
MINUTES

**of the
19th General Assembly**

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**June 24-26, 1999
Rome, Georgia**

OFFICERS OF THE 19TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MODERATOR:

Dr. James N. McGuire
Ward Presbyterian Church
40000 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI 48167

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

**WARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
40000 SIX MILE ROAD
NORTHVILLE MI 48167
JUNE 22-24, 2000**

MINUTES

of the

19th General Assembly

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together as a Family
Ephesians 4: 11-16



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. This year, the reports of the 19th General Assembly committees are included at the end of the Journal. 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. 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, 19th General Assembly

The Reverend Dr. James N. McGuire, pastor of Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville, Michigan was elected Moderator of the 19th General Assembly.

Born and raised in the South, Dr. McGuire is a 1969 graduate of Belhaven College (Jackson, Miss.), and earned his M.Div. in 1973 from Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson) and his D. Min. from McCormick Seminary (Chicago, Il) in 1982. Dr. McGuire was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1973, and until arriving at Ward in November, 1995, served as pastor of Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Brandon, Mississippi. Under his leadership, Lakeside Church grew from a small mission church in 1973 to an active congregation of nearly 550 members in 1995. Dr. McGuire and Lakeside Church joined the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in 1990.



Active in both presbytery and General Assembly, Dr. McGuire currently serves as Ministerial Committee chairman of the Midwest Presbytery. He was elected to serve on the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Assembly from 1993 to 1997, assuming responsibility as its Moderator during that time. While a member of the Central South Presbytery, Dr. McGuire was elected to be its moderator.

Dr. McGuire's professional experience includes

- Accreditation Committee for Reformed Theological Seminary (Jackson, Miss.)
- Field Instructor, Hospital Chaplaincy for RTS
- Steering Committee to establish chaplaincy program for 26 chaplains, River Oaks Hospital (Flowood, Miss.)
- Professional Consultation Committee for Clinical Pastoral Education, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (Jackson, Miss.)
- Instructor for Dynamic Communicators, Inc.
- Mission trip leader to Mexico for evangelism outreach
- Staff member of Camp Westminster in Georgia for 11 years, with one year as its Director.

The father of three sons, Jeremy, Paul and Jonathan, Dr. McGuire has been married to his partner in ministry, Lucy Whitsett McGuire, for 29 years. Dr. McGuire enjoys singing, playing his guitar and SCUBA diving. Lucy McGuire, an accomplished photojournalist, is currently the Managing Editor of EPC's Reflections magazine.

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 Rinchart	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
18 th	1998	Elder Alan Smith	East	Highlands Ranch, Colorado
19 th	1999	Dr. James McGuire	Midwest	Rome, Georgia

STATED CLERK OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Years		Original Presbytery
1981-	Dr. L. Edward Davis	Midwest

TRUSTEES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Class of 2002

Elder John Adamson Second Presbyterian 4055 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38111 901/454-0034	Dr. Willard Davis 1760 Monrovia Street Palm Bay, Florida 407/953-6548	Rev. Harold K. Polk, Jr. Calvary Presbyterian Church 6100 Richfield Road Flint, MI 48506 810/736-4100
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Class of 2001

Elder Zelda Artz 1220 S. Buchanan St. Arlington, Virginia 22204 703/671-1760	Rev. Erik Ohman Parker Presbyterian Church 9100 E. Parker Parker, CO 80134 303/841-2125	Elder Mark Sharpnack 320 Lynette Place Pittsburgh, PA 15237 412/364-5404
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Class of 2000

Dr. Rhett Payne CrossPointe Comm. Church 2408 E. Trinity Mills #112 Carrollton, TX 75006 972/418-7449	Elder Joe Schluchter 875 Amersham St. Louis, MO 63141 314/647-0717	Elder Virginia Patterson 414-3 Cromwell Circle Bartlett, IL 60103 630/483-3829
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Dr. James McGuire, Moderator
Ward Presbyterian Church
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Northville, MI 48167
248/374-7400

Mr. Alan Smith, Chairman
5408 Galley Court
Fairfax, VA 22032
703/281-5354

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Dr. Richard Little, Past Chairman
2539 Merrimont Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
910/765-2335

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of the
19th General Assembly
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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MINUTES
of the
19th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JOURNAL

Minutes - Thursday morning

First Session
June 24, 1999

19-1 MORNING WORSHIP

Worship began at 8:30 A.M. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Rome, Georgia. Rev. Scott Jackson (First Presbyterian, Rome, GA) opened the service with prayer and a reading from Philippians 2:1-11. Following congregational singing, Moderator Alan Smith read from Ephesians 4:11-16 and Kim Jackson sang *Love Will Be Our Home*. Host Pastor William Flannagan preached on the theme *The Family of God*.

Order of Worship		
Organ Prelude		Mrs. Cynthia Forbes
Call to Worship		Rev. Scott Jackson
Hymns and Songs of Praise	"A Christian Home"	
	"Worthy, You Are Worthy"	
Scripture and Prayer		
Solo	"Love Will Be Our Home"	Mrs. Kim Jackson
Message		Dr. Bill Flannagan
Hymn of Commitment	"The Family Prayer Song"	
Benediction		Rev. Scott Jackson
Organ Postlude		Mrs. Cynthia Forbes

19-2 CONVENING OF THE 19th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 19th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was called to order at 9:50 A.M. by the Moderator, Elder Alan Smith. Prayer was offered by 17th General Assembly Moderator, Rev. Richard Little.

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. Help us to love each other. May we 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. Help us to realize that you, and you alone, have a perfect view. 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 up-building of your kingdom here on earth, and to our Savior Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Don Keiser, chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee, opened his report with prayer. Mr. Keiser welcomed the Assembly and made various announcements concerning facilities and arrangements.

John Graham, chairman of the Prayer Committee, opened his report with prayer and informed the court of the ongoing prayer vigil in room 208. The vigil will continue until

the adjournment of the Assembly.

19-3 DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND ASSEMBLY ENROLLMENT

The Stated Clerk declared a quorum to be present with registration in excess of 394 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>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Birmingham, AL	Redeemer	Steve Briggs Nita Cowart Don Henderson	Lee Kizer
Anna, IL	First EPC		Ron Cox Steve Wilkinson
Alexandria, LA	Grace	Merrill Blackburn Charlie Franks	Robert Vincent, Sr. David Moncla David Herbertson
Houma, LA Zachary, LA Brandon, MS	First Zachary Lakeside	Carol Cleveland Morton Bradley Bill Holmes H. Melvin Smith	Greg Anthony Jim Blaha
Columbus, MS Laurel, MS	Covenant Westminster	Basil Smith Carey Smith	Bob Wilbur
Louisville, MS	Louisville	Gloria Joiner Bettie Woodward	Chris Kiepe
Meridian, MS	First	Jim Cantey Joe Hallenbeck F. Roy Price, Jr.	Robert Horel David Todd
Natchez, MS Tunica, MS West Point, MS	New Covenant Tunica Presbyterian First	Mark Gring Tim MacGregor Mike Mathews Gene Smith	Dennis Flach Paul Husband Sam Downing Waring Porter
Cape Girardeau, MO Cordova, TN	Christ Presbyterian Hope	Richard Day	Art Hunt Steve Bristol Eli Morris Craig Strickland
Memphis, TN	Second Presbyterian	John Adamson Eugene Cashman John Dewald Wilton Hazelwood Hawley Ingram, Jr. Don Jordan Milton Knowlton Arnold Lindseth, Jr. Traverse Read, III David Shira David Shores	Rocky Anthony Edward Bertalan Bill McCutchen, III Ron Sadlow Paul Swets Sanders Willson

Austin, TX	Crossroads		Michael Schulte
Carrollton, TX	CrossPointe		Rhett Payne, III
Elysian Fields, TX	Golden Rule		Gene Huntzinger
Houston, TX	Christ EPC	Reese Baker	Ron Horgan
		Charles Haden	Bob Petterson
		William McCullough	
		Dan Sharp	
Houston, TX	City of Refuge	Dan Tidwell	Rufus Smith, IV
Katy, TX	Cornerstone	Michael Borton	Buck Oliphant
		Ralph Neumann	
		Allen White	
Marshall, TX	EPC of Marshall	Hillard Strong	Kirk Werner
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			
			Daniel Burns
			David Keyser
			Tom Masterson
			Ron Pierce

Presbytery of the East

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Bethesda, MD	Fourth	Robert Flores Samuel Jones Douglas Noll Robert White	James Byrne Glen Knecht
Voorhees, NJ	Ashland EPC	Frank Johnson William Walker	James Bates Ian Lamont
Duanesburg, NY	Princetown EPC	George Frasca Douglas Knapp, Sr.	Gary Westra
Montgomery, NY	Goodwill	Joseph Slesinski	John Torres
Butler, PA	Calvary		Mike Winship
New Castle, PA	New Covenant	George Pisor, Jr. George Polivka	
Pittsburgh, PA	New Hope EPC		Rodger Woodworth
Wexford, PA	North Park EPC	Mark Sharpnack	Robert Hopper Rick Stauffer
Alexandria, VA	Faith EPC	Zelda Artz Don Hildebrand Alan Smith Steele Stewart, Jr. James Musick	Neil Smith
Montclair, VA	Montclair Comm.		Glenn Marshall Ron Meyer Sam Rowen Graham Smith Nancy Stewart
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			

Presbytery of Florida

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Brooksville	Faith EPC	Gwynn Blair Robert Lloyd Donald Nelson	Ron DiNunzio David Franklin

		Keith Parkhill Felix Sharpe	
Daytona Beach Defuniak Springs	Cornerstone Glendale	Connie Arnold W.A. Ray	Howard Chadwick, II
Ft. Pierce Homestead	Trinity EPC First EPC	Connie Jennings Joan Quartermaine Keith Quartermaine	Robert Garment Robert Hess
Oviedo	Cypress Pointe		Daniel Lacich Jonathan Tagg Donald Mason
Plant City	EPC of Plant City	Larry Doak Billy Ray Kirby Anne Litzenberger Thom Schultz	
Pompano Beach	New Covenant	Doug Balch Don Lewis Michael Scheidell Bob Siegel Deborah Toombs	James Letizia
Tampa	Christ Covenant	David Curtis Larry Utt	Woody Johnson
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			Bruce Gimbel Michael Glodo Mark Jumper

Presbytery of Mid-America

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Warrenville, IL	Immanuel	Paul Heidebrecht Carolyn Nystrom Virginia Patterson Larry Swinson	
Lawrence, KS Overland Park, KS	Grace EPC Covenant Chapel		Bill Vogler Brad Buescher Thomas Ryan Craig Babb Craig McElvain Tom Ricks
Overland Park, KS	Heartland		
Kirkwood, MO Bridgeton, MO Grover, MO Lees Summit, MO St. Louis, MO	Greentree Comm. Sutter Emmanuel Lakeland Central	Stan Davis Brett Eubank Jerry Alpert Jim Conzelman Joe Gruneisen Dexter Kuhlman Bill Meeks Mark Mills John Plag Joe Schluchter Bill Smith Bill Wichman	Daniel Wilburn Gerald Brundle Doug Graham Barney Heyward Corbett Heimburger Brad Werner
	New Harvest		David Boswell

Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Asheville, NC	Harvest	George Hoard Lynwood Jackson	George Callahan, Interim James Carr M. Grady Davidson
Charlotte, NC	Covenant		Michael Boulware David Chadwick David Ruff Robert Tansill
Charlotte, NC	Forest Hill	Rich Harris Tim Jordan Bill Morgan Charles Overstreet Allen Roes Knox Sherer	
Charlotte, NC	St. Giles	Doug Agnew Rex Hoffman Rister Jenkins	Percy Burns
Cramerton, NC	Cramerton		Rick Slate
Southern Pines, NC	Christ Fellowship	Bruce Bryant John Rudd Terry Wiersma	Don Hardman
Wilson, NC	Forest Hill		Keith Cobb
Wilmington, NC	Myrtle Grove	Bill Blackley Andy Lingenfelter Jack Loflin	Ken Burbridge James Glasgow Bryan Slater
Winston-Salem, NC	Reynolda	King Brown Bob Roach Rudy Rogers John Sherard Frances Wall James Wall	David Beaty Alan Wright
Anderson, SC	Christ Church		Bill Hyer Adger McKay Dick Robinson
Columbia, SC	Cregmore	Sam Cerezo Steve McFaddin James Ratliff, III	Wayne Wood
Florence, SC	Trinity		Travis Martin, Interim
Gaffney, SC	Overbrook EPC	Harry Lovelace June Parks	James Brown, Jr.
Laurens, SC	Emmanuel		Jim Thyne
Chesapeake, VA	Bridgeway		Richard Vroon
Fredericksburg, VA	Grace		Don Neighbours
Greenwood, VA	Lebanon	Ed O'Connell	Howard Finkel
Richmond, VA	Hope		Pete Bowell
Virginia Beach, VA	Kempsville	John Allman Richard Geer Ken Millice Jack Newman Bob Truitt Will Wilkinson Jay Yoo	Nate Atwood Richard Kidd Langdon Montgomery

Bluefield, WV	Westminster	David Bell, Jr. Charles Scott, Jr.	Jeffrey Chadwick
Cross Lanes, WV	Perrow	Curt Brown John Young	Reid Clark

Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:

Don Fortson, II
Don Fortson, III
Brian Holt
Richard Little
Perry Mobley
Jeffrey Park
Jeffrey Richards
Howard Shockley

Presbytery of the Midwest

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Auburn, IN	St. Andrew		Phil Reynolds
Columbia City, IN	Trinity		Ross O'Dell
Ann Arbor, MI	Covenant	Robert Wood	Mark Vanderput
	Knox	Dick Hile	Paul Rettew
		William Painter	
Brighton, MI	Cornerstone	John Barber	David Hicks
			Peter Preiser, Jr.
Clarkston, MI	North Oaks		Stephen Brown
Detroit, MI	Military Avenue		Randy Brown
Harrison Township MI	Knox	Charles Blackstock	Chris Gibson
		Stewart Fleming	Wayne Uppendahl
		Robert Healy	
Farmington Hills, MI	Grace Chapel	William Bumford	Gil Odendaal
		Carl Hassel	
Flint, MI	Calvary	Leroy Cole	Harold Polk, Jr.
		Richard Heidtman	
		Andrew Mitchell	
		Gerald Streichert	
		Milton Tulgetske	
Lake Orion, MI	Faith EPC	Roger Derksen	
		Thomas Henson	
Lake Orion, MI	New Hope		Doug Thompson
Northville, MI	Ward	John Baird	David Brown
		Janet Carlton	Neil Ellison
		Kenneth Casey	Michael Gatliff
		Al Guilstorf	Phil Linton
		Norm Jackson	James McGuire
		Bob Marlow	John Quigley
		Allen O'Brian	Doug Walker
		Lynn van der Harst	
Owosso, MI	Community EPC	Ronald DeHaas	Don Galardi
Plymouth, MI	Trinity	Charles Talbot, Jr.	William Moore
Pontiac, MI	Oakland Avenue		Tom Dages
South Lyon, MI	Fellowship EPC		Mark Hudson

Trenton, MI	First	Ken Mitchell Roy Schrameck	Bartlett Hess, Interim Ian Leslie Helmar Heckel
Navarre, MN	BayWind		
Youngstown, OH	Tabernacle	James Rimmel	Edward Davis Glen Francis Ed McCallum Marc Holstege William Meyer

Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:

Presbytery of the Southeast

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Lavonia, GA	Faith	Carl Lewis	Joseph Renfro
Rome, GA	First	Hugh Burnes Harlen Dewey Bruce Hamler Bill Johns William Primm	William Flannagan Scott Jackson
Denniston, KY	Flatrock Covenant		Glenn Ferrell
Erlanger, KY	New Beginning	Doreen Neal	Steven Riser
Franklin, NC	Cornerstone Grace	Ed Sexton	Ron Odum Tom Musselman Steve Kerhoulas
Highlands, NC	Community	Robert Eager William Hornsby	
Plumtree, NC	Plumtree	Frank Leslie	Bruce Anderson
Collierville, TN	St. Patrick	Virgil Edwards John Simmons	Jim Holland
Chattanooga, TN	Brainerd	Jack Boran William Johnson Charles Miller John Perry Perry Spell Allen Wallace	Stephen Jones Ronald Ragon David Wahlstedt
Hixson, TN	Lookout Valley		Russ Ragon
Kingsport, TN	Valleybrook	George Schneider	Bill Sharp
Knoxville, TN	Lynn Garden Christ		James Hoilman Tommy Jordan Julian Reese
	Northshore	Donald Larson Jeff Sharp James Slyman Glenda Wolfe Roger Wolfe	

Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:

James Van Dyke

Presbytery of St. Andrews

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Buenos Aires	La Mision Belgrano		Marcelo Robles Miguel Robles

Presbytery of the West

<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Sun City West, AZ	Grace	Stuart White	
Tucson, AZ	New Covenant		Jamie Richard
Folsom, CA	Faith EPC		John Cedar
San Jacinto, CA	Valley Community		Dean Wolf
San Ramon, CA	San Ramon EPC	Kathy Fry Ken Jones Lisa Rains John Roberts	Edgar Blake
Santa Maria, CA	Santa Maria	Evelyn Cisney Homer Graham Nettie Graham	Tom Pitman
Aurora, CO	Covenant Community Faith	Buck Russell Sandy Russell	Marc Huebl Doug Klein Cooper McWhirter
Denver, CO	Cornerstone		Ken Glasier
Englewood, CO	Cherry Creek	Jan Bole Harold Haddon Terry Hall Al Johnson Candace McCune Mel Medema Colleen Rinehart Irvin Rinehart John Wehrle	Brett Garretson Don Sweeting
Ft. Collins, CO	Greenwood	Hugh Smith	Tom Melton
Golden, CO	Christ Fellowship Lookout Mtn.	John Rudd	Ed G. Davis Aram Haroutunian Gary Reddish
Highlands Ranch, CO	Cherry Hills	Gary Fields Sam Searcy	James Dixon David Meserve John Patterson Ramona Spilman
Lakewood, CO	Bear Creek	Mike Bahm	Bruce Spear
Loveland, CO	Faith Evangelical	Terry McQuain	Jim Murphy
Parker, CO	Parker	Bernard Draper	Erik Ohman Darryl Sparling
Leoti, KS	Christ Covenant		David Brogren
Redmond, WA	Northwest EPC		Ed Randal
Renton, WA	First EPC	Glenn Boeshaar Peter Mogren	Jeffrey Jeremiah
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			David Fenska Greg Livingstone Mark Moore John Taylor Bradley Yorton

Excused: Requesting in writing to be excused were the following: Elder Augie Barker (Christ Presbyterian, Knoxville, TN); Elders Richard and Charlotte Beatty (St. Andrews,

Auburn, IN); Rev. Stephen Crofts (Myrtle Grove, Wilmington, NC); Rev. David Flaig (Bear Creek EPC, Lakewood, CO); Rev. Wayne Hoffman (Westkirk EPC, Des Moines, IA); Rev. Patrick Kendall (Hope, Cordova, TN); Rev. John Van Dyke (Newland, NC).

Final enrollment:	Ruling Elders: 217	Number of EPC churches represented
	Ministers: 204	at this Assembly: 130
	Total Commissioners: 421	
	Observers and Women's Ministries: 240	
	Total Registrations: 661	

19-4 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

ON MOTION the docket was adopted as follows:

DOCKET	
Thursday, June 24, 1999	
First Session	
8:30 A.M.	Opening worship service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of missionaries
9:30 A.M.	Assembly convenes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening session. Constituting prayer. Election of Recording Clerks. Local arrangements and announcements. Call for quorum. Docket. • Election of 19th General Assembly Moderator. Passing of the gavel. The Moderator's Reflections. • Partial Report of the Nominating Committee • Ratification vote on descending overtures. Adoption of 18th General Assembly (1998) Minutes. • Report of the Stated Clerk. Matters received and referred. Committee instructions. Introduction of standing committee chairmen. • New churches. Face to Face.
12:00 - 1:30	Box lunch (Methodist Church; ticket required)
12:00 - 1:45	Pastors' Wives Luncheon and Fellowship (Horseleg Plantation Country Club)
Second Session	
1:30 - 5:00	Assembly Committees meet (Room Assignments)
2:00 - 4:30	Women's Ministries Presentation (Main - Sanctuary) Pastors' Wives Sharing & Prayer (Main - Chapel)
5:00 - 7:00	Newly Ordained Ministers Dinner (Holiday Inn)
7:30 P.M.	Evening Worship Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Alan Smith presiding. • Dr. Paul Cedar, Keynote Speaker • Investiture of 19th General Assembly Moderator
9:00 P.M.	Refreshments and Exhibits (CLC - Youth Room & upper level track)

ON MOTION Rev. Robert Garment, Rev. Mark Huebl, and Rev. Russ Ragon were elected as recording clerks for the 19th General Assembly

19-5 ELECTION OF 19th GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR

Rev. Buck Oliphant, chairman of the Nominating Committee opened his report with prayer. Rev. Oliphant introduced Elder Lynn van der Harst (Ward Presbyterian, Northville, Michigan) who then placed the name of Rev. James N. McGuire in nomination for Moderator of the 19th General Assembly.

The newly elected Moderator introduced his wife, Lucy, and offered personal comments as he accepted the position of Moderator. The retiring Moderator, Elder Alan Smith, offered reflections on his year of ministry as Moderator of the 18th General Assembly.

Moderator's Address
Elder Alan Smith

Moderator, 18th General Assembly

It's good to see so many familiar faces. I certainly recognize many more of you than I did this time last year. I applaud the Assembly in the election of our new Moderator, and know that our prayers are extended to Dr. McGuire and his family as he assumes his moderatorial responsibilities and represents our denomination in this coming year. In my report I noted that, except for the St. Andrews Presbytery, I had the privilege of visiting all of our presbyteries. Because of the frequent travel, I joked that the airlines got to know me so well they called ahead to tell me they lost my luggage. But let me say it was a joy and a pleasure to visit each presbytery and I know you will extend the same high level of hospitality to Dr. McGuire as you did to me.

I intend to be brief, because we have a full docket ahead of us. As I have oftentimes noted, I was and continue to be very humbled and grateful to God for the privilege of serving as Moderator of the 18th General Assembly. Despite the travel, I confess that I thoroughly enjoyed visiting each of the presbyteries. The worship, the fellowship, and the friendships I made more than made up for any minor inconveniences. As I worshipped in our churches, it was exciting to experience the different ways in which worship was conducted, and yet the focus was always on the person of Jesus Christ, and the life-changing and life-affirming power of the Gospel. I commend all our ministers for their faithful adherence to our Reformed theology. In my report, I referred to the "family atmosphere" which was so evident at presbytery meetings, an atmosphere where brothers and sisters in Christ shared the joy of worship and fellowship with one another. But there was also serious business taking place, and serious matters being considered. But our business was bathed in prayer and conducted in a respectful and worshipful manner which would be pleasing to God, and affirming of our denominational motto; In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.

I was encouraged by the commitment to evangelistic outreach and new church development. There is a recognition that growth must come from new converts through evangelism. There were several exciting examples. In the West, Rev. Steve Garcia has started a church in inner city Denver. Steve presented his plan for this downtown ministry, and was enthusiastically supported by the presbytery. The Central South Presbytery has several initiatives in progress, and is committed to church planting. The Presbytery of the East fully supports New Hope Church in Pittsburgh, where Rev. Rodger Woodworth (who is also chairman of the National Outreach Committee), pastors an urban congregation. I was at the Florida Presbytery when the Cypress Pointe Church, the result of the time and effort of the Orlando Project, was constituted a particular church. I was also able to attend the dedication of the beautiful new building and sanctuary of the Plant City Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Plant City, Florida. The Southeast Presbytery held its meeting for the first time at the recently completed sanctuary of New Beginning EPC in Erlanger, Kentucky and they, too, are committed to new church planting opportunities. The Mid-America Presbytery is taking an innovative and effective approach by using seminary students with gifts in evangelism and new church development to minister to the congregation at Emmanuel EPC, St. Louis. And Grace EPC in Lawrence, Kansas is having a significant impact on the 200-300 University of Kansas students who attend their services each week.

I was also tremendously encouraged by the quality of character and commitment to Christ exhibited by the candidates who were examined for ordination. Our denomination will be well served through their faithful service.

Our denominational programs and initiatives have grown and prospered in the past year. World Outreach, under the direction of Richard Oestreich, continues to provide financial support and prayerful oversight for our churches in South America, and for our missionaries in every part of the world. Our new Director of National Outreach, Rev. Bill Meyer, has injected new enthusiasm into our church growth and church planting efforts. A review of his report will expand upon the examples I mentioned, and give you a sense of the numerous initiatives underway. Women's Ministries, under the leadership of Jan Judy, has enthusiastically supported the 1998 Faith Focus project which has been raising money for the persecuted church in Kazakhstan. They are also well underway toward their goal of hosting 400 women at their National Women's Conference in Virginia Beach in October. Student and Young Adult Ministries has benefited tremendously from the devotion and efforts of Dan Weidman, who recently left as Director to accept a call at his home church. During Dan's tenure, the youth ministry program flourished and hosted almost 1200 students during the year at assembly sponsored conferences and mission trips. We extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation, and our prayers go out to Dan and his family as they embark on their new field of ministry.

I now want to request a commitment from each person sitting here this morning to pray every day for the

Stated Clerk Search Committee, which has begun the arduous task of discovering the individual God has chosen to replace Ed Davis. There may be no more important task than this over the next 18 months, and I know the committee covets our prayers as they conduct their business.

Finally I want to thank the clerks, the moderators, and each individual from every presbytery who escorted me during my travels. Christian love and concern was expressed everywhere I visited and I am grateful for your kindness. Thank you.

19-6 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee chairman, Rev. Buck Oliphant, continued with his report. He placed the slate of nominees for permanent committees before the Assembly (see p. 57). The chairman noted that all pre-registered commissioners have been assigned to assembly committees, including commissioners whose registrations were mailed no later than 10 days prior to the convening of the Assembly (*Cf. Rules for Assembly*, §8-2). Late assignments were posted around the building.

19-7 RATIFICATION VOTE ON DESCENDING OVERTURE

The Stated Clerk offered prayer and reviewed the procedures for ratification of descending overtures. Descending Overture 98-A (formerly Overture 97-A) on amending G. 11-10 regarding the transfer of ministers and candidates, received the required support of the presbyteries. (For vote of the presbyteries, see p. 164.)

Overture 98-A

Shall the **Book of Government** be amended in §11-10 by:

- a. deleting the word "Presbytery" in the second sentence and substituting the words "church body" so the sentence will begin "The dismissing church body..." and
- b. adding the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:
"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."

Present wording	Proposed wording
G.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.	G.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 <i>church body</i> shall be informed by the calling Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. <i>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.</i>

ON MOTION Descending Overture 98-A was ratified.

19-8 RECEPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 18TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the 18th General Assembly were received. The Stated Clerk asked that additions or corrections to this document be forwarded to the General Assembly Office as soon as possible.

BY COMMON CONSENT the Committee on Administration is authorized to approve

the corrected minutes of the 18th General Assembly at its November meeting, as allowed in *Robert's Rules of Order*.

19-9 INTRODUCTIONS

Dick Oestreicher (World Outreach Director) introduced the EPC missionaries present for this Assembly and asked them to stand and be recognized. Present were Robert Antonucci (Central Asia), Dan and Catherine Burns (Kazakhstan), Matt and Michelle Klakulak (India), Greg and Sally Livingstone (Muslim World) Kundan and Iqbal Massey (Central Asian Republics), John and Carlene McCurry (Arab Gulf), Tim North (Israel), Marcelo Robles (Argentina), Miguel and Azucena Robles (Argentina), Sam Rowen (East Asia), Bud Sparling (USA/International), as well as candidates Juan and Adriana Singh (USA/Hispanic), and Allen and Pat White (Kazakhstan). Both candidate couples will be commissioned at this Assembly.

Rev. Mark Jumper (Commander, US Navy) introduced the EPC military and institutional chaplains present. They are Rev. Glenn Ferrell (Civil Air Patrol), Rev. James Letizia (Civil Air Patrol), Rev. Ron Meyer (US Marine Corps), Rev. Tom Musselman (US Army National Guard), Rev. Ron Pierce (FBI Mobile County Law Enforcement), Rev. Nancy Stewart (Shady Grove Adventist Hospital), Rev. Darryl "Bud" Sparling (US Army, Retired), Rev. John Torres (US Air Force Reserve) and Rev. Brad Yorton (US Navy).

Dr. Greg Jordan, President of King College was introduced as a fraternal guest and brought greetings from the college, explaining its goals and vision as a Christian liberal arts institution. King College enjoys a covenanting relationship with both the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Presbyteries.

19-10 REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Edward Davis, opened his report with prayer.

Since the 18th General Assembly, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has experienced modest but steady growth. The Stated Clerk reported inclusive membership of the denomination as 61,347. (Active adult membership is 56,738, an increase of 4.1%. The baptized roll numbers 4,166. Ministers of the denomination total 443.) Number of churches reported this Assembly year is 187, including both particular and mission churches. Though six new churches were added this year, offsetting greater gain was the loss of five churches which were either dissolved or dismissed.

Evangelism statistics are quite encouraging. Adult professions of faith this Assembly year were up 97% from last year (1,117 in 1998; 566 in 1997). The number of youth professions of faith remained virtually unchanged; 541 professions in 1998, 540 in 1997. (The Alpha Program, commended by the 18th General Assembly as an effective tool of evangelism, continues to be used successfully by a number of EPC churches. Churches are encouraged to investigate and use the evangelism method which best fits their congregation and enables them to mobilize their people.) Adult baptisms in 1998 were slightly down from 1997 (691 to 688), while infant baptisms recorded were up 12%--843 in 1997 to 946 in 1998. Sunday school enrollment was down 4%: 37,148 in 1997, 35,758 in 1998.

Lyle Schaller has called us a denomination of large churches. The EPC is unique among North American denominations in that such a large percentage of our members attend churches of 1,000 or more members. Forty-seven percent of our churches (89 churches) have fewer than 100 members, with 7% of our members attending these churches. On the

other hand, 45% of our members attend 7% (12) of our churches over 1000. A passion and vision for church planting by mothering new churches (historically our most successful method) is spreading among our larger churches. Churches of between 200 and 1000 members are encouraged to develop the same passion and vision. The denomination is committed to finding ways to sustain and support the congregations with fewer than 200 members who compose such a significant percentage of our family and who struggle for survival. We recognize that not every congregation that is being spiritually blessed by God will exceed 200 members.

The Stated Clerk commended the churches for their giving. Total giving in 1998 toward both administration and benevolence askings reflected an average of \$41 per member. This represents a 7% increase over 1997. Breakdown of this figure is 34% toward administration, 44% to missionary support and 22% to benevolence askings projects. The per member asking for the administration of the General Assembly Office continues at \$18. Actual giving in 1998 averaged \$14 per member.

The Stated Clerk urged commissioners to ask themselves, "What will it take to see our presbyteries revitalized?" Perhaps there are new ways of doing what presbyteries have been historically charged to do, considering the constraints of time and resources currently facing the church. (For full Report of the Stated Clerk, see pages 221-230.)

19-11 MATTERS RECEIVED AND REFERRED

COMMUNICATIONS

(See pages 128-149)

- **Communication 99-1** from General Assembly Moderator Alan Smith, dated June 1999. Re: Nominations to the Board of Pensions and Benefits, to the Nominating Committee Class of 2002, and the 2000 Nominating Committee Chairman.
Referred to the Floor (p. 37)
- **Communication 99-2** from Richard J. Alberta, Pastor, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, Brighton, MI, dated June 20, 1998. Re: offer to host General Assembly in 2003 or 2004.
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 53)
- **Communication 99-3** from Alton L. Bennett, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the Midwest, dated March 2, 1999. Re: change in presbytery boundaries.
Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 66)
- **Communication 99-4** from Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Mid-America, dated March 6, 1999. Re: change in presbytery boundaries.
Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 66)
- **Communication 99-5** from Cindi B. Repass, Director, Member Review and Compliance, Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) dated September 25, 1998. Re: ECFA compliance review.
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)
- **Communication 99-6** from Paul D. Nelson, President ECFA, dated January 20, 1999. Re: 20th anniversary of ECFA.
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)

- **Communication 99-7** from Bill Altman, Vice-President, Member Review and Compliance, ECFA dated March 1, 1999. Re: on-site field review.
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)
- **Communication 99-8** from Daniel D. Busby, Vice President, Member and Donor Services, ECFA dated May 10, 1999. Re: results of on-site field review.
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 57)
- **Communication 99-9** from Edward Davis, Stated Clerk, EPC, dated November 1998. Re: Notice to Clerks of Session regarding 1998 Gratitude Gift.
Received as information
- **Communication 99-10** from Steve Haas, President, Prayer for the Persecuted Church, Arlington Heights, IL, dated April 1, 1999. Re: request for support/sponsorship of PPC.
Referred to the Committee on Fraternal Relations (p. 41)
- **Communication 99-11** from William D. Taylor, Executive Director, World Evangelistic Fellowship, Wheaton, IL, dated May 28, 1999. Re: October 10-16, 1999 Consultation on Evangelical Missiology for the 21st Century.
Referred to the Committee on Fraternal Relations (p. 41)
- **Communication 99-12** from Rev. Richard Q. Gouvêa, Sao Paulo, Brazil, dated September 10, 1998. Re: gratitude for educational stipend.
Received as information
- **Communication 99-13** from Dr. L. Edward Davis to Dr. Guilhermino Cunha, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Brazil, dated July 1, 1998. Re: greetings to the IPB celebrating a ten year partnership.
Received as information
- **Communication 99-14** from Dr. Guilhermino Cunha, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Brazil, dated October 15, 1998. Re: second phase of EPC/IPB partnership.
Received as information
- **Communication 99-15** from Edward Davis and Richard Oestreicher to Guilhermino Cunha, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Brazil, dated, March 16, 1999. Re: disbursement of mission funds.
Received as information

ON MOTION all communications were referred as noted.

