-study document sensitive to the EPC which may be used by congregations seeking to develop a master plan for missions.
- 2.3. Identify and train resource persons within presbyteries who may assist congregations in developing a local master plan for missions.

GOAL #3: To offer an annual growth experience for persons in ministry focusing upon spiritual, emotional, marital, family and church life.

Objectives:

- 3.1 Review the General Assembly agenda to determine the feasibility of reinstating workshop time for growth experiences.

GOAL #4: Affirm our denominational commitment to quality continuing education for ministers and to develop resources for fulfilling this commitment.

Objectives:

- 4.1 Instruct presbyteries to do a self-study of how present study leave time is being used in terms of time, cost, and effectiveness in ministry.

GOAL #5: To provide regional resource persons for pastoral care and support.

Objectives:

- 5.1 Explore with the Committees on Administration and National Outreach various models by which this need could be met.

GOAL #6: To publish a monthly Pastoral Newsletter focusing on pastoral support, skills development, and information essential for effective ministry.

Objectives:

- 6.1 The General Assembly office, in concert with the Ministerial Vocation Committee, shall publish two issues of the Pastoral Newsletter during 1987-88.
- 6.2 The Pastoral Newsletter is to be distributed to Teaching Elders and lay leadership.

GOAL #7: To provide marriage and family enrichment opportunities for pastors and their spouses.

Objectives:

- 7.1 Send at least one ministry couple from each presbytery to an MVC-endorsed growth experience during 1987-88.
- 7.2 Develop a financial base for the above goal from congregations and individuals willing to support this ministry.

GOAL #8: To encourage ministers in taking their weekly day of rest and occasional special times for renewal and reflection.

Objectives:

- 8.1 The Ministerial Vocation Committee is to communicate by pastoral letter its loving concern and encouragement that ministers and sessions see that this goal is taken seriously.

GOAL #9: To motivate ministers and sessions to take seriously the priesthood of believers and to commit themselves to equipping the laity for ministry.

Objectives:

9.1 Encourage ministers and sessions to study Ephesians 4:11-16 and to evaluate their oversight of the congregation's life and mission in light of this passage.

GOAL #10: To provide tools enabling pastoral candidates and congregations to articulate clearly their philosophy and goals for ministry and to resolve differences constructively.

Objectives:

10.1 Develop a Church Information Form adequate for substantive discussion between the search committees and candidates.

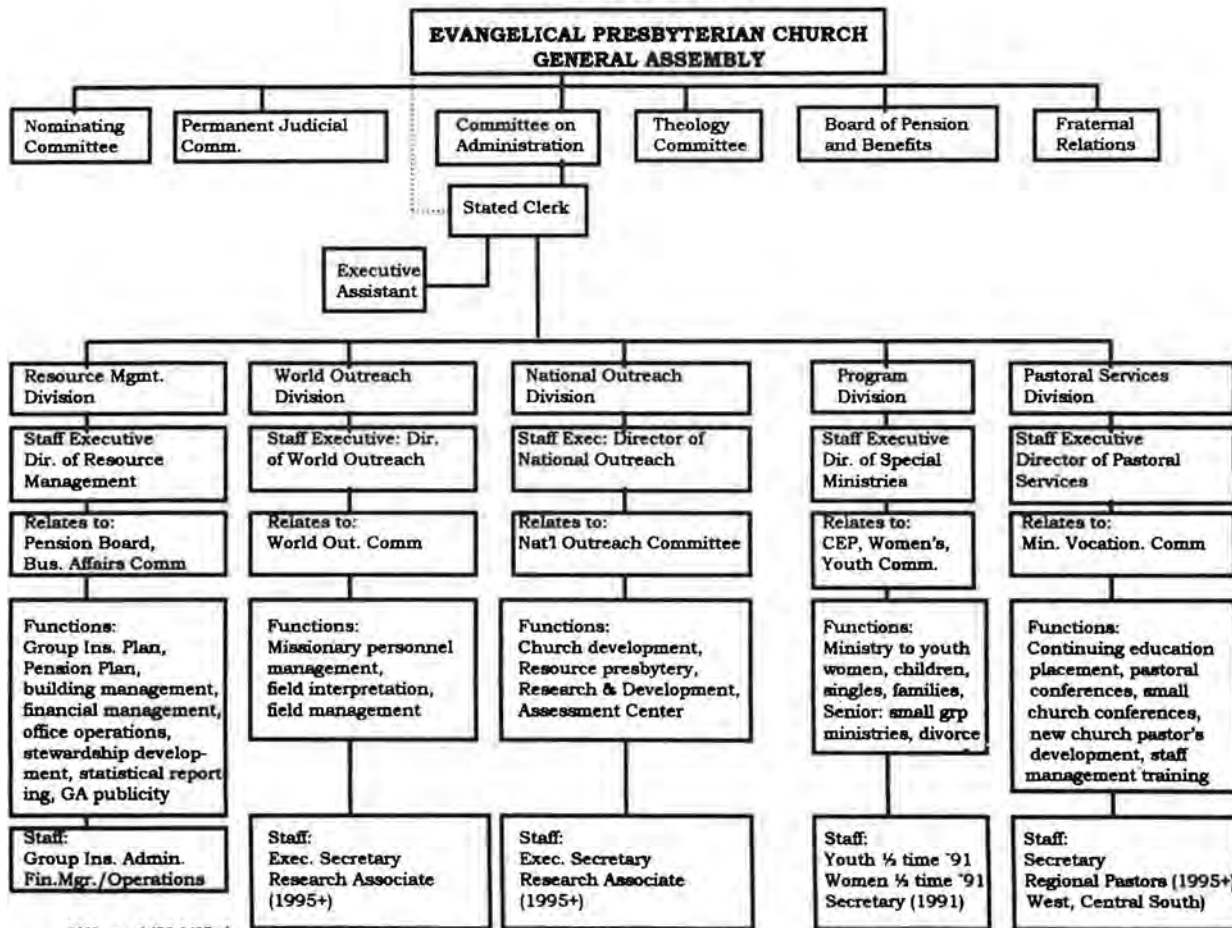
10.2 Encourage Ministerial Committees to fulfill their pastoral role in negotiations between pastoral candidates and search committees.

GOAL #11: To help ministers make a more objective assessment of their calling, gifts and effectiveness in ministry in light of their ordination vows.

Objectives:

11.1 Identify credible assessment resources readily available for persons in Christian vocations.

DESIGN FOR 2001



DESIGN FOR 2001

DOCUMENTS

6/90 rev. 6/92 1/97mb

The Geneva Statement

*Agreement of Cooperation between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
and the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*

Being persuaded from Scripture that all Christians are united together as one body in Christ, we acknowledge our responsibility to God and one another to labor together in the work of Christ so as to promote the peace, purity, and unity of the church and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in the world.

We share a common understanding of the Scriptures, as expressed in the **Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechism** for laboring together in ministry. Recognizing that some differences exist between us in our understanding of certain issues concerning God's will for His church, we also recognize that which we hold in common far outweighs that which differentiates us. It is understood that our common labors shall not compromise the consciences of either church. The integrity of each church concerning its standards and policies must be maintained and respected.

We therefore pledge ourselves to labor together in love, to advance the work of Christ in both our common and separate ministries, seeking to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

We promise that if ever we should offend one another in our common labors, we shall do everything possible to resolve the matter and to maintain cooperation. We commit ourselves to labor in support of our church courts, faithfully reporting our activities to the appropriate board or agency, and our respective committees concerning inter-church relations.

We further believe that such practical fraternity, apart from any quest for organizational union, will be pleasing to God and promote the advancement of the Gospel in the world. For these reasons we commit ourselves to this **Agreement of Cooperation**, which is to be attached to the joint statement previously adopted by our churches.

*Adopted June, 1992
12th General Assembly*

The 11th General Assembly (1991) together with the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church authorized the Interchurch Relations Committees to continue meeting for purposes of finding areas of mutual commitments, discovering areas of differences, and exploring ways of resolving those differences, exploring new and creative ways of working together. They shall report back to the respective parent bodies each year, until such time as either committee may ask to be discharged from this duty, or until the appointing body may discharge the committee from such duty.

*Adopted June, 1991
11th General Assembly*

Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Benevolence Fund

Background: In 1989, the General Assembly approved the establishment of a General Assembly benevolence fund for medical care costs, and that the EPC concentrate its benevolence health care efforts on ministers without call, mission church pastors, and retired ministers and their families (**Minutes**, §9-33).

In 1990, the Assembly conceptually endorsed the Medical Benevolence Trust with the understanding that the actual Trust/Fund Agreement would be presented to the 11th Assembly (cf. Fund policy document below). Approval to begin promotion of the Trust/Fund was given (**Minutes** §10-39).

The goal of \$200,000, set by the 10th General Assembly, was reached in July, 1992, and the Fund activated at that time.

The Medical Benevolence Fund (Act 90-16)

Eligibility for Medical Benevolence Fund

- A. Ministers without call
 - 1. One (1) year maximum
 - 2. Until such time as tentmaking income exceeds \$20,000 gross effective salary, or medical benefits become available in tentmaking
 - 3. Eligibility effective
- B. Mission church pastors
 - 1. Mission church may not be a daughter church
 - 2. One (1) year maximum
 - 3. Maximum gross effective salary may not exceed \$20,000
- C. Retirees (present needs covered by Gratitude Gift)

MBF Principal Funded By:

- A. Initial start-up \$78,300
 - 1. Travelers reserve carryover, a phased payment of \$65,250 to be completed by July, 1990
 - 2. Annual balance: Insurance Administration Fund as of 12/31/89, \$13,050. (Estimated between \$15,000 and \$25,000 for 1990)
- B. Ongoing principal development
 - 1. Annual balance of Insurance Administration Fund
 - 2. Individual ("strong") church contributions
 - 3. Moderator's Communion Service, beginning 1991

Administration of MBF

- A. Ministerial Committee of presbytery makes application to trustees of MBF
 - 1. Trustees to be two Ruling Elders and one Teaching Elder. Nominated by COA and elected by General Assembly. First group of trustees begin with a staggered term, one for one year, one for two years, and one for three years. Trustees will

not be eligible for succession. To be elected at June, 1991 General Assembly, with terms to start when Fund goal is met. Applications to be made from presbytery, c/o Director of Resource Management.