OVERTURES

(See pages 150-162)

- **Overture 99-A** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic concerning an EPC training video for officers and members.
Referred to the Committee on Christian Education (p. 40)
- **Overture 99-B-1** from the Presbytery of the Midwest to amend G.12-2A to provide for the transfer of ministerial candidates from other Reformed bodies.
Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 61)

- **Overture 99-B-2** from the Presbytery of the Midwest to amend G.12-2F to provide for the transfer of ministerial candidates from other Reformed bodies.
Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 62)
- **Overture 99-C** from the Presbytery of Mid-America to amend G.14-1-A-4 and G.14-1-E-4 to capitalize, italicize and make bold "the essentials of the faith"
Referred jointly to the Committee on Overtures & Resolutions and the Committee on Theology (p. 39)
- **Overture 99-D** from the Presbytery of the Central South to form an Ad Interim Constitutional Committee to investigate possible restructuring of the EPC constitution.
Referred jointly to the Committee on Overtures & Resolutions and the Committee on Theology (p. 39)
- **Overture 99-E** from the Presbytery of the Southeast not to form an Ad Interim Constitutional Committee.
Referred jointly to the Committee on Overtures & Resolutions and the Committee on Theology (p. 39)
- **Overture 99-F** from the Presbytery of the Southeast to amend G.11-5-F to include the cost of pastor's attendance at presbytery and General Assembly meetings in the call of the pastor.
Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 62)
- **Overture 99-G** from the Presbytery of Florida on amending the *Book of Government*, Chapter 15, to allow for placing retired ministers on inactive status.
Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 62)
- **Overture 99-H** from the Presbytery of Florida on amending the *Book of Government* 12-2.F to allow for the transfer of ministerial candidates from other Reformed bodies.
Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 64)
- **Overture 99-I** from the Presbytery of the West to amend G.14-1-A-4 and G.14-1-E-4 to capitalize and make bold *the essentials of the faith*.
Referred jointly to the Committee on Overtures & Resolution and the Committee on Theology (p. 39)
- **Overture 99-J** from the Presbytery of the West for the Assembly to reconsider mandatory participation in the denominational health insurance plan.
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 35)

ON MOTION all overtures were referred as noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

- **Recommendation #1**
"That the invitation of Cornerstone EPC, Brighton Michigan (cf. Communication 99-2) to host the 23rd (2003) General Assembly be accepted."
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 53)

- **Recommendation #2**
 "That the Proposed 2000 Administration Budget for \$1,088,000 be adopted."
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 54)
- **Recommendation #3**
 "That the Proposed 2000 Benevolence Askings Budget for \$464,000 be adopted."
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 54)
- **Recommendation #4**
 "That the common boundaries of the Mid-America and Midwest Presbyteries be redrawn so that the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin are moved from the Midwest Presbytery to the Mid-America Presbytery."
Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 66)
- **Recommendation #5**
 Whereas the Evangelical Presbyterian Church encourages the use of inclusive language in all references to humanity at large, it recommends that Act 85-01 of the General Assembly be amended by deleting the present wording and substituting the proposed wording:

Present wording	Proposed wording
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.' (<i>Minutes, 5-25</i>)	All heads of committees, boards, agencies or commissions, whether male or female, shall be designated as 'chair.'

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 54)

- **Recommendation #6**
 "That the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* in Article I by substituting the proposed wording for the present Section 1-2, viz., "The place of meeting shall be rotated..."

Present wording	Proposed wording
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.	1-2 The place of meeting shall be rotated among the various areas of the church as much as practical. Any Presbytery or church of Presbytery that desires to entertain the General Assembly shall forward an invitation to the Stated Clerk no later than three years before the preceding Assembly. If two or more Presbyteries or churches submit invitations to host the General Assembly for the same year, the Committee on Administration will submit a recommendation to the General Assembly naming the host church or Presbytery. The Committee on Administration will make its recommendation based on the following

	<p>criteria:</p> <p>a. Capability to host., i.e., availability of housing, costs, travel arrangements, committee meeting rooms, availability of food service for breaks and meals, space for exhibitors and General Assembly staff, and local transportation.</p> <p>b. Priority will be given to the Presbytery or church which has never hosted a General Assembly or which hosted General Assembly the greatest number of years ago.</p>
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Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 54)

• **Recommendation #7**

"That the General Assembly amend its *Rules for Assembly* in Section X as follows:

- a. by substituting in §4-2, "To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year.
- b. by substituting in §4-3, "To name from the commissioners to the Assembly, using all resources including available computer technology, those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly."
- c. by adding a Section 4-4 to read, "The committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees."

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>X. 4-2 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</p>	<p>X.4-2 To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year.</p>

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>X. 4-3 To name from the commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.</p>	<p>X. 4-3 To name from the commissioners to the Assembly, using all resources including available computer technology, those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.</p>

Present wording	Proposed wording
X.4-4 (No section 4-4 currently exists.)	X.4-4 The committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 55)

• **Recommendation #8**

"That a denomination-wide Thanksgiving Offering be taken in 1999 and that such be designated to National Outreach for the San Antonio church planting project."

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)

From the BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS

• **Recommendation #9**

"That the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by requiring that claims be submitted within twelve (12) months of the date of service. Claims submitted after twelve months of date of service will not be paid."

Referred to the Floor (p. 33)

• **Recommendation #10**

"That the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by deleting coverage for sleep disorders, and adding sleep disorders to the list of Exclusions."

Referred to the Floor (p. 33)

• **Recommendation #11**

"That the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by deleting coverage for Biofeedback, and adding Biofeedback to the list of Exclusions."

Referred to the Floor (p. 34)

• **Recommendation #12**

"That the schedule of benefits in the Group Insurance Medical Plan, under 'Covered Services,' be amended to cover prescriptions as follows:

- 80% of the cost for generic drugs; and
- 50% for name brand drugs unless a suitable generic is not available;
- Subject to deductibles and coinsurance."

Referred to the Floor (p. 34)

• **Recommendation #13**

"That the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by adding to the list of Exclusions treatment for erectile dysfunction."

Referred to the Floor (p. 34)

• **Recommendation #14**

"That the schedule of benefits in the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by increasing the deductible to \$250 per employee, \$500 per employee and spouse, and \$750 per family for PPO network providers."

Referred to the Floor (p. 34)

• **Recommendation #15**

"That the schedule of benefits in the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by

- **Recommendation #20**

"Regarding requests for guidance for out of bounds calls, the MVC recommends the adoption of the following recommendation and its addition to the appropriate sections of the *Procedure Manual*:

- a. Presbyteries give due attention to G.10-3F, that Presbyteries be fully satisfied that each calling reflects the centrality of the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and is consistent with the variety of callings within the office of minister (G.10-3, A-F); and that
- b. Presbyteries make diligent annual use of the form 'Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery.' The call to a validated ministry outside the bounds of Presbytery should not be renewed when it is determined that the member's calling is not consistent with the ministry of the Word and Sacrament; and that
- c. Presbytery members who desire to transfer within the bounds of Presbytery to a calling not consistent with the ministry of Word and Sacrament should not be approved; and that
- d. When an out of bounds call is not approved, and the minister persists in that call, the procedures in G.15-8 apply.

Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 65)

- **Recommendation #21**

"Regarding the possibilities of legal liabilities of those currently serving out of bounds, we recommend, on advice of counsel, that the following be added to the *Procedure Manual*:

- a. 'Ministers laboring out of bounds are by definition 'serving outside the authority of a court of the church' (G. 10-3F), and 'outside the structures of the Church' (G.11-12). Therefore, they serve under the ecclesiastical but not the legal authority of the EPC. They cannot, therefore, act as an agent of the EPC in the legal sense. They cannot exercise any authority to bind the EPC to any contracts or agreements, nor can they commit the EPC to fulfill any other legal obligations.
- b. Because Ministers laboring out of bounds will be 'serving outside the authority of a court of the Church' (G.10-3F) and 'outside the structures of the Church (G.11-12), they will be employed by the calling agency, not by the EPC. They will not be subject to the supervision of the EPC with respect to time, place or manner of ministry. Any financial relationship or legal accountability regarding their ministry will be undertaken solely through the calling agency. Accountability to the EPC relates solely to spiritual and ecclesiastical matters.
- c. The regulations of the IRS state that eligibility to claim any special tax benefits or privileges available to the Minister of the gospel under federal law may be jeopardized if any of the following apply to your ministry:
 1. The calling agency did not arrange with the EPC for the Minister's services.
 2. The Minister performs services for the calling agency that other employees of the calling agency who are not Ministers are performing.
 3. The Minister performs the same services before and after obtaining permission from the EPC to labor out of bounds."

Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 65)

- **Recommendation #22**

"That the General Assembly endorse the following guidelines recommended by MVC for denominational military chaplains:

"While our chaplains are encouraged to exercise their ministry in the Armed Forces with the maximum of collegiality in cooperation with persons of varying beliefs, the EPC does not approve joint participation in a worship service with persons representing faith groups outside the historic Protestant Christian tradition, as defined by the Apostles' Creed."

Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 66)

- **Recommendation #23**

"The Committee on Administration further recommends that the General Assembly adopt the above recommendation with the deletion of the word 'Protestant.'"

Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 66)

- **Recommendation #24**

"That Act 82-07 "Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination," be amended in #5 *Terms of Call* to add the following sentences:

'Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.'

The section as amended would then read:

5. Terms of call: The amount of time to be given for study leave: two weeks, cumulative up to six weeks.

Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years' accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave."

Referred jointly to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 66) and the Committee on World Outreach (p. 42)

From the COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

- **Recommendation #25**

"That the National Outreach Master Plan, Strategic Area #4, be amended by adding the following sentence: 'Urban ministry is providing hope by turning our hearts and extending our hands to the poor in urban centers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ' so that the section reads:

'To transform urban centers by establishing churches and adding existing urban ministries to impact their communities for Christ. Urban ministry is providing hope by turning our hearts and extending our hands to the poor in urban centers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.'"

Grounds: NOC believes "urban ministry" needs to be defined in this way.

Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 66)

- **Recommendation #26**

"That the NOC be given a one-year extension of the 18th General Assembly's action to respond to Overture 98-B, "that the NOC be instructed to develop a provision for

national home missions, and to present that plan to the 19th General Assembly."

Grounds: Without a National Outreach Director until April, 1999, the NOC has not been able to accomplish this.

Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 67)

From the COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

• **Recommendation #27**

That the document "Essentials of Our Faith" not be elevated to the status of a formal document.

Grounds:

- a. The document "Essentials of Our Faith" already exists as an official document of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. See the "Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the Seventeenth General Assembly Instructions Regarding 'The Essentials' and the Westminster Confession," adopted by the 18th General Assembly, quoted in part as follows:

Act 81-01 states that, "The intent of the 'Essentials of Our Faith' shall be to give a clear concise statement of the fundamentals of Christian faith as embodied in the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and professed by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church." While the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Catechisms express our commitment to historic Reformed orthodoxy, "The Essentials of Our Faith" expresses our desire to hold to that commitment with an evangelical and irenic spirit.

The "Essentials of Our Faith" is not intended to be a confessional document deemed sufficient for ordination to office in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

- b. We believe that the fourth ordination vow refers to the essentials of faith as found in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*. It is predicated on the acceptance of the third vow.
- c. The meaning of "receive and adopt" in the context of the third ordination vow is discussed in the "Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the Seventeenth General Assembly Instructions Regarding 'The Essentials' and the *Westminster Confession*," adopted by the Eighteenth General Assembly, quoted in part, as follows:

The action of the Seventeenth General Assembly stated that 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.

When one answers affirmatively the questions asked at the service of ordination, an oath is taken before God and before a congregation or a presbytery. If he says that he sincerely receives and adopts the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Catechisms as containing the system of doctrine as taught in the Scriptures, this oath involves more than his own understanding of the Confession. It also involves the understanding of the Church. It would be dishonest for someone to take an oath that he receives and adopts the Confession if he knows that his own understanding of that Confession is different from that of the Church. That oath is taken before witnesses who have every right to assume that there is a common understanding of the system of doctrine. It is an obligation of every officer of the church to promote and defend the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Catechisms. Confusion would result if there were no common understanding of doctrine.

Even though the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Catechisms have stood for

centuries as a fine expression of the Reformed faith, they are not the Word of God. They stand as secondary standards and define what the Reformed church believes to be true doctrine as given in the Holy Scriptures. Because the Confession and Catechisms are not Scripture, Reformed Christians may differ on some minor points of doctrine as stated in those documents. Candidates for ordination should be willing to state the points on which they disagree with the Confession and Catechisms and give their reasons. Courts would do well to encourage candidates to state their differences. [lines 337 - 366]

Regardless of their sources, it is apparent that these varied understandings exist. However, it is the conclusion of the Committee that the record of the Assembly's actions is unambiguous. The standard for holding office in the EPC includes "sincerely receiv[ing] and adopt[ing] the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures." Though it is not our desire to find otherwise, even if we were willing the record will not permit it. This conclusion does not address what constitutes this system of doctrine. Further, it is not intended as an interpretation of the vow. This is the responsibility of the courts of original jurisdiction. [lines 215-223]

*Referred jointly to the Committee on Theology
and the Committee on Overtures & Resolutions (p. 38)*

- **Recommendation #28**

"The Committee on Theology strongly exhorts the churches diligently to train officers and ordinands in the essential tenets of the Reformed faith so that they understand what constitutes the Reformed faith. The Committee recommends that sessions and presbyteries familiarize themselves with the "Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the Seventeenth General Assembly Instructions Regarding 'The Essentials' and the Westminster Confession," and use such works as R. C. Sproul's *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Tyndale House, 1998 Paper)."

Referred to the Committee on Theology (p. 39)

From the COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

- **Recommendation #29**

"That the General Assembly adopt the proposed revision of the Women's Ministries Constitution."

Grounds: As uniform guidelines for presbyteries were approved and Women's Ministries has experienced changes from traditional structures (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) to newer program models, our Constitution has needed updating. The suggested revision of the Constitution maintains the former purposes and statements of faith and spirit of the Constitution, while updating the actual practice and structure by giving variable options.

Constitution for EPC Women's Ministries
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Article I. Name

This organization shall be known as: Women's Ministries of _____ Church, Presbytery of _____ the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Article II. Statement of Faith and Purpose

We subscribe to the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The foundation paragraph 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 to God's redemptive acts, culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

Statement of Purpose

Ephesians 4:12 "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for 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. Membership

The membership of Women's Ministries shall be open to all women of the church.

Article IV. Leadership

The leadership of Women's Ministries shall be members of the local church.

Leadership shall be structured according to the needs and preferences of the local church.

Examples are: **1.** A Coordinator serving over committees such as Spiritual Nurture, Missions, Special Events, Service. **2.** President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Program Chairmen. **3.** Director of Women's Ministries in conjunction with a Coordinating Council initiating and overseeing the various ministries of a larger church.

Article V. Denomination Representation and Participation

Churches shall encourage women to participate in Presbytery and national programming including retreats, General Assemblies, and national conferences to build and enrich connectional relationships.

Article VI: Relationships

Women's Ministries shall be under the jurisdiction of the local church session.

Women's Ministries will maintain a relationship of mutual support and concern with the EPC at the Presbytery and General Assembly levels.

Article VII: Finances

The local work of Women's Ministries may be financed through regular pledges, voluntary offerings, church budget, and/or fund-raising as approved by the session.

Article VIII: Meetings

Meetings may be scheduled as desired and needed by the women of the individual congregations.

Article IX: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of the permanent Committee on Women's Ministries. It will then be submitted for approval at General Assembly.

Article X: Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority in matters not addressed in this Constitution.

Referred to the Committee on Women's Ministries (p. 58)

From the COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

- **Recommendation #30**

That the *World Outreach Missions Manual*, section 410.1 **Continuing Education**, be amended by substituting the proposed two paragraphs for the present first paragraph."

Present wording	Proposed Wording
<p>410.1 Continuing Education World Outreach shall allow career missionaries \$350 per year to be used for continuing education (in addition to language study). Unused portions may accumulate to a maximum of \$3,500. This money shall come from their support account and shall be paid them in addition to salary. Any such program of continuing education shall be approved by the World Outreach office.</p> <p>Increments shall be computed as of January 1 of each year. The first such deduction shall be made for a missionary only after he or she has been on the field for at least six months during the previous year, has</p>	<p>410.1 Continuing Education World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years' accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.</p> <p>Increments shall be computed as of January 1 of each year. The first such deduction shall be made for a missionary only after he or she has been on the field for at least six months during the previous</p>

previous service as a teaching elder of the EPC or is required to have continuing education to retain professional certification.	year, has previous service as a teaching elder of the EPC or is required to have continuing education to retain professional certification.
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Grounds:

- a) Study leave was originally set at \$350 when World Outreach began 17 years ago and has never been increased.
- b) \$800 approximates the cost of one course at seminaries normally used by EPC ministers.
- c) Overseas WO personnel do not have the opportunity to hear special GA speakers or go to the conferences which many EPC pastors are able to attend.
- d) Some EPC pastors are encouraged to attend special conferences out of the regular church budget, rather than using their study leave allocation.
- e) WO missionaries are accountable to the WO Director and request a particular study leave program and receive prior approval prior to using the fields and the time.
- f) The \$800 amount is consistent with EPC church practice among those which grant their pastors a study leave.

Referred jointly to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 42) and the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 66)

- **Recommendation #31**

That the *World Outreach Missions Manual*, section 403.1 **Medical Insurance**, be amended by substituting the proposed first paragraph for the present first paragraph.

Present wording	Proposed Wording
<p>403.1 Medical Insurance All missionaries shall be required to have comprehensive medical coverage, long term disability and limited life insurance. Ordinarily this will be provided through the EPC Plan.</p>	<p>403.1 Medical Insurance All missionaries shall be required to have comprehensive medical coverage and limited life insurance. Missionaries serving exclusively with WO will receive the EPC insurance package which also includes long-term disability insurance.</p>

Grounds:

Missionaries with the EPC insurance package have disability coverage. It was the intention of WOC to provide disability coverage for missionaries opting for their cooperative agency plan, but the Board of Pension and Benefits does not wish to have the insurance package split into optional pieces.

Referred to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 43)

- **Recommendation #32**

“That the *World Outreach Missions Manual*, section 201.2, **Application Procedures**, be amended by adding the proposed paragraph as section F.”

Present Wording	Proposed Wording
<i>No section 201. 2F currently exists.</i>	F. All missionary candidates shall participate in a cross-cultural Church Planting Assessment Center as part of the missionary selection process.

Grounds: This is a new step added to the candidacy process. The Cross-Cultural Assessment Center parallels the Church Planters Assessment Center, but with an added emphasis on cross-cultural and mission team skills.

Referred to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 44)

From the PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

- **Recommendation #36**
 "That the Assembly accept the responses of the Presbyteries (including written comments) to the exceptions of the 18th General Assembly (see pages 207-211)."
Referred to the Floor (p. 46)
- **Recommendation #37**
 "That due to continuing non-compliance with the requirement of G.16-27A.1 and G.15-8,9 for the Ministerial Committee to perform an annual review of the work of the Ministers of the Word (active, out-of-bounds, inactive, and retired), the Assembly remand this issue to the Presbytery of Florida for immediate correction. The Presbytery, through its Stated Clerk shall report to the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly immediately following its Fall, 1999 meeting regarding its plans to implement the required reporting process."
Referred to the Floor (p. 46)
- **Recommendation #38**
 "That the Assembly instruct the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic to conduct an annual review of inactive pastors to determine if they should be placed back on the active roll or, if after 5 years, to drop them from the rolls without censure. (G.15-8; p. 54 *Procedure Manual*)"
Referred to the Floor (p. 47)
- **Recommendation #39**
 "That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South with the exceptions noted on page 47."
Referred to the Floor (p. 47)
- **Recommendation #40**
 "That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the East with the exceptions noted on page 47."
Referred to the Floor (p. 47)
- **Recommendation #41**
 "That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of Florida with the exceptions noted on page 48."
Referred to the Floor (p. 48)
- **Recommendation #42**
 "That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America with the exceptions noted on page 48."
Referred to the Floor (p. 48)

- **Recommendation #43**
 "That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic with the exceptions noted on page 49." *Referred to the Floor (p. 49)*
- **Recommendation #44**
 "That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest with the exceptions noted on page 49." *Referred to the Floor (p. 49)*
- **Recommendation #45**
 "That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of Southeast with the exceptions noted on page 50." *Referred to the Floor (p. 50)*
- **Recommendation #46**
 "That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the West with the exceptions noted on page 50." *Referred to the Floor (p. 50)*

From the PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

- **Recommendation #47**
 "That the review by the Permanent Judicial Commission of the amending overtures received be referred to the appropriate standing committees considering the respective overtures." *Referred to the Floor (p. 28)*
- **Recommendation #48**
 "That the two requests for constitutional interpretation (p. 86) be referred with the Permanent Judicial Commission's advice to the Floor." *Referred to the Floor (p. 28)*

ON MOTION all recommendations were referred as noted.

PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Recommendation #33**
 "That the National Outreach Committee be granted 5 minutes of docket time for a presentation on urban ministries, with a request to the Moderator for an additional ten (10) minutes." *Referred to the Floor (p. 28)*
- **Recommendation #34**
 "That a separate time be allotted on the docket to introduce Rev. Bill Meyer as the new National Outreach Director, and to present the Bartlett Hess Award." *Referred to the Floor (p. 28)*
- **Recommendation #35**
 "That a representative of the National Coalition on Men's Ministries be given 5 minutes to address the General Assembly, with a request to the Moderator for an additional five (5) minutes." *Referred to the Floor (p. 28)*

ON MOTION the procedural recommendations #33-35 and #47 and #48 were adopted.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

19-12 INTRODUCTIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

The Stated Clerk introduced the chairmen and clerks of the standing committees as follows:

Committee	Chairman	Clerk
Administration	Elder Bill Johns	Rev. Ed Randal
Christian Education	Elder Virginia Patterson	Elder Roy Schrameck
Fraternal Relations	Elder Allen O'Brian	Rev. John Quigley
Memorials & Appreciation	Elder Bob Healy	
Ministerial Vocation	Rev. Cooper McWhirter	Elder Carolyn Nystrom
National Outreach	Elder Dexter Kuhlman	Elder Frank Johnson
Overtures & Resolutions	Elder Paul Heidebrecht	Rev. Mark Hudson
Students & Young Adults	Elder Steele Stewart	Rev. Jeff Chadwick
Theology	Rev. Sam Rowan	Rev. Douglas Thompson
Women's Ministries	Rev. Ramona Spilman	Elder Janet Carlton
World Outreach	Rev. Perry Mobley	Elder Arnold Lindseth

The Stated Clerk introduced commissioners appointed by the presbyteries to represent overtures in the respective committees to which their overtures were referred.

The Moderator officially welcomed the new churches and their representatives and offered prayer for them. They are:

1. Celebration Community Church (Denver, CO; West)
2. Lake Forest Community Church (Cornelius, NC; Mid-Atlantic)
3. Mercy Christian Fellowship (West Bloomfield, MI; Midwest)
4. Trinity Fellowship (Alton, IL; Mid-America)
5. River Oaks Community Church (Lewisville, NC; Mid-Atlantic)
6. Presbyterian Chapel at Vail & Beaver Creek (Vail, CO; West)

19-13 FACE TO FACE OPPORTUNITIES

Rev. Paul Rettew opened with prayer and gave instructions for churches to communicate their needs for either ordained or non-ordained professional staff positions. Forms were distributed to churches seeking personnel so that opportunities could be posted. The following staff needs were indicated:

Location	Church	Position
Sun City West, AZ	Grace Community Church	Pastor
DeFuniak Springs, FL	Glendale EPC	Pastor
Virginia Beach, NC	Kempsville EPC	Youth & Student Ministries Pastor; Christian Education & Family Ministries
Alexandria, VA	Faith Presbyterian	Assistant Pastor - Youth & Family Ministries
Loveland, CO	Faith Evangelical	Assistant for Evangelism
Asheville, NC	Harvest Church	Pastor
Warrenville, IL	Immanuel Presbyterian	Pastor
Plant City, FL	EPC of Plant City	Youth & Children Ministries Director of Music Congregational Care Counseling

Cross Lanes, WV	Perrow Presbyterian	Administration
Memphis, TN	Second Presbyterian	Pastor
Youngstown, OH	Tabernacle EPC	Youth Pastor
		Pastor
		Director of Children's Ministries
Denver, CO	Cornerstone Community	Small Groups & Adult Ministries
Florence, SC	Trinity EPC	Pastor
Rome, GA	First Presbyterian	Director of Children's & Family Ministries
		Pastor
Knoxville, TN	Northshore Community	Youth Director
Parker, CO	Parker EPC	Youth Director
South Lyon, MI	Fellowship EPC	Executive Pastor
Winston Salem, NC	Reynolda Presbyterian	

19-14 COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO REVIEW MINUTES

The Moderator, with the consent of the court, appointed Elder Lynn van der Harst (Midwest), Rev. Nancy Stewart (East), and Rev. Dennis Flach (Central South) to review the daily journals of the minutes.

Following miscellaneous announcements, the Moderator offered prayer and the Assembly adjourned for lunch.

MINUTES - THURSDAY AFTERNOON

**Second Session
June 25, 1999**

19-15 ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES MEET

Assembly committees met in session from 1:30 to 5:00 P.M. in the Christian Life Center and the main church building.

19-16 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Assembly convened at 7:30 P.M. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church. The Chancel Choir sang *Come Into His Presence* and later in the service sang *It Is Well With My Soul* and *Many Gifts, One Spirit*. The congregation was called to worship with a Responsive Reading. The Stated Clerk, Rev. Edward Davis, presided over the service of investiture for the 19th General Assembly Moderator, Rev. James N. McGuire. Among the tokens of office conferred were the Moderator's stole and cross. The Word of God was read from John 17:20-23. Keynote speaker, Dr. Paul Cedar, preached the message "It's Time to Come Together!" Following a song of commitment, the Moderator closed the service with a benediction.

Order of Worship
Thursday Evening, June 24, 1999
 7:30 P.M.

Organ Prelude		Mrs. Cynthia Forbes
Choral Introit	"Come Into His Presence"	Chancel Choir
Call to Worship		Responsive Reading #7
Songs of Praise and Worship		"O Worship the King"
		"To God Be the Glory"
		"Thou Art Worthly"
	"There's Something About That Name"	
	"His Name is Wonderful"	
	"Be Exalted, O God"	
Choral Praise	"It is Well with My Soul"	Chancel Choir
Words of Welcome		
Investiture of the 19 th General Assembly Moderator		Dr. Edward Davis
Offering		
Offertory	"Many Gifts, One Spirit"	Chancel Choir
Scripture Reading		John 17: 20-23
Message	"It's Time to Come Together"	Dr. Paul Cedar
Song of Commitment		
Benediction		Dr. James McGuire, Moderator 19 th General Assembly
Benediction Response	"Go With God"	Chancel Choir
Organ Postlude		Mrs. Cynthia Forbes

MINUTES - FRIDAY MORNING

Third Session
June 25, 1999

19-17 MODERATOR'S SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND PRAYER

The 3rd General Assembly Moderator, Rev. James Van Dyke, opened the service and made announcements. The congregation joined in singing praises after which 18th Assembly Moderator Alan Smith read the Word of God from Colossians 3:12-17 and offered a meditation on the theme "Motivation for Godly Living." Rev. Van Dyke and Moderator James McGuire led the service of communion after which Rev. Perry Mobley (Moderator, 7th Assembly) led the Assembly in a season of intercessory prayer.

19-18 CONVENING OF THIRD SESSION & ADOPTION OF DOCKET

In the absence of the Moderator (a family medical emergency), 18th Assembly Moderator Alan Smith called the business session to order with prayer at 10:35 A.M. Prayer was offered by Rev. Graham Smith (Moderator, 13th Assembly). The docket for Friday was presented for approval.

ON MOTION the docket was adopted as follows:

DOCKET	
Friday, June 25, 1999	
Third Session	
7:00	Committees reconvene
8:30-9:45	Moderators Service of Communion and Prayer (Main - Sanctuary)
9:45-10:30	Break and Exhibits (CLC - King Hall & Youth Room)
10:30-12:00	Business Session (CLC - King Hall) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening prayer • Adoption of Docket • Local arrangements and announcements • Introduction of fraternal guests • Report of the Board of Pension & Benefits • Partial Report of the Committee on Administration • Second Reading of Nominations • Report of the Committee on Student & Young Adult Ministries • Joint Report of Committee on Overtures & Resolutions and the Committee on Theology
12:00-1:30	Luncheon for commissioners, observers and guests (Methodist Church; ticket required)
12:00-2:30	Women's Ministries Luncheon (Civic Center - ticket required) Speaker: Judy Reamer
Fourth Session	
1:45-5:00	Business Session (CLC - King Hall) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters pending from Third Session • Final Report of the Committee on Theology • Ministry Report: National Outreach (Rev. Bill Meyer) • Report of the Committee on Christian Education & Publications • Report of the Committee on Fraternal Relations
3:00-4:30	Women's Ministries Workshop (Main - Sanctuary) Speaker: Judy Reamer
7:30	Evening Worship Service (Main - Sanctuary) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. James McGuire^{19th} General Assembly Moderator presiding • Dr. Paul Cedar, Keynoter • Commissioning of missionaries • Special presentations
9:00	Refreshments and exhibits (CLC - King Hall & Youth Room)

Don Keiser, chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee, opened his report with prayer. Mr. Keiser announced arrangements for lunch and for Saturday shuttles to the airport. John Graham, chairman of the Prayer Committee reminded the court of the ongoing prayer vigil in room 208. Assembly commissioners, observers and guests were invited to drop in and join them for prayer.

19-19 INTRODUCTION OF FRATERNAL GUESTS

The Stated Clerk welcomed representatives from various denominations and ministries and each brought greetings to the Assembly.

Dr. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk, represented the Presbyterian Church in America. He noted that he recognized a number of PCA and RTS alumni among the commissioners. At their recent Assembly, the PCA heard a report from a study committee dealing with four views of creation (calendar day, apparent age view, framework hypothesis, and anthropomorphic day view). The study committee will be working for another year. Their Assembly also heard a report from the Women in the Military Committee which urged the Assembly to go on record

opposing drafting of women into the military and putting women in combat roles. That committee will develop biblical and exegetical grounds during the coming year. The Inter-Church Relations Committee is studying the issue of different levels of fraternal relationships. Currently only one exists.

Dr. Rick Cannada, Executive Vice President, brought greetings from Reformed Theological Seminary. RTS has developed a number of extension sites, including Fourth Presbyterian (Bethesda, Maryland), Second Presbyterian (Memphis, Tennessee) and Ward Presbyterian (Northville, Michigan). More than 30 courses are now available in their "virtual campuses" through distance learning and online courses. RTS also has an online bookstore, accessed through its web site (www.rts.edu). Dr. Cannada highlighted the ongoing commitment of RTS to the Word of God and the local church.

19-20 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PENSION & BENEFITS

The chairman, Elder Stewart Fleming, opened the report with prayer. He reported on the current status of the EPC Pension Plan and the Group Insurance Plan. The Pension Plan has done well. Aggregate assets in the plan exceed \$18 million. In the year ahead, one or two more funds may be added to the Plan.

In reference to the Group Insurance Plan, Elder Fleming explained how medical self-insurance works. He noted that our plan has broader coverage than most commercial plans, including the addition of wellness coverage as a benefit. The Plan is a measure of our love as a denomination in that the healthy are helping those who are not. A few years ago, premiums were lowered due to a decline in claims. In 1998, however, medical costs across the board rose 30%. Now, because reserves are dropping, the Board has the task of bringing the claims and reserves into a healthier balance.

I. Business Referred to the Floor:

- A. Recommendation #9
- B. Recommendation #10
- C. Recommendation #11
- D. Recommendation #12
- E. Recommendation #13
- G. Recommendation #14
- H. Recommendation #15
- I. Recommendation #16
- J. Recommendation #17

II. Recommendations:

- A. That Recommendation #9 be adopted "that the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by requiring that claims be submitted within twelve (12) months of the date of service. Claims submitted after twelve months of date of service will not be paid."

Grounds: Claims which are more than 5 years old have been submitted to the Plan. This creates an enormous administrative problem and uncertainty as to projected expenses. The recommendation is in line with the practice throughout the medical insurance industry. Adopted

- B. That Recommendation #10 be adopted "that the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by deleting coverage for sleep disorders, and adding sleep disorders to the

list of Exclusions.”

Grounds: Treatment of sleep disorders is a rapidly increasing business, and it is exceedingly difficult to determine the medical necessity of sleep disorder treatment. The recommendation does not prohibit prescriptions and medical care for a condition that results in a sleep disorder. ___ *Adopted*

- C. That **Recommendation #11** be adopted “that the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by deleting coverage for Biofeedback, and adding Biofeedback to the list of Exclusions.”