2. Application is contractual.
3. Schedule for receiving application:
 - a. Quarterly in January April, July, October
 - b. Distribution on a percentage basis of income available
 - c. First income distribution at least six (6) months after principal goal is met.
4. Starting principal will be \$200,000.
5. This expresses a concept that the presbytery would have an equal interest and responsibility as General Assembly and therefore should be partners. The specifics of this arrangement would be worked out in the Trust instrument.

For the Committee on Administration,

L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk

National Outreach Mission Statement and Values

Mission Statement: To trust God to build a multiplying movement of growing churches which will so impact the lives of individuals and communities through the power of the Gospel that the heart of our nation is radically transformed.

Our mission can only be carried out by God's supernatural power as we express our dependence on Him through:^f

1. **Focusing** our passion on reaching people who have not yet responded to God's grace.^g
2. **Building** a structure for an enduring ministry that is consistent and reproducible.^h
3. **Devoting** our primary energies to setting people free to plant churches and effectively fulfill the Great Commission.ⁱ
4. **Staying** on the cutting edge of cultural trends while discovering and offering the most effective ways to apply the Gospel to them.^j

Our commitment to this value may be seen, at least partly, in the following ways:

- Relying upon God's supernatural power and not upon human effort (Supernatural Dynamic) (JN 15:7,8; Eph 3:20,2 1; MT 16:18; PS 127: 1).
- Giving significant time during National Outreach meetings to prayer.
- Recruiting "Prayer Intercessors" to actively and aggressively intercede for NOC ministries.
- Reminding church planters that God builds the church, not they.
- Preaching the sovereign grace of God.
- Making plans trusting God to work through us so startlingly that no one could attribute the results to human effort.
- Looking for evidences of God's handiwork that cannot be explained in human terms alone.
- By operating upon God's revealed purposes and strategies while staying open to respond to opportunities created by His Spirit. (Proactive and Responsive) (PV 16:9)

Proactive

- Laying hold of God and his promises through prayer
- Targeting major population centers
- Targeting the neglected centers of our cities
- Recruiting and training potential leaders

Responsive

- Assisting core groups that the Spirit has raised up
- Recognizing and supporting anointed leaders
- Constantly asking God to show us where He is working and how we can be involved
- Aiding those churches seeking to transfer into the EPC

“Our commitment to this value may be seen, at least partly, in the following ways:

- Fervently praying for those without Christ.
- Constantly searching for more effective and relevant ways to present the Gospel Making personal contacts with the unchurched.
- Regularly monitoring our spending and programming to ensure the primacy of outreach to the unchurched,
- Exposing church leaders to the desperate plight of those without Christ.
- Promoting and rewarding conversion growth as opposed to transfer growth.
- Worship on reaching the unchurched
- (LK 15)

“Our commitment to this value may be seen, at least partly, in the following ways:

- Not compromising the long term best by pushing for immediate gain.
- Evaluating every ministry on the basis of our mission and values.
- Not simply planting and revitalizing churches one by one, but creating the framework that will mobilize more and more people for those ministries.
- (11 Tim 2:2-1 Jesus’ training of the twelve)

“Our commitment to this value may be seen, at least partly, in the following ways:

- Keeping in mind that the structure serves the individual.
- Building a nurturing family environment with individual mentoring.
- Recognizing that Christian workers are the most important element in carrying out our goal to reach those without Christ.
- Teaching that ministry flows from grace, not our performance.
- Giving people freedom to try, succeed or fail.
- Encouraging leaders to own and direct their ministries.
- Equipping people who can equip others.
- Recognizing and resourcing leaders with obvious gifts.
- Not hampering ministry with top-down micromanagement.

“Our commitment to this value may be seen, at least partly, in the following ways:

- Trusting God to lead us where He is working.
- Constantly researching new and better ways to reach people for Christ.
- Looking for, testing and recommending excellent ministry programs that will benefit the whole church.
- Employing up-to-date technology that assists effective communication of the Gospel and church planting.
- Always improving NOC’s structural design for maximum outreach effectiveness and support of church planters and revitalizers.
- Understanding cultural trends so that we may adjust our practices ahead of the culture.
- “Good enough never is.”

*Adopted 16th General Assembly
June, 1996*

POSITION STATEMENT ON PRESBYTERY DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this position statement is to be a guide to the General Assembly in making decisions concerning the establishment of new presbyteries or the realignment of current boundaries.

The Church as the body of Christ is composed of all those persons who profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior, together with their children. The Church on earth is not limited to particular forms of government or denominational structures; nevertheless, the government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be Presbyterian in form. Such is government by elders meeting in church courts in regular gradation. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes the perfecting of the visible Church is best established where the scriptural doctrine of government by elders gathered in church courts is practiced.

The courts of the Church shall be the Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. Presbytery shall be composed of all Ministers belonging to it, and two Ruling Elders for each Minister drawn from the particular churches within its bounds.

The Presbytery has jurisdiction over all that belongs to the worship and ministry of a group of churches within the designated bounds. In its spiritual oversight, the mission of the Presbytery shall be:

1. The nurture and care of persons called to the office of Minister and oversight of all transactions pursuant to call.
2. The provision of spiritual discipline according to the *Book of Discipline*.
3. The oversight of church Sessions through annual review.
4. The maintenance of peace and unity within the congregations.
5. The establishment and development of churches.
6. The encouragement of evangelism, renewal, and ministries of compassion within the congregations and Presbytery.
7. The active participation in the life of the General Assembly.
8. The organization of the Presbytery for maximum advancement of the Gospel and the kingdom.
9. The provision of resources to member congregations promoting effective evangelism, education, stewardship, officer training and the like.

In pursuit of its mission, the question naturally arises as to what constitutes a viable Presbytery. Viability may be defined as "the ability with maximum efficiency to achieve a stated mission." The basic components of a viable Presbytery within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be understood as the following:

1. LEADERSHIP

A Presbytery must have adequate personnel resources to support the local church as well as Presbytery's committees and commissions.

2. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Sufficient resources must be available to support the mission and life of a Presbytery. A minimum budget of \$100,000 ('94 dollar basis) per year is necessary.

3. COMMITMENT

Leadership and resources are of little value if the solid commitment of Ministers and Ruling Elders of each church to the connectional form of government is absent.

4. DEMOGRAPHICS

The minimum requirements for a Presbytery need to be:

1. A large church (1,000 + members);
2. Twelve organized churches;
3. A composite membership base of 2,500.

5. OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk shall be provided with office equipment and necessary support staff to carry out the duties of the office as defined in the Presbytery by-laws.

6. GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY

Presbytery boundaries should be established to keep travel distances between churches to a reasonable minimum.

Women's Ministries Constitution For Local Churches

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Article I

Name

This organization shall be known as WOMEN'S MINISTRIES OF _____
CHURCH, PRESBYTERY OF _____,
THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Article II

We subscribe to the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Presbyterian denomination. The foundation of this statement of Faith is given here:

All Scripture is self-attesting, and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life. The infallible Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness of 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.

Statement of Purpose

Ephesians 4:12: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ..."

Central to Women's Ministries is the affirmation of women as being loved and called by God into a personal relationship with Him through our Lord Jesus Christ, and the nurture of women in the knowledge of Him and His plan for each individual life. Therefore, the purpose of Women's Ministries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is to provide an atmosphere for the women of the church to mature spiritually and to recognize and develop their God-given gifts.

Article III

The membership of Women's Ministries shall be open to all women of the church. The participating membership may be divided into small groups for personal maturing and ministry.

Article IV

The officers of Women's Ministries shall be members of the local church. The officers of Women's Ministries may be designated according to the needs of the local church. Suggestions are President, Vice-President (one or more), Secretary (one or more), Spiritual Nurture, Leadership Development, Community Outreach, Christian Values (issues of the day) and Mission Coordinator.

Article V

Representative to Women's Presbytery Representative Council

Each church shall be represented by at least one woman at the Women's Presbytery Representative Council.

Each local church is encouraged to send at least one woman to the Women's Conference, which will be held on an every third year schedule.

Article VI

Standing Committees

Standing committees may be appointed as needed. Suggestions are Study, Prayer, Finance, Nursery, Hospitality, Nominating, Local Church Service, Publicity, Special Events.

Article VII

Relationships

Women's Ministries shall be under the jurisdiction of the Session of the local church. Women's Ministries will maintain a relationship of mutual support and concern with EPC at the Presbytery and General Assembly levels.

Article VIII

Finances

The work of Women's Ministries may be financed through regular pledges, voluntary offerings, church budget, and/or fundraising as approved by the Session.

Article IX

Meetings may be scheduled as desired and needed, by the women in the individual congregations.

Article X

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been submitted at least two weeks in advance.

Article XI

Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority in matters not addressed in this Constitution.



Master Plan

DOCUMENTS



**Evangelical
Presbyterian Church**
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154
Phone: 313-261-2001
Fax: 313-261-3282

PURPOSE STATEMENT



The global mission of the EPC shall be to plant, develop, and nurture the Church of Jesus Christ in those cultures and people groups where particular opportunity and our ability to respond most closely coincide. For this purpose World Outreach exists.