Grounds: There is no reasonable certainty that biofeedback is an effective course of treatment. ___ *Adopted*

- D. That **Recommendation #12** be adopted “that the schedule of benefits in the Group Insurance Medical Plan, under "Covered Services" be amended to cover prescriptions as follows:

80% of the cost for generic drugs; and
50% for name brand drugs unless a suitable generic is not available;
Subject to deductibles and coinsurance.” ___ *Adopted*

- E. That **Recommendation #13** be adopted “that the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by adding to the list of Exclusions treatment for erectile dysfunction.”

Grounds: It is difficult to determine the medical necessity for treating this problem. ___ *Not Adopted*

- F. That **Recommendation #14** be adopted “that the schedule of benefits in the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by increasing the deductible to \$250 per employee, \$500 per employee and spouse, and \$750 per family for PPO network providers.”

Grounds: This is a means of stabilizing funds within the Plan by reducing claims. (Note: An earlier Assembly encouraged churches to pay all or some part of the deductible for their pastors.) ___ *Adopted*

- G. That **Recommendation #15** be adopted “that the schedule of benefits in the Group Insurance Medical Plan be amended by increasing the deductible to \$300 per person, \$600 per employee and spouse, and \$900 per family for non-network (PPO) providers.

Grounds: This provides incentive to people in an area with PPO providers to be part of the network. Those living in areas outside a network are eligible to qualify for the same deductibles as those living within a PPO network. ___ *Adopted*

- H. That **Recommendation #16** be adopted “that the Skilled Nursing Facilities Benefits listed in the Schedule of Benefits be amended as follows:

‘Skilled Nursing Facility: 90% in PPO network (R & C)
80% out of PPO network (R & C)

Confinement in skilled nursing facility limited to 60 days per calendar year. A per diem limit of \$150 is allowed.

A benefit will be payable for charges incurred at a Skilled Nursing Facility provided that a physician determines that the covered person requires skilled nursing care and prior authorization by the Plan has been obtained. For any day of Skilled Nursing Facility confinement in a private room, the benefit shall not include that portion which is more than the Skilled Nursing Facility's most common rate for a semi-private room. Skilled Nursing Care must be provided within 3 days of discharge from a hospital confinement of at least 3 days.

Benefits are available for covered services in a Skilled Nursing Facility as are included for inpatient hospital services and inpatient medical services. No coverage is provided in a Skilled Nursing Facility for custodial care or care for senile deterioration, mental deficiency or mental retardation."

Grounds: This corrects an area in which there has been unlimited liability to the Plan. ___ *Adopted*

- I. That **Recommendation #17** be adopted "that the General Assembly designate up to 100% of a minister's early or normal retirement pension or disability pension for 2000 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."

Grounds: On advice of counsel, the General Assembly needs to take action on this issue. ___ *Adopted*

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

19-21 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

BY COMMON CONSENT the Assembly agreed to receive a partial report from the Committee on Administration (*Rules*, VII.10). (See page 72 for full report of assembly committee.)

Elder Bill Johns, chairman opened the report with prayer and presented the Committee's recommendation concerning **Overture 99-J** from the Presbytery of the West that the Assembly reconsider mandatory participation for pastors in the denominational health insurance plan (see page 162).

The Committee recommended that **Overture 99-J** not be adopted.

Grounds: Group medical coverage is dependent upon mandated participation and the partnership of all eligible members. ___ *Adopted*

Commissioners debated the issue of good stewardship of the dollar (other health insurance coverage costs less) and the issue of connectionalism in the denomination (the healthy cover the costs of the sick). The health of the plan itself is dependent on participation of a wide range of ages and state of health. The concern of the Board was that of "adverse selection" if the young and healthy participants opt out of the plan.

Motion was made "that the Board of Pension and Benefits enforce Act 81-06 which states, 'The denominational group insurance plan providing health, disability and life coverage shall be mandatory for all ministers within member churches;' and that the Board of Pension and Benefits contact every church not complying with Act 81-06 and instruct them of their duty and obligation to enroll immediately; and that the Board of Pension and Benefits should report to the 20th (2000) General Assembly the churches which are not compliant with Act 81-06." Not Adopted

ON MOTION this part of the report was received.

Rev. Rufus Smith, IV, pastor of The City of Refuge, Houston, TX offered prayer as the Assembly recessed for lunch until 1:45 P.M.

MINUTES - FRIDAY AFTERNOON

**Fourth Session
June 25, 1999**

The Moderator reconvened the Assembly at 1:50 P.M. with prayer followed by brief announcements. The Moderator invited Rev. Tom Melton, Presbytery of the West, to offer a brief clarifying statement concerning his position and that of his presbytery on the issue of mandatory participation in the Group Insurance Plan. Rev. Melton assured the court that he and the presbytery desired to debate the issue but had no intention of disrupting the unity of the body or leaving the EPC over the issue. Rev. Melton prayed for repentance, humility, and unity in the EPC.

19-22 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Buck Oliphant, chairman opened his report with prayer. The second reading of the Slate of Nominations for the permanent committees follows:

COMMITTEE	CLASS	NOMINEE	PRESBYTERY
Administration	2002	Rev. Willard Davis Elder John Adamson Rev. Harold K. Polk, Jr.	East Central South Midwest
	2001	Elder Mark Sharpnack	East
Christian Education & Publications	2002	Sandy Hazelwood Rev. David Ruff	Central South Mid-Atlantic
	2001	Rev. David Todd	Central South
Fraternal Relations	2002	Elder Paul Heidebrecht Rev. Ed Randal	Mid-America West
Ministerial Vocation	2002	Elder John Allman Rev. Mark Jumper	Mid-Atlantic Florida
	2000	Elder Jim Cantey	Central South
National Outreach	2002	Elder William Bumford Rev. Wayne Hoffman Elder Carolyn Nystrom	Midwest Mid-America Mid-America
Presbytery Review	2002	Rev. George Woodcock	Midwest
	2000	Elder Buck Russell	West

Student & Young Adult Ministries	2002	Sonny Flowers Elder Smokey Ridgley	Mid-Atlantic West
Theology	2002	Rev. Mike Glodo Elder Robert Warburton	Florida Mid-America
Women's Ministries	2002	Anne Blackley Susie McQueen	Mid-Atlantic West
	2001	Sue Smith	Southeast
World Outreach	2002	Elder Robert Healy Rev. Jeffrey Chadwick Elder Rister Jenkins	Midwest Mid-Atlantic Mid-Atlantic
	2001	Rev. Phil Linton	Midwest
Board of Pension and Benefits	2002	Elder John Baird Elder Orin Littlejohn	Midwest Central South
Permanent Judicial Commission	2002	Elder Evelyn Cisney Rev. Darryl "Bud" Sparling Elder Barry Smith	West West Southeast

No further nominations were forthcoming from the Floor. The slate was closed.

ON MOTION this portion of the report was received.

19-23 MODERATOR'S NOMINATIONS

Communication 99-1 from Elder Alan Smith, 18th Assembly Moderator, was presented with the following nominations for the Nominating Committee, Class of 2002.

Nominating Committee, Class of 2002:

Elder Frank Johnson	At large
Rev. Bill Vogler	Mid-America
Rev. Steve Wilkinson	Central South

No further nominations were forthcoming from the Floor.

ON MOTION the nominees for the Nominating Committee, Class of 2002, were elected.

19-24 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Elder Steele Stewart, Jr., chairman, opened with prayer. (See page 88 for complete report of assembly committee.)

I. Business Referred to Committee:

- A. **Minutes** of the permanent committee dated October 2-3, 1998 and March 5-6, 1999

II. Recommendations:

- A. That the minutes be approved without notation or exception, and passed on with our commendation to the permanent committee for their excellent work.

___ *Adopted*

III. Advice:

- The assembly committee apprised the Assembly of its suggestion to the permanent

Committee on Administration "That the Committee on Administration be requested to consider adopting the phrase "EPC - Every Precious Child" as the theme for an upcoming General Assembly, including developing a pre-assembly conference, in partnership with the permanent Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries, that would focus on ministry to students and their families."

Background: The committee believes that ministry to students and their families is one of the most crucial areas of need in our churches and in our society. We also believe that these ministries of the churches in our denomination need to be strengthened and focused for greater effectiveness. This emphasis at our General Assembly level could be greatly used to equip our churches to reach our children and their families for Christ. Special words of thanksgiving and testimony were given on behalf of Mr. Dan Weidman, who after six years as Director of Student & Young Adult Ministries, leaves that position to accept a call to a staff position at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, Michigan. The Assembly rose to honor Mr. Weidman as he was presented with a special plaque.

The committee also praised God for his provision of Bob Watson, Interim Director for SYAM, to stand in the gap during a time of transition in the leadership of our student and young adult ministries.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

19-25 INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL FRATERNAL GUESTS

The Moderator introduced Rev. Dan Buis, fraternal delegate representing the Christian Reformed Church. Rev. Buis, a pastor in Atlanta, brought a brief greeting to the Assembly on behalf of the CRC. Of the recent denominational synod, he reported was a renewed sense of unity and cooperation within the church. The CRC World Relief Committee has been working with Kosovo refugees, and their Home Missions and World Missions Committees have been aggressive in planting new churches.

19-26 REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES & RESOLUTIONS AND THEOLOGY

The chairman of the Overtures & Resolutions Committee, Elder Paul Heidebrecht, opened with prayer and introduced Rev. Sam Rowen, chairman of the Theology Committee. The two committees, with the consent of the Assembly, worked as a joint committee in the consideration of the following overtures and recommendation. (See page 85 for full report of assembly committee.)

I. Business Referred to Committee:

- A. **Recommendation #27**
- B. **Overture 99-C**
- C. **Overture 99-D**
- D. **Overture 99-E**
- E. **Overture 99-I**

II. Recommendations:

- A. "That the 19th General Assembly constitute an *ad interim* committee to consist of two (2) representatives chosen from and by each presbytery for the purpose of:
 - (1) Listening to all in our denomination who desire to express their views of how

- we can live and serve more fruitfully together; and
- (2) Drawing conclusions about the nature of our problems relating to ordination vows 3 and 4 as well as the problems addressed in Overtures 99-C, 99-D, 99-E, 99-I, and to receive and refer to the *ad interim* committee for study any overtures concerning these issues until such time as the committee reports; and
 - (3) Making appropriate recommendations to the 21st General Assembly for solving our problems and improving our denomination.”

Grounds: This important discussion needs to be held in the context of a representative committee over a period of time rather than at this time on the floor of the Assembly. ___Adopted

- B. That because of the above recommendation, that no action be taken on **Overtures 99-C, 99-D, 99-E, 99-I and Recommendation #27.** ___Adopted

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

19-27 FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

Rev. Sam Rowen, chairman, opened the report with prayer. (See page 89 for full report of assembly committee.)

I. Business Referred to Committee:

- A. **Minutes** of the permanent committee dated September 25-26, 1998
- B. **Recommendation #28**

II. Recommendations:

- A. That **Recommendation #28** “that the Assembly strongly exhort the churches diligently to train officers and ordinands in the essential tenets of the Reformed faith so that they understand what constitutes the Reformed faith. The Assembly further recommends that sessions and presbyteries familiarize themselves with the ‘Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the Seventeenth General Assembly Instructions Regarding The Essentials and the Westminster Confession,’ and use such works as R. C. Sproul’s *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Tyndale House, 1998 Paper)” be adopted. ___Adopted

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted, including the minutes of the permanent committee, with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

Rev. Ross O’Dell led the Assembly in prayer prior to a recess.

The Assembly reconvened at 3:20 p.m. The Moderator granted Rev. Bob Vincent a moment of personal privilege. He had been personally concerned over several remarks and inferences made by commissioners during the debate preceding recess. He urged the Assembly to walk between the alternatives of subscribing only to the “Essentials of the Faith” or subscription to the Westminster Standards, and to leave the details of that walk to the presbyteries. Rev. Vincent expressed his desire to see the *Ad Interim* Committee produce a non-binding pastoral letter on what it means to walk in the Reformed tradition. He asked forgiveness on behalf of any who may have perceived that they were neither needed nor wanted in the EPC.

19-28 MINISTRY REPORT: NATIONAL OUTREACH

National Outreach Director, Rev. Bill Meyer, opened the report with prayer. Rev. Glenn Ferrell, church planter in Denniston, Kentucky, was asked to stand and be recognized for his continuing work in Appalachia. Rev. Meyer then introduced Rev. Tom Masterson, church planter, who reviewed the work of the San Antonio Project, a joint church planting effort of the Central South Presbytery and the General Assembly, which began in April, 1999. Rev. Masterson shared encouraging news about a number of families committing themselves to be part of the core group. The report continued with a video presentation on urban ministries, a focus area for National Outreach.

19-29 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS

The chairman, Elder Virginia Patterson, opened the report with prayer. (See page 74 for full report of assembly committee.)

Elder Patterson introduced Rev. Thomas Fritz, resource person for the National Coalition of Men's Ministries inter-cultural and denominational relations, who addressed the Assembly. The Coalition is a forum in which men's ministries share resources and ideas and help eliminate duplication of efforts. The purpose is to help the local church present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every man in America. The Coalition exists to "do together what we cannot do alone." The members desire to become to each other what God wants the church to become. The Coalition publishes a resource book and hold national training conferences for men's ministry leadership. The Coalition hopes to see every church with a men's ministry, and every man presented with the gospel.

As part of its response to Overture 97-E, the EPC is a national member of the National Coalition of Men's Ministries (see Relationship Agreement, pages 122-123).

Elder Patterson introduced Lucy McGuire, Editor of *Reflections* magazine, and reminded commissioners to fill out the readership survey.

The permanent Committee on Christian Education & Publications will be coordinating a pre-assembly workshop on congregational ministries at the 21st General Assembly (2001).

I. Business Referred to Committee:**A. Overture 99-A**

- B. Minutes** of the permanent committee dated September 24-26, 1998 and March 4-6, 1999

II. Recommendations:

- A. Overture 99-A** (p. 150) concerns the development of a training video that could be used for church membership education and as a building block for officer training throughout the EPC. This would provide consistent training as to history, development, doctrine, and Reformed faith throughout the EPC. This could also be used as a tool for evangelism and new member orientation. Cost of the video would be \$15,000. The Mid-Atlantic Presbytery is willing to pledge up to one-half the cost (\$7,500) as a challenge to the other presbyteries to supply the remaining \$7,500 or more.

ON MOTION Overture 99-A was amended to read: "That the General Assembly

endorse the development of a training video that could be used for church membership education and as a building block for officer training throughout the EPC by authorizing the permanent Christian Education and Publications Committee to further investigate the possible production of this video, and oversee the direction and production, if deemed feasible, as well as promote this project by encouraging the other presbyteries to participate by providing financial support" and adopted as amended.

III. Advice:

- The assembly committee suggests to the permanent Committee on Christian Education & Publications that *Reflections* magazine be put on the EPC website (www.epc.org) so that it would be available on a more widespread basis. Suggestion was made that the *Book of Order* be put on the website or be made available on disk or compact disc.
- A committee member, relatively new to the EPC, had questions regarding the availability of a modern version of the "Larger Catechism" referred to in the ordination vows. The assembly committee suggests to the permanent Committee on Christian Education & Publications that it research the availability of the "Larger Catechism" and to make it available to the churches upon request.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted, including minutes of the permanent committee, with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

19-30 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Elder Allen O'Brian, chairman, opened the report with prayer. (See page 76 for full report of assembly committee.)

I. Business Referred to Committee:

- A. **Communication 99-10**
- B. **Communication 99-11**

II. Recommendations:

- A. That **Communication 99-10** (p. 140) requesting that the EPC become an official sponsor of Shatter the Silence's International Day of Prayer for the years 1999 and 2000 be adopted, and that the financial contribution shall be determined by the Committee on Administration, with continued sponsorship to be reviewed by the 20th (2000) General Assembly. ___Adopted
- B. That **Communication 99-11** (p. 142) that the EPC, in its relationship with the World Evangelical Fellowship, become a co-sponsor of the 1999 Global Consultation on Evangelical Missiology with a gift of \$1,000," be adopted. ___Adopted

III. Advice:

- The assembly committee suggests to the permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations that representatives of that Committee attend World Evangelical Fellowship conferences such as the one in Igauzu, Brazil, which is expected to be a landmark conference similar to the 1974 Lausanne Congress.

- The assembly committee suggests to the permanent Fraternal Relations Committee that as it seeks greater relations with other Reformed denominations, it also increases its efforts to establish cordial relationships with other evangelical denominations. The assembly committee thanked Rev. Graham Smith and the other members of the permanent committee for representing the EPC to other Christian and Reformed bodies.

The committee was pleased to learn of the efforts of the permanent committee to invite representatives of other Christian organizations and denominations to our 20th General Assembly.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

19-31 REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

The chairman, Rev. Perry Mobley, opened the report with prayer. (See page 92 for full report of assembly committee.)

I. Business Referred to Committee:

- A. **Recommendation #24** (jointly with Ministerial Vocation Committee)
- B. **Recommendation #30** (jointly with Ministerial Vocation Committee)
- C. **Recommendation #31**
- D. **Recommendation #32**
- E. **Minutes** of the permanent committee, dated September 10-12, 1998, January 14-16, 1999 and March 18-20, 1999.

II. Recommendations:

- A. The assembly World Outreach Committee, in consultation with the assembly Ministerial Vocation Committee, concurs that **Recommendation #24** concerning the accumulation of study leave for career missionaries be adopted:

“That Act of the Assembly #82-07 (Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination) be amended in #5 “Terms of Call” to add the following sentences:

‘Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.’

Act 82-07 as amended would then read:

- 5. Terms of call: The amount of time to be given for study leave: two weeks, cumulative up to six weeks.

Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years’ accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.

Adopted

- B. The assembly World Outreach Committee, in consultation with the assembly

Ministerial Vocation Committee concurs that **Recommendation #30**, "that the World Outreach Missions Manual, section 410.1, **Continuing Education**, be amended by substituting the two proposed paragraphs for the present first paragraph," be adopted.

Present wording	Proposed Wording
<p>410.1 Continuing Education World Outreach shall allow career missionaries \$350 per year to be used for continuing education (in addition to language study). Unused portions may accumulate to a maximum of \$3,500. This money shall come from their support account and shall be paid them in addition to salary. Any such program of continuing education shall be approved by the World Outreach office.</p> <p>Increments shall be computed as of January 1 of each year. The first such deduction shall be made for a missionary only after he or she has been on the field for at least six months during the previous year, has previous service as a teaching elder of the EPC or is required to have continuing education to retain professional certification.</p>	<p>410.1 Continuing Education World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation.</p> <p>Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.</p> <p>Increments shall be computed as of January 1 of each year. The first such deduction shall be made for a missionary only after he or she has been on the field for at least six months during the previous year, has previous service as a teaching elder of the EPC or is required to have continuing education to retain professional certification.</p>

Grounds:

- a. Study leave was originally set at \$350 when World Outreach began 17 years ago and has never been increased.
 - b. \$800 approximates the cost of one course at seminaries normally used by EPC ministers.
 - c. Overseas WO personnel do not have the opportunity to hear special GA speakers or go to the conferences which many EPC pastors are able to attend.
 - d. Some EPC pastors are encouraged to attend special conferences out of the regular church budget, rather than using their study leave allocation.
 - e. WO missionaries are accountable to the WO Director and request a particular study leave program and receive prior approval prior to using the funds and the time.
 - f. The \$800 amount is consistent with EPC church practice among those which do grant their pastors a study leave. ___Adopted
- C. That **Recommendation #31** be adopted "that the *World Outreach Missions Manual*, section 403.1 **Medical Insurance**, be amended by substituting the proposed first paragraph for the present first paragraph."

Present wording	Proposed Wording
<p>403.1 Medical Insurance All missionaries shall be required to have comprehensive medical coverage, long term disability and limited life insurance. Ordinarily this will be provided through the EPC plan.</p>	<p>403.1 Medical Insurance All missionaries shall be required to have comprehensive medical coverage and limited life insurance. Missionaries serving exclusively with WO will receive the EPC insurance package which also includes long-term disability insurance.</p>

Grounds: Missionaries with the EPC insurance package have disability coverage. It was the intention of WOC to provide disability coverage for missionaries opting for their cooperative agency plan, but the Board of Pension and Benefits does not wish to have the Group Insurance Plan split into optional pieces. ___Adopted

- D. That **Recommendation #32** be adopted "that the *World Outreach Missions Manual*, section 201.2, *Application Procedures*, be amended by adding the proposed paragraph as section F."

Present Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><i>No section 201. 2F currently exists.</i></p>	<p>F. All missionary candidates shall participate in a cross-cultural church planting assessment center as part of the missionary selection process.</p>

___Adopted

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted, including the minutes of the permanent committee, with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

19-32 ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly at 4:15 P.M., to reconvene for worship at 7:30 P.M.

19-33 FRIDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Music Director Richard Wade called the congregation to worship at 7:30 P.M. Following a time of congregational singing, the Chancel Choir sang *At The Name of Jesus*. The Moderator, Rev. James McGuire, welcomed the worshippers after which a service of commissioning was held for the new EPC missionaries, Allen and Pat White (Kazakhstan) and Juan and Adriana Singh (US Hispanic community). Shawn Majors sang "In Christ Alone" after which the Word of God was read from Acts 4:23-31. Keynote speaker, Dr. Paul Cedar, preached the message "It's Time To Pray." Following a hymn of commitment, the service was closed with the benediction.

Evening Worship Service
Friday, June 25, 1999
7:30 P.M.

Organ Prelude		Mrs. Cynthia Forbes
Choral Introit	"Majesty"	Chancel Choir
Call to Worship	Psalm 95:1	
Hymns and Songs of Praise	"A Mighty Fortress"	
	"Let the Redeemed"	
	"Ah, Lord God"	
	"We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise"	
	"My All in All"	
	"See His glory"	
Choral Worship	"At the Name of Jesus"	
Words of Welcome		Dr. James McGuire, Moderator
19 th General Assembly		
Commissioning of Missionaries		
Offering		
Sharing in Song	"In Christ Alone"	Mr. Shawn Majors
Scripture Reading	Acts 4:23-31	
Message "It's Time to Pray!"		Dr. Paul Cedar
Hymn of Commitment	"Great is Thy Faithfulness"	
Benediction		
Benediction Response	"My Tribute"	Chancel Choir
Organ Postlude		Mrs. Cynthia Forbes

MINUTES - SATURDAY MORNING

Fifth Session
June 26, 1999

19-34 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

The worship service opened with congregational singing followed by prayer by Rev. William Flannagan. The Men's Quintet sang *I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy*. Rev. Scott Jackson preached a devotional message entitled *Crooked Halos and Holy Rollers* after which Rev. Bill Flannagan pronounced the benediction.

Morning Worship Service
Saturday, June 26, 1999

Organ Prelude		Mrs. Cynthia Forbes
Hymns and Songs of Praise	"Holy, Holy, Holy"	
	"Hide Me in Your Holiness"	
Sharing in Song	"I Bowed on My Knees and Cried Holy"	Men's Quintet
Devotion	"Crooked Halos and Holy Rollers"	Rev. Scott Jackson
Benediction		Dr. Bill Flannagan

19-35 OPENING PRAYER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Moderator opened the session with prayer at 9:30 A.M. Various announcements were presented along with housekeeping matters.

19-36 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

ON MOTION the docket was adopted as follows:

DOCKET

Saturday, June 26, 1999

Fifth Session

8:30-9:00	Morning worship
9:15	Business Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening prayer. Adoption of the docket. Final enrollment. Information received. Local arrangements announcements • Introduction of fraternal guests • Report of Presbytery Review Committee • Report of Permanent Judicial Commission • Report of Administration Committee • Ministry Report: World Outreach • Final report of Nominations Committee and elections • Report of Women's Ministries Committee • Report of Ministerial Vocation Committee • Report of National Outreach Committee • Ministry Report: Student & Young Adult Ministries • Report of Memorials and Appreciation Committee
11:45	Concluding worship and adjournment
12:00	Box lunch (Methodist Church)

The Moderator received as information **Communication 99-16**, dated June 25, 1999, from Rev. Daniel Burns, World Outreach missionary to Kazakhstan. Rev. Burns expressed gratitude for the denominational support given for their recent building program.

Mr. Don Keiser, chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee shared various announcements pertaining to arrangements.

The Moderator invited Marty Guise from Lay Renewal Ministries to briefly address the Assembly. Mr. Guise expressed appreciation for the partnership of the EPC with Lay Renewal Ministries over the years. He highlighted the new program, "Prayer Power Summit." Materials will be mailed to EPC churches.

19-37 ADDITIONAL INTRODUCTION OF FRATERNAL GUESTS

Elder Jim Rimmel introduced Dr. John Carson, president of Erskine College and Seminary and past Moderator of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP), who brought greetings to the Assembly on behalf of the ARP. Dr. Carson outlined the areas of fraternal cooperation in missions, church planting assessment centers and the governing board of Erskine College and Seminary.

19-38 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW

The chairman, Elder Buck Russell, opened the report with prayer. He introduced the stated clerks of the presbyteries and commended them for their dedicated service to the EPC.

Recommendations:

- A. That **Recommendation #36** be adopted "that the Assembly accept the responses of the Presbyteries (including written comments) to the exceptions of the 18th General Assembly" (see pages 207-211). Adopted
- B. That **Recommendation #37** be adopted "that due to continuing non-compliance with the requirement of G.16-27,A.1 and G.15-8,9 for the Ministerial Committee to perform an

annual review of the work of the Ministers of the Word (active, out-of-bounds, inactive, and retired), the Assembly remand this issue to the Presbytery of Florida for immediate correction. The Presbytery, through its Stated Clerk, shall report to the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly immediately following its Fall 1999 meeting regarding its plans to implement the required reporting process" be adopted.

___ *Adopted*

- C. That **Recommendation #38** be adopted "that the Assembly instruct the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic to conduct an annual review of inactive pastors to determine if they should be placed back on the active roll or, if after 5 years, to drop them from the rolls without censure (G.15-8; p. 54 *Procedure Manual*).

___ *Adopted*

(Note: Pages referenced in the following exceptions refer to pages of the certified presbytery minutes.)

- D. That **Recommendation #39** be adopted "that the Assembly approve the minutes of the **Presbytery of the Central South** with the following exceptions:
- No record of session endorsement and no advisor appointed for candidates (44-11 and 45-21) (G.12-2,A and G.12-2.D) (Bristol, Eubank, Land, Masterson, Pekary and Roberts).
 - No indication that congregation approved dissolution of pastoral relationship with David Hicks, David Keyser and David Moncla (45-19) (G.15-2)
 - Three commissions appointed by Presbytery to examine candidates for ordination, however they should have been committees. They made recommendations and did not take action for the Presbytery. Therefore no written report would be required (46-23).
 - No indication that candidates Rufus Smith, Chris Pekary, Brian Land, Adam Roberts and Tom Masterson had preached a sermon (G.13-2) or passed written exams (G.13-2). The commissions to ordain and install them did not include the record of the churches of the commission members (46-23) (G.16-26.B-2.e)." ___ *Adopted*
- E. That **Recommendation #40** be adopted "that the Assembly approve the minutes of the **Presbytery of the East** with the following exceptions:
- For three meetings (52, 53 and 54) there were no unexcused absences reported even though there were absences not approved by the Council (*Rules for Assembly* 8-11, 6-1).
 - There is no record that there was any type of recognition or appreciation for David Hadden upon his retirement (p. 171) (G.15-9).
 - No record of terms of call for John Torres or Rick Stauffer (pp. 171-2) (*Rules for Assembly* 8-11.G-9).
 - No record that a commission was approved to ordain/install John Torres (p. 171) (G-14.1; G.16-26.B.2-a).
 - Moderator does not have authority to appoint a commission (p. 172 Stauffer and p. 177 Winship). Only Presbytery has this authority (G.16-26,B).
 - There is no approved call for Sam Rowen (p. 182, D-3) (G.11-1 and G.11-4).
 - No indication that there was 10-day notice of the called meeting June 26, 1998 and its purpose (G.16-17).
 - No written report from commission appointed to ordain/install John Torres, to install Mike Winship and to install Rick Stauffer (G.16-26.B).

- No record of annual review of active, inactive out-of-bounds or retired ministers (G.16-27,A.1 and p. 54 of *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidate Committees*).
- Terms of call forms have not been utilized (*Acts of the Assembly #98-03*)."

___ *Adopted*

F. That **Recommendation #41** be adopted "that the Assembly approve the minutes of the **Presbytery of Florida** with the following exceptions:

- Commission reports were received but written reports were not inserted in the minutes (24.08 and 26.09) (G.16-26,B)
- The Presbytery does not have the right to drop a person from the roll without censure before the person has been on the inactive roll for 5 years (Henry Braga, 24.15) (G.15-8). The PRC recommends that the Assembly remand this issue to the Presbytery for correction and to restore his membership in the Presbytery.
- Terms of call forms not utilized for Dan Lacich, Bruce Gimbal, Jonathan Tagg and Dave Franklin (26.01, 26.14) (*Acts of the Assembly #98-03*; see attachments 2 & 17 in *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidate Committees*)
- No indication that Tagg, Gimbal or Franklin had successfully passed written examinations (26.14) (G.13-2).
- The moderator is not authorized to appoint or dismiss commissions (26.14, 24.09) (G.16-26,B).
- There is no record that the requirements of G.5-3,B have been met (Cypress Pointe, 26-01).
- There is no record of annual review of the work of the minister (active, inactive, out of bounds and retired) (G.16-27,A.1; G.15-9).
- Terms of call forms have not been utilized (*Acts of the Assembly #98-03*)."

___ *Adopted*

G. That **Recommendation #42** be adopted "that the Assembly approve the minutes of the **Presbytery of Mid-America** with the following exceptions:

- No indication that the called meeting of August 11, 1998 was given 10 days notice and the purpose of the meeting specified (p. 137) (G.16-17).
- Committee chairman does not have authority to change the composition of the committee (p. 138) (G. 16-27.a).
- There is no such designation as "student pastor" (p. 138). Mr. Taylor's status needs to be clarified (G.10-3; G.11-6, 7, 8).
- It is not clear whether Michael Taylor is a candidate for ordination. If so, no approval by Presbytery has been recorded (p. 138) (G.12-2).
- It is not clear whether Brad Buescher is being examined as a candidate for ordination (p. 138; G.13-7) or by transfer (G.13-4, 5). No indication of approval for either ordination or transfer.
- Terms of call forms not utilized (p. 139 Buescher, p. 140 Heyward, p. 145 Werner) (*Acts of the Assembly #98-03*).
- No indication of whether Barney Heyward was examined under G.13-2, 13-4 or 13-5 (p. 139).
- No written commission report to install Doug Graham (p. 140) (G.16-26, B).

- Commission is not properly constituted (p. 143). There was no purpose stated, only 3 members appointed (minimum is 5) with no indication of which churches they represent (G. 16-26,B.2-a).
- No indication that the congregation approved dissolution of pastoral relationships with Tom Ricks (p. 144) or John Splinter (p. 143) (G. 15-2).
- Commission for Trinity Fellowship is improperly constituted (minimum 5 members) (pp. 143, 149) (G. 5-2; G. 16-26,B.2-a).
- No indication that Brad Werner had successfully completed written exams (p. 145; G. 13-2). Call and terms of call not approved by Presbytery (G. 11-7). The commission to ordain/install did not include home churches of commission members (G. 16-26,B.2-e).
- No record of annual review of work of ministers (active, inactive, out of bounds and retired) (G. 16-27,A.1; G. 15-9)."

___Adopted

H. That **Recommendation #43** be adopted "that the Assembly approve the minutes of the **Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic** with the following exceptions:

- No indication that Peter Boswell, Keith Cobb or Grady Davidson had successfully completed the written exams for ordination (29-21; 31-23) (G. 13-2).
- Terms of call forms not used (29.25.1.B, E; 29.25.1.I, Q; 30.21.B) (*Acts of the Assembly #98-03*).
- Home church for commission members not included (G. 16-26,B.2-e).
- Ministerial Committee cannot constitute itself as a commission (29.25, last motion p. 22) (G. 16-27,A.10).
- A committee cannot constitute a commission (29.26.1 & 10; 30.21.1.O). (G. 16-26,B). Presbytery by-laws (Article IV, Section 3 C.b), which allow for the Church Development Committee to form commissions need to be brought into conformity with G. 16-26.
- No indication that the commission formed for the disposition of Christ EPC was appointed by Presbytery (31.13.A.1) (G. 16-26,B).
- The Presbytery to which the inactive member belongs should restore him to the active roll and then transfer him to another Presbytery at their request to receive a valid call (30.21.2) (G. 15-8)."

___Adopted

I. That **Recommendation #44** be adopted "that the Assembly approve the minutes of the **Presbytery of the Midwest** with the following exceptions:

- No indication of which church endorsed the candidacy of Scott Poblentz (p. 88) (G. 12-2,A). No advisor appointed (G. 12-2,D).
- No indication that Herb Frost had successfully passed written exams (p. 89; G. 13-2). No indication that he preached a sermon (G. 13-2), no approval for ordination. Page 186 says he was called to Ward Church; p. 191 says he was called to Immanuel Church.
- Terms of call forms not utilized (p. 90, Reynolds; p. 91, Hicks; p. 223, Brown; p. 224, Mattis) (*Acts of the Assembly #98-03*).
- No record of any recognition or ceremony upon retirement of TE Hugh Gowman (p. 91) (G. 15-9).
- Committees do not have authority to appoint commissions (p. 91, Hicks) (G. 16-26,B).
- No indication that 10 days notice and purpose for a called meeting was provided (p. 116) (G. 16-17).

- No indication of which church endorsed Paul Burr as a candidate for ministry (p. 173) (G.12-2,A).
- There was no motion to approve Douglas Walker for ordination (p. 174). Terms of call form not utilized (*Acts of the Assembly* #98-03).
- No indication of the provision under which Steve Brown was examined (p. 222) (G.13-2, 4 or 5).
- No advisor appointed for James Cupschalk (p. 225) (G.12-2,D).
- Minutes not signed by Moderator (p. 226).
- No annual report of status of retired ministers (G. 15-9).
- No record of review of out of bounds ministers (G.10-3,F).” ___Adopted

J. That **Recommendation #45** be adopted “that the Assembly approve the minutes of the **Presbytery of Southeast** with the following exceptions:

- Reporting of attendance needs to be improved, especially as it pertains to excused and unexcused absences (44-19; 45-19) (*Rules for Assembly* 8-11-G-1).
- The form for the out of bounds call for Cobby Ware is missing.(44-21,45-21) (*Acts of the Assembly* #98-03).
- The assets and church property discussed in 45-11 was not disposed of in accordance G.5-5 (Hope and 1st Presbyterian, Louisville).
- Church Revitalization Committee acting as a commission did not provide a written report of their action to be inserted in the minutes (45-23) (G.16-26,B).
- There is no indication that Dan Gilchrist and Jack Piers were examined by Presbytery, that they responded to questions from the Moderator, that a charge was given to them or that advisors were appointed. (45-21) (G.12-2,C, D).
- Ruling #3 of the Stated Clerk is in error (46-11). Parity is adjusted annually, not whenever the roll of teaching elders changes (G.16-14). Ruling #4 is not clear and should be rewritten (46-11).
- No indication of which EPC church endorsed Alan Wallace as a candidate for ministry (46-12) (G.12-2,A).
- No terms of call or form included for Tommy Jordan (G.11-5,E; *Acts of the Assembly* #98-03).
- No indication that 10 days notice was provided for the called meeting of Dec. 4, 1998 (G.16-17).
- Churches of commission members were not included (46-33) (G.16-26,B.2-e).
- There is no record of annual review of the status of retired ministers (G.15-9).
- At the Dec. 4, 1998 called meeting, the Ministerial Committee was appointed as a Judicial Commission was formed. There is no subsequent written report from the Commission inserted in the minutes (G.16-26,B). As the summary is currently written in the minutes, it is unclear what actions have been taken.” ___Adopted

K. That **Recommendation #46** be adopted “that the Assembly approve the minutes of the **Presbytery of the West** with the following exceptions:

- No indication that Ramona Spilman successfully completed the written exams for ordination (54-10) (G.13-2).
- Many reports not opened in prayer.
- At the June 11, 1998 called meeting the Moderator and Stated Clerk were authorized to appoint an administrative commission. Only the presbytery can appoint commissions (G.16-26,B).

- Attachment 16 to the 56th Stated meeting minutes should have included the Out of Bounds Call Form (Attachment 17, *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees, Acts of the Assembly #98-03*)”

___ Adopted

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

The Stated Clerks responded in song, using the tune of *Jesus Loves Me*. (This song was adapted from the Reformed Church in America's rendition delivered by their Stated Clerks at the 1997 General Synod.)

JESUS LOVES US STATED CLERKS;
WE WORK HARD AND GET NO PERKS.
WHEN OUR LIVES ARE FULL OF STRESS
JESUS LOVES TO BLESS OUR MESS.

JESUS LOVES US ONE AND ALL
IN THE PRESBYTERY TALL.
WE BRING HOPE AS YOU CAN SEE,
WE'RE THE GLUE OF THE EPC.

Refrain:
YES JESUS LOVES US (3 times)
WE'RE GLAD THAT SOMEONE DOES.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

19-39 POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Rev. Don Sweeting & Rev. Brett Garretson, (Cherry Creek Presbyterian, Englewood, CO) made a brief report on the tragedy in Littleton at Columbine High School in April, noting that numerous opportunities for ministry grew out of that experience. The Assembly was led in prayer for the Littleton community and for those directly affected by the shootings.

19-40 REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The PJC moderator, Rev. Harold Polk, opened the report with prayer.

Overtures received:

- A. **Overture 99-B1** (p. 151) from the **Presbytery of the Midwest**, regarding **G.12-2A** was considered and found to be clear, concise and consistent with the rest of the Constitution.
- B. **Overture 99-H** (p. 160) from the **Presbytery of Florida** and **Overture 99-B2** (p. 152) from the **Presbytery of the Midwest** regarding **G.12-2F** were examined and compared. While both are intended to accomplish the same end, the Florida overture was preferred and is recommended to General Assembly.
- C. **Overture 99-F** (p. 157) from the **Presbytery of the Southeast**, concerning **G.11-5F** was reviewed and found to be in order. For purposes of linguistic consistency (use of second person voice), the PJC recommends substituting the word "your" for the word "pastor's" in #8 so that it reads:
 8. Cost of *your* attendance at Presbytery and General Assembly meetings.
 (Note: The original overture makes reference only to the expenses of pastors, not to teaching elders called to other positions.)
- D. **Overture 99-C** (p. 153) from the **Presbytery of Mid-America** to change the form of **G.14-1,A-4** and **14-1,E-4** by printing in bold italics the words "the essentials of the faith"

was examined. (Comments apply likewise to similar **Overture, 99-1**, found on page 161, received from the **Presbytery of the West**.)

While it is clear and concise, its presuppositional foundation is deemed seriously flawed. It assumes that the adoption of this proposal would “return the *Book of Order* to its original form.” The 18th General Assembly accepted the report of the permanent Committee on Theology which included a detailed historical analysis of the language of these crucial ordination vows by the Stated Clerk which concluded that the original form of the *Book of Order* is not that sought by this overture.

Overture 99-G (p. 158) from the **Presbytery of Florida**, relating to the status of retired ministers, was considered and found to be clear, concise and consistent with other constitutional documents.

E. Request for interpretation (G.16-27B.1)

The Commission acted on a request referred by the Stated Clerk and received from the Central South Presbytery (see page 204) on the constitutionality of certain actions of that presbytery. The actions referred to involved the adoption of the following:

“That ordination or transfer from other presbyteries or denominations normally be to the pastoral office in the local church, to the office of evangelist and church planter (in our presbytery or on the foreign field), to military, hospital and other chaplaincies, to administrative office in the courts of the church, or to seminary professorship where students are being trained for pastoral ministries.

That members of the presbytery who desire to transfer within the bounds of presbytery to a ministry not described in #1 above will, upon request, be placed on ‘inactive status’ upon presbytery approval. He may remain on ‘active status’ as a ‘minister without call’ for up to one year after the dissolution of the previous call.

That presbytery members currently serving out of bounds submit annual reports of their ministries so that their status can be renewed annually by the presbytery. Those not qualifying under #1 above will be placed on the inactive roll, unless a one-year extension as a ‘minister without call’ is requested by the member and granted by the presbytery.”

The PJC studied presbytery action in light of G.10-3 and G.11-12 and offers the following interpretation: “That these actions are contrary to the Constitution on the following grounds:

- Presbyteries are not permitted to be more restrictive than the *Book of Order* and cannot deny what the Constitution requires. Action #1 lists valid ministries and includes a ‘seminary professorship.’ The *Book of Government* (10-3B) states ‘A Minister may be called to teach in a seminary, college, or some other school.’ Action #1 invalidates what the Constitution validates.
- These actions virtually eliminate ‘out of bounds’ ministries as defined in the *Book of Government* (10-3F and 11-12).” ___Adopted

ON MOTION the above matter was remanded to the Presbytery of the Central South for correction

- F. A request for interpretation of the *Book of Government*, received from the Ministerial Vocation Committee (see page 206), was referred by the Assembly Stated Clerk. It relates to the status of "missionaries serving totally under the auspices of the EPC and with ministers serving in administration in one of the courts of our Church" and the common practice of regarding such as being "out of bounds." The Commission studied G.10-3 which defines certain callings and offered the following interpretation:

"That the ministers about whose work the clarification was sought do not qualify as those laboring out of bounds but should be on the Active Rolls (ministers with calls) of their presbyteries." (G.10-3)

ON MOTION the Assembly sustained the interpretation of the PJC (above) concerning ministers.

- G. The Commission, authorized by the *Book of Government* to initiate its own proposed changes in the Constitution, recommends the following:

"That the words of G.10-3C 'outside the bounds of the Presbytery' be changed to 'outside the geographical bounds of the Presbytery.'" ___ *Adopted*

Advice: The Permanent Judicial Commission strongly encourages that presbyteries submitting overtures use the resources of the General Assembly (particularly the Stated and Assistant Clerks) to verify the clarity and syntax of their proposals before the final votes of the presbytery.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

19-41 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

The chairman, Elder Bill Johns, opened the report with prayer. (See page 72 for complete report of the assembly committee.)

I. Business Referred to Committee:

- A. Recommendation #1
- B. Recommendation #2
- C. Recommendation #3
- D. Recommendation #5
- E. Recommendation #6
- F. Recommendation #7
- G. Recommendation #8
- H. Overture #99-J
- I. Communication #99-2
- J. Communications #99-5, #99-6, #99-7
- K. Communication #99-8
- L. Minutes of the permanent committee dated November 5-6, 1998, February 23, 1999 and April 8-9, 1999.

II. Recommendations:

- A. That Recommendation #1 be adopted "that the invitation of Cornerstone EPC, Brighton Michigan to host the 23rd (2003) General Assembly be accepted." (Cf. Communication 99-2) ___ *Adopted*

- B. That **Recommendation #2** to adopt the Proposed 2000 Administration Budget for \$1,088,000 (p. 115) be adopted. ___ *Adopted*

The assembly committee recommended, in addition, “that, if necessary, the Proposed 2000 Administration Budget be adjusted to provide the necessary funds, not to exceed \$40,000, as a contingency for the Stated Clerk Search Committee in order to accomplish its responsibility which may include hiring a consultant to identify and/or process candidates.” ___ *Adopted*

- C. That **Recommendation #3** to adopt the Proposed 2000 Benevolence Askings Budget for \$464,000 (p. 116) be adopted. ___ *Adopted*

- D. That **Recommendation #5** be adopted as follows:
 “Whereas the Evangelical Presbyterian Church encourages the use of inclusive language in all references to humanity at large, it recommends that Act 85-01 of the General Assembly be amended by deleting the present wording and substituting the proposed wording:

Present wording	Proposed wording
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.’ (<i>Minutes, 5-25</i>)	All heads of committees, boards, agencies or commissions, whether male or female, shall be designated as ‘chair.’

Motion to refer the recommendation to the Permanent Judicial Commission for an evaluation of its constitutionality was not adopted.

Note: In the course of debate, commissioners raised concerns over the broader implications of the grounds for **Recommendation #5** and also the need for sensitivity toward female teaching and ruling elders. ___ *Not adopted*

- E. That **Recommendation #6** be adopted “that the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* in Article I by substituting the proposed wording for the present Section 1-2, viz., “The place of meeting shall be rotated...” be adopted:

Present wording	Proposed wording
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.	1-2 The place of meeting shall be rotated among the various areas of the church as much as practical. Any Presbytery or church of Presbytery that desires to entertain the General Assembly shall forward an invitation to the Stated Clerk no later than three years before the preceding Assembly. If two or more Presbyteries or churches submit invitations to host the General Assembly for the same year, the Committee on Administration

	<p>will submit a recommendation to the General Assembly naming the host church or Presbytery. The Committee on Administration will make its recommendation based on the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capability to host, i.e., availability of housing, costs, travel arrangements, committee meeting rooms, availability of food service for breaks and meals, space for exhibitors and General Assembly staff, and local transportation. Priority will be given to the Presbytery or church which has never hosted a General Assembly or which hosted General Assembly the greatest number of years ago.
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Grounds: Item (a) insures that information regarding the capability of a host is clearly defined. Item (b) insures a fair response to those interesting in hosting an Assembly.

— *Adopted*

- F. That **Recommendation #7** be adopted “that the General Assembly amend its *Rules for Assembly* in section X as follows:
- by substituting in §4-2, ‘To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year.’
 - by substituting in §4-3, ‘To name from the commissioners to the Assembly, using all resources including available computer technology, those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.’
 - by adding a section 4-4 to read, ‘The committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.’”

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>X. 4-2 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.</p>	<p>X.4-2 To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year.</p>

Present wording	Proposed wording
X. 4-3 To name from the commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.	X. 4-3 To name from the commissioners to the Assembly using all resources including available computer technology, those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<i>No section 4-4 currently exists.</i>	X.4-4 The committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.

The Assembly considered *seriatim* the three components of this recommendation.

- a. That the *Rules for Assembly* be amended in Section X by substituting in §4-2, “To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year” be adopted.

Grounds: This change would insure that Sessions and Presbyteries are informed of their members whose names are being submitted to the Nominating Committee.

___ *Adopted*

- b. That the *Rules for Assembly* be amended in Section X by substituting in §4-3, “To name from the commissioners to the Assembly, using all resources including available computer technology, those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly” not be adopted.

Grounds: The present wording is simple and does not restrict resources.

___ *Adopted*

- c. That the *Rules for Assembly* be amended in Section X by adding a section §4-4 to read, “The committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees” be adopted.

Grounds: This provision will expedite the work of the Nominating Committee.

___ *Adopted*

- G. That **Recommendation #8** be adopted “that a denomination-wide Thanksgiving Offering be taken in 1999 and that such be designated to National Outreach for the San Antonio church planting project.”

___ *Adopted*

- H. **Overture 99-J** from the Presbytery of the West “to reconsider mandatory enrollment of teaching elders in the EPC Health Insurance Plan” was considered in a prior session of the Assembly (cf. §19-21, p. 35).

- I. **Communications #99-5, #99-6, and #99-7** from the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability (ECFA) were received as information.

- J. That **Communication #99-8** (p. 137) from the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability relative to its field review of EPC financial records be received as information, and that its recommendation on (a) retaining an auditor and (b) combining pension plan and church financial data be referred to the permanent Committee on Administration.

The assembly committee commended the members of the permanent Committee on Administration for their dedicated work during the past year.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted, including the minutes of the permanent committee, with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

19-42 MINISTRY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

Director of World Outreach, Richard Oestreicher, opened the report with prayer. New missionaries, Juan and Adriana Singh were interviewed as to their backgrounds and ministry. Adriana is the daughter and sister of EPC missionaries Miguel and Azucena Robles and Marcelo Robles, making World Outreach missions a real family affair. The Singhs are the parents of two young daughters. Their field of ministry will be the Hispanic community in Jackson, Mississippi.

19-43 FINAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The chairman, Rev. Buck Oliphant, opened the final report with prayer.

ON MOTION the slate of nominees to the permanent committees was elected.

COMMITTEE	CLASS	NOMINEE	PRESBYTERY
Administration	2002	Rev. Willard Davis Elder John Adamson Rev. Harold K. Polk, Jr.	East Central South Midwest
	2001	Elder Mark Sharpnack	East
Christian Education & Publications	2002	Sandy Hazelwood Rev. David Ruff	Central South Mid-Atlantic
	2001	Rev. David Todd	Central South
Fraternal Relations	2002	Elder Paul Heidebrecht Rev. Ed Randal	Mid-America West
Ministerial Vocation	2002	Elder John Allman Rev. Mark Jumper	Mid-Atlantic Florida
	2000	Elder Jim Cantey	Central South
National Outreach	2002	Elder William Bumford Rev. Wayne Hoffman Elder Carolyn Nystrom	Midwest Mid-America Mid-America
Presbytery Review	2002	Rev. George Woodcock	Midwest
	2000	Elder Buck Russell	West
Student & Young Adult Ministries	2002	Sonny Flowers Elder Smokey Ridgley	Mid-Atlantic West
Theology	2002	Rev. Mike Glodo Elder Robert Warburton	Florida Mid-America

Women's Ministries	2002	Anne Blackley Susie McQueen	Mid-Atlantic West
	2001	Sue Smith	Southeast
World Outreach	2002	Elder Robert Healy Rev. Jeffrey Chadwick Elder Rister Jenkins	Midwest Mid-Atlantic Mid-Atlantic
	2001	Rev. Phil Linton	Midwest
Board of Pension and Benefits	2002	Elder John Baird Elder Orin Littlejohn	Midwest Central South
Permanent Judicial Commission	2002	Elder Evelyn Cisney Rev. Darryl "Bud" Sparling Elder Barry Smith	West West Southeast

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

ON MOTION Elder Orin Littlejohn was elected chairman of the Board of Pension and Benefits, as nominated by the Moderator (Cf. **Communication 99-1**, p. 128).

19-44 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The chairman, Rev. Ramona Spilman, opened the report with prayer. (See page 90 for complete report of the assembly committee.)

- I. Business referred to committee:
 - A. **Recommendation #29**
 - B. **Minutes** of the permanent committee of October 5-6, 1998 and February 1-2, 1999
- II. Recommendations:
 - A. That **Recommendation #29** be adopted "that the General Assembly adopt the proposed revision of the Women's Ministries Constitution" *as amended* (cf. italics):

Constitution for EPC Women's Ministries	<i>Suggested Constitution for Local Church EPC Women's Ministries</i>
<p>Article I: Name This organization shall be known as: Women's Ministries of _____ Church, Presbytery of _____, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p>	<p>Article I: Name This organization shall be known as: Women's Ministries of _____ Church, Presbytery of _____, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p>
<p>Article II: Statement of Faith and Purpose We subscribe to the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The foundation paragraph of this statement of faith is given here: All Scripture is self-attesting, and being</p>	<p>Article II: Faith and Purpose <i>We affirm our document, "The Essentials of Our Faith." The foundation paragraph of this document follows:</i> All Scripture is self-attesting, and being Truth, requires our unreserved submission in all areas of life The</p>

<p>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 to God's redemptive acts, culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.</p> <p><u>Statement of Purpose</u> Ephesians 4:12 "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for edifying of the Body of Christ...."</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>infallible Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is a complete and unified witness to God's redemptive acts, culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.</p> <p><u>Statement of Purpose</u> Ephesians 4:12 "For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for edifying of the Body of Christ . . ."</p> <p><i>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, develop and share their God-given gifts for works of service. Central to the purpose of 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.</i></p>
<p>Article III: Membership The membership of Women's Ministries shall be open to all women of the church. No formal membership is necessarily required for participation</p>	<p>Article III: Membership The membership of Women's Ministries shall be open to all women of the church. <i>No formal membership is necessarily required for participation.</i></p>
<p>Article IV: Leadership The leadership of Women's Ministries shall be members of the local church. Leadership shall be structured according to the needs and preferences of the local church.</p> <p>Examples are: 1. A Coordinator serving over committees such as Spiritual Nurture, Missions, Special Events, Service. 2. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Program Chair. 3. Director of Women's Ministries in conjunction with a Coordinating Council</p>	<p>Article IV: Leadership The leadership of Women's Ministries shall be members of the local church. Leadership shall be structured according to the needs and preferences of the local church.</p> <p>Examples <i>may include but are not limited to:</i> 1. A Coordinator serving over committees such as Spiritual Nurture, Missions, Special Events, Service. 2. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Program Chair.</p>

<p>initiating and overseeing the various ministries of a larger church.</p>	<p>3. Director of Women's Ministries in conjunction with a Coordinating Council initiating and overseeing the various ministries of a larger church.</p>
<p>Article V: Denomination Representation and Participation Churches shall encourage women to participate in presbytery and national programming including retreats, General Assemblies, and national conferences to build and enrich connectional relationships.</p>	<p>Article V: Denomination Representation and Participation <i>Local church Women's Ministries should encourage women to participate in presbytery and national programming including retreats, General Assemblies, and national conferences to build and enrich connectional relationships.</i></p>
<p>Article VI: Relationships Women's Ministries shall be under the jurisdiction of the local church Session.</p> <p>Women's Ministries will maintain a relationship of mutual support and concern with the EPC at the presbytery at General Assembly levels.</p>	<p>Article VI: Relationships <i>Local Women's Ministries shall be under the jurisdiction of the local church Session.**</i></p> <p><i>(Delete remainder of proposed revision.)</i></p>
<p>Article VII: Finances The local work of Women's Ministries may be financed through regular pledges, voluntary offerings, church budget, and/or fundraising as approved by the session.</p>	<p>Article VII: Finances The local work of Women's Ministries may be financed through regular pledges, voluntary offerings, church budget, and/or fundraising as approved by the session.</p>
<p>Article VIII: Meetings Meetings may be scheduled as desired and needed by the women of the individual congregations.</p>	<p>Article VIII: Meetings Meetings may be scheduled as desired and needed. <i>(Delete remainder of proposed revision.)</i></p>
<p>Article IX: Amendments This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of the permanent Committee on Women's Ministries. It will then be submitted for approval at General Assembly.</p>	<p>Article IX: Amendments This Constitution may be <i>accepted, rescinded or amended by a simple majority of Women's Ministry participants who are also members of the local church.</i></p>
<p>Article X: Parliamentary Authority <i>Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised</i>, shall be the parliamentary authority in matters not addressed in this Constitution.</p>	<p>Article X: Parliamentary Authority <i>Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised</i>, shall be the parliamentary authority in matters not addressed in this Constitution.</p>

Footnotes:

* "Local church" refers to both the particular churches and mission churches.

** "Session" includes local church sessions and applicable governing body over mission churches. Adopted

The assembly committee commended the members of the permanent committee for their outstanding work this year and will partner in prayer with them for their forthcoming Prayer Summit in Kazakhstan as well as the National Women's Conference in Virginia Beach.

The committee suggested that in the future, prior to publishing and distributing a document of this nature to the leadership of Women's Ministries or to local churches, the permanent committee present the document to the assembly committee for review.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted, including minutes of the permanent committee, with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

19-45 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION

The chairman, Rev. Cooper McWhirter, opened the report with prayer. (See page 79 for complete report of assembly committee.)

I. Business referred to committee:

- A. Overture 99-B1
- B. Overture 99-B2
- C. Overture 99-F
- D. Overture 99-G
- E. Overture 99-H
- F. Recommendation # 18
- G. Recommendation # 19
- H. Recommendation # 20
- I. Recommendation # 21
- J. Recommendation # 22
- K. Recommendation # 23
- L. Recommendation # 24 (with World Outreach Committee)
- M. Recommendation # 30 (with World Outreach Committee)
- N. Minutes of the permanent committee dated October 23-24, 1998 and March 11-12, 1999

II. Recommendations

- A. That **Overture 99-B1** from the Midwest Presbytery to amend **G. 12-2A** not be adopted:

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>12-2A. A person desiring to become an ordained Minister shall first become a Candidate under the care of the Presbytery of which that person's church is a member. That person begins this process by receiving the endorsement of the particular Church Session where the person's membership has been held for at least six months. When the particular</p>	<p>12-2A. A person desiring to become an ordained Minister shall first become a Candidate under the care of the Presbytery of which that person's church is a member. That person begins this process by receiving the endorsement of the particular Church Session where the person's membership has been held. for <u>at least six months.</u> <i>The membership</i></p>

Church Session has approved the Candidate, application shall be made to the appropriate Committee of Presbytery."	<i>must have been held for at least six months at either the endorsing church and/or a recognized Reformed church.</i> When the particular Church Session has approved the Candidate, application shall be made to the appropriate Committee of Presbytery."
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___ *Adopted*

- B. That **Overture 99-B2** from the Midwest Presbytery to amend G.12-2F not be adopted (changes noted in italics).

Present wording	Proposed wording
12-2F. After being under the care of a Presbytery for a minimum of one year, the Candidate may request transfer to another Presbytery. Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care for a minimum of one year prior to ordination.	12-2F. After being under the care of a Presbytery for a minimum of one year, the Candidate may request transfer to another Presbytery. Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care <i>of a Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and/or another recognized Reformed church</i> for a minimum of one year prior to ordination.

___ *Adopted*

Grounds for recommending rejection of both **Overture 99-B1 and 2:**

The intention of the current process is to establish a rapport and relationship between the Session, Presbytery, and candidate in order to accurately assess calling, competency, character, and compatibility. Certainly there are instances wherein expediency may be in order, yet given that this one-year requirement for candidacy already may be waived leaving only a six-month membership requirement, we believe that to further diminish the time requirements to less than 6 months is ill-advised.

- C. That **Overture 99-F** from the Southeast Presbytery be adopted to amend G.11-5F (the terms of call for a minister) by adding as new number eight (8) the following:

8. "Cost of pastor's attendance at Presbytery and General Assembly meetings." and further, that the current number "8" be renumbered "9."

___ *Adopted*

- D. That **Overture 99-G** from the Florida Presbytery be adopted to amend G.15 as follows:
9. Delete from G.15-9 the following sentence:

A Minister who is so retired remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery.

Present wording	Proposed wording
15-9 The retirement of a Minister: A Minister may request Presbytery to be placed on the Retired Roll of Presbytery due to age, infirmity, or other debilitating condition. If the Presbytery concurs, a service of appreciation and thanksgiving-	15-9 The retirement of a Minister: A Minister may request Presbytery to be placed on the Retired Roll of Presbytery due to age, infirmity, or other debilitating condition. If the Presbytery concurs, a service of appreciation and thanksgiving

<p>ing should be conducted, either at the meeting of Presbytery or at the place of service of the retiring Minister. Ordinarily, Presbytery shall appoint a special Commission to conduct this service and a record of it inserted in the minutes of the Presbytery. A Minister who is so retired remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery. The Presbytery shall be responsible for making an annual review of its retired members to be sure of their welfare and to rectify any deficiencies. Such annual review shall be reported to the court and recorded in its minutes.</p>	<p>should be conducted, either at the meeting of Presbytery or at the place of service of the retiring Minister. Ordinarily, Presbytery shall appoint a special Commission to conduct this service and a record of it inserted in the minutes of the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall be responsible for making an annual review of its retired members to be sure of their welfare and to rectify any deficiencies. Such annual review shall be reported to the court and recorded in its minutes.</p>
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2. Create a new section G.15-10 as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><i>No Section 15-10 currently exists.</i></p>	<p>G.15-10 Retired Ministers: A Minister who is retired according to the provision of G.15-9 remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery. A retired Minister who does not participate in the life of the Presbytery by attending at least one stated meeting during a calendar year, may be placed on Inactive Status at the discretion of the Presbytery. After at least one year, the retired Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to Active Status. The Presbytery shall make the determination based on the Minister's participation in the meetings of the Presbytery and need not require a specific call to be restored to Active Status. A retired Minister on Inactive Status shall not be removed from the Presbytery rolls for that cause and is to be afforded the same pastoral care as retired Ministers on Active Status.</p>

3. Amend G.15-8 by inserting the words "who is not retired" after the word "Minister" in paragraph 2 and after the words "Inactive Status" in paragraph 3 as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>15-8 (2nd and 3rd paragraphs only) When the Minister has been without approved call for a period of one year, the Ministerial Committee will confer with the Minister as to his continued sense of call and his expectations for future ministry. The committee will then recommend to the Presbytery whether the Minister should remain on Active Status in the Presbytery or be placed on Inactive Status. The Presbytery, at its discretion and after judicious consideration, may place the Minister on the Inactive Status Roll involuntarily provided the vote to do so is by a two-thirds majority.</p> <p>A limit shall be placed on the time during which a Minister on Inactive Status shall remain on the roll of Presbytery, the limit being five years. After five years, the Presbytery has the right to drop that person from the roll without censure.</p>	<p>15-8 (2nd and 3rd paragraphs only) When the Minister <i>who is not retired</i> has been without approved call for a period of one year, the Ministerial Committee will confer with the Minister as to his continued sense of call and his expectations for future ministry. The committee will then recommend to the Presbytery whether the Minister should remain on Active Status in the Presbytery or be placed on Inactive Status. The Presbytery, at its discretion and after judicious consideration, may place the Minister on the Inactive Status Roll involuntarily provided the vote to do so is by a two-thirds majority.</p> <p>A limit shall be placed on the time during which a Minister on Inactive Status <i>who is not retired</i> shall remain on the roll of Presbytery, the limit being five years. After five years, the Presbytery has the right to drop that person from the roll without censure.</p>

___Adopted

- E. That **Overture 99-H** from the Florida Presbytery not be adopted to amend G.12-2F by adding the following sentences:

If an individual has been under the care of another Reformed church for at least one year and the Presbytery can determine that that body has exercised due care over that individual and sufficient knowledge of that individual can be obtained to assure the Presbytery of the individual's fitness for ministry, that period of care under that Reformed body may be counted as all or part of the individual's satisfaction of requirements for being under care in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In such a case, the individual may be received immediately under care upon joining an EPC church or be immediately eligible for examination as a candidate."

Grounds: See grounds cited for Overture 99-B1 and B2 on page 62.

___Adopted

- F. That **Recommendation #18** be adopted "that the General Assembly grant the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee an additional year to complete its study on the feasibility, effectiveness, and benefits of a periodic sabbatical for teaching elders."

___Adopted

- G. That **Recommendation #19** be adopted "that the General Assembly grant the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee an additional year to complete its project to recommend guidelines for performance evaluation and feedback for the pastor's annual review by the Session."

___Adopted

- H. That **Recommendation #20** be adopted that “regarding requests for guidance for out of bounds calls, the MVC recommends the adoption of the following recommendation and its addition to the appropriate sections of the *Procedure Manual*:
- Presbyteries give due attention to G.10-3F, that Presbyteries be fully satisfied that each calling reflects the centrality of the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and is consistent with the variety of callings within the office of minister (G.10-3 A-F); and that
 - Presbyteries make diligent annual use of the form ‘Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery.’ The call to a validated ministry outside the bounds of Presbytery should not be renewed when it is determined that the member’s calling is not consistent with the ministry of the Word and Sacrament; and that
 - Presbytery members who desire to transfer within the bounds of Presbytery to a calling not consistent with the ministry of Word and Sacrament should not be approved; and that
 - When an out of bounds call is not approved, and the Minister persists in that call, the procedures in G.15-8 apply.
- ___ *Adopted*

- I. That **Recommendation #21** be adopted that “regarding the possibilities of legal liabilities of those currently serving out of bounds, we recommend, on advice of counsel, that the following be added to the *Procedure Manual*:
- ‘Ministers laboring out of bounds are by definition ‘serving outside the authority of a court of the church’ (G.10-3F), and ‘outside the structures of the Church (G.11-12). Therefore, they serve under the ecclesiastical but not the legal authority of the EPC. They cannot, therefore, act as an agent of the EPC in the legal sense. They cannot exercise any authority to bind the EPC to any contracts or agreements, nor can they commit the EPC to fulfill any other legal obligations.
 - Because Ministers laboring out of bounds will be ‘serving outside the authority of a court of the Church’ (G.10-3F) and ‘outside the structures of the Church (G.11-12), they will be employed by the calling agency, not by the EPC. They will not be subject to the supervision of the EPC with respect to time, place or manner of ministry. Any financial relationship or legal accountability regarding their ministry will be undertaken solely through the calling agency. Accountability to the EPC relates solely to spiritual and ecclesiastical matters.
 - The regulations of the IRS state that eligibility to claim any special tax benefits or privileges available to the Minister of the gospel under federal law may be jeopardized if any of the following apply to your ministry:
 - The calling agency did not arrange with the EPC for the Minister’s services.
 - The Minister performs services for the calling agency that other employees of the calling agency who are not Ministers are performing.
 - The Minister performs the same services before and after obtaining permission from the EPC to labor out of bounds.’”
- ___ *Adopted*

A commissioner raised a concern that other parts of the *Procedural Manual* are inconsistent with this recommendation. A letter has been forwarded to the chairman of the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation recommending that the attorneys first recommending these policies consult the whole *Procedural Manual* and that the policies be communicated to those serving out of bounds and to their calling agencies. The Moderator directed that the Minutes reflect that the Assembly understands that the commissioner’s intent will be carried out.

- J. That **Recommendations #22 & 23** "that the General Assembly endorse the following guidelines recommended by MVC and the COA for denominational military chaplains" be adopted as amended, substituting "leadership of" for "participation in" and deleting the word "Protestant" so the amended statement shall read as follows:

'While our chaplains are encouraged to exercise their ministry in the Armed Forces with the maximum of collegiality in cooperation with persons of varying beliefs, the EPC does not approve joint leadership of a worship service with persons representing faith groups outside the historic Christian tradition, as defined by the Apostles' Creed.'

Grounds: Protestant military chaplains are often lumped by their military commanders with any religious group that is not Catholic or Jewish. The combined Recommendations #22 and #23 allows EPC chaplains to set parameters on the types of worship services they are allowed to lead. This recommendation speaks only to leading worship services as defined in the *Book of Worship*, chapter 2, and does not relate to other ceremonial events. ___Adopted

- K. **Recommendation #24** and **Recommendation #30**, jointly considered with the World Outreach Committee, were presented in a prior session. (See §19-31, p. 42).

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted, including the minutes of the permanent committee, with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

19-46 REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

The chairman, Elder Dexter Kuhlman, offered prayer prior to presenting the committee's report. (See page 84 for full report of the assembly committee.)