DIRECTIONAL STATEMENT

1. EPC is committed to the establishment and development of indigenous Reformed churches in each people group within its priority areas of the world.
2. EPC is committed to church planting evangelism and affirms its mission through both word and deed.
3. EPC is committed to the participation of every church and church member in the program of WO and believes the key to lay mobilization is the use of spiritual gifts.
4. EPC's WO resources shall be administered in an efficient and effective manner, with the exercise of wise stewardship, sound management, and full accountability.
5. EPC is committed to engage in relationships with domestic and foreign churches in which a unified mission/fraternal effort will result in greater effectiveness.
6. EPC-WO shall act only in keeping with the Word of God, the confessional standards, and the **Book of Order** of the EPC.
7. EPC shall endeavor in its global mission to be open and responsive to the renewal movement of the Holy Spirit throughout the world.
8. EPC shall accept the responsibility to continue faithful in proclaiming the Gospel to the nations until the Lord returns.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

World Outreach is committed to develop its mission program with clear intentionality. It shall minister in Latin America, the Pacific Rim, the Muslim World, the North American Urban Ministry Field, and the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Preference shall be given to world-class cities, unreached peoples, and responsive people groups.

Key: Each goal stated below is followed by a list of objectives. Short-term objectives are targets for EPC's 15th anniversary (1996). Long-term objectives are beyond that.

GOAL I MISSION EDUCATION IN THE EPC

In order for the EPC to be a mission oriented denomination, it is appropriate to encourage and promote a mission vision for the EPC. The primary tasks of World Outreach shall be to nurture denominational mission consciousness in churches and presbyteries.

Short-Term Objectives

- 1.1 To plan and conduct at least one trip each year for service and education in areas where World Outreach is at work.
- 1.2 To provide mission-awareness and candidate-development resources for use by EPC congregations.
- 1.3 To promote and encourage participation in national and regional mission conferences such as Urbana.
- 1.4 To encourage each congregation to have an annual "Mission Conference" or "Mission Day".
- 1.5 To prepare and distribute a World Outreach supplement for A.C.M.C.'s "Mission Policy Handbook", encouraging every congregation to develop its own mission statement, policy, and objectives.
- 1.6 To encourage each EPC presbytery to establish its own World Outreach Committee to accelerate the foreign missions endeavor throughout the denomination.

Long-Term Objectives

- 1.7 To plan World Outreach seminars, workshops, and conferences through which clusters of congregations as well as entire presbyteries shall be encouraged to cooperate and strengthen their mission commitment.
- 1.8 To provide cross-cultural internship opportunities (length 2-12 months) for EPC seminarians.

GOAL II MISSION IN PARTNERSHIP

To fulfill more effectively the Biblical mandate, World Outreach shall develop mission partnerships with other Reformed and Presbyterian churches in North America and abroad. Partnerships shall also be developed with other compatible church, educational and parachurch agencies through which World Outreach goals may be reached.

Short-Term Objectives

- II.1 To become well informed and highly supportive of what our sister churches in North American Presbyterian and Reformed Churches (NAPARC) are doing in world missions.
- II.2 To affirm cooperative agreements already established and increase the church's understanding of the purpose, strategy, and procedure of those cooperating agencies.
- II.3 To establish agreements with agencies which meet the criteria of World Outreach and which are capable of becoming instruments to help the church achieve its goals:
 - 1) By deploying church-planting missionaries
 - 2) By deploying support personnel
 - 3) By providing services and assistance

Long-Term Objectives

- II.4 To establish a working agreement with a seminary or institution for leadership training in each area where EPC has deployed church-planting missionaries.
- II.5 To establish agreements with NAPARC members for cooperatively deploying church planting teams.
- II.6 To establish a mission partnership with a Reformed denomination, which shall include the deployment of EPC personnel in Asia.

GOAL III**ARGENTINA**

In cooperation with the St. Andrews Presbytery in Buenos Aires, World Outreach shall engage in church planting in Argentina. The goal shall be to establish a fully indigenous Presbyterian denomination in Argentina.

Short-Term Objective

- III.1 To select areas appropriate for the establishment of additional presbyteries.

GOAL IV**BRAZIL**

The EPC and the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB) established a joint agreement for a partnership in missions (Articles of Agreement, 1985). The planning and oversight of this agreement is the responsibility of the **Joint Committee for Missions (JCM)**, a body composed of three representatives elected from each church. The JCM makes recommendations to the General Assembly through the World Outreach Committee.

Short-Term Objectives

- IV.1 To provide funds and support for the development of new IPB presbyteries.
- IV.2 To establish and maintain graduate level scholarships to train faculty for IPB seminaries.
- IV.3 To provide visiting professors and other mission specialists to aid the IPB in leadership development and in mission planning.
- IV.4 To provide funds and support to strengthen and extend the foreign missions program of the IPB.

GOAL V**MISSION PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT**

As a missionary sending agency, World Outreach shall emphasize sending teams to plant churches.

Short-Term Objectives

- V.1 To develop processes and tools for personnel and human resources management in recruiting, screening, training, deploying, and evaluating, and in providing member care.
- V.2 To define a "church planting team" — its purpose, composition, structure, functions, and relationships.
- V.3 To develop a process for building and deploying church planting teams.

Long-Term Objectives

- V.4 To have 101 missionaries in the field by the year 2001.
- V.5 To develop policies and structures for integrating internationals into World Outreach church planting teams.
- V.6 To encourage short-term missionary service (one to two years) where consistent with World Outreach objectives.

GOAL VI**BI-VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Recognizing that most of the world's population lives in countries closed to direct missionary witness ("restricted access nations"), World Outreach shall send trained personnel to such areas. The primary purpose of these individuals shall be their commitment to church planting or church growth within the context of their business or professional assignment.

Short-Term Objectives

- VI.1 To develop a program for selecting, training, deploying and supporting bi-vocational missionaries in "restricted access nations".
- VI.2 To deploy five units to serve as teachers or specialists in China.
- VI.3 To deploy ten units to work in the Muslim world.

GOAL VII NORTH AMERICAN ETHNIC CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

World Outreach shall coordinate strategic church development among the ethnic population in North America.

Short-Term Objectives

- VII.1 To develop resources which will help presbyteries effectively integrate present ethnic congregations into the life and fellowship of the presbytery.
- VII.2 To develop a national plan for ethnic church planting, including the use of missionaries from churches with whom World Outreach works.

GOAL VIII RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Consistent with World Outreach's commitment to mission in both word and deed, its ministry shall include projects which assist long-term development as well as emergency relief. World Outreach shall endeavor to work through local churches, thereby opening doors for gospel proclamation.

Short-Term Objectives

- VIII.1 To establish and support relief and development projects in areas where World Outreach has church planting ministries, preferably in cooperation with other Reformed and Presbyterian agencies.
- VIII.2 To establish and support relief and development projects in communities in North America where EPC congregations are being established or are ministering.
- VIII.3 To cooperate with approved evangelical organizations engaged in broad relief and development ministries.

GOAL IX NORTH AMERICAN URBAN MINISTRIES

Because the inner city neighborhoods of North America are in great need of the gospel, World Outreach shall develop and/or support ministries to extend and strengthen the influence of the church into these areas.

Short-Term Objectives

- IX.1 To study inner city ministries within and outside the denomination, in order to determine what makes such a ministry effective.
- IX.2 To begin one new ministry by the end of 1993. This will involve the following steps:
- Choose a location
 - Determine the form of the ministry
 - Recruit a leader
 - Raise support

GOAL X EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

Believing that the Holy Spirit has moved in a mighty way to open the door of opportunity for the proclamation of the gospel and the building of the Kingdom in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, World Outreach will develop ways for individual congregations and the denomination as a whole to respond to this opportunity.

Short-Term Objectives

- X.1 To investigate ministries now being conducted in this geographic area by other Reformed denominations and mission agencies.
- X.2 To recommend at least two appropriate ministries to EPC churches for consideration of their support.
- X.3 To deploy ten missionaries to work in this geographic area.

Rev. 1992

Presbytery World Outreach Committees

Committee Description

1. World Outreach Missionaries

Recruitment

- Encourage prayer for the identification of World Outreach missionary candidates.
- From among both the members of presbytery and its congregations, seek out and encourage potential candidates to consider World Outreach service.
- Encourage and assist candidates in the application process.
- Disseminate current information on World Outreach's specific needs for new missionaries.

Support

- Urge the churches of the presbytery to help support all World Outreach missionaries through the World Outreach Office.
- Encourage each church to include in its mission committee policy a statement which gives preferential support consideration to World Outreach missionary appointees.

Contact

- Insure adequate communication is maintained between churches and the missionary on field.

Home Service

- Plan, in cooperation with World Outreach Committee, strategic opportunities for World Outreach missionaries to share their work with presbytery.
- Meet with, for reporting and review, each missionary on home service who is a member of presbytery.

2. Interpretation and Support of World Outreach Projects

- Encourage regular representation from the presbytery on World Outreach mission trips, helping the participants share broadly on their return.
- Establish and pursue the goal of preferential support for World Outreach projects by every church in the presbytery.
- Provide on request, information on current World Outreach projects, their progress, and their support status.

3. Ethnic Church Development

- Encourage representatives of presbytery to visit any EPC ethnic congregations or mission churches within the presbytery.
- See opportunities for integrating ethnic congregations into the life and fellowship of the presbytery.