I. Business Referred to the Committee:

- A. **Communication 99-3**
- B. **Recommendation #4**
- C. **Recommendations #25**
- D. **Recommendation #26**
- E. **Minutes** of permanent committee dated October 8-10, 1998 and March 25-27, 1999

II. Recommendations:

- A. That **Recommendation #4** be adopted "that the common boundaries of the Mid-America and Midwest Presbyteries be redrawn so that the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin are moved from the Midwest Presbytery to the Mid-America Presbytery." (Cf. **Communication 99-3**, p. 130.) ___Adopted
- B. That **Recommendation #25** be adopted "that the **National Outreach Master Plan**, Strategic Area #4, be amended by adding the following sentence: "*Urban ministry is providing hope by turning our hearts and extending our hands to the poor in urban centers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ*" so that the section reads:

"To transform urban centers by establishing churches and adding existing urban ministries to impact their communities for Christ. Urban ministry is providing hope by turning our hearts and extending our hands to the poor in urban centers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Journal

Grounds: NOC believes "urban ministry" needs to be defined in this way.

___ Adopted

- D. That **Recommendation #26** be adopted "that the NOC be given a one-year extension of the 18th General Assembly's action to respond to Overture 98-B, 'that the NOC be instructed to develop a provision for national home missions, and to present that plan to the 19th General Assembly.'"

Grounds: Without a National Outreach Director until April, 1999, the NOC has not been able to accomplish this.

___ Adopted

- E. The assembly committee also recommended "that the National Outreach Committee develop a plan for financial support of church planting and report same to the General Assembly in 2000."

___ Adopted

The assembly committee commended the permanent committee, Rev. Bill Meyer, Director of National Outreach and Rev. Rodger Woodworth, NOC chairman, for the quality and quantity of work completed in the past assembly year and for the scope of plans and work planned for the next year.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted, including the minutes of the permanent committee, with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

19-47 REPORT OF MEMORIALS AND APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Before the formal report was given, Rev. Mark Jumper added a memorial from the floor in response to the tragic killings at Columbine High School in Littleton Colorado in April.

Whereas, Cassie Bernall was a member of the West Bowles Community Church, an EPC congregation; and

Whereas, Miss Bernall died as a result of her clear testimony to her belief in God; and
Whereas, Miss Bernall, since her conversion, lived a humble life in Christ of discipleship, growth and testimony; and

Whereas, Miss Bernall's death brought particularly public glory to the cause of Christ and His church;

Therefore, the 19th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

1. *Gives praise to God that His glory was increased in the midst of an evil event; and*
2. *Gives thanks to God for the life of Cassie Bernall, with further thanks that she has joined the ranks of the Church Triumphant as a martyr for Christ, faithful in life and faithful until death (Rev. 2:10); and*
3. *Commends the West Bowles Community Church in its ministry and all our congregations which ministered in the wake of the Littleton tragedy; and*
4. *Commends the example of Miss Bernall's life and death as a source of encouragement to all our members, with all the Body of Christ as we wait to receive with Cassie the crown of life.*

Copies of this memorial will be sent to the Bernall family and West Bowles Community Church.

The chairman of the Memorials and Appreciation Committee, Elder Bob Healy, then opened his report with prayer. The 19th General Assembly remembers with gratitude those ministers

and ruling elders who died during the Assembly year.

NAME	CHURCH & CITY/STATE	DATE OF DEATH	YEARS OF SERVICE
Elder Guillermo Barrientos	Temperley Church Buenos Aires, Argentina	August, 1998	(unknown)
Elder David Blalock	Cornerstone EPC, Daytona Beach, FL	January 8, 1998	7
Elder L. Thomas Bowen, Sr.	Brainerd Presbyterian, Chattanooga, TN	April 11, 1999	4
Elder Byron Stanley Campbell	North Park EPC, Wexford, PA	September 5, 1998	2
Elder Winthrop R. "Wink" Corey	Central Presbyterian, St. Louis, MO	January 1, 1999	15
Elder Ted Dodasovich	Covenant Presbyterian, Ann Arbor, MI	March 22, 1999	(unknown)
Elder Perry Dunlap	Trinity Presbyterian, Plymouth, MI	April 28, 1999	2
Elder Gene Frazier	Louisville EPC, Louisville, MS	April 17, 1998	12
Elder Charles Graham	Faith Presbyterian, Aurora, CO	May 15, 1999	1
Elder Wilbert S. Greb	North Park EPC, Wexford, PA	January 24, 1999	2
Elder Frank Jemison, Sr.	Second Presbyterian, Memphis, TN	February 22, 1999	37
Elder Bobbie Mackie	Quilmes Church Buenos Aires, Argentina	August, 1998	(unknown)
Elder Robert C. Mare	Central Presbyterian, St. Louis, MO	September 2, 1998	(unknown)
Elder Royal Clarence ("Mac") McConnell	Westminster Presbyter- ian, Bluefield, WV	September 14, 1998	29
Rev. Armour McFarland	Retired Holland, MI	January 15, 1999	(unknown)
Rev. Bruce Ogle	Trinity EP Fellowship, Newark, OH	August 2, 1998	23 (9 mos. EPC)
Rev. William Robertson	City Church, Buenos Aires, Argentina	July 15, 1998	(unknown)
Elder Clark B. Smith	Santa Maria Community Santa Maria, CA	January 12, 1999	16
Rev. Robert Thomas	Retired, Phoenix, AZ	September 30, 1998	(unknown)
Elder Leo Thurston	Faith Presbyterian Aurora, CO	May 29, 1998	9

Elder Theodore "Ted" Turner, Jr.	Second Presbyterian, Memphis, TN	August 6, 1998	22
Elder Carl Zinner	Faith Presbyterian, Aurora, CO	August 17, 1998	3

We wish to thank Rev. Richard Wade, Chancel Choir and orchestra, accompanists and worship leaders of our host church for an outstanding and inspiring service on Wednesday evening, which did much to strengthen our sense of family within our denomination, and for their beautiful contributions to each of our services.

We also want to express our appreciation to Dr. Bill Flannagan and his staff and congregation for exemplifying the epitome of Southern hospitality in hosting this 19th General Assembly and for the use of their beautiful facilities. Thank you to the countless volunteers who were present to greet us, direct us, feed us, drive us, and answer our questions with competence and cheerfulness. A very special note of gratitude goes to those faithful prayer warriors who have been in continual prayer during the entire Assembly. A special thank you to Rev. Mark Sargeant and the congregation of the First Methodist Church for the use of their church for our breakfasts and lunches as well as for the World Outreach dinner. We want to give particular thanks for the co-chairmen of the Local Arrangements Committee, Don Keiser and Hugh Burnes, the following coordinators for various aspects of arrangements, and for all of those who served so diligently and faithfully to keep the Assembly running smoothly:

Barry Smith: Team Manager	Audio-Visual: Jim Holcomb
Prayer Ministry: John Graham	Housing: Sue Smith
Hospitality: Tom and Susie Manning	Facilities: Jim Harrington
Music: Richard Wade	GA Office: Tom Mayes
Transportation: Keith Finley	Registration: Herschel Stalvey
Luncheons (Pastors' Wives): Joyce Flannagan, Kim Jackson	Luncheons (Women's Ministries) and Tours: Katey Temple
Local Office: Charlie Kimbrell	Children: Jane Doss, Susan Smith
Food Services: Harvey Keiser, Jean Ward, Mary Taylor, Carol Lawton	Youth: Browning Wood
First Aid: Tom and Martha Mayes	Rooms & Signs: Bill Irmischer
Decorating: Jan Irmischer	

We especially appreciate the work of Stated Clerk Ed Davis, Assistant to the Stated Clerk, Ed McCallum; the Moderators past and present, Recording Clerks Marc Huebl, Bob Garment and Russ Ragon as well as keynote speaker Paul Cedar, and luncheon speaker Judy Reamer. Thanks also go to pre-assembly workshop panel members Bartlett Hess, Michael Glodo, Jim Dixon and Robert Norris. We also express our appreciation to the chairmen and recording clerks of the standing committees and their members, as well as to all of the General Assembly staff for the fine work they do the entire year.

Last of all we want to thank our Lord, Jesus Christ for the salvation He has so freely provided for us, and for bringing us into that part of His body which we call the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

*Journal***19-48 ADJOURNMENT**

With praise, prayer, and benediction, at 12:15 P.M. the Moderator adjourned the court to the 20th General Assembly meeting at Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville, Michigan June 22-24, 2000.

19-49 CLOSING WORSHIP

The Assembly joined in singing *Rise Up, O Church of God* followed by the benediction by the Moderator, Rev. James McGuire.

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Report of the Administration Committee

Assembly Committee
19th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman Bill Johns on Thursday, June 24, 1999. Ed Randal served as recording clerk. The committee convened two times during the Assembly.

A. BUSINESS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

1. Recommendation #1
2. Recommendation #2 and #2A
3. Recommendation #3
4. Recommendation #5
5. Recommendation #6
6. Recommendation #7
7. Recommendation #8
8. Overture #99-J
9. Communication #99-2
10. Communications #99-5, #99-6, #99-7
11. Communications #99-8
12. Minutes of the permanent committee of November 5-6, 1998, and April 8-9, 1999, and a telephone conference call meeting on February 23, 1999.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Recommendation #1, "that the invitation of Cornerstone EPC, Brighton, Michigan, to host the 23rd (2003) General Assembly," be adopted.
2. That Recommendation #2, "that the Proposed 2000 Administration Budget for \$1,088,000," be adopted.
- 2A. "That, if necessary, the Proposed 2000 Administration Budget be adjusted to provide the necessary funds, not to exceed \$40,000 as a contingency for the Stated Clerk Search Committee in order to accomplish its responsibility which may include hiring a consultant to identify and/or process candidates," be adopted.
3. That Recommendation #3, "that the Proposed 2000 Benevolence Askings Budget for \$464,000," be adopted.
4. That Recommendation #5, "that the Act 85-01 of the General Assembly be amended by deleting the present wording and substituting the following: 'All heads of committees, boards, agencies or commissions, whether male or female, shall be designated as *chair*,'" be adopted.
Grounds *The Evangelical Presbyterian Church encourages the use of inclusive language in all references to humanity at large.*
5. That Recommendation #6, "that the General Assembly amend the *Rules of Assembly* in Article I by substituting the proposed wording for the present Section 1-2, viz., "The place of meeting shall be rotated..." be adopted.

Proposed wording

"The place of meeting shall be rotated among the various areas of the church as much as practical. Any Presbytery or church of Presbytery that desires to entertain the General Assembly shall forward an invitation to the Stated Clerk no later than three years before the preceding Assembly. If two or more Presbyteries or churches submit invitations to host the General Assembly for the same year, the Committee on Administration will submit a recommendation to the General Assembly naming the host church or Presbytery. The Committee on Administration will make its recommendation based on the following criteria:

- a. Capability to host, i.e., availability of housing, costs, travel arrangements, committee meeting rooms, availability of food service for breaks and meals, space for exhibitors and General Assembly staff, and local transportation.

- b. Priority will be given to the Presbytery or church which has never hosted a General Assembly or which hosted General Assembly the greatest number of years ago."

Grounds *Item a. insures that information regarding the capability of a host is clearly defined.
Item b. insures a fair response to those interested in hosting an Assembly.*

6. That Recommendation #7, "that the General Assembly amend its *Rules for Assembly* in section X as follows:
- a. X.4-2 "To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the Committee no later than March 31 of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery."
Grounds: *This change would insure that Sessions and Presbyteries are informed of their members whose names are being submitted to the Nominating Committee.*
- b. X.4-3 The proposed changes were not adopted.
Grounds: *The present wording is simple and does not restrict resources*
- c. X.4-4 "The committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees" be adopted.
Grounds: *To expedite the work of the Nominating Committee*
7. That Recommendation #8, "that a denomination-wide Thanksgiving Offering be taken in 1999 and that such be designated to National Outreach for the San Antonio church planting project," be adopted.
Grounds: *To encourage the National Outreach Committee in their work of church planting.*
8. That Overture #99-J, that "In response to concern expressed by teaching elders and churches within the Presbytery of the West with the EPC Health Insurance Plan and its mandatory enrollment provision, the Presbytery of the West requests the General Assembly to reconsider mandatory enrollment of teaching elders in the EPC Health Insurance Plan" not be adopted.
Grounds: *Group medical coverage is dependent upon mandated participation and the partnership of all eligible members*
9. We received Communication #99-2 as information.
10. We received Communications #99-5, #99-6, #99-7 as information.
11. We received Communication #99-8 as information and recommend that the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability recommendation regarding the retention of an auditor and their recommendation for combining pension plan and church financial data be referred to the Permanent Committee on Administration.
12. We have reviewed the minutes and have forwarded their notations to the permanent committee.

Concluding Remarks:

The committee commends the members of the permanent Committee on Administration for their dedicated work during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Johns, Chairman

Ed Randal, Recording Clerk

Report of the Christian Education and Publications Committee

Assembly Committee
19th General Assembly

There were thirty-four people appointed to the committee. Twenty-eight people were present at the meeting and a quorum was therefore present. The meeting was opened with prayer by the chairman, Elder Virginia Patterson at 1:30 PM on Thursday June 24, 1999. Chairman Patterson introduced the clerk and the permanent committee representatives. Roy Schrameck served as the recording clerk. The committee met once during the Assembly.

Committee members Doreen Neal, Terry McQuain, and Tim Jordan volunteered to review the permanent committee minutes of September 25-26, 1998 and March 5-6, 1999. There were several minor notations observed that will be referred to the permanent Christian Education and Publications Committee (CEP).

Mark Lowrey, Jr., Director of Publications, and Thomas Patete, Executive Director, of Great Commission Publications were introduced to the committee. They presented the history and purpose of the company. The company develops curriculum for Sunday School of all ages. They reviewed the contents and the "take home" aspects of the curriculum they have developed to reinforce the Sunday School lessons and the Christian based aspects of the home as a center of family worship.

Chairman Patterson reviewed the purpose, duties, and responsibilities of the permanent CEP. Bruce Spear, chairman, and Sandy Hazelwood, committee member, attended the committee meeting as representatives and resources from the CEP Committee. Bruce reviewed the mission and focus of the CEP Committee. He indicated that the committee has been refocusing their efforts on Christian Education and that they have developed a Christian Education curriculum evaluation form that is available from the EPC General Assembly Office for anyone to use. They also want to develop a Christian Education Resource Network to assist church members/staff who are beginning to develop or redevelop a Christian Education program in their churches. The committee is looking into developing this resource list as a "hotlink" on the EPC homepage.

One of the CE curriculums that are on display at the General Assembly is from Children's Ministries International. Sandy reviewed curriculum examples with the committee.

The CEP Committee has "approved agencies" of the denomination that they recommend. One of these groups is the Pioneer Clubs. Chairman Patterson, as past president of Pioneer Clubs, reviewed the annual report in the Commissioner's Handbook. They have been in the process of redoing their strategic planning over the last 18 months. A "guiding coalition" assisted in the planning. The final plan was presented to their Board at the beginning of June 1999 and Pioneer Clubs is in the process of implementing the recommended changes. They have developed a Spanish version of the 3rd and 4th grade curriculum. The chairman handed out information on the Pioneer Clubs program and copies of an article from Perspective magazine on reaching adults through the children. The Pioneer Clubs philosophy is to assist in the development of the child in every phase of life.

David Ruff from Forest Hills EPC is the lead committee member working on development of a Small Group Resource Network. An organizing breakfast is being held on Saturday June 26, 1999.

Two years ago Overture 97-E was passed by the General Assembly directing the CEP Committee to investigate development of an EPC based Men's Ministry. The money is not currently available to hire someone full time at the General Assembly level. However, many of the churches in EPC have Men's Ministry programs under the direction of lay people within the churches. CEP Committee felt that their role was to provide training for these lay people. At the same time, a National Coalition on Men's Ministries was being formed that seemed to satisfy this need. Their "founding meeting" was held August 31-September 1, 1998. April 8-10, 1999 was their first training session. EPC is a national member of this organization. The organization is not however an "approved agency" of the EPC at this time since they are still a very young organization. Tom Fritz from the Coalition will be speaking to the General Assembly on June 26, 1999.

CEP Committee approved the formation of the Reflections Editorial Committee with Lucy McGuire as the magazine Editor and Marilyn Bartel continuing as the News Editor. A handout was distributed at the committee meeting looking for volunteer reporters for Reflections.

Pre-assembly in 2000 is going to be devoted to the EPC 20th anniversary. In keeping with the purpose of improving the ministry skills of the commissioners, the permanent CEP Committee is going to sponsor the pre-assembly workshop in 2001 on "congregational ministries."

The standing committee expressed great appreciation for the work and dedication of the permanent Christian Education and Publications Committee.

Business referred to the Committee

Overture 99-A: The Overture concerns the development of a training video that could be used for church membership education and as a building block for officer training throughout the EPC. This would provide consistent training as to history, development, doctrine, and reformed faith throughout the EPC. This could also be used as a tool for evangelism and new member orientation. Cost of the video would be \$15,000. The Mid-Atlantic Presbytery is willing to pledge up to one-half the cost (\$7,500) as a challenge to the other presbyteries to supply the remaining \$7,500 or more.

Upon motion, the standing committee unanimously recommended that Overture #99-A be amended to read "Therefore the General Assembly is overtured to endorse this effort by authorizing the permanent Christian Education and Publications Committee to further investigate the possible production of this video, and oversee the direction and production, if deemed feasible, as well as promote this project by encouraging the other presbyteries to participate by providing financial support."

Upon motion, the standing committee unanimously recommends adoption of Overture #99-A as amended above.

Other Business

A suggestion was made by the standing committee that Reflections be put on the EPC homepage/website so that it was available on a more wide spread basis (www.epc.org). Possibly the Book of Order could also be put on the website or be available on a disk/CD.

A committee member indicate that he was relatively new to the EPC and had some questions regarding the availability of a modern version of the "Larger Catechism" referred to in the ordination vows. Upon motion, and following discussion, the standing committee recommends that the CEP Committee research the availability of the "Larger Catechism" and make it available to the churches upon request.

The meeting adjourned at 3:24 PM with Rev. Bruce Spear leading in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Patterson, Chairman

Roy Schrameck, Recording Clerk

Report of the Fraternal Relations CommitteeAssembly Committee
19th General Assembly

The meeting was opened by prayer by the chairman Elder Allen O'Brian on Thursday, 6/24/99 meeting from 1:30-3:30 P.M. Rev. John Quigley served as recording clerk. The committee convened once during the Assembly.

Business Referred to Committee

1. Communication 99-10
2. Communication 99-11

No committee minutes were submitted for review.

Recommendations:

Motion (reference **Communication 99-10**) EPC become an official sponsor of Shatter the Silence's International Day of Prayer for the years 1999 and 2000. The amount to be determined by the COA, with continued sponsorship to be reviewed by the 2000 General Assembly.

Motion (reference **Communication 99-11**) that the EPC in its relationship with the World Evangelical Fellowship become a co-sponsor of the 1999 Global Consultation on Evangelical Missiology with a gift of \$1,000.00.

New Business

Dr. Graham Smith addressed the Committee and told us of the Fraternal Relations Committee's plans for the 20th General Assembly.

Dr. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk of the PCA, was introduced to the Committee and addressed us about the recent PCA General Assembly. He received questions concerning fraternal relations with the EPC.

The standing committee recommends to the Committee on Fraternal Relations that representatives of the F.R. Committee attend WEF conferences such as the one in Igauzu, Brazil, which is expected to be a landmark conference similar to the 1974 Lausanne Congress.

The standing committee recommends to the Committee on Fraternal Relations that as it seeks greater relations with other Reformed denominations, it also increases its efforts to establish cordial relationships with other evangelical denominations.

Concluding Remarks:

The committee thanks Dr. Graham Smith and the other members of the Fraternal Relations Committee for representing the EPC to other Christian and Reformed bodies. The committee was pleased to learn of the efforts of the Fraternal Relations Committee to invite many representatives of other Christian organizations and denominations to our 20th General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen O'Brian, Chairman

Rev. John Quigley, Recording Clerk

Memorials and Appreciation Committee

19TH General Assembly

The 19th General Assembly remembers with gratitude those ministers and ruling elders who died during the Assembly year. They are as follows:

NAME	CHURCH & CITY/STATE	DATE OF DEATH	YEARS OF SERVICE
Elder Guillermo Barrientos	Temperley Church Buenos Aires, Argentina	August, 1998	unknown
Elder David Blalock	Cornerstone EPC, Daytona Beach, FL	January 8, 1998	7
Elder L. Thomas Bowen, Sr.	Brainerd Presbyterian, Chattanooga, TN	April 11, 1999	4
Elder Byron Stanley Campbell	North Park EPC, Wexford, PA	September 5, 1998	2
Elder Winthrop R. "Wink" Corey	Central Presbyterian, St. Louis, MO	January 1, 1999	15
Elder Ted Dodasovich	Covenant Presbyterian, Ann Arbor, MI	March 22, 1999	unknown
Elder Perry Dunlap	Trinity Presbyterian, Plymouth, MI	April 28, 1999	2
Elder Gene Frazier	Louisville EPC, Louisville, MS	April 17, 1998	12
Elder Wilbert S. Greb	North Park EPC, Wexford, PA	January 24, 1999	2
Elder Charles Graham	Faith Presbyterian, Aurora, CO	May 15, 1999	1
Elder Frank Jemison, Sr.	Second Presbyterian, Memphis, TN	February 22, 1999	37
Elder Bobbie Mackie	Quilmes Church Buenos Aires, Argentina	August, 1998	unknown
Elder Emeritus Robert C. Mare	Central Presbyterian, St. Louis, MO	September 2, 1998	unknown
Elder Royal Clarence ("Mac") McConnell	Westminster Presbyterian, Bluefield, WV	September 14, 1998	29
Rev. Armour McFarland	Retired Holland, MI	January 15, 1999	unknown
Rev. Bruce Ogle	Trinity EP Fellowship, Newark, OH	August 2, 1998	23 (9 mos. EPC)
Rev. William Robertson	City Church, Buenos Aires, Argentina	July 15, 1998	unknown
Elder Clark B. Smith	Santa Maria Community Church Santa Maria, CA	January 12, 1999	16
Rev. Robert Thomas	Retired, Phoenix, AZ	September 30, 1998	unknown
Elder Leo Thurston	Faith Presbyterian Aurora, CO	May 29, 1998	9
Elder Theodore "Ted" Turner, Jr.	Second Presbyterian, Memphis, TN	August 6, 1998	22
Elder Carl Zinner	Faith Presbyterian, Aurora, CO	August 17, 1998	3

We wish to thank Rev. Richard Wade, Chancel Choir and orchestra, accompanists and worship leaders of our host church for an outstanding and inspiring service on Wednesday evening, which did much to strengthen our sense of family within our denomination, and for their beautiful contributions to each of our services.

Journal Supplement - Assembly Committee Reports

We also want to express our appreciation to Dr. Bill Flannagan and his staff and congregation for exemplifying the epitome of Southern hospitality in hosting this 19th General Assembly and for the use of their beautiful facilities. Thank you to the countless volunteers who were present to greet us, direct us, feed us, drive us, and answer our questions with competence and cheerfulness. A very special note of gratitude goes to those faithful prayer warriors who have been in continual prayer during the entire Assembly. A special thank you to Rev. Mark Sargeant and the congregation of the First Methodist Church for the use of their church for our breakfasts and lunches as well as for the World Outreach dinner. We want to give particular thanks for the co-chairmen of the Local Arrangements Committee, Don Keiser and Hugh Burnes, the following coordinators for various aspects of arrangements, and for all of those who served so diligently and faithfully to keep the Assembly running smoothly:

Barry Smith: Team Manager	Audio-Visual: Jim Holcomb
Prayer Ministry: John Graham	Housing: Sue Smith
Hospitality: Tom and Susie Manning	Facilities: Jim Harrington
Music: Richard Wade	GA Office: Tom Mayes
Transportation: Keith Finley	Registration: Herschel Stalvey
Luncheons (Pastors' Wives): Joyce Flannagan, Kim Jackson	Luncheons (Women's Ministries) and Tours: Katey Temple
Local Office: Charlie Kimbrell	Children: Jane Doss, Susan Smith
Food Services: Harvey Keiser, Jean Ward, Mary Taylor, Carol Lawton	Youth: Browning Wood
First Aid: Tom and Martha Mayes	Rooms & Signs: Bill Irscher
Decorating: Jan Irscher	

We especially appreciate the work of Stated Clerk Ed Davis, Assistant to the Stated Clerk, Ed McCallum; the Moderators past and present, Recording Clerks Marc Huebl, Bob Garment and Russ Ragon as well as keynote speaker Paul Cedar, and luncheon speaker Judy Reamer. Thanks also go to pre-assembly workshop panel members Bartlett Hess, Michael Glodo, Jim Dixon and Robert Norris. We also express our appreciation to the chairmen and recording clerks of the standing committees and their members, as well as to all of the General Assembly staff for the fine work they do the entire year.

Last of all we want to thank our Lord, Jesus Christ for the salvation He has so freely provided for us, and for bringing us into that part of His body which we call the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Healy, Chairman

Report of the Ministerial Vocation Committee

Assembly Committee
19th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by chairman, Rev. Cooper McWhirter, on Thursday, June 24, 1999. Carolyn Nystrom served as recording clerk. The Committee convened once during the Assembly.

The chairman appointed three members to review the minutes of the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee.

Bill Moore gave a brief review of the work of the permanent MVC during the past year.

A. Business referred to committee:

1. Overture 99-B1
2. Overture 99-B2
3. Overture 99-F
4. Overture 99-G
5. Overture 99-H
6. Recommendation # 18
7. Recommendation # 19
8. Recommendation # 20
9. Recommendation # 21
10. Recommendation # 22
11. Recommendation # 23
12. Recommendation # 24 (with World Outreach Committee)
13. Recommendation # 30 (with World Outreach Committee)

B. Recommendations

1. Overture 99-B1

The Presbytery of the Midwest recommends that the Book of Government, 12-2A,A be amended:

"A person desiring to become an ordained Minister shall first become a Candidate under the care of the Presbytery of which that person's church is a member. That person begins this process by receiving the endorsement of the particular Church Session where the person's membership has been held. The membership must have been held for at least six months at either the endorsing church and/or a recognized Reformed church. When the particular Church Session has approved the Candidate, application shall be made to the appropriate Committee of Presbytery."

The standing MVC recommends that Overture 99-B1 not be adopted.

2. Overture 99-B2

The Presbytery of the Midwest recommends that the Book of Government, 12-2F be amended:

"After being under the care of a Presbytery for a minimum of one year, the Candidate may request transfer to another Presbytery. Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care of a Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and/or another recognized Reformed church for a minimum of one year prior to ordination."

The standing MVC recommends that Overture 99-B2 not be adopted.

Grounds (Overture 99-B1 and 2): The intention of the current process is to establish a rapport and relationship between the Session, Presbytery, and candidate in order to accurately assess calling, competency, character, and compatibility. Certainly there are instances wherein expediency may be in order, yet given that this one-year requirement for candidacy already may be waived leaving only a six-month membership requirement, we believe that to further diminish the time requirements to less than 6 months is ill-advised.

3. Overture 99-F

The Presbytery of the Southeast respectfully overtures the 19th General Assembly to amend the Book of Government, §11-5-F, by adding as number eight (8) the following: "Cost of pastor's attendance at Presbytery and General Assembly meetings," further that the current number of "8" be renumbered "9."

The standing MVC recommends that Overture 99-F be adopted.

4. Overture 99-G

The Presbytery of Florida recommends that the Book of Government be amended by the following:

- Delete from **G.15-9** the following sentences:
“A Minister who is so retired remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery.”
- Create a new section **G.15-10** as follows:
G.15-10 Retired Ministers: A minister who is retired according to the provision of **G.15-9** remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery. A Retired Minister who does not participate in the life of the Presbytery by attending at least one Stated Meeting during a calendar year, may be placed on Inactive Status at the discretion of the Presbytery. After at least one year, the Retired Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to active status. The Presbytery shall make the determination based on the minister’s participation in the meetings of the Presbytery and need not require a specific call to be restored to active status. A Retired Minister on Inactive Status shall not be removed from the Presbytery rolls for that cause and is to be afforded the same pastoral care as Retired Ministers on Active Status.
- Amend **G.15-8** by inserting the words “who is not retired” after the word “Minister” in Paragraph 2 and after the words “Inactive Status” in Paragraph 3 so that the sentences read:
G.15-8,2 Sentence 1: When the Minister who is not retired has been without approved call for a period of one year, the Ministerial Committee will confer with the Minister as to his continued sense of call and his expectations for future ministry.
G.15-8,3 Sentence 1: A limit shall be placed on the time during which a Minister on Inactive Status who is not retired shall remain on the roll of Presbytery, the limit being five years.

The standing MVC recommends Overture 99-G be adopted.

5. Overture 99-H

The Presbytery of Florida at its 26th Stated Meeting approved the following Overture to be submitted to the 19th General Assembly:

To amend the Book of Government, §12-2F, by adding the following sentences:

If an individual has been under the care of another Reformed church for at least one year and the Presbytery can determine that that body has exercised due care over that individual and sufficient knowledge of that individual can be obtained to assure the Presbytery of the individual’s fitness for ministry, that period of care under that Reformed body may be counted as all or part of the individual’s satisfaction of requirements for being under care in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In such a case, the individual may be received immediately under care upon joining an EPC church or be immediately eligible for examination as a candidate.

The standing MVC recommends Overture 99-H not be adopted.

Grounds: See Grounds for Overture 99 B1 and B2.

6. Recommendation # 18

“That the General Assembly grant the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee an additional year to complete its study on the feasibility, effectiveness, and benefits of a periodic sabbatical for teacher elders.”

The standing MVC recommends that Recommendation #18 be adopted.

Note: The term “teacher elder” should be changed to “teaching elder.”

7. Recommendation # 19

“That the General Assembly grant the Permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee an additional year to complete its project to recommend guidelines for performance evaluation and feedback for the pastor’s annual review by the Session.”

The standing MVC recommends that Recommendation #19 be adopted.

8. Recommendation # 20

Regarding requests for guidance for out of bounds calls, the permanent MVC recommends the adoption of the following and its addition to the appropriate sections of the Procedure Manual:

- Presbyteries give due attention to G10-3F, that Presbyteries be fully satisfied that each calling reflects the centrality of the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and is consistent with the variety of callings within the office of minister (G.10-3 A-F); and
- that Presbyteries make diligent annual use of the form 'Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery.' The call to a validated ministry outside the bounds of Presbytery should not be renewed when it is determined that the member's calling is not consistent with the ministry of the Word and Sacrament; and
- that Presbytery members who desire to transfer within the bounds of Presbytery to a calling not consistent with the ministry of Word and Sacrament should not be approved; and that
- when an out of bounds call is not approved, and the minister persists in that call, the procedures in G.15-8 apply.

The standing MVC recommends that Recommendation # 20 be adopted.

9. Recommendation # 21

Regarding the possibilities of legal liabilities of those currently serving out of bounds, the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee recommends, on advice of counsel, that the following be added to the Procedure Manual:

"Ministers laboring out of bounds are by definition 'serving outside the authority of a court of the church' (G.10-3F), and 'outside the structures of the Church' (G.11-12). Therefore, they serve under the ecclesiastical but not the legal authority of the EPC. They cannot, therefore, act as an agent of the EPC in the legal sense. They cannot exercise any authority to bind the EPC to any contracts or agreements, nor can they commit the EPC to fulfill any other legal obligations.

Because Ministers laboring out of bounds will be 'serving outside the authority of a court of the Church' (G.10-3F) and 'outside the structures of the Church' (G.11-12), they will be employed by the calling agency, not by the EPC. They will not be subject to the supervision of the EPC with respect to time, place or manner of ministry. Any financial relationship or legal accountability regarding their ministry will be undertaken solely through the calling agency. Accountability to the EPC relates solely to spiritual and ecclesiastical matters.

The regulations of the IRS state that eligibility to claim any special tax benefits or privileges available to the Minister of the gospel under federal law may be jeopardized if any of the following apply to your ministry:

- The calling agency did not arrange with the EPC for the Minister's services.
- The Minister performs services for the calling agency that other employees of the calling agency who are not Ministers are performing.
- The Minister performs the same services before and after obtaining permission from the EPC to labor out of bounds."

The standing MVC recommends that Recommendation #21 be adopted.

10. Recommendation # 22

That the General Assembly endorse the following guidelines recommended by the permanent MVC for denominational military chaplains:

While our chaplains are encouraged to exercise their ministry in the Armed Forces with the maximum of collegiality in cooperation with persons of varying beliefs, the EPC does not approve joint participation in a worship service with persons representing faith groups outside the historic Protestant Christian tradition, as defined by the Apostles' Creed.

The standing MVC recommends that Recommendation #22 be adopted with the substitution of the words "leadership of" for "participation in."

11. Recommendation #23

The Committee on Administration further recommends "that the General Assembly adopt the above recommendation with the deletion of the word "Protestant."

The standing MVC recommends that Recommendations #23 be adopted as amended.

Note: Recommendations # 22 and # 23 were combined and amended to read:

While our chaplains are encouraged to exercise their ministry in the Armed Forces with the maximum of collegiality in cooperation with persons of varying beliefs, the EPC does not approve joint leadership of a worship service with persons representing faith groups outside the historic Christian tradition, as defined by the Apostles' Creed.

Grounds: Protestant military chaplains are often lumped by their military commanders with any religious group that is not Catholic or Jewish. This recommendation allows EPC chaplains to set parameters on the types of worship services they are allowed to lead. This recommendation speaks only to leading worship services as defined in Book of Worship, chapter 2; it does not relate to other ceremonial events.

12. Recommendation #24

That Act 82-07 "Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination," be amended in #5 "Terms of Call" to add the following sentences:

'Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.'

The section as amended would then read:

5. Terms of call: The amount of time to be given for study leave: two weeks, cumulative up to six weeks.

Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years' accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.

The standing MVC recommends that Recommendation # 24 be adopted in agreement with World Outreach as represented by Perry Mobley.

13. Recommendation # 30

That the World Outreach Missions Manual, section 410.1 Continuing Education, be amended by substituting the proposed two paragraphs for the present first paragraph.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>410.1 Continuing Education World Outreach shall allow career missionaries \$350 per year to be used for continuing education (in addition to language study). Unused portions may accumulate to a maximum of \$3,500. This money shall come from their support account and shall be paid them in addition to salary. Any such program of continuing education must be approved by the World Outreach office.</p> <p>Increments shall be computed as of January 1 of each year. The first such deduction shall be made for a missionary only after he or she has been on the field for at least six months during the previous year, has previous service as a teaching elder of the EPC or is required to have continuing education to retain professional certification.</p>	<p>410.1 Continuing Education World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation.</p> <p>Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.</p> <p>Increments shall be computed as of January 1 of each year. The first such deduction shall be made for a missionary only after he or she has been on the field for at least six months during the previous year, has previous service as a teaching elder of the EPC or is required to have continuing education to retain professional certification.</p>

Rationale:

- a) Study leave was originally set at \$350 when World Outreach began 17 years ago and has never been increased.
- b) \$800 approximates the cost of one course at seminaries normally used by EPC ministers.
- c) Overseas WO personnel do not have the opportunity to hear special GA speakers or go to the conferences which many EPC pastors are able to attend.

- d) Some EPC pastors are encouraged to attend special conferences out of the regular church budget, rather than using their study leave allocation.
- e) WO missionaries are accountable to the WO Director and request a particular study leave program and receive prior approval prior to using the funds and the time.
- f) The \$800 amount is consistent with EPC church practice among those which do grant their pastors a study leave.

The standing MVC recommends that Recommendation #30 be adopted in agreement with World Outreach as represented by Perry Mobley.

The minutes of the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation were reviewed by the standing committee, with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

The standing committee wishes to commend the members of the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee for their diligent work during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Cooper McWhirter, Chairman

Carolyn Nystrom, Recording Clerk

Report of the National Outreach Committee

Assembly Committee
19th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman Elder Dexter Kuhlman on Thursday, June 24, 1999. Elder Frank Johnson served as committee clerk. The committee convened once during the Assembly.

A. Business Referred to the Committee

1. Recommendation #4
2. Recommendation #8
3. Recommendations #25
4. Recommendation #26
5. Minutes of two meetings

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #25** of the permanent committee be adopted, "That the National Outreach Master Plan, Strategic Area #4, be amended by adding the following sentence: 'Urban ministry is providing hope by turning our hearts and extending our hands to the poor in urban centers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ' so that the section reads:
 To transform urban centers by establishing churches and adding existing urban ministries to impact their communities for Christ. *Urban ministry is providing hope by turning our hearts and extending our hands to the poor in urban centers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*"
2. That **Recommendation #26** of the permanent committee be adopted, "That the NOC be given a one-year extension of the 18th General Assembly's action to respond to Overture 98-B "that the NOC be instructed to develop a provision for national home missions, and to present that plan to the 19th General Assembly."
3. The minutes of the permanent committee were reviewed and found to be in order with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.
4. That **Recommendation #4** of the Committee on Administration be approved, "That the common boundaries of the Mid-America and Midwest Presbyteries be redrawn so that the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin are moved from the Midwest Presbytery to the Mid-America Presbytery."
5. That a recommendation of the standing committee, "That the National Outreach Committee develop a plan for financial support of church planting and report same to the General Assembly in 2000 " be approved.
6. That a recommendation from the standing committee that the Moderator of the General Assembly grant five minutes of Assembly time for the Director of National Outreach to present the National Outreach Committee's vision for the future to the Assembly be approved.
7. The standing committee extends commendations to the permanent committee and the Rev. Bill Meyer, Director of National Outreach for the quality and quantity of work completed in the past Assembly year and for the scope of plans and work planned for the next Assembly year.

The committee adjourned at 2:45 P.M. with prayer by the chairman.

Respectfully submitted,

Dexter Kuhlman, Chairman

W. Frank Johnson, Recording Clerk

Report of the Joint Overtures & Resolutions and Theology Committees

Assembly Committee
19th General Assembly

The chairman, Elder Paul Heidebrecht, opened the meeting with prayer on Thursday, June 24, 1999. Doug Thompson served as recording clerk. The committee convened once during the Assembly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend that the 19th General Assembly constitute an Ad Interim Committee to consist of two (2) representatives chosen from and by each presbytery for the purpose of:
 - a) Listening to all in our denomination who desire to express their views of how we can live and serve more fruitfully together;
 - b) And drawing conclusions about the nature of our problems relating to ordination vows 3 and 4 as well as the problems addressed in overtures 99C, 99D, 99E, 99I, and to receive and refer to the Ad Interim Committee for study any overtures concerning these issues until such time as the committee reports;
 - c) And making appropriate recommendations to the 21st General Assembly for solving our problems and improving our denomination.

2. Because of the above recommendation of this committee on this issue, we recommend that no action be taken on **Overtures 99-C, 99-D, 99-E, 99-I and Recommendation 27.**

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Heidebrecht
Overtures Chairman

Mark Hudson
Recording Clerk

Sam Rowen
Theology Chairman

Doug Thompson
Recording Clerk

Permanent Judicial Commission

The Permanent Judicial Commission met on May 14, 1999 in the General Assembly Office, with all members present. Meeting was called to order and opened with devotions and prayer by its moderator, Harold Polk. The Commission was led in an overview of its responsibilities and then its attention was directed to matters received. These matters were acted on and referred as follows.

Overtures received:

1. The overture from the **Presbytery of the Midwest** regarding G.12-2A was considered and found to be clear, concise and consistent with the rest of the Constitution.
2. Overtures from the **Presbyteries of Florida** and the **Midwest** regarding G.12-2F were examined and compared. While both are intended to accomplish the same end, the Florida overture was preferred and is recommended to General Assembly.
3. An overture from the **Presbytery of the Southeast** concerning G.11-5F was reviewed and found to be in order. For purposes of linguistic consistency, it is recommended in the following form:
 - "8. Cost of your attendance at Presbytery and General Assembly meetings.
 9. Others..."

Note: The original overture makes reference only to the expenses of Pastors, not to Teaching Elders called to other positions.

Note: In #6, the pronoun used is the second person.

4. An overture from the **Presbytery of Mid-America** to change the form of G.14-1,A-4 and 14-1,E-4 by printing in bold italics the words "the essentials of the faith" was examined. (Comments apply likewise to similar overture received from the **Presbytery of the West**)

While it is clear and concise, its pre-suppositional foundation is deemed seriously flawed. It assumes that the adoption of this proposal would "...return the *Book of Order* to its original form..." The 18th General Assembly accepted the report of the permanent Committee on Theology which included a detailed historical analysis of the language of these crucial ordination vows by the Stated Clerk which concluded that the original form of the *Book of Order* is not that sought by this overture.

5. An overture from the **Presbytery of Florida** relating to the status of retired ministers was considered and found to be clear, concise and consistent with other constitutional documents.

Request for interpretation (G.16-27B.1)

1. The Commission acted on a request from the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Central South (Attachment A) on the constitutionality of certain actions of that presbytery. The actions referred to involved the adoption of the following:
 - A. That ordination or transfer from other presbyteries or denominations normally be to the pastoral office in the local church, to the office of evangelist and church planter (in our presbytery or on the foreign field), to military, hospital and other chaplaincies, to administrative office in the courts of the church, or to seminary professorship where students are being trained for pastoral ministries.
 - B. That members of the presbytery who desire to transfer within the bounds of presbytery to a ministry not described in #1 above will, upon request, be placed on "inactive status" upon presbytery approval. He may remain on "active status" as a "minister without call" for up to one year after the dissolution of the previous call.
 - C. That presbytery members currently serving out of bounds submit annual reports of their ministries so that their status can be renewed annually by the presbytery. Those not qualifying under #1 above will be placed on the inactive roll, unless a one-year extension as a "minister without call" is requested by the member and granted by the presbytery.

The Commission unanimously concluded that these actions are contrary to the Constitution on the following grounds

- Presbyteries are not permitted to be more restrictive than the *Book of Order* and cannot deny what the Constitution requires. Action #1 lists valid ministries and includes a "...seminary professorship..." The

Book of Government (10-3B) states “A Minister may be called to teach in a seminary, college, or some other school.” Action #1 invalidates what the Constitution validates.

- These actions virtually eliminate “out of bounds” ministries as defined in the *Book of Government* (10-3F and 11-12).

Recommendation That the General Assembly sustain the PJC’s interpretation on this matter.

2. A request for interpretation of the *Book of Government* was received from the Ministerial Vocation Committee (Attachment B). It relates to the status of “missionaries serving totally under the auspices of the EPC and with ministers serving in administration in one of the courts of our Church” and the common practice of regarding such as being “out of bounds.” The Commission studied G.10-3 which defines certain callings and concluded that the ministers about whose work the clarification was sought do not qualify as those laboring out of bounds but should be on the Active Rolls (ministers with calls) of their presbyteries.

The Commission, authorized by the *Book of Government* to initiate its own proposed changes in the Constitution, recommends the following:

Recommendation That the words of G.10-3C “...outside the bounds of the Presbytery...” be changed to “...outside the geographical bounds of the Presbytery...”

Grounds: “Outside the bounds” implies the limits of a presbytery’s jurisdiction while what is clearly intended is its geographical parameters.

Advice:

The Commission strongly encourages that presbyteries submitting overtures use the resources of the General Assembly (particularly the Stated and Assistant Clerks) to verify the clarity and syntax of their proposals before the final votes of the presbytery.

This report of the PJC is based on the thorough work of its clerk, Robert Hess, and respectfully submitted by its moderator.

Harold Polk, Jr.
Moderator

Stated Clerk’s note: Assembly is reminded of procedure defined in Act 90-21 to the effect that “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 the 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)

Report of the Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee

Assembly Committee
19th General Assembly

The chairman, Elder Steele Stewart, opened the meeting with prayer on Thursday, June 24, 1999. Rev. Jeff Chadwick served as the clerk of the committee. The committee convened one time during the assembly.

Business Referred to Committee

Minutes of the permanent committee dated October 2-3, 1998 and March 5-6, 1999.

The committee appointed individuals to review these minutes. These individuals reported back to the committee that the minutes were excellently prepared. On motion, based on their review and report, the committee voted to approve these minutes without notation or exception, and to pass on our commendation to the permanent committee for their excellent work.

Recommendations for action by the Assembly

None

Recommendation to the Committee on Administration

(Reported to the Assembly for information only)

On motion, the committee voted to request the Committee on Administration to consider adopting the phrase "EPC - Every Precious Child" as the theme for an upcoming General Assembly, including developing a pre-assembly conference, in partnership with the permanent Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries, that would focus on ministry to students and their families.

Grounds The committee believes that ministry to students and their families is one of the most crucial areas of need in our churches and in our society. We also believe that these ministries of the churches in our denomination need to be strengthened and focused for greater effectiveness. This emphasis at our General Assembly level could be greatly used to equip our churches to reach our children and their families for Christ.

Concluding Remarks:

The committee heard presentations from Rev. Rick Stauffer, Chairman of the permanent Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries, Dan Weidman, immediate past EPC Director of Student and Young Adult Ministries, and Bob Watson, interim EPC Director of Student and Young Adult Ministries. The committee was pleased to hear of the vital work the Lord is doing in this area of ministry of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and discussed ways that this ministry of our churches could be strengthened. The committee wishes to extend its thanks to Rick Stauffer for his years of faithful service on the permanent committee, and to Dan Weidman for his excellent leadership of this ministry for the past six years. The committee also praises God for his provision of Bob Watson to lead us during this time of transition in the leadership of our student and young adult ministries.

Respectfully submitted,

Steele Stewart, Chairman

Jeffrey Chadwick, Recording Clerk

Report of the Theology Committee

Assembly Committee
19th General Assembly

The chairman, Rev. Sam Rowen asked Rev. Jim Dixon to open the meeting with prayer on Thursday, June 24, 1999. Rev. Doug Thompson served as committee clerk. The committee convened once during the Assembly.

We propose that **Recommendation #28** (p. 69 in Commissioner's Handbook) be approved.

Recommendation #28

The Committee on Theology strongly exhorts the churches diligently to train officers and ordinands in the essential tenets of the Reformed faith so that they understand what constitutes the Reformed faith. The Committee recommends that sessions and presbyteries familiarize themselves with the "Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the Seventeenth General Assembly Instructions Regarding "The Essentials" and the Westminster Confession," and use such works as R. C. Sproul's *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Tyndale House, 1998 Paper).

The minutes of the permanent committee were reviewed, with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Rowen
Chairman

Doug Thompson
Recording Clerk

Report of the Women's Ministries Committee

Assembly Committee
19th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by the chairman, Rev. Ramona Spilman, on Thursday, June 24, 1999. Elder Janet Carlton served as committee clerk. The committee convened one time during the assembly.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. Recommendation #29
2. Minutes of the permanent committee of October 5-6, 1998 and February 1-2, 1999

B. Recommendations

1. That Recommendation #29 stating that "The General Assembly adopt the proposed revision of the Women's Ministry Constitution" be accepted as amended in the attached document.

Grounds The committee agrees with the intent of the proposed document, but felt that it lacked clarity regarding its intent, use, and scope.

2. That the minutes of the permanent committee of October 5-6, 1998 and February 1-2, 1999 be accepted with grammatical corrections as noted on the submitted copy.

Concluding Remarks:

The Committee wishes to commend the members of the permanent committee for their outstanding work this year and will partner in prayer with them for their forthcoming Prayer Summit in Kazakhstan as well as the National Women's Conference in Virginia Beach.

The Committee suggests that in the future, prior to publishing and distributing a document of this nature to the leadership of Women's Ministries or to local churches, the permanent committee present the document to the assembly committee for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramona Spilman, Chairman

Janet Carlton, Recording Clerk

*Suggested Constitution
For Local Church*
EPC Women's Ministries*

Article I: Name

This organization shall be known as:
Women's Ministries of _____ Church, Presbytery of _____, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Article II: Faith and Purpose

We affirm our document "*The Essentials of Our Faith*." The foundation paragraph of this document follows

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 to God's redemptive acts, culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

Statement of Purpose

Ephesians 4:12 "For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for edifying of the Body of Christ . . ."

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, develop and share their God-given gifts for works of service. Central to the purpose of 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.

Article III: Membership

The membership of Women's Ministries shall be open to all women of the church. *No formal membership is necessarily required for participation.*

Article IV: Leadership

The leadership of Women's Ministries shall be members of the local church. Leadership shall be structured according to the needs and preferences of the local church.

Examples may include but are not limited to: 1. A Coordinator serving over committees such as Spiritual Nurture, Missions, Special Events, Service. 2. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Program Chair. 3. Director of Women's Ministries in conjunction with a Coordinating Council initiating and overseeing the various ministries of a larger church.

Article V: Denomination Representation and Participation

Local church Women's Ministries should encourage women to participate in presbytery and national programming including retreats, General Assemblies, and national conferences to build and enrich connective relationships.

Article VI: Relationships

*Local Women's Ministries shall be under the jurisdiction of the local church session. ~~**Delete remainder of proposed revision.~~*

Article VII: Finances

The local work of Women's Ministries may be financed through regular pledges, voluntary offerings, church budget, and/or fundraising as approved by the session.

Article VIII: Meetings

Meetings may be scheduled as desired and needed. *(Delete remainder of proposed revision.)*

Article IX: Amendments

This Constitution may be accepted, rescinded or amended by a simple majority of Women's Ministry participants who are also members of the local church.

Article X: Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority in matters not addressed in this Constitution.

Footnotes:

* "Local church" refers to both the particular churches and mission churches.

** "Session" includes local church sessions and applicable governing body over mission churches.

Report of the World Outreach Committee

Assembly Committee
19th General Assembly

The committee was convened by prayer by the chairman, Rev. Perry Mobley, on Thursday, June 24, 1999.

A. Business referred to Committee

1. Recommendation #24 (joint with Ministerial Vocation Committee)
2. Recommendation #30 (joint with Ministerial Vocation Committee)
3. Recommendation #31
4. Recommendation #32

B. Recommendations

1. **Recommendation #24 (Terms of Call--accumulation of study leave)**

The Committee recommends the amendment of #5 "Terms of Call" of Act 82-07 "Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination" to add the following sentences:

"Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years' accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave."

The World Outreach Committee in consultation with the Ministerial Vocation Committee concurs with this amendment.

2. **Recommendation #30 (Continuing Education)**

The committee recommends the amendment of section 410.1 "Continuing Education of the World Outreach Missions Manual" by substituting the two proposed paragraphs for the present paragraph.

The World Outreach Committee in consultation with the Ministerial Vocation Committee concurs with this amendment.

3. **Recommendation # 31 (Medical Insurance)**

The committee recommends the amendment of section 403.1 "Medical Insurance of the World Outreach Missions Manual" by substituting the proposed first paragraph for the present first paragraph.

The Ministerial Vocation Committee concurs with this amendment.

4. **Recommendation #32 (Application Procedures)**

The committee recommends the amendment of section 201.2 "Application Procedures of the World Outreach Manual" by adding the proposed paragraph as Section F:

"All missionary candidates shall participate in a cross-cultural church planting assessment center as part of the missionary selection process."

(The permanent committee recommendation was amended by substituting lower case letters for the upper case letters in "cross-cultural church planting assessment center.")

5. The minutes of the permanent committee were reviewed and found to be in order with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Alan Wright.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Mobley, Chairman

Arnold V. Lindseth, Recording Clerk

PART II
APPENDICES

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee on Administration met for two stated meetings on November 5-6, 1998 and April 8-9, 1999. 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.



Richard Little, Chairman

- Committee reports from Christian Education and Publications, Ministerial Vocation, Fraternal Relations, National Outreach, World Outreach, Women's Ministries and Student & Young Adult Ministries were received and adopted.
- Approved the terms of call for the Reverend William Meyer for a three-year term as National Outreach Director.
- Approved the docket for the 1999 General Assembly and its theme "Together as a Family," designating Ephesians 1:19 and 4:11-18 as theme scriptures.
- Approved the schedule for a pre-assembly workshop on Wednesday, June 23, 1999 from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. to discuss the relationship between the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and "The Essentials of Our Faith" so that we can learn and grow together as a family. Teaching Elders Bart Hess, Jim Dixon, Mike Glodo and Rob Norris accepted responsibility to serve on a panel to discuss this subject. Ed Davis, our Stated Clerk, will moderate the panel.
- Received names of nominees from the presbyteries to serve on the Stated Clerk Search Committee. From these nominees, elected a committee of nine, with William Flannagan as its chairman.
- Appointed a search committee for a new World Outreach Director considering names set forth by the World Outreach Committee.
- Voted to ask Dr. John Piper to be keynote speaker for the 20th (2000) General Assembly, and to choose EPC preachers to keynote the 21st (2001) Assembly.
- Granted the National Outreach Committee (NOC) permission to hold a breakfast on Thursday, June 24, 1999 for presbytery church development committee chairmen. Also granted permission to the Christian Education & Publications Committee (CEP) to host a Saturday morning breakfast (June 26) for small group ministry leaders.

- Reviewed and approved the proposed Women's Ministries' Constitution for forwarding to the 19th General Assembly for consideration. Approved Judy Reamer as speaker for the Women's Luncheon at the Assembly, and Mary Whelchel, speaker at the Faith Focus Prayer Summit in Kazakhstan.
- Granted permission to the CEP Committee to promote a 1999 National Conference on Ministry to Men through direct mail to the congregations.
- Approved Luther Whitfield as a speaker for the 1999 Summer Jams and Ben Freudenberg as speaker for the 1999 Youth Workers Retreat.
- Gave approval for SYAM Director, Dan Weidman, to lead summer 1999 trips in Brazil for the EPC and Presbyterian Church in Brazil between June 26 and July 10.
- Voted to become a member denomination of Mission America. Approved formation of a task group to be charged with mobilizing our denominational interest in Celebrate Jesus 2000. This is Mission America's evangelistic effort to reach every man, woman and child in the US for Jesus by the end of the year 2000.
- Commended New Covenant Church, Pompano Beach, Fl., for being faithful in repaying its loan indebtedness to sister churches, and expressed appreciation to Fourth Presbyterian (Bethesda, Md.) and Trinity Presbyterian (Plymouth, Mich.) for forgiving their parts of the loan to this church.
- Appointed and received the report of the Office Site Subcommittee, which researched possible options for relocation of the General Assembly Office or expansion on the current site.
- Approved formation of a committee to plan a 20th anniversary celebration from June, 2000 to June, 2001.
- Approved a budget of \$1200 to the ad hoc committee on pastors' wives to fund correspondence and outreach to them at the 19th General Assembly.
- Approved a pre-assembly workshop scheduled for the 21st Assembly (2001) on congregational ministries, featuring nationally recognized speakers in the areas of teaching and caring ministries.
- Affirmed the recommendation of the CEP Committee to have a representative of the National Coalition of Men's Ministries address the 19th General Assembly.
- Approved the request of the Ministerial Vocation Committee (MVC) to time completion of funding for the Andrew Jumper Scholarship Fund to coincide with our 20th Anniversary Celebration.

- Reviewed and affirmed MVC plans for a chaplains dinner and the newly ordained ministers' dinner to be held at the 19th General Assembly on Thursday evening, June 24.
- Designated 19th Assembly host pastor, William Flannagan, to preach the opening worship service on Thursday morning, June 24.
- Appointed a committee consisting of John Adamson, Ron Ragon and the Stated Clerk Edward Davis, to prepare a model for the development of an EPC Foundation.
- Reviewed and affirmed the recommendations of the World Outreach Committee to amend the *World Outreach Missions Manual* in sections dealing with (1) continuing education and (2) medical insurance for missionaries.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendation #1

"That the invitation of Cornerstone EPC, Brighton, Michigan to host the 23rd (2003) General Assembly be accepted."

Recommendation #2

"That the Proposed 2000 Administration Budget for \$1,088,000 be adopted."

Recommendation #3

"That the Proposed 2000 Benevolence Askings Budget for \$464,000 be adopted."

Recommendation #4

"That the common boundaries of the Mid-America and Midwest Presbyteries be redrawn so that the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin are moved from the Midwest Presbytery to the Mid-America Presbytery."

Recommendation #5

"Whereas the Evangelical Presbyterian Church encourages the use of inclusive language in all references to humanity at large, it recommends that Act 85-01 of the General Assembly be amended by deleting the present wording and substituting the following:

Present wording	Proposed wording
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.' (<i>Minutes, 5-25</i>)	All heads of committees, boards, agencies or commissions, whether male or female, shall be designated as 'chair.'"

Recommendation #6

"That the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* in Article I by substituting the following for the present Section 1-2, viz., "The place of meeting shall be rotated..."

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>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.</p>	<p>1-2 The place of meeting shall be rotated among the various areas of the church as much as practical. Any Presbytery or church of Presbytery that desires to entertain the General Assembly shall forward an invitation to the Stated Clerk no later than three years before the preceding Assembly. If two or more Presbyteries or churches submit invitations to host the General Assembly for the same year, the Committee on Administration will submit a recommendation to the General Assembly naming the host church or Presbytery. The Committee on Administration will make its recommendation based on the following criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Capability to host., i.e., availability of housing, costs, travel arrangements, committee meeting rooms, availability of food service for breaks and meals, space for exhibitors and General Assembly staff, and local transportation. b. Priority will be given to the Presbytery or church which has never hosted a General Assembly or which hosted General Assembly the greatest number of years ago.

Recommendation #7

“That the General Assembly amend its *Rules for Assembly* in section X as follows:

- a. by substituting in §4-2, “To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year.”
- b. by substituting in §4-3, ‘To name from the commissioners to the Assembly, using all resources including available computer technology, those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.’
- c. by adding a section 4-4 to read, ‘The committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.’”

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>X. 4-2 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</p>	<p>X.4-2 To nominate to the Assembly persons for vacancies of all Assembly permanent committees. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the committee no later than March 31 of that year</p>

Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or committee.

Present wording	Proposed wording
X. 4-3 To name from the commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.	X. 4-3 To name from the commissioners to the Assembly using all resources including available computer technology, those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.

Present wording	Proposed wording
X.4-4 No section 4-4 currently exists.	X.4-4 The committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.

Recommendation #8

"That a denomination-wide Thanksgiving Offering be taken in 1999 and that such be designated to National Outreach for the San Antonio church planting project."

Recommendation #9

"That the General Assembly adopt the recommendation of the Ministerial Vocation Committee regarding participation of EPC military chaplains with chaplains of other traditions, but with the deletion of the word 'Protestant.'"

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Little, Chairman

June, 1999

2001 COMMITTEE

Ad Interim Report to the 19th General Assembly

As reported to the 18th (1998) General Assembly, the 2001 Committee has been addressing the questions, *Who are we, where are we going, and how do we plan to get there?*

The Committee has continued to meet on a schedule of approximately five times a years for two days each. At least one year of our work has been devoted to basic study of what is happening in Christendom and the implications for us in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. We have been blessed by the advice and counsel of a wide variety of knowledgeable people inside and outside our denomination. There was Lyle Schaller, widely respected consultant on denominational life across the nation; Leonard Hofman of the Christian Reformed Church, long on organizational experience, as well as a very strong Christian, Charles Dunahoo, one of the organizers of the Presbyterian Church in America.



Bill Johns, Chairman

Internally, we have met with representatives of the Committee on Administration, the Building Committee, the Personnel Management Task Force, and the joint task force of the Committee on Administration and Ministerial Vocation Committee. As a result of these various consultations we have considered the structure of the Office of the General Assembly and personnel requirements for the future, and presented a position description of the Stated Clerk for use by the search committee which is now operational. Other position descriptions are under consideration.

We live in an era and culture that is no longer based on Judeo-Christian values, but increasingly hostile to the Christian message. In such a climate we must affirm our faith and polity and declare our intention to maintain them.

The following is a work in progress but we share these current ideas with you:

WHO ARE WE?

The EPC is a family of churches defined by core values and bonded by the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Evangelical Presbyterian Church means:

- 1) that we are reformed in doctrine,
(Reformed in doctrine - as contained in the Westminster standards: Confession, larger and short catechisms).

- 2) presbyterian in governance,
(means we are an organization, not an association or a movement or network. The three organizational entities—congregations, presbyteries, and general assembly—are mutually accountable).
- 3) evangelical in spirit,
(we look to the Bible as the supreme norm of truth for Christian belief and practice and are committed to the world-wide mission of the church and evangelism).

WHAT IS OUR MISSION?

Our mission is to transform lives and culture through the Gospel.

WHAT IS OUR VISION?

We envision a family of churches proclaiming the Gospel in faithfulness to reformed distinctives.

WHAT ARE OUR VALUES?

The following are examples of our concept of our core values:

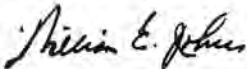
- Biblical authority
- Prayer
- Growth
- Confessional/theological
- Educated leadership
- Presbyterian governance
- Family/community

Our committee is considering the important question of care of the pastors in our denomination, beginning with candidacy and moving through retirement as a means of strengthening the clergy and at the same time providing a climate and procedure to care for the concerns of those God has called to serve as His ministers.

Having defined our mission, our core values define the vision which should be implemented through the General Assembly, presbyteries, our polity and effective leadership.

We look forward to an opportunity to share our completed work with you at the 20th (2000) General Assembly at Ward Presbyterian Church in Northville, Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,



RE Bill Johns, Chairman

TE Jerry Brundle

TE Edward Davis, Stated Clerk

Virginia Patterson, Vice-chairman

RE Samuel Jones

TE Wally Hostetter

Report - Board of Pension and Benefits June 23, 1999

The Board of Pension and Benefits met twice this past Assembly year, November 13 & 14, 1998 and May 30 and April 1, 1999. The Board continues to be blessed with concerned and diligent members.

The Pension Plan

Our pension plan has close to \$18,000,000 with 40 employees added since last year. One of the areas the Board has discussed this past year was increasing the number of investment choices. The Board will be announcing new choices early in the Fall.

The General Assembly office will be utilizing some new technology called Fidelity WebStation. This Internet site will be available to our pension participants and will also allow the GA office to more efficiently answer questions regarding individual pension accounts. The advent of this opportunity will also be announced this Fall.

Denominational Group Benefits Plan

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is 19 years old and denominational group insurance was addressed early:

81-06 "Denominational group insurance plan providing health, disability, and life coverage shall be mandatory for all ministers within member churches."

In 1982 the concept of self-funding was envisioned:

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."

Progress was made toward that end by the fourth year:

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."

EPC's plan with The Travelers was actually a partially-self-funded plan which served us well for approximately 3 years. In July of 1987, a totally self-funded plan, with the purchase of individual and aggregate stop loss insurance, was entered into.

87:19 "Group Insurance Plan for health and life coverage is changed from The Travelers to the Provident Life and Accident Insurance Company.. . ."

The EPC Denominational Group Medical Benefits Plan has been self-funded since that time, a total of 12 years.

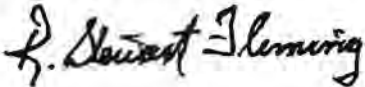
One of the things the Board of Pension and Benefits has noticed through the years is that many of our pastors and church employees are not familiar with the concept of self-funding. Perhaps a brief explanation is in order. In a self-funded plan, the money to pay claims comes directly from the premiums received each month. To make sure our medical benefits plan remains sound, we have consistently carried "stop-loss" insurance. Stop-loss insurance is an insurance plan purchased outright with premiums paid monthly, which covers all claims over a certain dollar amount. At the present time, when an individual's claims go over \$55,000 in a calendar year, the stop-loss carrier pays all medical bills over the amount of \$55,000.

Our prior claim experience enabled our insurance reserves to grow to almost \$2,000,000 as of the Spring of 1998. In the summer of 1998, our plan experienced a radical increase in claims, remaining high up to this time. Our insurance reserves are currently \$1,300,000. That is a reduction in reserves of almost \$600,000 over a period of 15 months. Please see attached statistical pages.

A contributing factor in high claims experience is the problem of adverse selection. This occurs when the percentage of participants in a plan drops below a certain level. Minimal users exit the plan leaving behind people who are heavy users of medical benefits.

Plan costs are substantially exceeding premium income. Accordingly the Board recommends the following: These changes, aimed at balancing claim expense and premium income, should redress the present imbalance.

Respectfully submitted,



Stewart Fleming, Chairman
June, 1999

6-23-99

PENSIONSTATS

122 Participating Churches
483 Employees With Active Accounts
29 Passive Accounts

Total Plan Value: \$17,436,900

Fund	Employee	Employer
Puritan	93,498	699,167
Magellan	914,818	4,612,690
Contrafund	436,478	1,494,374
Growth & Income	736,810	4,487,715
Intermediate Bond	103,059	609,202
Asset Manager	239,112	1,566,183
Retired Government	375,600	1,068,194
Totals	2,899,375	14,537,522

MEDICAL RESERVE PORTFOLIO

Standard Federal Bank (Claims Paid Account)	\$ 78,998
Merrill Lynch Claims (Deposit Account)	67,070
Merrill Lynch (Administration Account)	7,817
Merrill Lynch U.S. Treasuries	400,651
Vanguard Bond Index	8,972
Invesco Industrial Income	82,393
T. Rowe Price Equity Income	82,061
Lindner Dividend Fund	55,643
American Century	37,872
Baron Asset Fund	42,968
Janus Fund	54,068
Franklin Mutual Series Fund (Mutual Shares)	38,953
Oakmark	42,297
Vanguard Windsor II	87,067
Fidelity Puritan	43,112
Fidelity Equity Income	41,881
Fidelity Convertible	36,625
Fidelity Contrafund	1,972
	<hr/>
	\$1,210,420

jb/6-23-99

For Comparison:

Reserve Portfolio 5-21-98	\$1,918,496
Reserve Portfolio 10-22-98	\$1,473,314
Reserve Portfolio 12-8-98	\$1,625,212
Reserve Portfolio 4-1-99	\$1,366,502

Total Medical Reserves	\$1,366,502
Families with Medical Coverage	400
Singles with Medical Coverage	160
Total Employees	560
 (32 Retirees Covered) *****	
 <u>Claims Data</u> 	
1991 Claims	\$1,274,000
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
1997 Claims	\$1,468,401
1998 Claims	\$1,994,155
 6-20-99	

1999	Premium Income	Claim Expense
January	\$192,947	\$265,796
February	\$177,695	\$128,727
March	\$214,694	\$340,022
April	\$196,539	\$229,594
May	\$183,081	\$183,662
TOTALS	\$964,956	\$1,147,801

FIDELITY MAGELLAN

March 31, 1999

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 %

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1 st 1/4
24.66	-1.81	36.82	11.69	26.59	33.63	8.92

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 %

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1 st 1/4
21.43	-1.12	36.28	21.94	23.00	31.52	7.34

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 %

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1 st 1/4
21.45	1.78	21.46	15.15	22.35	16.59	2.04

FIDELITY GROWTH AND INCOME

3-31-99

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 %

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1 st 1/4
19.53	2.27	35.38	20.02	30.17	28.31	3.19

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 %

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1 st 1/4
23.29	-6.60	18.16	12.73	22.27	16.09	2.61

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 %

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1 st 1/4
11.96	-2.01	12.81	3.65	7.57	7.32	.47

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%
	1997	5.50%
	1998	3.20%
	1 st 1/4 1999	1.16%

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

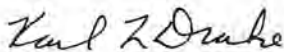
To the General Assembly of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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, 1998 and 1997. 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 Pension Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.