4. Mission Education

- Plan World Outreach seminars, workshops, and conferences whereby clusters of churches or the entire presbytery will be encouraged to cooperate, thereby strengthening their mission commitment.
- Encourage every congregation to have a periodic mission conference or mission day, sharing resources with one another as appropriate.
- Distribute information on the mission program of World Outreach.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

**National Association of Evangelicals
PO Box 28
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
708/665-0500**

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful man, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**World Evangelical Fellowship
PO Box WEF
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
Phone: 708/668-0440**

1. We believe in the Holy Scriptures as originally given by God, divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct...
2. One God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...
3. Our Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, His sinless human life, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His mediatorial work and His personal return in power and glory...
4. The salvation of lost and sinful man through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith apart from works, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit...
5. The Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life, to witness, and work for the Lord Jesus Christ...
6. The unity of the Spirit of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ...
7. The resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability
PO Box 17456
Washington, DC 20041-0456
Phone: 800/3BE-WISE

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
4. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful men, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
5. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
6. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
7. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Constitution

World Alliance of Reformed Churches

Preamble

The one foundation of the church is Jesus Christ, the Lord, in whom God's Word became flesh and to whom the Scriptures bear witness; and the church on earth; though composed of many members, is one body in the communion of the Holy Spirit, under the headship of the one Lord, Jesus Christ.

Article I - Name

The name of the organization, hereinafter called the Alliance, shall be: *The World Alliance of Reformed Churches (Presbyterian and Congregational)*, and in shorter form, *The World Alliance of Reformed Churches*.

Article II - Membership

Any Church which accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, holds the Word of God given in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the supreme authority in matters of faith and life; acknowledges the need for the continuing reformation of the church catholic; whose position in faith and evangelism is in general agreement with that of the historic Reformed confessions, recognizing that the Reformed tradition is a biblical, evangelical and doctrinal ethos, rather than any narrow and exclusive definition of faith and order, shall be eligible for membership.

United churches which share this understanding of the nature and calling of the church shall be eligible for membership.

Membership in the Alliance does not restrict the relationship of any church with other churches or with other inter-church bodies.

Article III - Purposes

The purposes of the Alliance shall be:

1. to further all endeavours to proclaim the Word of God faithfully, and to order the life and worship of the church in obedience to God's Word;
2. to further the work of evangelism, mission and stewardship in all their aspects, to promote common study of the Christian Faith and its implications;
3. to encourage the diversity and familial character of ministries in the church under the one Head, Jesus Christ;
4. to widen and deepen understanding and community among the member churches and churches eligible for membership and to help them to fulfill their own responsibilities in the service of Christ;
5. to further intercourse between the member churches, through mutual visitation, through the dissemination of information, and by other practicable means;
6. to unite the forces of the member churches in common service wherever needed and practicable;
7. to help member churches which may be weak, oppressed or persecuted; and through all available channels to stimulate and provide aid to needy churches among them;
8. to promote and defend religious and civil liberties wherever threatened throughout the world;

9. to facilitate the contribution to the ecumenical movement of the experiences and insights which churches within the Alliance have been given in their history, and to share with churches of other traditions within that movement, and particularly in the World Council of Churches, in the discovery of forms of church life and practice which will enable the people of God more fully to understand and express together God's will for his people.

Article IV - General Council

1. Composition and Meetings

The General Council shall consist of delegates appointed by the member churches in such numbers as shall be specified in the By-Laws. The General Council shall meet ordinarily once in five years. The Executive Committee may convene the General Council on its own initiative and shall do so at the request of one third of the member churches. The time, place and programme may be determined by the General Council or in the *interim* by the Executive Committee.

2. Functions

The General Council shall have power to make and administer policies, plans and programmes in accordance with the purpose of the Alliance; to elect officers, members of the Executive Committee, Departments, Commissions and Committees; to adopt and amend a Constitution and By-Laws; to consider all matters brought before it by member churches; and to give oversight to the affairs of the Alliance. None of these provisions shall limit the autonomy of any member church.

Article V - Executive Committee

1. Composition and Meetings

- a. The General Council shall elect an Executive Committee from the delegates to that General Council, the members to hold office from their installation until their successors are elected and installed in office.
- b. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Alliance and twenty-five members elected by the General Council. The executive officers shall be corresponding members of the Executive Committee.
- c. If any member of the Executive committee is unable to attend a particular meeting of the Committee, an alternate may be appointed under provision in the By-Laws.
- d. The times, places, and plans of meetings of the Executive Committee shall be according to the provisions in the By-Laws or as specified from time to time by the General Council or the Executive Committee.

2. Functions

The Executive Committee shall exercise general oversight of the work of the Alliance between the meetings of the General Council, shall represent and, if necessary, speak for the Alliance between meetings of the General Council and perform all duties specified elsewhere in this Constitution and in the By-Laws or committed to it by the General Council. It shall have power to fill all vacancies in the offices of the Alliance and in its own membership which may occur between meetings of the General Council.

Article VI - Officers of the Alliance

The General Council shall elect the following officers from the delegates to that General Council to hold office from their installation until their successors are elected and installed in office.

1. A President
2. Three Vice-Presidents
3. Moderators of Departments

Article VII - Executive Officers

The Executive Committee shall elect the following executive officers, each of whom shall hold office for a fixed term of years and be eligible for re-election:

1. A General Secretary
2. One or more Associate Secretaries or Departmental Secretaries
3. One or more Assistant Secretaries
4. A General Treasurer
5. An Area Secretary and Area Treasurer for each Area which may be organized, upon nomination of the Area.

The terms of office of Associate Secretaries, Departmental Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries shall be not more than five years.

The General Secretary shall be the chief executive officer and shall be responsible to the General Council and to the Executive Committee to direct and co-ordinate the work of the Alliance.

Article VIII - Departments, Commissions and Committees

1. The General Council may establish Departments.
2. The General Council or the Executive Committee may establish Commissions and Committees.

Article IX - Organization of Areas

In order to promote the closest possible community and cooperation among member churches in particular areas of the world and the effectiveness of the total work of the Alliance, the General Council may authorize the organization of an Area by the member churches in any given area of the world. The number, bounds, and names of the Areas shall be determined by the General Council and ordinarily shall be set forth in the By-Laws of the Alliance. The organization of an Area shall be effected by the member churches within the area in conformity with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Alliance, under By-Laws drawn up in the Area and ratified by the General Council or the Executive Committee.

Article X - Legal Status

The General Council and the Executive Committee shall take the steps necessary to qualify the Alliance to own and deal with property, both real and personal.

Article XI - Principal Office

The principal office of the Alliance shall be in Geneva, Switzerland.

Article XII - Amendments

1. This Constitution may be amended by a two thirds affirmative vote of the delegates in attendance at any meeting of the General Council, providing the proposed amendment has been transmitted to the members of the Executive Committee, to each member Church, and to the Moderator of each Area, at least on year before it is voted.
2. The By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates in attendance at any meeting of the General Council.

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PART IV
DIRECTORY

**Officers of the General Assembly
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Reverend David Brown (Marsha)
Reverend Neil Ellison (Deborah)
Reverend John Quigley (Kerry)
Reverend Michael Gatliff (Jackie)
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40000 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI 48167
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Immanuel Presbyterian Church (mission)
c/o Ward Presbyterian Church
17000 Farmington Road
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Mt. Pleasant Community Church
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Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
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Trinity Presbyterian Church
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9901 Allen Road
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BayWind Christian Church
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17126 Old Manchester Road
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Greentree Community Church (mission)
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Our Lord's Community Church

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Literacy and Evangelism

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918/585-3826

PENNSYLVANIA

Calvary Presbyterian Church

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Butler, PA 16001

(Pulpit Vacant)

412/283-6070

New Covenant Evangelical Presbyterian

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Reverend Rodger Woodworth (Wende)

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Reverend Bruce Harrington (Connie)
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Mt. Calvary Presbyterian Church
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Christ Presbyterian Church
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Reverend Rocky Anthony (Tracy)
Reverend Ron Sadlow (Sarah)
Dr. Paul Swets (Janiece)
Reverend Bill McCutchen (Lisa)
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Cornerstone EPC
1351 S. Mason Rd.
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Dr. Buck Oliphant (Lynn)
Reverend Sam A. Downing (Mary)
713/579-1080 Fax: 713/579-7997

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Marshall, TX 75670
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VIRGINIA

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PART V
ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS
OF THE CHURCHES

1996 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - CENTRAL SOUTH PRESBYTERY