Karl L. Drake, PC
Certified Public Accountant

February 24, 1999

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PENSION PLAN
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997**

	1998	1997
ADDITIONS TO PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Contributions	\$ 1,718,108	\$ 1,662,966
Dividends and Interest	1,084,206	706,419
Transfers in	28,722	294,299
Gain in Market Value	2,065,892	1,347,240
	4,896,928	4,010,924
TOTAL ADDITIONS		
DEDUCTIONS FROM PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Pension Payments	301,546	400,961
Account Fees	6,786	6,334
	308,332	407,295
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS		
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	4,588,596	3,603,629
NET ASSETS		
Cash and Investments - Beginning of Year	11,573,428	7,969,799
	\$ 16,162,024	\$ 11,573,428
Cash and Investments - End of Year		

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PENSION PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1998 and 1997**

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, 1998 and 1997, the Plan's assets were invested in Merrill Lynch and Fidelity investment accounts as follows. All assets are valued at market value.

	1998	1997
Merrill Lynch	\$ 35,685	\$ 35,041
Fidelity Money Market	1,021,973	542,849
Fidelity Asset Manager	1,691,141	1,399,117
Fidelity Intermediate Bond	694,634	471,116
Fidelity Growth & Income	4,970,375	3,686,439
Fidelity Contrafund	1,901,815	1,236,739
Fidelity Magellan	5,113,853	3,676,503
Fidelity Puritan	732,548	525,624
	\$ 16,162,024	\$ 11,573,428

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, 1998 and 1997. 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, 1998 and 1997, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.

Karl L. Drake

Karl L. Drake, PC
Certified Public Accountant

February 24, 1999

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997**

	1998	1997
ADDITIONS TO PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Premiums	\$ 1,811,764	\$ 1,881,039
Dividends and Interest	117,941	146,221
Gain in Market Value	52,236	41,464
	TOTAL ADDITIONS	2,068,724
DEDUCTIONS FROM PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Claims	2,038,020	1,515,379
Premiums	318,035	275,906
Administrative Expenses	78,624	70,514
	TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	1,861,799
	INCREASE <DECREASE> IN NET ASSETS	206,925
	-452,738	
NET ASSETS		
Cash and Investments – Beginning of Year	1,912,033	1,705,108
Cash and Investments – End of Year	\$ 1,459,295	\$ 1,912,033

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1998 and 1997**

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).

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1998 and 1997**

NOTE C - PLAN INVESTMENTS

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

	1998	1997
Merrill Lynch	\$ 9,577	\$ 9,331
Merrill Lynch	536,015	724,556
Smith Barney	—	50
Vanguard Bond Fund	8,969	229,140
Invesco Industrial	78,984	62,549
T. Rowe Price Equity	81,014	67,212
Lindner Dividend	57,828	53,248
Brandywine	44,910	45,682
Berger 100	26,343	22,665
Columbia Special	25,660	21,999
Crabbe Huson Special	—	22,168
Kaufman	—	22,842
PBHG Growth	—	19,257
Robert Stephens Value	29,192	22,906
T. Rowe Price Science and Ind.	29,215	20,523
American Century	33,977	25,253
Baron Asset	40,828	31,927
Janus Fund	48,093	28,824
Mutual Series	36,877	30,685
Neugerger and Berman	—	29,081
Oakmark	41,600	33,109
Vanguard Windsor II	84,739	66,306
Fidelity Puritan	43,546	30,861
Fidelity Equity	42,979	32,035
Fidelity Convertible	37,090	26,536
Fidelity Contrafund	32,877	24,997
Standard Federal Bank	88,982	208,291
	\$ 1,459,295	\$ 1,912,033

2000 ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

	<u>1998</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>1998</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>1999</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2000</u> <u>Proposed</u>
Personnel Disbursements				
Stated Clerk Salary	70,130	70,130	73,637	76,600
Stated Clerk Elect Compensation	--	--	--	25,500
Stated Clerk Elect-Moving Ex.	--	--	--	10,000
Program & Supt Staff Salar.	355,635	282,893	373,417	375,400
Staff Insurance/Pension	81,000	58,925	83,000	90,000
Executive Expense Allow	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
Staff Travel/Expenses	36,000	23,664	36,000	35,000
Executive Travel	27,000	26,798	30,000	29,000
Taxes/Workman's Comp	26,000	25,090	26,000	27,000
Officer/Director Liability	4,000	5,000	5,600	6,000
	<u>607,265</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>635,154</u>	<u>682,000</u>
Administration Disbursements				
Contingencies	5,000	8,558	4,000	5,000
Telephone	20,000	17,787	18,000	18,000
Office Supplies	11,000	8,524	10,000	9,000
Printing & Promotion	65,000	60,455	69,500	70,000
Postage	25,000	25,268	24,500	26,000
Technology Support	10,000	11,994	7,500	9,000
Financial Audit	4,000	3,300	4,000	3,500
Professional Fees	2,000	600	2,000	2,000
Miscellaneous	4,000	3,368	3,281	3,500
Office Development	10,000	10,495	7,500	7,500
Committee travel/expense	60,000	58,232	65,000	75,000
GA Administration	25,000	21,750	24,500	20,000
Staff Technical Training	2,000	1,900	2,000	2,000
Pension Fund Admin.	6,000	5,119	6,000	6,000
Fraternal Relations	10,000	8,412	10,000	9,000
Presbytery Devel/Support	3,000	50	3,000	3,000
Leadership Development	1,000	631	1,000	500
Christian Ed/Resource	1,000	294	1,000	500
Buckingham Rent	72,000	67,708	75,600	114,000
Buckingham Utilities	7,500	5,256	7,875	8,000
Buckingham Maint/Insurance	10,000	11,516	11,000	13,000
Van Expense	2,500	1,287	2,000	1,500
	<u>356,000</u>	<u>332,504</u>	<u>359,256</u>	<u>406,000</u>
<u>GRAND TOTALS</u>	963,265	832,504	994,410	1,088,000

2000 Benevolence Askings

Ministerial Vocation

• Jumper Scholarship Fund	50,000
• Newly Ordained Ministers Dinner	<u>3,000</u>
	\$53,000

National Outreach

• Church Loan Fund	35,000
• Key Cities: <i>(\$60,000 to San Antonio Church Plant)</i>	75,000
• Military Avenue	30,000
• New Hope	20,000
• Appalachian Project	5,000
• Church Planting	<u>50,000</u>
	\$215,000

Student & Young Adult Ministries

• Scholarships: Super Jam 2000	10,000
• Costs: mission trips	
• Scholarships: college students in short term ministry with EPC missionaries in 10/40 window	
	\$10,000

Women's Ministries

• Faith Focus	30,000
• Per Woman Asking	<u>25,000</u>
	\$55,000

World Outreach

• Argentina Field Development	8,000
• Argentina Leadership Development	5,000
• Argentina WO Church Planting	10,000
• Argentina Pastoral Local Scholarships	1,500
• Argentina Presbytery Church Planting	15,000
• Brazil Theological Scholarships	10,000
• Brazil--Edward Davis Library	10,000
• Brazil Foreign Missions--Ghana	5,000
• Kazakhstan Team Development	8,000
• Turkey Team Development	10,000
• Eastern Asia--China seminaries	30,000
• Eastern Asia--China field development	2,500
• Ethnic: Hispanic Project (Mississippi)	10,000
• Almaty Church Building/Kazakhstan	<u>6,000</u>
	131,000

TOTAL

\$464,000

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT



The Christian Education and Publications Committee met September 25-26, 1998 and March 5-6, 1999 at the General Assembly Offices in Livonia, Michigan. Members of the committee are Sandy Hazelwood (Central South), TE David Ruff (Mid-Atlantic), Elizabeth Hicks (Midwest), TE Bruce Spear, Chairman (West), RE John Graham (Southeast), TE David Stewart (Mid-Atlantic).

Staff members in attendance all or part of the time were Marilyn Bartel, News Editor, Reflections; Ed McCallum, Assistant to the Stated Clerk; Edward Davis, Stated Clerk; Lucy McGuire, Editor, Reflections magazine

Bruce Spear, Chairman

① *Mission Statement*

The CE&P adopted the following mission statement to guide our efforts: "The mission of the CE&P is to equip and encourage our churches in their teaching ministries so they may present everyone mature in Christ."

② *Christian Education Resource Network*

In 1989 General Assembly directed the CE&P to develop a Christian Education Resource Network. We are presently developing a list of individuals in the EPC who would be willing to serve as consultants to other churches in the area of Christian Education. If you are such a person or know of such a people please contact Ed McCallum at the General Assembly office.

③ *Christian Education Curriculum*

We reviewed material from Children's Ministries International and approved it for catechetical instruction in EPC churches. Their curriculum is very helpful for presenting the Westminster Confession to small children. The CE&P met with representatives of the Christian Reformed Church Publications. Their vision is to impact both the hearts and minds of their people through quality publications and curriculum. We perused their material and agreed to pursue a working agreement between the EPC and CRC Publications. We also looked at adult education curriculum from Walk Thru the Bible Ministries and recommended the exploration of a working relationship with them as well. They also have excellent teacher training materials presently being used by many of our churches.

④ *Small Group Resource Network*

Committee member David Ruff is contacting individuals in the EPC with a passion for small group ministry. A small group leaders breakfast will be held at the home of John Graham (a

CE&P committee member living in Rome, Georgia) on Saturday morning, June 26, 1999 before the start of that day's General Assembly meetings. Please contact David Ruff at Forest Hills EPC if you would like to be part of this initial meeting or part of the development of a small group ministry network.

⑤ *Men's Ministry*

In response to *Overture 97-E*, the CE&P continued to investigate the possibility of a men's ministry in the EPC. A survey of EPC churches regarding men's ministry was conducted during and after last year's General Assembly meeting. Of the 56 churches that responded, 50 had some level of men's ministry. Of these, 62% were led by a layman, 26% by a pastor, and 12% by a staff person. Almost half of the respondents requested help in identifying and evaluating men's curriculum. Training of laymen leading men's ministries for their churches was also an important need.

Ed McCallum attended the founding meeting of the National Coalition of Men's Ministries in Knoxville, Tennessee, Aug. 31 – Sept. 1, 1999. This organization was founded to bring together men's ministry organizations and denominational churches "to do together what we cannot do alone." Based on Ed's report and other input, the CE&P recommended that the EPC become subscribe to a National Membership of the NCMM at a fee of \$300/year. Please see the attached Relationship Agreement.

The NCMM conducted its first National Conference on Ministry to Men, for the training of men's ministry leaders, in Knoxville, Tennessee, April 8-10, 1999. This conference was promoted to each EPC church through the mailing of their brochure and a letter explaining our relationship with the NCMM.

The CE&P with information from the 2001 Committee did not consider it feasible at this time to establish a part time or full time men's ministry staff position in the General Assembly Office. We do recommend that the need for such a position be kept before those planning for the future of our church. We also recommend that a representative of the NCMM be given 5 minutes to address the 19th General Assembly.

⑥ *Reflections Magazine*

With the resignation of Donna Alberta as editor of *Reflections*, the Reflections Subcommittee of the CE&P met to discuss the search for a new editor. Under the leadership of Stated Clerk Edward Davis, we were led to Lucy McGuire of Ward EPC, Northville, Michigan. She accepted the position of editor (one year initial appointment) and met with the CE&P at our March meeting. Marilyn Bartel continued as New Editor. Lucy was given permission to facilitate the timely publication of the magazine by replacing the Reflections Subcommittee of the CE&P with a Reflections Editorial Committee made up of volunteers recruited from the Detroit area. The Stated Clerk will function as a primary resource to this committee on questions of policy and history, recognizing that the magazine serves as the house organ of the EPC. The CE&P will continue to review for approval any new initiatives or policy changes proposed by the Editorial Committee. Lucy invites you to pick up a copy of the most recent *Reflections*, to send her your impressions of the current issue, and to contribute to the magazine in the numerous ways indicated in the magazine.

⑦ **General Assembly Displays**

Displays by EPC-approved agencies, curriculum publishers and other Christian organizations are available to the commissioners and others in attendance at this meeting of the General Assembly. Plan to take time to gather helpful information from these displays and the consultants available. Remember that any items ordered through Lay Renewal Ministries results in a 10% donation to the publication of Reflections magazine.

⑧ **Pre-Assembly Workshop in 2001**

Act of the Assembly 83-09 states that the three purposes of the General Assembly meetings are:

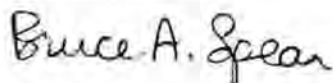
- to do the business of the Assembly
- to be a time of celebration and fellowship

In keeping with the third purpose, the CE&P requested and was granted approval by the Committee on Administration to hold a pre-assembly workshop in 2001 with a focus on congregational ministries. This workshop will feature nationally recognized speakers in the areas of teaching and caring ministries for people of all ages. Time will be given for participant interaction and networking. Those interesting in providing ideas should contact Ed McCallum at the General Assembly Office.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That a representative of the National Coalition on Men's Ministries be given five minutes to address the 19th General Assembly."

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce Spear, Chairman
Christian Education & Publications Committee

May, 1999



ATTACHMENT
CEP-1

March 13, 1999

Rev. Ed McCallum
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Ave. Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Ed:

Greetings in the Name of the Lord!

Steering Committee

- Pat Morley
Committee Chairman
Min in the Home
- Z. Allen Abbott
Assembly District 100
- Leonard Albert
Church of God
- Charles Brewster
Ministry of God
- Bob Clement
Ministry to Men Foundation, Inc.
- Paul Cole
Central Men's Society
- Vince D'Accioli
On Target Ministries
- Phil Downer
Christian Brotherhood
Community
- Thomas Fritz
International Brotherhood
- Geoff Gornach
Nippon
- Larry Kredder
The Gathering of Men
- Michael Spotsville
Prostate Response
- Chris Van Brocklin
Evangelical Free
Church of America
- Sid Woodruff
Lutheran Outreach Ministries, Inc.
- Bob Sena
Ministry Based, Inc.
- Daniel L. Erickson
National Coalition of
Men's Ministries
Executive Director

I want to congratulate you on your acceptance as a member of the National Coalition of Men's Ministries. Your application was reviewed and all requirements were met. Your application was submitted to the Steering Committee at the March 8, 1999 meeting and was approved. We all are very pleased to serve with you in helping the church present every man, in America, with a credible offer of the gospel, encourage them to pursue God, and to help them for service in their home, church, workplace, community and world.

I have enclosed a copy of the Benefits of Membership sheet, which outlines your benefits as a member. One of your benefits is two passes for the National Conference on Ministry to Men. We will send those on receipt of two registration forms. (See enclosed brochure)

We are so glad you have joined us to attempt *"to do together what we cannot do alone,"* and *"to become to each what we want the church and the men of America to become through brotherhood, unity, mission and servant leadership."*

I will be my pleasure to serve you at any time. The NCMM staff has no other agenda but to serve you. Please do not hesitate to call upon us. If you have any needs, concerns or questions please give me a call at 303-933-0514 or fax me at 303-933-0469

Together, in His Service

Dr. Daniel L. Erickson
Dr. Daniel L. Erickson
Executive Director

Box 620398
Littleton, CO 80162
(303) 933-0514
fax (303) 933-0469

**NATIONAL COALITION OF MEN'S MINISTRIES (NCMM)
Definitions and Benefits of Membership**

(NM) Member of the NCMM (Voting Members): A parachurch/servant ministry or denominational ministry that seeks to minister to the issues and/or needs of men and has a interstate and or intrastate focus and impact. Fees are based on the Men's Ministry Budget: (\$0-\$300,000) \$300; (\$300,000-\$500,000) \$500; (\$500,001-\$1,000,000) \$1000; (\$1,000,001-\$3,000,000) \$2000; (\$3,000,001-\$5,000,001) \$3,500; (\$5,000,001plus) \$5000.

(AFL) Affiliate of the NCMM: An individual, church, parachurch/servant ministry, denomination, or association that is not an official member of the NCMM but seeks to be informed and has a desire to minister to the issues and /or needs of men. Fee: \$200

APPENDICES

Benefits:	NM	AM	AFL
Invitation to Semi-Annual National Membership Meetings	X		
National Exposure of Your Men's Ministries	X		
Listing in the NCMM National Resource Manual	X		
Exhibit Space at cost for the NCMM National Convention on Ministry to Men		X	
Regional and State Exposure of Your Men's Ministries	X	X	
Collaboration with other Members on Men's Ministries Resources and Curriculums	X	X	
Free Consulting among Members in All Areas that Minister to Men	X	X	
Promotion of Your Men's Ministries on the NCMM Website	X	X	
Wholesaling and consigning of Men's Ministries Resources and Curriculums	X	X	
Inclusion in the NCMM Speaker's Bureau	X	X	
Local Exposure of Your Men's Ministries	X	X	X
Free Copy of the NCMM National Resource Manual	X	X	X
Receive Updated Data from Research Projects related to Men's Ministries	X	X	X
Access to the Latest Men's Ministries Resources and Curriculums	X	X	X
The Ability to Network and Create Partnerships with other Men's Ministries	X	X	X
Two Free Registrations to the National Conference on Ministry to Men	X	X	X
Access to Higher Education and Training Curriculums for Men's Ministries	X	X	X
Access to Various Men's Ministries Models	X	X	X
Access to State Representatives who will Promote the NCMM Men's Ministries, Coordinate Men's Ministry Events and Help You Strategize for the Development of Men's Ministries in Cities, States or Regions	X	X	X
Free Access to a National Website and Linkage to All Men's Ministries	X	X	X
Access to the New Satellite Distant Learning Technology	X	X	X
Receive Quarterly Newsletter	X	X	X

NATIONAL COALITION OF MEN'S MINISTRIES (NCMM) Relationship Agreement

THE MISSION

Together, we will help the local church present every man in America with a credible offer of the gospel, encourage them to pursue God, and equip them for spiritual service in the home, workplace, community and world.

VISION STATEMENT

"Doing together what we cannot do alone"

VALUES

Because we fear God and seek only His glory and will, because we desire to honor the Lord Jesus Christ in all we do, because we sense the Holy Spirit desires spiritual revival and awakening, and because we believe the Christian men's movement will prosper in direct proportion to how the leaders of the movement are in right relationship with God and right relationship with each other, we affirm the following values:

Brotherhood

We affirm that the Scriptures declare reconciliation must precede worship (Matthew 5:23-24); and that where brothers live in unity, there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life for evermore (Psalm 133:1,3). Jesus said that all people will know we are his disciples if we love one another (John 13:35). Therefore, we resolve to become to each other what we want the church to become. We will seek to become a visible demonstration of what is happening in the kingdom of heaven.

Unity

We affirm that in the Scriptures Jesus prayed for His followers to become one, just as He and the Father are one. "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me..." (John 17:22-23). There is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:4-6). Therefore, we declare before God that there is but one men's ministry, and it belongs to God. We will have no agenda but God; and no agenda but God's. We will seek to become one in fellowship and purpose, while remaining many parts in practice (1 Corinthians 12).

Mission

We affirm that the Scriptures command us to make disciples of all people by reaching them with a credible offer of the gospel, exhorting them to pursue a love for and knowledge of God, teaching them to obey everything Christ commanded, and equipping them for spiritual service in the home, church, workplace, and community. Therefore, we will seek to do together what none of us could do alone to reach the men of America. We will each endeavor to develop and coordinate our plans and strategies to "point all the arrows in the same direction" so that what we do together will be greater than what any of us could do alone.

Servant Leadership

We commit to and accept the mandate for servant leadership given by Jesus Christ in Matthew 20:24-28, and in Luke 22:24-30. It is clear that only by committing to and living out the model of Jesus Christ will we be able to live the values of brotherhood, unity and mission. Jesus never sought to lord over another and demonstrated that the first qualification of leadership begins with serving. Servant leadership allows us to trust the Christ that we see in others and begin to live in brotherhood. As can be seen in I Kings 12:1-9, servant leadership produces unity and it is unity that allows the mission of making disciples to be accomplished. We affirm that our appreciation for and response to the mandate for servant leadership is foundational to our ability to commit to the values of brotherhood, unity and mission.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

APPENDICES



For the past two years of my presidency, we have held a special staff picnic at a nearby forest preserve just prior to the Fourth of July weekend.

This special Pioneer Clubs event is put on for the staff by the executive team. We arrive early to start the charcoal, set the picnic tables, cook the food, and decorate the pavilion.

I help barbeque the chicken and hamburgers. Executive team members wear patriotic cardboard hats and Pioneer Clubs aprons. It isn't fancy or elaborate, but it is a special time for staff, and it marks the end of our fiscal year.

The "program" consists of eating, laughing, and reflecting on our year of accomplishments. In a way it is our in-house celebration for a job well-done. As part of the festivity, department supervisors highlight one or two significant accomplishments of each person on their staff.

Usually these achievements are recognized with a little gag gift commemorating the staff member's contribution to meeting goals. It's a fun way for everyone to see how each of us plays a key role in our mission to assist churches in helping children and youth put Christ in every phase of life.

While our Fourth of July picnic is our informal end-of-the-year report, this annual report is our formal communication of accomplishments. It's a way we can bring the picnic celebration to you. As you look over this report, you'll discover how busy the Pioneer Clubs staff has been. We are grateful that the gracious hand of God has been upon us throughout the year.

We helped 792 new churches begin a Pioneer Clubs program this year. That effort alone enables thousands of children and youth to connect with Jesus Christ and learn how to live for him in every phase of life. For many children, club is a reinforcement of what they learn at home and in other Christian education activities at church. But for others, Pioneer Clubs is the one and only place they learn about the love of Christ. We're delighted that so many churches have added this unique ministry to their evangelism and discipleship efforts.

This year marked the completion of our translating third and fourth-grade Pathfinder material into Spanish. This bold step of faith will make it possible for Spanish churches in North and South America to conduct club for their young people.

We are currently exploring ways to partner with others in the distribution of this material. Following our Fourth of July picnic, I spent three days in Puerto Rico with a group of people interested in working with us on this project. Please pray for this effort.

In addition to completing the Spanish translation, we were able to assist a group in Lithuania to translate the Scooter Club material for four- and five-year-olds. This group is now making plans to translate our *Following God's Way* Urban Edition during the next year. It's exciting to reach out globally and see what God will do with Pioneer Clubs around the world.

Last April 25, Pioneer Clubs sponsored its first annual Kids for Kids Hike. This event had several purposes. It was an effort to heighten the awareness of how important children's ministry is in the church. It also provided a great way for club members to learn to help other kids. And it served as an exciting, unifying springtime event for club members, parents, and the church congregation.

Reports from the hundreds who hiked are glowing. Many look forward to this event again next year. I joined a group of Kids for Kids hikers in Southern California while the Pioneer Clubs staff hosted a hike at our office for clubs in the Wheaton area.

A good part of our year was spent researching and developing Camp Cherith curriculum. This past spring, we completed the first of three phases. Camp Cherith plays a key role in helping children and youth learn the importance of living a Christian lifestyle on a daily basis. I'm especially grateful for our camping program this summer. My 12-year-old niece is a veteran Cherith camper, but this was her 10-year-old brother's first Cherith camping experience. I'd like to share a letter I received from him following camp.



Dear Aunt Judy,

I had a great time at camp. Thank you for sending me. My activities were air riflery, sports and games, and arts and crafts. My friends were Paul and Luke. My counselor's name was Loon. The best thing of all is I let Jesus in my heart. I got a Camp Cherith t-shirt.

Love,
Jason

As you read this report, remember that the reason we do what we do is because of what Jesus wants to do for children, like my nephew Jason.

Thank you for your caring interest and support.

Sincerely,

Judy
Judy Bryson
President/CEO

A WORD FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

As we approach the next century, the media continue to remind us that our society has lost a sense of moral absolutes. Political correctness, tolerance, and the separation of church and state have been taken to extremes.

Values once accepted as foundational by the vast majority are now kept out of the public classrooms for fear they might reflect a "religious" perspective. And our young people have few national heroes modeling the character qualities of personal sacrifice, moral integrity, and a personal biblically-based guidance system.

There has never been a greater need for the mission of Pioneer Clubs, which for nearly 60 years has been helping children experience a relationship with Christ, impacting every phase of life.

For children being raised in Christ-centered families, club reinforces and extends the messages heard at home and on Sundays. For unchurched children, club may be their only opportunity to learn about the God who loves them, who has provided a manual for successful living, and who sent his Son as a personal lifeline for each one who follows him.

Though the goals remain the same as they did when Pioneer Clubs began, it is more challenging today to capture and retain the attention of children. We cannot become complacent with our good leadership and sound financial condition.

Staff is regularly conducting research and using it to update and tailor programs and materials to meet the needs of churches, volunteer leaders, and children.

The Board of Directors is undertaking a planning process to ensure that Pioneer Clubs continues to thrive and effectively meet needs into the 21st century.

Pioneer Clubs is developing new strategic partnerships with other ministry organizations, building on each other's strengths with the goal of helping churches minister to children and

their families.

We look forward with optimism to the challenges ahead, and we're making the necessary investments in staff, facilities, and systems. This is all being done with the goal of multiplying the ministry resources to fulfill our mission to children in North America and throughout the world.

With so few cultural influences upholding traditional Judeo-Christian values and so many children not knowing Christian homes and churches, I thank God for the ministry of Pioneer Clubs and the thousands of dedicated volunteers making a difference in the lives of tens of thousands of young people.

To the many friends and supporters of this vital work, may this Annual Report help you sense that your dedication, prayers, and financial support are bearing fruit which is imperishable.

Jim Phillip
Board Chair



MINISTRY IMPACT

A Word from a Customer...

Dear Deloris:

Often times we do not know the impact we have on others, so I thought I would take this opportunity to let you know how much of an encouragement you were to me.

When I was going through the discernment process for materials to offer at our mid-week family education evening, I truly appreciated your willingness to answer my questions and concerns about your program. I could tell that you were truly concerned about my inquiries. I also sensed your Christian commitment to what you are doing. When I called some of the other mid-week programs, I was a little dismayed at the way they were all business without a sense of ministry. Needless to say when I previewed your material I could tell your material was very Christ centered, and it was also refreshing to have you minister to me when I was asking questions.

I am excited that we are bringing Pioneer Clubs to St. Paul Lutheran Church and thank you for your support.

In His Service,

Kristle Tonloy
Staff Lay Minister
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Peoria, Illinois

DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Marketing and Sales

The Marketing and Sales Division exceeded the sales income goal by 2 percent. With the addition of 792 new churches, the number of churches using club increased by 1 percent.

Thirty Leader Training Workshops were conducted around the country for leaders and coordinators. The staff represented Pioneer Clubs and taught workshop sessions at 10 Christian ministry conferences and several Christian education training seminars.

Development

The Development staff again had a good year with contributions exceeding the budget by 12 percent. A variety of factors were responsible for this response—the annual phonathon to donors, the leader phonathon, church contributions, new members in the 21st Century Lamplighters, and bequests from supporters who went to be with the Lord.

A new activity this year that helped the contributions picture was the Kids for Kids Hike that took place across the country. The hike got club members, leaders, parents, and others involved in raising funds to help other kids enjoy club. This

new venture will become an annual event every April.

A second new program added this year was Share the Shares. This missions emphasis was developed to provide club members with



another way to assist in the expansion of clubs to children in other countries.

A new relationship was formed with the Christian Service Organizations of America (CSOA). CSOA represents Christian charities in workplace fund raising drives. This usually means that government or business employees can give contributions through organizations like the Combined Federal Campaign or the United Way that will be passed on to Pioneer Clubs.

The generous support of donor partners has helped keep club costs affordable, both in the United States and overseas.

Publications

The major project for the Publications staff was the creation of a new Camp Cherith curriculum plan and the production of the first of three phases of the new materials that were used in this past summer's camps. A revision of *Leader Training Outlines* was produced. This book is an important tool for coordinators to use in training their club volunteers. The Publications Division also produced three issues of *Perspective* magazine for club leaders and supported the production needs of other divisions.

Finance/MIS

The Finance and MIS Division assists all other departments in the organization. Besides overseeing the organization's finances, they also meet its computer needs and provide computer support. This year the Board selected a new audit firm and we began working with them. MIS also upgraded the PC network software. In the process, they were able to get the entire office staff onto the network. Part of this process involved the incorporation into the network of 12 PCs that were a gift from another Christian organization in the area.

Administrative

The Administrative Division, like Finance/MIS, also provides support to the entire organization through its four departments—Business Services, Warehouse Services, Mailing Services, and Purchasing. This year they processed 3,618 Let's Get Started Kits and shipped 21,844 orders. This high demand for materials was met while keeping within our standard of processing orders in three days.

The UPS strike in the fall affected all business areas. However, we were still able to record church registrations on schedule. We

MINISTRY IMPACT

processed orders as quickly as UPS could take them after the strike. Over 1,000 boxes on 13 skids were waiting to be shipped when the strike ended.

The division's work force was bolstered by a team of seven volunteers who provided help in packaging products and preparing mailings.

NEW PRODUCTS

New product development centered around developing a completely new Camp Cherith curriculum.

A great deal of time was put into surveying Cherith camp directors and counselors, conducting focus groups, and discussing curriculum needs with the Curriculum Committee of the Association of Camp Cherith Camps. The result was the development of a totally new look for the Camp Cherith curriculum.

Although the new plan covers a three-year cycle of curriculum, the first year's curriculum was written this past year and was used by camps this past summer.

The materials produced include counselors' Bible Explorations for Pathfinders (grades 3-4), Trailblazers (grades 5-7), and Teens (grades 7-12) and corresponding Morning Watch materials for the campers. To date, response has been very positive.

The new product developed for clubs is the totally rewritten *Leader Training Quiltes* book. This book is part of our ongoing effort to provide quality training materials for local club leaders.

BEYOND U.S. BOUNDARIES

Canada

Pioneer Clubs of Canada received the endorsement of the Salvation Army nationwide as its club program of choice. In cooperation with a local church, work has begun on translating the Scooter materials into French.

Lithuania

Having completed the translation of the Scooter program in Lithuanian and beginning its distribution, the Lithuanian group we have been work-

ing with is now making plans to translate the Urban Edition of the curriculum.

Spanish Distribution

Exploration of possible distribution channels is progressing with the Christian and Missionary Alliance denomination for our Spanish curriculum.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Pioneer Clubs awarded two college scholarships from the Virginia C. Patterson Continuing Education Fund. Both of these deserving students are former club members, club leaders, and Camp Cherith campers. Recipients are Candice Lynn Eisenhauer of

New Castle, Delaware, and Rebekah Ash, of Effort, Pennsylvania. In addition, two high school students—Seanaid Bosserman and Jessica Cunningham, both from Oregon Camp Cherith—were awarded Campers in Leadership Training (CILT) scholarships.

Camp Cherith

Our 20 Cherith camps ministered to over 5,742 campers. This represents a 2.5 percent increase over the previous summer. The Association of Camp Cherith Camps' Curriculum Committee worked closely with the Publications Division in the development of the new Bible

Exploration and Morning Watch materials for Cherith camps.

Celebrate the Child

We continued to be involved in this campaign to heighten the awareness of the importance of children and children's ministry in the local church. Celebrate the Child was the emphasis during Pioneer Clubs Week, and we continue to assist the program by providing warehousing and shipping services for their introductory materials.



A Word from a Ministry Partner...

The 1997 General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, was pleased to endorse a new partnership with Pioneer Clubs. In the ensuing months, EPC churches have been encouraged to incorporate the Pioneer Clubs program into the fabric of their own Christian education ministry. Reaching our children for Christ, guiding them in their Christian walk, and providing camp experiences are all goals we want to attain for our children. Pioneer Clubs gives us tools to help achieve them. We applaud Pioneer Clubs and commend this ministry to any church serious about reaching its young people for Jesus Christ.

Dr. Edward Davis
Stated Clerk
Evangelical
Presbyterian Church



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

29140 BUCKINGHAM AVENUE, SUITE 5 LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154
(734) 261-2001 Fax (734) 261-3282

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June, 1999

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 Orin Littlejohn, Chairman, Board of Pension and Benefits.
2. **Nominations:** Nominating Committee, Class of 2002
Elder Frank Johnson (At-Large)
Rev. Bill Vogler (Mid-America)
Rev. Steve Wilkinson (Central South)
3. **Appointment:** 2000 Nominating Committee Chairman
Elder John Sherard, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

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,

Alan Smith, Moderator
18th General Assembly

Cornerstone
Presbyterian
Church

COMMUNICATION 99-2

Rev. Richard J. Alberta, D. Min.
Senior Pastor



APPENDICES

June 20, 1998

Dr. L. Edward Davis
Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Ave., Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154-4586

Re: General Assembly

Dear Dr. Davis:

Greetings in the name of Jesus! Allow me to speak for the Session of the Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Brighton, Michigan. We would be honored if our denomination would consider our church as a future site for an upcoming General Assembly. It is my impression that the GA of 2003 or 2004 needs to be finalized in terms of location.

As you know, Brighton is a remarkable and growing area. We believe the necessary resources will clearly be in place in the next couple of years to host a General Assembly. There will be more than adequate hotel and restaurant accommodations. In addition, our facilities as a church are being expanded and should prove attractive and well-suited for such an important gathering.