CENTRAL SOUTH				GAINS			LOSSES									
CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	12/31/95	PROFESSION						12/31/96	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH
				MEMBERSHIP	OF FAITH	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER	MEMBERSHIP	ATTENDANCE	ENROLLMEN	BAPTISM	BAPTISM	PROFESSIONS
1	Atoka Presbyterian	Atoka, TN	2	2	44	0	0	0	0	0	44	50	50	0	0	0
2	Christ Community	Bosker City, LA	4		28	0	0	0	0	1	6	21		26	0	1
3	Christ EPC	Houston, TX	12	12	696	22	11	25	93	2	44	628	500	738	1	11
4	Christ Presbyterian	Decatur, AL														
5	Christ Presbyterian	Cape Girardeau, MO	0	5	40	10	0	0	0	1	4	45	41	25	0	0
6	Church of the Savior	Spring, TX														
7	Church of the King	Corpus Christi, TX	4	2	49	0	0	0	0	0	10	39	105	48	0	1
9	Cornerstone Presbyterian	Katy, TX	6	6	69	0	10	4	1	0	8	74	85	85	0	1
10	Covenant Presbyterian	Columbus, MS	4	0	37	2	0	2	3	0	0	38	30	23	0	0
11	CrossPoint Community	Carrollton, TX	3	0	73	7	3	12	4	0	0	93	140	77	3	3
12	Crossroads Community	Austin, TX	3	2	31	0	1	2	2	0	0	32	79	57	12	0
13	EPC of Marshall	Marshall, TX	6	6	200	5	3	9	3	0	3	222	167	118	8	7
14	First EPC	Anna, IL	6	15	159	0	15	0	1	1	8	164	311	195	2	1
15	First Presbyterian	Houma, LA	3	1	66	1	0	2	0	0	0	71	45	35	0	5
16	First Presbyterian	Meridian, MS	12	12	444	0	8	14	6	4	0	466	460	233	2	4
17	First Presbyterian	Waskom, TX	2	0	25	0	0	0	0	2	0	23	25	7	0	0
18	First Presbyterian	West Point, MS	7	6	144	1	15	0	3	1	8	148	125	115	1	2
19	Golden Rule	Elysian Fields, TX														
20	Hope Presbyterian	Germantown, TN	12	29	408	16	80	126	11	0	0	645	1,225		15	14
21	Lakeside Presbyterian	Brandon, MS	12	12	546	0	20	17	4	3	46	533	315	243	3	6
22	Louisville Presbyterian	Louisville, MS														
23	Providence Presbyterian	Garland, TX	6	6	77	0	2	8	0	1	16	68	110	80	6	0
24	Providence Presbyterian	Garland, TX	6	6	77	0	2	8	0	1	16	68	110	80	6	0
25	Redeemer EPC	Irondale, AL	3	5	68	0	4	5	4	0	5	68	70	46	0	1
26	River of Life	Montgomery, AL														
27	Second Presbyterian	Memphis, TN	35	44	3,104	13	65	94	73	45	40	3,126	1,456	2,580	5	52
28	Trinity Presbyterian	Mobile, AL	4	1	58	0	0	13	3	2	0	66	58	19	0	9
29	Tunica Presbyterian	Tunica, MS	6	9	133	1	2	0	0	2	9	127	110	106	0	1
30	Westminster Presbyterian	Laurel, MS	8	9	281	0	9	0	1	2	0	287	160	156	0	4
31	Zachary Presbyterian	Zachary, LA	5	0	63	1	1	22	3	0	0	87	58	79	4	0

- Last available information.

Shading - church received in 16th General Assembly year.

1996 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - CENTRAL SOUTH PRESBYTERY

	CENTRAL SOUTH		RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS				TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE	
	CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE				NON-EPC MISSIONS
1	Atoka Presbyterian	11369	54295	4058	45272	630	530	730	56352	47262	22459	
2	Christ Community	10173	40575	5403	53801	167	167	167	45978	54301	1851	
3	Christ EPC	617552	1844713	12233	1783436	9525	10200	33243	236076	1856946	400018	
4	Christ Presbyterian								0	0	0	
5	Christ Presbyterian	6031	59477	26250	63574	300	300	845	1400	85727	86419	5339
6	Church of the Saviour								0	0	0	
7	Church of the King	5318	132503		115283	1012	800	50	8850	132503	126035	11786
8	City of Refuge	0	242236	353	136823				4204	242589	141027	101562
9	Cornerstone Presbyterian	118689	200424	137842	379533	6215	1215			338266	386963	69992
10	Covenant Presbyterian	2889	52201	13083	68655			143	1389	65284	70186	-2014
11	CrossPointe Community	88707	207054	16940	214799	1001	1283		1494	223994	218547	94154
12	Crossroads Community	15023	93256	9425	102359	585	585		850	102581	104379	13325
13	EPC of Marshall	26944	226152		204965	2652	2566	6311	6418	226152	223912	28184
14	First EPC	56733	224721	15781	210746	2385	2385	3991	10337	226300	228844	53189
15	First Presbyterian	5287	106737	7885	101322	1050	1050	800	8728	114622	112750	7159
16	First Presbyterian	209879	805000	3000	403210	10984	6360	9076	55249	808000	484679	533000
17	First Presbyterian	9385	21533	2600	23971	375	375	35	400	24133	25156	8362
18	First Presbyterian	47669	165907	5150	167923	2280	2506	491	8240	171057	181440	37286
19	Golden Rule									0	0	0
20	Hope Church	197074	1041115	14288	1076147	8195	8120		32711	1055403	1121173	131304
21	Lakeside Presbyterian	209447	526421	96863	534504	10370	8370	13170	86134	623284	652548	180183
22	Louisville Presbyterian									0	0	0
23	New Covenant	32021	33729	843	19897					34572	19697	46896
24	Providence Presbyterian	36020	218904	10539	237896	1155	1155	1450	3690	229443	245346	22115
25	Redeemer EPC	54417	176027		134152	1020			13986	176027	149158	81286
26	River of Life									0	0	0
27	Second Presbyterian		7983504		5729062	49500	49500	46063	1287228	7963504	7161373	0
28	Trinity Presbyterian	18624	118183	28185	115562	975	807	15654	3735	146388	136733	28258
29	Tunica Presbyterian	30596	133017	5756	90571	1980	1980	713	26544	138775	123768	45563
30	Westminster Presbyterian	456200	332098	6586	283082	9125	4215	19836	7600	338886	323958	470928
31	Zachary Presbyterian	112580	86542		115835	525	525	785		86542	117670	61451

1996 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST

EAST				GAINS			LOSSES									
CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	12/31/95	PROFESSION			CERT. DEATHS OTHER			12/31/96	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH
				MEMBERSHIP	OF FAITH	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER	MEMBERSHIP	ATTENDANCE	ENROLLMEN	BAPTISM	BAPTISM	PROFESSIONS
1	Ashland EPC	Voorhees, NJ	12	7	406	33	0	1	10	2	23	413	365	195	0	13
2	Calvary EPC	Butler, PA	9	13	168	11	0	2	3	6	2	171	87	33	2	0
3	Dundalk Presbyterian	Dundalk, MD	12	12	264	1	6	6	0	4	10	282	230	168	1	2
4	Faith Presbyterian	Alexandria, VA	15	14	218	0	0	19	2	3	9	234	218	76	5	3
5	Fourth Presbyterian	Bethesda, MD	24	31	2,333	84	0	0	37	12	20	2,367	1,425	1,660	4	37
6	Goodwill Presbyterian	Montgomery, NY	6	9	88	11	0	0	0	0	3	96	125	64	0	1
7	Montclair Community	Montclair, VA	0	0	27	0	3	8	4	0	10	27	40	38	0	1
8	New Covenant	New Castle, PA	6	6	220	0	8	13	4	2	0	237	157	128	0	0
9	New Hope	Pittsburgh, PA	0	0	0	12	2	44	0	0	0	58	115	71	1	2
10	New Life Presbyterian	Galhensburg, MD	4	5	48	0	0	0	3	0	23	20	30	14	0	1
11	North Park EPC	Wexford, PA	9	15	429	4	0	25	3	2	35	418	379	372	0	5
12	Pohick Valley Presbyterian	Burke, VA	2	7	43	0	1	0	0	1	0	43	25	35	0	0
13	Redeemer EPC	New Kensington, PA			*12*											

*# - Last available information.

1996 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST

	EAST	RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS			PER MEMBER	EPC	NON-EPC	TOTAL	TOTAL	ENDING
		BEGINNING	TITHES &	OTHER	LOCAL	PER MEMBER	EPC						
	CHURCHES	BALANCE	OFFERINGS	INCOME	CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	GIVING	BENEVOLENCE	MISSIONS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE	
1	Ashtand EPC	46712	405900	8217	261099	2400	6200	8225	94671	414118	372595	68235	
2	Calvary Presbyterian	26349	75702	54400	141874	850	1200	3150	10850	130102	157924	-1473	
3	Dundalk Presbyterian	54684	207789	10098	200056	1320	4000	3250	20050	217867	228876	43875	
4	Faith Presbyterian	114217	531294	1683	538694	1090	3600	9856	24159	532977	577399	69795	
5	Fourth Presbyterian	1956985	3054764	179090	2344194	4000	10500	43100	410185	3233854	2811979	2378660	
6	Goodwill Presbyterian	4228	142456	2800	99009	500	1650	3241	27238	145056	131638	17846	
7	Montclair Community	20037	26290		35660			100	861	26290	36621	9707	
8	New Covenant	50114	173108	2948	120357	1104	1104	2235	8656	176056	131456	94714	
9	New Hope	48411	63642	42780	125021			800	1400	106422	127021	28812	
10	New Life Presbyterian	23448	58460	3860	53115		690			62320	53805	31962	
11	North Park EPC	72955	584782	21514	540717	2135	6405	12824	44779	606296	606860	72391	
12	Pohick Valley	18633	70900	432	72241	205	636	2595	700	71332	76377	13588	
13	Redeemer EPC									0	0	0	

1996 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA					GAINS			LOSSES			12/31/96			12/31/95		
CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	12/31/96	PROFESSION			MEMBERSHIP			WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	S.S. ENROLLMENT	ADULT BAPTISM		INFANT BAPTISM	YOUTH PROFESSION
				MEMBERSHIP	OF FAITH	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER			BAPTISM	BAPTISM		
1 Abundant Life EPC	Lake Mary, FL	3	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	17	14	0	0	0
2 Christ Covenant	Tampa, FL	6	3	110	3	7	4	0	0	0	133	80	119	2	0	0
3 Faith EPC	Brooksville, FL	6	10	339	1	3	8	4	3	1	343	320	139	1	13	0
4 First Presbyterian	Homestead, FL	9	6	157	1	0	9	1	5	19	142		53	1	3	0
7 New Covenant	Pompano Beach, FL	12	15	1,150	9	5	84	4	11	285	948	650	239	25	18	0
8 The Cornerstone EPC	Daytona Beach, FL	6	9	138	6	2	13	0	3	7	149	133	0	1	0	0
9 Trinity EPC	Fl. Pierce, FL	0	0	125	0	0	12	0	2	27	110	95	66	0	0	2

Shading - church received in 16th General Assembly year.

*Current information approximated.

1996 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

FLORIDA		RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS					TOTAL		TOTAL		ENDING
	CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS		BALANCE	
1	Abundant Life	1143	49187		48189	60	60			49187	48309		2021	
2	Christ Covenant	4482	188217		144870	1785	1785	1569	9777	168217	159786		12913	
3	Cypress Pointe													
4	EPC of Plant City	0	404372	5231	237907	4250	2433	2628	88445	409603	315663		93940	
5	Faith EPC	32307	624653	975	586352	3996	3600	17151	12803	625628	623902		34033	
6	First Presbyterian	80197	96834	84460	182998	1585	1766	1812	2092	181294	190253		71238	
7	New Covenant	-36296	1074276	61147	1065267				21459	1135423	1086728		12400	
8	The Cornerstone	10550	229560	0	201110	0	0	1525	31733	229560	234368		5742	
9	Trinity EPC									0	0		0	

1996 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA

MID-AMERICA				GAINS						LOSSES		12/31/96					
				12/31/95	PROFESSION						MEMBERSHIP	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH	
CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	MEMBERSHIP	OF FAITH	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER		ATTENDANCE	ENROLLMEN	BAPTISM	BAPTISM	PROFESSION	
1	Baldwin Community	Baldwin, IL	5	41	0	0	0	0	1	0	40	25	27	0	0	0	
2	Central Presbyterian	St. Louis, MO	27	36	2,914	12	54	46	68	20	92	2,681	1,249	937	13	44	35
3	Covenant Chapel	Overland Park, KS	4	5	250	1	2	15	6	1	39	222	360	210	1	5	0
4	Emmanuel Presbyterian	Grover, MO	3	3	205	0	0	0	0	0	140	95	70	44	0	0	0
5	Grace EPC	Lawrence, KS	8	4	225	0	0	0	7	0	0	271	610	355	1	8	0
6	Heartland Community	Overland Park, KS	4	0	311	27	0	100	0	0	38	400	925	480	24	37	0
7	Immanuel Presbyterian	Warrenville, IL	12	9	288	15	0	0	29	0	0	281	290	245	2	5	7
8	New Harvest Community	St. Louis, MO	0	0	37	3	1	7	0	0	1	48	65	46	2	7	1
9	Sulter Presbyterian	Bridgeton, MO	5	18	107	9	0	0	0	4	6	106	90	114	2	0	0
10	West Highlands EPC	Lanexa, KS															
11	Westkirk Presbyterian	Des Moines, IA	12	12	292	27	0	0	0	6	41	272	195	117	0	6	0

** - Last available information.

1996 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA

MID-AMERICA	RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS				NON-EPC	TOTAL	TOTAL	ENDING
	BEGINNING	TITHES &	OTHER	LOCAL	PER MEMBER	EPC	NON-EPC				
CHURCHES	BALANCE	OFFERINGS	INCOME	CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	GIVING	BENEVOLENCE	MISSIONS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE
1 Baldwin Community	14410	10325	1498	13907	600	260	286	300	11823	15353	10881
2 Central Presbyterian	1947202	3401179	361984	3252128	87022	43710	63500	304427	3763103	3730787	1979578
3 Covenant Chapel	297700	636205	9455	384673	1615	3455	750	28070	845660	418763	524597
4 Emmanuel Presbyterian	10000	161614		161314			300		161614	161614	10000
5 Grace EPC	68612	436768	2065	396290	1800	3094	200	34033	438833	435417	72226
6 Heartland Community	-20509	1053428	3019	923514	2424	4815		83934	1056447	1014887	21251
7 Immanuel Presbyterian	135029	539587		406716	2240	-2200	1200	43614	539587	457971	216646
8 New Harvest Community	75922	117172	10637	99631				500	127808	100131	103600
9 Suther Presbyterian	51805	148247	36186	165321	856	1608	1000	11300	184413	180085	56133
10 West Highlands EPC									0	0	0
11 Westkirk Presbyterian	151640	283935	21462	224836	1000	4290	12912	5753	305397	248790	208247

1996 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - MID-ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY

MID-ATLANTIC				GAINS			LOSSES										
				12/31/95	PROFESSION						12/31/96	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH	
CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	MEMBERSHIP	OF FAITH	CERT	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER	MEMBERSHIP	ATTENDANCE	ENROLLMEN	BAPTISM	BAPTISM	ROFESSION	
1	Bethesda Presbyterian	Florence, SC	5	0	61	0	4	0	0	8	7	50	60	24	0	0	0
2	Brunswick Presbyterian	Brunswick, NC	5	0	36	1	2	0	2	0	4	33	20	26	2	2	0
3	Christ Church EPC	Anderson, SC	4	4	68	2	19	2	0	0	8	83	140	137	0	1	0
4	Christ EPC	Midlothian, VA	4	0	38	0	0	0	0	0	5	33	35	30	0	0	0
5	Christ Fellowship	Southern Pines, NC	6	0	47	0	5	0	5	0	2	45	93	31	0	1	0
6	Cleveland Presbyterian	Abington, VA	3	0	48	0	0	0	5	0	5	38	36	38	0	0	0
7	Covenant Community	Charlotte, NC	5	0	35	0	8	3	0	0	0	47	79	41	1	2	1
8	Covenant EPC	Albemarle, NC	0	0	25	0	7	0	0	0	11	21	23	19	0	0	0
9	Covenant Fellowship EPC	Shelby, NC	3	1	55	2	0	10	0	0	3	64	75	31	0	0	0
10	Cramerton EPC	Cramerton, NC	4	2	42	0	0	0	0	2	4	37	54	20	0	0	1
11	Cregmore Church	Columbia, SC	3	0	40	0	7	15	0	0	8	54	135	47	0	2	0
12	EPC	Elkton, VA	6	0	111	9	8	15	2	0	4	139	100	125	6	0	2
13	EPC of Fredricksburg	Fredricksburg, VA	3	0	12	2	2	0	0	0	0	15	25	12	0	0	0
14	Emmanuel Presbyterian	Laurens, SC	2	3	44	2	0	6	0	2	11	39	58	39	2	1	0
15	Faith EPC	Salem, VA	5	0	33	0	0	4	1	1	0	35	30	23	0	0	0
16	Fellowship of Christ	Cary, NC	8	5	135	9	2	0	3	0	0	143	200	122	1	4	0
17	First EPC	Clover, SC	3	0	27	4	0	2	0	0	0	34	67	15	4	1	1
18	Forest Hill	Charlotte, NC	18	19	1,658	6	58	77	74	6	129	1,589	1,726	951	5	18	1
19	Forest Hills Presbyterian	Wilson, NC	7	0	85	1	5	2	0	1	0	94	50	23	0	2	2
20	Kempsville Presbyterian	Virginia Beach, VA	12	14	1,465	26	32	25	22	3	221	1,316	1,148	668	6	8	14
21	Lebanon Presbyterian	Greenwood, VA	4	3	56	1	0	4	0	0	3	59	70	67	0	0	1
22	Lee Park	Montee, NC	6	0	50	0	4	19	0	0	0	80	68	48	3	1	7
23	Linwood Presbyterian	Gastonia, NC	6	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	34	19	0	0	0
24	Myrtle Grove Presbyterian	Wilmington, NC	18	14	1,367	8	52	25	39	1	100	1,312	900	700	0	11	0
25	Northampton Presbyterian	Hampton, VA	10	0	111	0	0	1	2	0	12	99	50	41	0	0	1
26	Overbrook Community	Gaffney, SC	4	6	102	5	2	8	3	0	2	116	120	100	6	1	4
27	Parrow Presbyterian	Cross Lanes, WV	8	9	315	3	2	7	6	1	9	312	500	224	7	2	1
28	Raynoka Presbyterian	Winston-Salem, NC	18	18	760	8	35	11	20	5	1	835	745	243	5	17	27
29	St. Giles	Charlotte, NC	6	7	346	2	19	12	14	2	28	335	268	120	4	0	0
30	Trinity Presbyterian	Florence, SC	9	9	470	2	11	6	9	3	33	448	355	417	4	12	4
31	Westminster Presbyterian	Bluefield, WV	15	15	553	2	7	1	23	12	27	508	284	425	4	0	7
32	Woodside Presbyterian	Roanoke, VA	3	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	11	33	31	34	0	0	0

1996 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - MID-ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY

	MID-ATLANTIC		RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS				TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
	BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOGAL CAUSES	PER MEMBE GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS				
1 Bethesda Presbyterian	8776	61156	228	51904	450	908	291	3698	61384	57251	12910
2 Brunswick Presbyterian	20687	30862	7500	36398	800	225	875	1800	38382	40099	18951
3 Christ Church EPC	13896	215309	255	189226	13800	1800	6206	5182	215564	196213	33247
4 Christ EPC	41000	62219	13078	99341	1200	650	550	9274	75295	111015	5280
5 Christ Fellowship	29306	77886	13480	102021	141	705	2159	6013	91368	111039	9635
6 Cleveland Presbyterian	15206	27967	2015	27477	2100	930		5000	29982	35507	9691
7 Covenant Community	9748	78806	7869	71850	250	600	1350	9750	84475	83600	10623
8 Covenant EPC	11883	24576	6562	27315	300	375		2300	31138	30290	12731
9 Covenant Fellowship	36373	98702	934	57001	5063		3447	14758	99636	80269	57740
10 Crumpton EPC	9509	56819	2200	48374	1000	645	2281	5718	58819	58018	10309
11 Cregmore Church	1722	88536	1013	75696	408	433		2461	89549	78998	12273
12 EPC	2168	121536	20722	125231	5850	2165	1450	6325	142258	141021	3405
13 EPC of Fredericksburg	12591	35111	10945	45298	3927	270	15	968	46056	50477	8170
14 Emmanuel Presbyterian	4960	27447	20917	48561	500			408	48364	49469	3855
15 Faith EPC	25203	65726	10590	69815	999	600	1612	3175	76316	76290	25318
16 Fellowship of Christ	4671	207880	85212	261609	504	1956	1575	18506	293092	284150	12612
17 First EPC	5960	32918		28942				6902	32918	35844	3034
18 Forest Hill	629185	3175812	58477	2497933	21937	29333	17014	652842	3234289	3219059	844415
19 Forest Hills Presbyterian	3688	64121	3309	60477	252	1272	2150	2400	67428	66551	4563
20 Komspsville Presbyterian	158559	1485235	12926	1307852	20000	14000	10116	158780	1478161	1510548	126172
21 Lebanon Presbyterian	37597	69065	7063	65143	1200	840	2140	10714	75128	80037	33668
22 Lee Park	20925	88334	606	65845	313	313	786	1000	88940	67736	42129
23 Linwood Presbyterian	841	57817	1870	56699	400	960	1412	600	59487	60071	257
24 Myrtle Grove Presbyterian	726265	1385978	344395	1034430	22000	25667	14307	156244	1730373	1252648	1203989
25 Northampton Presbyterian	18142	85212	2582	84892	2000	1665	105	1100	87774	89762	16154
26 Overbrook Community	22585	174906	18442	171701	1300	1530	7121	3600	193348	185252	30681
27 Perrow Presbyterian	31704	482122	1438	354526	4200	4900	8485	113775	483560	485786	29478
28 Reynolda Presbyterian	244576	1033404	171200	963720	12150	12150	5800	176500	1204604	1170320	278660
29 St. Giles	175223	633599	6360	399067	7170	5190	10175	181055	639959	602657	212525
30 Trinity Presbyterian	303634	650137	1560	448948	15663	6825	57313	132992	851697	861741	293590
31 Westminster Presbyterian	53931	581183	62928	434961	6895	8475	16094	200775	844111	867000	31042
32 Woodside Presbyterian	17849	23597	424	19832		675		99	24021	20606	21284

*Current information approximated.

1996 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - MIDWEST PRESBYTERY

MIDWEST				GAINS			LOSSES										
CHURCHES		LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	MEMBERSH	PROFESSION OF FAITH	CERT	OTHER	CERT	DEATHS	OTHER	12/31/96 MEMBERSHIP	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	S.S. ENROLLMEN	ADULT BAPTISM	INFANT BAPTISM	YOUTH PROFESSION
1	Calvary Presbyterian	Flint, MI	15	21	627	14	11	22	0	8	40	638	420	305	9	23	12
2	Community EPC	Owosso, MI	3	3	98	16	0	0	0	0	0	116	305	110	6	0	0
3	Cornerstone Presbyterian	Brighton, MI	15	60	714	139	62	0	2	1	32	880	1,450	1,225	23	34	0
4	Covenant Presbyterian	Ann Arbor, MI	6	6	83	1	0	0	4	0	6	72	140	106	0	5	0
5	East Crossing	Madison, WI			*42*							*50*	*90*				
6	Evangelical Pres. Fellow.	Kirtland, OH	8	7	152	0	3	16	0	1	0	170	209	70	4	0	0
7	Faith EPC	Richmond, OH	9	9	122	4	0	14	1	1	0	138	195	77	9	4	0
8	Faith EPC	Lake Orion, MI	10	0	203	16	23	33	2	1	1	272	577	479	12	11	1
9	Fellowship EPC	South Lyon, MI	9	11	226	13	7	0	0	0	26	218	300	117	0	6	0
10	First Presbyterian	Truanton, MI	12	34	797	7	5	33	6	7	6	823	554	500	0	10	0
11	Grace Chapel	Farmington Hills, MI	12	30	454	6	16	27	16	2	33	452	423	401	4	10	0
12	Highview EPC	Waukesha, WI	9	0	85	1	2	3	1	2	4	84	85	69	0	1	0
13	Hope Evan. Fellow.	Mentor, OH	3	3	85	0	5	0	0	0	0	91	80	47	1	0	1
14	Kansington Community	Troy, MI	7	0	444	111	72	0	31	0	0	603	2,700	585	64	16	7
15	Knox Presbyterian	Ann Arbor, MI	8	13	256	4	27	18	7	0	20	281	400	361	6	7	3
16	Knox Presbyterian	Harrison Twp., MI	12	0	521	6	6	5	2	1	7	548	690	449	1	6	16
17	Lake City EPC	Lake City, MI	5	0	76	3	0	0	2	0	0	75	120	39	0	1	0
18	Military Avenue EPC	Detroit, MI	10	1	75	3	0	2	0	0	0	80	125	145	0	0	0
19	ML Pleasant Community	ML Pleasant, MI	9	10	252	0	7	22	0	0	14	267	342	310	7	5	0
20	North Oaks Community	Clarkston, MI	4	0	42	5	0	16	1	0	2	60	120	125	8	10	0
21	Oakland Avenue EPC	Pontiac, MI	8	16	221	8	5	16	1	6	0	247	190	175	0	1	4
22	St. Andrew EPC	Auburn, IN	6	6	84	2	12	1	1	0	0	101	110	114	3	5	3
23	Tabernacle EPC	Youngstown, OH	10	18	445	20	33	0	7	5	10	483	457	237	5	24	7
24	Trinity Presbyterian	Columbia City, IN	12	12	220	0	0	0	0	2	0	218	110	82	0	2	0
25	Trinity Presbyterian	Plymouth, MI	11	18	626	3	18	22	17	0	50	602	610	524	9	17	0
26	Ward Presbyterian	Livonia, MI	31	251	4,520	38	83	135	49	30	543	4,191	2,949	4,897	20	61	37

*# - Last available information.

1996 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - MIDWEST PRESBYTERY

	MIDWEST CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS		PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
			TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY						
1	Calvary Presbyterian	229043	527545	6435	585890	3354	9405	17200	533981	630099	132925	
2	Community EPC	133045	295697	2170	103009	900	1470	11440	35209	297867	152028	278884
3	Cornerstone Presbyterian	406151	1967183	17256	1607345	7797	10695	69934	235140	1984439	1930911	459679
4	Covenant Presbyterian	75142	1515111	5835	130040	676	1241	4861	12972	157346	149590	82898
5	East Crossing EPC									0	0	0
6	Evangelical Pres. Follow.	56624	229363		184535	1939		2725	23640	229363	213039	72948
7	Faith EPC	6616	175435		146231	504	1315	2127	21534	175435	173711	8340
8	Faith EPC	194945	1017267	3863	1044259	6664	3235	12926	51134	1021150	1118218	97877
9	Fellowship EPC	85087	363810	28934	286876	1600	3375	27785	19823	390744	339661	136170
10	First Presbyterian	218859	671663	285152	708751	2340	2340	4563	208533	956815	926527	249147
11	Grace Chapel	153999	625106	3428	676786	3632	6810	40609	81699	828534	806816	172717
12	Highview EPC	12903	131530	1366	84301	980	420	600	5570	132896	91871	53928
13	Hope Evangelical Fellow	6128	99175	6301	91143	184	438	1646	10521	105476	103932	7672
14	Kensington Community	1123050	3625361	76382	1979164	3552	6660	1300	10284	3701743	2000980	2823813
15	Knox Presbyterian	626349	897771	27607	478983	7481	3855	19775	54914	925376	565008	866719
16	Knox Presbyterian	123331	954173	5389	766751	5200	7815	2550	192996	959562	975314	107579
17	Lake City EPC	9014	96814		75300	808	1140	2397	11515	96814	90960	14868
18	Military Avenue EPC	19020	64820	50393	109331	250	250		1700	115213	111531	22703
19	Mt. Pleasant Community	91763	245087	126362	275095	250		5990	86666	371449	388203	95009
20	Noth Oaks Community	42201	103148	22258	126040	2070	630	1000		125405	129740	37866
21	Oakland Avenue EPC	50876	247315	36355	253056	1540	1540	2820	33897	283670	282853	41693
22	St. Andrew EPC	37724	124972	7646	94680	672	1260	350	20681	132618	117643	52698
23	Tabernacle EPC	110176	1483390	5202	1417411	1212	6470	4380	46122	1488592	1475595	123176
24	Trinity Presbyterian	223885	998676	10199	783554	32851	9225	41207	108937	1006675	975773	254987
25	Trinity Presbyterian	17600	114755	4595	104530		2505	630	9565	119350	117230	19720
26	Ward Presbyterian	2841076	15722747	937919	8671933	40270	67800	166666	752710	16660666	7869399	11802343

1996 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - SOUTHEAST PRESBYTERY

SOUTHEAST	CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDER	DEACONS	MEMBERSH	GAINS			LOSSES			12/31/96	MEMBERSHIP	ATTENDANC	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH
						PROFESSION			CERT DEATH										
						OF FAITH	CERT	OTHE	CERT	DEATH	OTHE								
1	Burlingt Pres	Chattanooga, TN	11	16	475	2	11	13	8	6	0	485	240	225	2	5	0	0	
2	Christ Presbyterian	Knoxville, TN	2	0	33	2	0	0	2	0	0	33	36	32	0	1	0	0	
3	Community Bible	Highlands, NC	7	0	120	15	0	0	1	0	11	124	184	74	1	1	1	1	
4	Cornerstone EPC	Franklin, NC	5	0	79	0	0	6	0	1	8	76	101	12	0	0	0	0	
5	Faith Presbyterian	Lavonia, GA	6	2	106	0	0	8	2	1	21	92	45	40	2	0	0	2	
6	First Presbyterian	Louisville, KY																	
7	First Presbyterian	Rome, GA	28	17	1,119	1	42	1	24	11	0	1,143	500	568	9	9	15	15	
8	Flatrock Covenant Comm.	Denniston, KY										25							
9	Grace EPC	Franklin, NC	5	6	86	0	2	4	2	1	0	91	100	49	2	0	0	2	
11	Grace Presbyterian	Marietta, GA	9	7	83	0	0	0	0	6	4	79	70	49	0	1	0	0	
12	Harvest Church	Asheville, NC	6	13	89	0	0	35	0	0	9	115	267	79	8	2	0	0	
13	Hope EPC	Cartersville, GA	3	0	62	0	0	12	0	0	9	65	65	24	0	0	0	0	
14	Lookout Valley Presbyterian	Chattanooga, TN	4	5	105	1	7	0	0	4	12	101	70	59	3	1	4	4	
15	Lynn Garden Presbyterian	Kingsport, TN	7	3	91	0	0	0	0	1	0	90	110	71	0	0	0	0	
16	Mount Calvary Presbyterian	Kingsport, TN	3	0	53	2	0	1	1	1	0	54	58	45	2	2	0	0	
17	New Beginning Presbyterian	Ft. Wright, KY	9	7	132	0	0	3	2	0	5	128	104	65	0	2	0	0	
18	Northshore Presbyterian	Knoxville, TN	3	0	57	6	0	0	0	0	0	63	75	32	0	0	0	0	
19	Plumtree Presbyterian	Plumtree, NC	8	8	160	2	0	2	0	2	52	110	110	62	2	0	0	0	
20	Valleybrook Presbyterian	Hixson, TN	6	5	124	0	5	5	1	2	0	137	200	115	2	6	6	6	

*# - Last available information.

Shaded - church received in 16th General Assembly year.

1996 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - SOUTHEAST PRESBYTERY

SOUTHEAST	RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS			PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
	BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY							
1 Brainerd Presbyterian	45764	483127	64737	505680	10200	6450	3750	25702	547864	551782	41848	
2 Christ Presbyterian	16848	40535	32921	65297	300	300		5951	73456	71848	18456	
3 Community Bible	211933	527716	5676	406431		1800		3986	533392	465208	280117	
4 Cornerstone EPC	16631	85244	9178	63553	1800	1185		7346	94422	74969	36064	
5 Faith Presbyterian	519	16680	13796	29518				1560	30676	31078	117	
6 First Presbyterian												
7 First Presbyterian	496416	1958454	765657	2675928	85345	16244		158187	2724111	2962105	258424	
8 Flatrock Covenant Church									0	0	0	
9 Gateway Evangelical	0	2383		1490	150				2383	1640	743	
10 Grace EPC	5600	120800		120000	1450			50	120800	122500	3900	
11 Grace Presbyterian	51796	75143	3694	108965	530	1125		3800	78537	115470	15164	
12 Harvest Church	17094	262846	12139	276947	750	1335		790	274985	279782	12297	
13 Hope EPC	1058	40959	18651	57084	400	900		2154	59810	60548	320	
14 Lookout Valley Presbyterian	13778	86603		86687	500	1000		574	4340	86603	93101	
15 Lynn Garden Presbyterian	19154	68509	399	58757	1200	2800		1000	68908	64557	23505	
16 Mount Calvary Presbyterian	12642	36995	16100	58514	690	490		849	55095	60893	6844	
17 New Beginning Presbyterian	36744	166583	8425	159320	3250	1980		3545	6877	175008	174972	
18 Northshore Presbyterian	41992	92403	4396	108658	132	450			96799	109240	29551	
19 Plumtree Presbyterian	36032	101584		86696	2000	1000		1550	29900	101584	103148	
20 Valleybrook Presbyterian	7130	131796		120552	2400			2550		131796	125502	

1996 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

WEST	CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	12/31/95 MEMBERSH	GAINS			LOSSES			12/31/96 MEMBERSH	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	S.S. NROLLMEN	ADULT BAPTISM	INFANT BAPTIS	YOUTH ROFESSION
						OF FAITH	CERT	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER						
1	Bear Creek	Denver, CO	12	32	530	3	4	19	8	4	21	541	482	706	13	3	4
2	Canyon Creek Community	Chandler, AZ	6	0	79	14	0	0	0	0	15	78	252	148	6	7	0
3	Cherry Creek Presbyterian	Englewood, CO	18	104	1,096	0		88	14	0	120	1,066	1,155	466	3	34	0
4	Cherry Hills Community	Highlands Ranch, CO	16	14	3,671	61	155	285	350	4	451	3,367	3,000	1,200	88	16	0
5	Christ's Family Presbyterian	Chandler, AZ	0	0	14	0	0	29	4	0	0	39	27	26	0	2	0
6	Christ Fellowship	FL Collins, CO	6	6	*53*												
8	Cornerstone Community	Denver, CO	7	0	180	13	15	15	4	1	5	218	220	245	5	1	5
9	Covenant Community	Aurora, CO	5	7	78	0	5	3	4	0	4	78	90	62	0	0	0
10	Faith Evangelical	Loveland, CO	11	9	390	4	34	10	2	4	43	391	440	420	6	3	2
11	Faith Presbyterian	Folsom, CA	3	0	23	13	0	0	0	3	0	33	45	21	0	3	0
12	Faith Presbyterian	Aurora, CO	18	70	1,165	13	34	32	121	16	0	1,108	770	289	7	3	1
13	First EPC	Renton, WA	13	15	562	13	15	14	9	3	25	589	612	341	13	14	22
14	Greenwood Community	Englewood, CO	10	0	581	0	0	226	0	0	229	578	1,080	680	0	50	0
15	Lookout Mountain Community	Golden, CO	7	14	232	0	0	87	0	0	12	328	950	489	9	20	21
16	Morningside Presbyterian	Phoenix, AZ	11	15	145	0	0	0	0	4	0	143	95	75	0	0	2
17	New Covenant Presbyterian	Tucson, AZ	4	4	0	2	4	4	0	0	1	70	100	58	0	1	0
18	Northwest Presbyterian	Redmond, WA	4	0	32	1	1	1	0	0	0	37	101	89	2	0	2
19	Parker Presbyterian	Parker, CO			*256*												
20	Santa Maria Community	Santa Maria, CA	3	6	77	1	0	3	0	1	2	78	50	42	1	0	0
21	Thai EPC	Bellflower, CA			*45*												
22	Trinity EPC	Littleton, CO	7	17	165	0	0	7	6	3	0	163	165	105	9	12	0
23	Valley Community Church	San Jacinto, CA	6	7	55	2	0	0	1	1	0	55	75	20	0	0	0
24	West Bowles Community	Littleton, CO			*54*												

- Last available information.

Shading - church received in 16th General Assembly year.

1996 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

	WEST	RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS			PER MEMBER	EPC	NON-EPC	TOTAL	TOTAL	ENDING
	CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	GIVING	BENEVOLENCE	MISSIONS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE	
1	Bear Creek	2859	662334	17093	527162	5200	7905	10186	122281	679427		672734	9552
2	Canyon Creek Community	9235	259879	119650	365861	1400	550	350	600	379529		368761	20003
3	Chery Creek Presbyterian	1437850	2059066	31229	1825089	5999	13501	24500	185287	2090297		2054376	1473571
4	Cherry Hills Community									0		0	0
5	Christ's Family Presbyterian	2778	22183	23325	46054					45508		46054	2232
6	Christ Fellowship									0		0	0
7	Clayton Community												
8	Comerstone Community	137310	239681		180500	1560	2045	3300	27415	239681		214820	162171
9	Covenant Community	8907	112825	59058	115848	525	1200	172	12460	171863		130205	50585
10	Faith Evangelical	40779	490737	4372	339736	2220	5613	2950	130079	495109		480798	55090
11	Faith Presbyterian	8349	54013	1500	61487	208	125	250	345	55513		62395	1467
12	Faith Presbyterian	327317	1710091	139072	1626344	4650	17475	17591	175609	1849163		1841869	334611
13	First EPC	73668	640957	5493	572013	26854	7091	6553	40058	646450		652569	67749
14	Greenwood Community	11094	1235082	18804	1128574	5208	7200		49758	1253886		1190738	74242
15	Lookout Mountain Community	104183	1199645	131706	689167	1500	3600		52150	1331351		746417	689117
16	Morningside Presbyterian	32382	142082	23607	121430	1300	150	3346	37890	185889		183916	34155
17	New Covenant	81341	114115	4628	74038	1660	915	1645	20966	118743		99224	100860
18	Northwest Presbyterian	49218	86404	4932	73748	700	480	700	13290	93338		86458	53696
19	Parker Presbyterian									0		0	0
20	Santa Maria Community	52525	95873	10198	94270	1040	1160	2279	700	108071		99449	59147
21	Thai EPC									0		0	0
22	Trinity EPC	16446	243549	2943	215314	2400	1540	5713	30000	246492		254967	7971
23	Valley Community	10561	83063	1202	90454	300	600	300	300	84285		82154	2672
24	West Bowles Community									0		0	0

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