I thank you in advance for your considerations, and await your reply. We continue to praise God for your work, and that of our entire EPC team!

Blessings!

Sincerely, in Christ

Dr. Richard J. Alberta
Senior Pastor

9455 HILTON RD. • BRIGHTON, MI 48116-8664 • (810) 227-9411

We are members of God's household... with Christ Jesus himself as the chief Cornerstone.

COMMUNICATION 99-3



PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST, E.P.C.

33604 GRAND RIVER • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48335

(248) 471-9775 • FAX: (248) 476-9838

March 2, 1999

APPENDICES

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

Dear Ed,

At the 75th Stated Meeting of the Midwest Presbytery held on November 14, 1997, the following action was taken: (page 10 of minutes)

"The Stated Clerk is instructed to communicate to the Council of the Mid-America Presbytery our desire to join them in recommending that the 18th General Assembly redraw our common boundary with the result that the State of Wisconsin and the State of Minnesota be moved to the Mid-America Presbytery."

This action was approved and conveyed for action by the Committee on Administration.

Yours in Christ,

Alton L. Bennett
Stated Clerk

(davis)



COMMUNICATION 99-4

Presbytery of Mid-America

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk
1926 Prospector Ridge
Ballwin, MO 63011
(314) 458-1015 Fax (314) 458-6134

March 6, 1999

Rev. Dr. Ed Davis, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
2914 Buckingham Avenue
Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Ed.

This letter is a follow-up to conversations we had at the Stated Clerk's Workshop in February concerning possible presbytery boundary changes and the churches affected.

The Presbytery of Mid-America received a letter from the Presbytery of the Mid West asking us if we had any objections to receiving the existing three churches (Bay Wind, East Crossing & Highview EPC) from their presbytery that geographically aligns with the Presbytery of Mid-America. The Presbytery of Mid-America approved accepting these three churches and supports the boundary change to accomplish this action at their October 17, 1998 Stated Meeting.

The following churches would be affected with the boundary change:

Bay Wind Church (mission)
Minnetonka, MN 55345

East Crossing EPC
Madison, WS 53714

Highview Evangelical Presbyterian
Waukesha, WS 53188

The Presbytery of Mid-America requests the COA to consider this change and bring a recommendation to the 19th General Assembly.

Yours in Christ,

Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk

APPENDICES

COMMUNICATION 99-5

EVANGELICAL
COUNCIL FOR
FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY

September 25, 1998



APPENDICES

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

Dear Dr. Davis,

ECFA is pleased to inform you that Evangelical Presbyterian Church has demonstrated its continued compliance with the *ECFA Standards of Responsible Stewardship* by successfully completing its 1998 Annual Membership Review (AMR). The ECFA Review and Compliance staff has carefully evaluated the documentation supplied with your AMR, and determined that your organization continues to faithfully exhibit a commitment to excellence and accountability in accordance with the criteria for ECFA membership.

As your partner in communicating your ECFA approval and its significance, ECFA will continue to publicize your membership through the ECFA Member List and Member Profile (enclosed), and on our web site (<http://www.ecfa.org>). In addition, ECFA has launched a series of radio Public Service Announcements intended to highlight its membership.

The very popular "Stuffer" brochures have been redesigned and continue to be an effective way to promote your membership in ECFA among supporters. An order form is enclosed for your convenience. Also, the ECFA logo continues to be available on diskette or by downloading it from our web site. Call ECFA for details.

Please let us know immediately if any corrections are needed for the information, compiled from your AMR, presented on your Member Profile. We want to be sure that we reflect accurate information about your ministry.

ECFA is proud to count your organization among those setting the example for integrity in non-profit ministry. May God continue to richly bless you and your colleagues in service to Him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cindi B. Repass".

Cindi B. Repass
Director, Member Review and Compliance

Enc.

Website: www.ecfa.org

P.O. Box 17456 Washington, DC 20041-0456

(703) 713-1414 • (800) 323-9473 • Fax: (703) 713-1133 • E-mail: webmaster@ecfa.org

January 20, 1999



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

Dear Dr. Davis,

ECFA is about to turn twenty years old. It is hard to believe that a second decade has passed since a bold "experiment" in self-regulation was launched. The founders and charter members did not know that PTL was only a few years ahead, just as the leaders in the second decade did not envision New Era. But they did know that the church caring for its own was an appropriate witness and response to a skeptical world made cynical by the actions of too many who had no real accountability.

As an ECFA member, we would like for you to help us celebrate twenty years of God's faithfulness in building this one-of-a-kind organization that is increasingly seen as a model of effective accountability. ECFA does not have an annual convention. Its membership is too far-flung and so diverse that it covers as broad a spectrum as exists in the evangelical world. Many members are very small and could not afford to travel to an annual event. Instead, ECFA "piggybacks" on numerous other conventions as a way to personally interface with segments of its membership, as well as holds its own regional seminars in various locales around the country to touch as many smaller members as possible. But we nevertheless are a unique family, and the Board of Directors has enthusiastically endorsed a twenty-year membership gathering to give praise to the Lord for past accomplishments and to recommit for the future.

The dates for the 20th Anniversary National Conference are September 12-13, 1999 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. It will be a short, fast paced format, spanning only about thirty hours from beginning to end. It will be packed with testimonies, historical accounts, and dialogue about the future that will give reason to celebrate the unifying spirit within the body of Christ that ECFA has modeled.

Please mark your calendar now. We will be sending more information as well as an official invitation at a later date. It is our hope that this will become a "happening," a major gathering point of leaders from all across the evangelical community.

We hope you will join us in bringing together representatives from every segment of the ECFA family to this important event!

Sincerely,

Paul D. Nelson
President

Website: www.ecfa.org

Letter to Dr. L. Edward Davis
March 1, 1999
Page 3

In addition to a review of your official records, the ECFA Field Review includes an interview with the chief executive officer or president of the organization and also an interview with the chief financial officer. A personal visit (preferable) or telephone interview should also be arranged with the Chairperson (or if the chairperson is salaried, another non-staff board member) of your board and the Chairperson of your Audit Review Committee. Please arrange for interviews at a time convenient for you and these other parties.

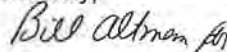
1. We suggest beginning the day with a brief orientation tour of your facility and a 30-45 minute interview with you, the CEO, in your office.
2. Board interviews will be conducted privately by our representative.
3. Please arrange a telephone interview (or meeting if you wish) with the audit partner responsible for your audit. A member of the board or an executive officer of the organization may participate in the interview to preserve confidentiality of the auditor relationship.

The information, which is obtained during the Field Review, will remain confidential within ECFA and become a part of the ECFA membership file. It will NOT be used for any purpose of public dissemination. Nor should you use the result of our visit for purposes of publicity with your constituents or donors.

It is our hope that the Field Review will be a positive and helpful time for you. The ECFA staff and Board of Directors want to give members as much support and guidance as possible to improve their financial integrity and accountability. We believe, as do you by virtue of your ECFA membership, that the name of our Lord and the work of His Church is glorified and extended through the reputation for integrity which we, together, represent.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions or suggestions for this Field Review visit. May God bless you and your ministry.

Sincerely,



Bill Altman
Vice-President
Member Review & Compliance

cc: Mr. Claude Russell, Board Chair

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COMMUNICATION 99-7

EVANGELICAL
COUNCIL FOR
FINANCIAL
ACCOUNTABILITY

March 1, 1999



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

Dear Dr. Davis,

The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) is now in its nineteenth year. The ECFA seal has earned a reputation as the symbol of integrity and financial accountability. ECFA is known and appreciated by not only the Christian community, but by secular agencies, the federal government, Congress, and many state agencies. The ECFA board, staff and member organizations have a great responsibility to make certain that everything is done to enhance the value of the seal and protect the reputation of ECFA.

Each year ECFA conducts an annual review of all member organizations. These have proven to be effective. To enhance this review, ECFA also maintains an on-site Field Review Program. Although ECFA cannot perform an annual Field Review of every member, between 25 and 50 Field Reviews per year are conducted for randomly selected member organizations.

As a member in good standing of ECFA, your organization has been randomly selected for an upcoming on-site Field Review. If possible, we would like to set the Field Review appointment for April 16, 1999. Dan Busby, ECFA Vice President, Member Services, would arrive at 9:00 a.m. and plan for a full day at your offices. Cindi Repass or Mary Piper from ECFA will call within 4-5 business days from the date of this letter to confirm the appointment.

The purpose of the ECFA Field Review is to:

1. Confirm compliance with the ECFA membership standards.
2. Verify information submitted by the member organization on the annual membership review form.
3. Identify areas of possible non-compliance.
4. Give support to the member organization in moving toward full compliance with ECFA standards.

We look forward to being with you and learning more about your ministry. ECFA.

Website: www.ecfa.org
P.O. Box 17456 Washington, DC 20041-7456
(703) 713-1414 • (800) 323-9473 • Fax: (703) 713-1133 • E-mail: webmaster@ecfa.org

Letter to Dr. L. Edward Davis
March 1, 1999
Page 2

now represents over 900 ministries with over \$5.2 billion in annual income. It is our prayer that the effectiveness of our work in certifying financial integrity and accountability will encourage even greater support for your ministry.

In order to use the time as wisely as possible, please have the following available for review:

1. Your articles of incorporation and current bylaws, and any reports required to be filed annually with state and local authorities.
2. Your IRS file, including the letter affirming your tax-exempt status, your Form 990 (if applicable) for the three most recent years, and any correspondence relating to an IRS audit of your organization.
3. The official minutes book of your organization.
4. The minutes of your board's Audit Review Committee and Executive Committee (if one exists), if it is not a part of the minute book.
5. Files relating to any current litigation or official investigation of your organization which may relate to any of ECFA's standards of accountability. (Please notify our office in advance if you have an objection to this access or wish your legal counsel to be present.)
6. Your current year's budget and recent monthly operating statements.
7. Your most recent financial statements audit report, if not yet submitted to ECFA.
8. Copies of your three most recent fund-raising appeals, magazines, newsletters, or any other mailing to your constituents.
9. Copies of any official brochures, catalogues, employee handbooks, policy manuals or other descriptive materials regularly used to describe your ministry program to constituents and employees.
10. A copy of the W-2 and 1099 tax statements for your five highest paid employees.

We will not plan to retain copies of the above materials with the exception of items 7 and 8.



May 10, 1999

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

Dear Dr. Davis:

Thanks for the opportunity to meet with your staff and learn about the ministry and operations of Evangelical Presbyterian Church during the ECFA Field Review on April 16, 1999. I appreciated your hospitality and cooperation.

ECFA is committed to assisting its members in maintaining and enhancing compliance with the *ECFA Standards of Responsible Stewardship*. To that end, I hope you and your staff found our time together productive.

I found no violations of the ECFA Standards and feel you are to be commended on your compliance with these Standards. The following comments stem from my observations during the review:

1. **Retention of auditor.** The selection and retention of the audit firm is recommended by the Finance Committee to the Stated Clerk. The auditor is not approved by the Committee on Administration. Since the minutes of the Finance Committee were not available for the Field Review, it is not clear if the audit firm recommendation is formalized in the minutes of the Committee.

We recommend the Finance Committee make a formal recommendation as to the selection and retention of an auditor for the subsequent year to the Committee on Administration. Final action on the Finance Committee's recommendation should be taken by the Committee on Administration.

2. **Housing allowance approval.** Management reported that a housing allowance was formally adopted a number of years ago. Management believes the housing allowance designation was written in a manner to apply to ministers who were subsequently employed by the church.

We recommend the church locate the most recent housing allowance resolution to determine if it does apply to current employees.

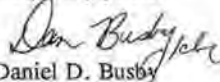
3. **Consolidation of financial data.** The pension plan audit is not consolidated with the church audit. There is a separate pension plan audit report. Accounting standards may require the combining of the pension plan data with the church audit.

We recommend the church discuss the combining of pension plan and church financial data with the auditor to be certain the financial statements are in compliance with current accounting standards.

Thank you again for your full cooperation during the Field Review. Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the above recommendations. We appreciate your continued membership with ECFA.

May God richly bless you and the ongoing ministry of Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Very truly yours,



Daniel D. Busby
Vice President
Member and Donor Services

cc: Mr. Claude E. Russell, Board Chair

Rejoice!

November, 1998

Dear Clerk of Session:

The Christmas season approaches and our hearts begin to glow in this glorious time of joy and refreshment!

Each year as we celebrate the advent of our Savior, our churches receive the *Gratitude Gift Offering*. Please place the enclosed Moderator's letter on your Session agenda this month.

The need grows yearly! Currently we have 45 retired ministers on the rolls of the presbyteries who, with spouses, total 85 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.

In 1997, 44 churches participated and contributed \$30,893 to the *Gratitude Gift* fund. I am asking your Session to participate this year, and to make this a priority. *Your* influence can move others to respond.

Enclosed are samples of a special bulletin insert and offering envelope. Following your Session meeting, please complete the postcard, indicating your response 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



**Shatter
the Silence**

April 1, 1999

APPENDICES

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

Dear Edward:

Over the past three years, we have all marveled at how the public profile of the persecuted Church has grown. Each denomination involved in education, ministry, or prayer on behalf of suffering Christians has played a powerful role in one of the largest wake-up calls in our time. With nearly 100,000 US churches, as well as churches in over 130 countries taking part in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) in 1998, we sense more can be done.

It has been a privilege for our ministry to serve you by providing resources and information, so that your churches can be informed and prayerful on behalf of the persecuted Church. For three years, this has truly been one of my highlights in ministry.

Prayer for the Persecuted Church (PPC) desires to do everything within its power to see that Church ownership over this issue is fostered. It is for this reason that we are revitalizing our systems, so that the Church can be most efficiently served. We are seeking to provide churches and denominations with quality and credible information easily accessible through the Internet (www.persecutedchurch.org). Our desire is to do the homework for you! This will reduce the energy you expend in research, allowing you to focus on other pressing responsibilities. In addition to information, we are also seeking to provide you and your churches with a variety of activities in which you can engage on behalf of the persecuted Church. Again, by PPC working to meet your need for information and involvement, you are served by expanding the world view of your churches on this critical Family issue. At the same time, the persecuted Church is prayed for and supported. We consider this a win-win situation benefiting the whole Kingdom!

In addition, PPC is seeking to further the growth of your churches by inviting denominations to become official Sponsors of the yearly IDOP event. What type of commitment does sponsorship involve?

1. Denominations will send out a brochure to their church constituents through regular mailing channels, highlighting the 1999 IDOP. Many denominations partnered with PPC in this way in 1998, and we gladly provided the brochures for the mailing.

Prayer for the Persecuted Church

2025 S Arlington Heights Road • Suite 113 • Arlington Heights IL 60005
Voice 847-718-0560 • Fax 847-718-0564 • E-Mail IDDP@XC.ORG • www.persecutedchurch.org

2. Denominations will communicate their support for the persecuted Church to their church constituency through articles, sermons, or other creative means.
3. Denominations will provide a financial donation to PPC, the amount of which will be in accordance to the number of churches within the denomination. This will help defray the cost of providing the aforementioned services to your churches. Obviously, the money raised by this plan does not come close to covering the IDOP administration and mailings. But by taking part, your denomination will help IDOP reflect the unity we share in awakening others to a cause for which we all feel passionate.

What are the benefits of sponsorship? PPC believes that the advantages are abundant. In appreciation for your support, Sponsors will be named in all 1999 PPC resources as an IDOP "Sponsoring Denomination". The crediting materials will include, but not be limited to, the PPC Web Site, the 1999 video, 1999 PPC brochure, and other written materials highlighting the IDOP. Second, Sponsors will have the opportunity to submit their denomination's resources (books, newsletters, video) for listing in selected PPC materials. (Note: Submitting resources for listing is no guarantee of their inclusion in materials, as resources will first need to be reviewed for appropriate look and content.) Third, Sponsors will be profiled by PPC in presentations to churches, community groups, other denomination leadership, etc. Further, Sponsors will be included on the web site with contact information given. Each Sponsor's site will be hyper-linked, providing an avenue for visitors to contact your denomination concerning this issue.

I can imagine there will be some that will see our request for sponsoring partners as a round-about way to raise funds. In part, this is certainly true, as costs for informing others in a growing movement naturally increase. At the same time, by becoming a Sponsor, you encourage its continued expansion, and thus, enhance the quality and strength of the services that PPC can guarantee you and your constituent churches. I hope you hear our heart on this. Our purpose remains to serve the greater cause of the persecuted Church through a stronger, more unified witness, educating the Church and concerned others with appropriate materials and ways to be involved personally and corporately.

Due to our printing deadlines for 1999 publications, I ask that you submit your denomination's information and any materials that you would like listed in PPC resources no later than April 30, 1999. In this way, our organization can assure you of correct positioning in all PPC documents and web site materials.

I look forward to speaking with you soon about your partnership with us in 1999. In the event your denomination chooses not to take part in this particular ministry venture, be assured of our continued support of your efforts and warm invitation to continue joining with us during the observance of the IDOP on November 14, 1999. I remain with you

Under God's Mercy,



Steve Haas
President



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

May 28, 1999

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
ATTN: Mr. Edward Davis
29140 Buckingham Ave. Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154-4572

WEF Missions Commission
Re: Missions and Missiology in the 21st Century

Dear Edward,

A crucial event will be taking place during the week of Oct 10-16, 1999 in Iguazu, Brazil (seven miles from the famous waterfalls seen in the movie, "The Mission"). During that time the WEF Missions Commission will convene a global consultation, "**Evangelical Missiology for the 21st Century**". I deeply believe it will be a watershed event for the worldwide missions movement and the Church of Christ as we transition into the Third Millennium.

As God has led us forward from conception of the idea two years ago through this point (program layout, major themes and the process, participants and speakers) for this event, we have increasingly realized that the sovereign Lord has something very specific in mind. A world experiencing massive change, upheaval and religious confusion will require of us a missiology deeply rooted Biblically and Theologically. This consultation has the potential (if bathed in prayer!) of laying strong foundations and bringing mid-course corrections to the exploding missions enterprise that will enable it to adequately face these huge challenges. Into this world Christ calls His Church to proclaim and live out the radical and transforming message of the Kingdom.

Coming 25 years after the landmark 1974 Lausanne Congress and Covenant, this October global consultation will draw together a select gathering of 150 key missiologists and mission practitioners. Already we have our quota of confirmed participants from 50 nations, and registration is closed! This event will be a hands-on think tank as well as a working consultation to identify trends and challenges and to hammer out the Biblical-Theological underpinnings that unite evangelicals and inform "how and why" we do missions.

Persecution, pluralism, aggressive religious systems, alternative spiritualities, old and new heresies hammer at the worldwide Church of Jesus Christ from all sides. During the last 50 years there has been a tectonic shift in the church from North to South and from West to East, along with the emergence of a dynamic mission force truly globalized. During the consultation we will:

1. Evaluate the radical global and cultural changes which have shaped our contemporary world history and the Church and its mission;
2. Assess the prime missiological emphases that have influenced the missionary movement in recent decades;

NORTH AMERICAN OFFICE

P.O. Box WEF, Wheaton, IL 60189-8003 USA

Telephone: 630/668-0440. Fax: 630/668-0498

E-Mail: WEF-NA@XC.Org / Web Page: www.worldevangelical.org

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR: Agustin B. (Jun) Venca, Jr., Philippines INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL: Tokiubeh Adeyemi, chair, Nigeria John Langlois

3. Identify and define the key concepts and language of globalized Evangelical missiology = faithfully representing the diverse and biblical perspectives from "West" and "Non-West," "North" and "South".

And perhaps most important of all...

4. Reaffirm a solidly Biblical and Evangelical, contextualized missiology that will help to shape the missiological thinking of the 21 Century.

We are committed to "cascading" into the globalized Church of Christ and its mission movement through the outcomes of this consultation. We will publish the papers and some of the critical discussions under the title: **Missiology for the New Millennium: critical and global reflection of Mission into the 21st Century**. This book will join with the "Declaration of Iguazu" to summarize the results of the gathering and outline its implications for the Church and global mission.

As colleagues in this Great Global Enterprise, I am writing to offer you an opportunity to become a co-sponsor of the 1999 Global Consultation on Evangelical Missiology with a gift of \$1000 toward the future of the world missions movement.

In appreciation for your co-sponsorship investment I would like to offer you the following:

1. A complete set of the pre-conference papers sent by e-mail;
2. Daily email briefings from Brazil during the consultation;
3. Ten copies of the post-conference publications;
4. A post-consultation conference call with your key leadership or mission board to review the implications of the consultation for your ministry.

Together, you and I are together engaged in the international missions enterprise, and we clearly understand the challenges that we face in today's hostile world. I thank you for your strategic partnership with the WEF Missions Commission as we serve the increasingly "borderless" Body of Christ. Your most important contribution will be to strengthen our Biblical and Evangelical theology of missions for the 21st Century.

May God's rich blessings be upon you.

In the Lamb,



William D. Taylor, Executive Director
WEF Missions Commission

P.S. We are enclosing two additional items for you. First, a comprehensive presentation of the Brazil consultation. Second, a form that you can return to us with the co-sponsorship investment. If you have any questions about the Brazil consultation, please do not hesitate to call me at 512 467 8431 (my home office in Austin, Texas).

COMMUNICATION 99-12

From:
Ricardo Q. Gouvêa
Largo da Batalha, 92
São Paulo, SP 04031-050
BRAZIL
Tel: 011 (55-11)571-3486

Friday, September 10, 1998.

APPENDICES

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

Dear Dr. Davis:

I am pleased to inform you that I have finished my doctoral dissertation and thus completed the Ph.D. program at Westminster Theological Seminary.

My wife and I are writing this letter to thank you and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church for the support and financial help which was so kindly granted to me for the last three years. The \$1,000 monthly stipend with which the EPC so generously helped us was always a tremendous relief during the last three years. I have mentioned your help in the "acknowledgment" section of my doctoral dissertation.

Now I am going back to São Paulo, Brazil, where I will join the faculty of the Andrew Jumper Center for Graduate Studies in Theology. I am looking forward to become a more direct participant of this great endeavor to which the EPC has contributed so ardently since its beginnings. It will give me great pleasure to become responsible for the areas of philosophical theology, apologetics, and modern and contemporary theology at the Andrew Jumper Center.

Thank you so much. May God continue to bless abundantly the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Best regards, sincerely,



Rev. Ricardo Q. Gouvêa



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

29140 BUCKINGHAM AVENUE, SUITE 5 LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154
(734) 261-2001 Fax (734) 261-3282

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

APPENDICES

July 1, 1998

The Reverend Dr. Guilhermino Cunha
Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Brazil

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am privileged to bring you the love and greetings of the EPC. Our 18th General Assembly adjourned this past Saturday rejoicing in the goodness of our Lord, and happy for a most successful time.

For ten wonderful years our two churches have partnered in the task of extending the Kingdom. One of the greatest accomplishments has been the completion of the post-graduation Andrew Jumper Center. We commend you in this most significant milestone and joyfully anticipate the fruits with which our Lord will bless your great church because of the Center and its godly faculty.

As we complete this first decade of partnership let us trust God for even greater accomplishments in the ten years ahead. May God be pleased to use the IPB to radiate his glory throughout Latin America.

For His Kingdom,

Dr. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church



IGREJA
PRESBITERIANA
do BRASIL

Gabinete da Presidência do Supremo Concílio

COMMUNICATION 99-14

APPENDICES

Rio de Janeiro, October 15th, 1998.

Dr. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5 - Livonia, Michigan
48154 USA

My Dear Brother,

As you know the celebrations of the Andrew Jumper Graduation Center went well and blessed a lot.

The General Assembly our Supreme Council reelected me with a very expressive margin of votes - more than double of the other candidate. Who is now helping us in this second term, as a good friend.

I think it is time for us, EPC and IPB, to start conversations on the Second Phase of our Partnership Agreement prior to our coming together. What do you think about?

We have decided to support the candidate for the Doctorate in Ethics at Calvin Theological Seminary. He is the number seven, for the Graduation Center.

For your record, Dr. Antonio José Nascimento is now a professor and area coordinator in Missiology, for 1999 onwards in the Graduation Center. Praise the Lord!



IGREJA
PRESBITERIANA
DO BRASIL

Gabinete da Presidência do Supremo Concílio

I am sending to you some publications of our XXXIV General Assembly and of the Estrategic planning Seminar we had recently. Sorry, they are in portuguese.

Let reestablish our communication. We need you. Without EPC we are not complete in the Body of Christ.

In Him,



Rev. Guilhermino Cunha
Moderator



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

29140 BUCKINGHAM AVENUE, SUITE 5 LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154
(734) 261-2001 Fax (734) 261-3282

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

March 16, 1999

The Reverend Dr. Guilhermino Cunha, Moderator
The Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB)
Rua Silva Jardim, 23
Centro-Rio de Janeiro - RJ
Brazil

Dear Brother Guilhermino,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is always good to communicate with our brothers in Brazil.

Our people in Argentina report that one of your missionary families has arrived in Buenos Aires and is working in a new church planting ministry in the nearby town of La Plata. We hear that they are working out extremely well. This is valued assistance toward our goals for Argentina.

We are happy to report that a deposit of \$78,251 has just been made to your account at Comerica Bank. The intent for these funds follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • For the L. Edward Davis Library
for books and reference materials | \$1,269.15 |
| • For the mission to Paraguay | 2,170.83 |
| • For the mission to Angola | 58,392.79 |
| • For the mission to Ghana | 6,063.14 |
| • For the ministry to street children at Samaar | 2,775.00 |
| • For the Study Bibles in Portuguese
for translation, production and distribution costs | 4,851.50 |
| • For the national missions ministry in Tocantins | <u>2,728.80</u> |

TOTAL: \$78,251.21

In addition to the above amounts placed into your account, we have forwarded scholarship funds totalling \$67,200 for Andrew Jumper scholars in 1997 and 1998.

It is with great pleasure that we forward this JCM progress report on our cooperative efforts together.

Your brothers in Christ,

Richard Oestreicher
World Outreach Director

L. Edward Davis
Stated Clerk

ЦЕРКОВЬ 'АЛМАГУЛЬ'

Республика Казахстан, г. Алматы
Бостандыкский р-н, 480060 'Академгородок'



Институт Физиологии человека и животных
тел. 48-11-48 факс 48-33-85

APPENDICES

June 25, 1999

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

Dear EPC Family,

On behalf of Almagul Church I would like to give glory to God for His faithfulness in providing support for our building project through the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. God moved through the individuals and churches of our denomination to provide timely and generous support for our building. By God's grace, the building was completed and the doors were opened a full 15 minutes before the opening service on December 6, 1998. Many people declared that it truly was a work of God to complete such a wonderful church building in such a short period of time in the country of Kazakhstan. God was truly glorified in that event.

Since the building was opened, it has served not only the ministry of Almagul Church, but also student ministry and evangelism training ministry that is reaching out far beyond Almaty. As of April 1999, the debt on the building was completely paid off. Almagul Church is now in a position where it can facilitate new ministries that will bring the gospel to some of the most unreached people of Central Asia. Thank you for your faithfulness to God in supporting the ministry of Almagul Church.

In His service,

Dan G. Burns

World Outreach Missionary
Pastor of Almagul Church

OVERTURE 99-A



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Llew Fischer, Stated Clerk

November 19, 1998

Presbytery approved the following overture for consideration by the 19th General Assembly:

Whereas, a large number of the members of our churches came from non-Presbyterian backgrounds and are usually not knowledgeable or conversant with our heritage, doctrine, reformed faith or, indeed, the history and value of a connectional relationship; and,

Whereas, even the most accomplished person speaking before groups interested in the EPC, as well as church membership and officer training, often leaves something to be desired in what is retained by those in the class or group; and,

Whereas, a video designed for use in training officers and new members, as well as by evangelists in their work of establishing new churches would be a valuable visual aid in depicting each facet of our background, beliefs, organization and Book of Order, etc.; and,

Whereas, a major part of the information which should be considered for inclusion in such a video, is readily available in the various pamphlets included in the EPC information packet; and,

Whereas, this Presbytery challenged the other presbyteries at its 31st Stated meeting, by authorizing expenditure of up to \$7,500 toward the development of a professionally narrated video, subject to adequate support from the other presbyteries or other sources to cover the cost of production.

Therefore, the General Assembly is overtured to endorse this effort by authorizing the Committee on Administration to assign responsibility for direction and production oversight, as well as promoting this project by encouraging the other presbyteries to participate by providing financial support.

Respectfully,

Llew Fischer

3164 Golf Colony Drive, Salem, Virginia 24153 • 540-387-9105

OVERTURE 99-B

PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST, E.P.C.

33604 GRAND RIVER • FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN 48335

(248) 471-9775 • FAX: (248) 476-9838



The Presbytery of the Midwest at its 80th Stated Meeting on February 19, 1999 approved the following overture for consideration at the 19th General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the "Book of Government" does not provide an orderly way for the transfer of a candidate from a recognized Reformed Church; and

WHEREAS, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church desires to have good relations with recognized Reformed Churches; and

WHEREAS, churches are sometimes interested in having a graduating seminary student to become their pastor;

THEREFORE, the Presbytery of the Midwest recommends that the Book of Government 12.2.A be amended:

PRESENT WORDING

A person desiring to become an ordained Minister shall first become a Candidate under the care of the Presbytery of which that person's church is a member. That person begins this process by receiving the endorsement of the particular Church Session where the person's membership has been held for at least six months. When the particular Church Session has approved the Candidate, application shall be made to the appropriate Committee of Presbytery.

PROPOSED WORDING

A person desiring to become an ordained Minister shall first become a Candidate under the care of the Presbytery of which that person's church is a member. That person begins this process by receiving the endorsement of the particular Church Session where the person's membership has been held ~~for at least six months.~~ *The membership must have been held for at least six months at either the endorsing church and/or a recognized Reformed Church.* When the particular Church Session has approved the Candidate, application shall be made to the appropriate Committee of Presbytery.

Further, the Presbytery of the Midwest recommends that the Book of Government 12,2,F be amended:

PRESENT WORDING

After being under the care of a Presbytery for a minimum of one year, the Candidate may request transfer to another Presbytery. Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care for a minimum of one year prior to ordination.

Yours in Christ,



Alton L. Bennett
Stated Clerk

(overture)
4/1/99

PROPOSED WORDING

After being under the care of a Presbytery for a minimum of one year, the Candidate may request transfer to another Presbytery. Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care of a *Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and/or another recognized Reformed Church* for a minimum of one year prior to ordination.



OVERTURE 99-C

Presbytery of Mid-America

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk
1926 Prospector Ridge
Ballwin, MO 63011
(314) 458-1015 Fax (314) 458-6134

March 8, 1999

APPENDICES

Overture to the 19th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

WHEREAS, the constituents of the EPC have demonstrated much confusion in the ongoing debate over the place of the document "The Essentials of the Faith" in the standards of the EPC, and

WHEREAS, all officers of the EPC must subscribe to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and

WHEREAS, we do not want to reduce in any way the ordination standards requiring subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and

WHEREAS, the return of the Book of Order to its original form would serve as a minimal guideline to each presbytery and session as it carries out the historic practice of functioning as the credentialing judicatory, making initial judgments as to whether exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms are in fact "essentials of the faith" and

WHEREAS, we recognize that it is possible after taking ordination vows to change one's convictions, and

WHEREAS, we desire to ensure that no officer may so reduce his convictions as to be out of accord with any of the basic tenets of the Christian faith encapsulated by "The Essentials of the Faith", and still serve in his ordained capacity,

THEREFORE, we, the members of the Presbytery of Mid-America, do respectfully overture the 19th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to amend the Book of Government 14-1-A-4 and 14-1-E-4 to capitalize, make bold and italicize "the essentials of the faith" as it was before 1997.

We also propose that this change include all parallel sections of the Book of Order and denominational documents.

Approved unanimously by the Presbytery of Mid-America at its 23rd Stated Meeting, January 23, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk

OVERTURE 99-D

OVERTURE TO THE NINETEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH April 24, 1999

APPENDICES

WHEREAS we in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church face an important moment in our denominational history, in which we must find a way to include all the members of our family in a common vision for the future; and

WHEREAS, within our common commitment to the Evangelical Christian faith, we have some considerable differences in theology, worship styles, philosophies of ministry, and mission strategies, all of which are at the root of our discussions concerning the wording of our fourth ordination vow; and

WHEREAS we believe that a godly accommodation of our differences will produce a stronger denominational family for the future; and

WHEREAS we have not had sufficient time in previous general assemblies to deliberate upon possible solutions, especially those solutions that might involve a radical restructuring of our courts;

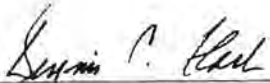
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Presbytery of the Central South, meeting in our stated meeting in April of 1999, overtures the Nineteenth General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church meeting in Rome, Georgia, in June 1999, to postpone any changes to our ordination vows¹ and to select an Ad-Interim Constitutional Committee² to do the following:

- I. Propose to the Twentieth General Assembly (2000) a solution that reaffirms our commitment to the Reformed tradition, while maintaining our unity around our common evangelical faith.³ One solution that this committee should consider is the restructuring of our denomination *in such a way as* would maintain our common evangelical commitments,⁴ provide for the proclamation and practice of our reformed distinctives,⁵ and promote the Great Commission;⁶
- II. Propose to the Twenty-First General Assembly (2001) the necessary constitutional documents⁷ to accomplish I. above.

The attached OVERTURE, having been **ADOPTED**, is presented by order of the 47th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Central South at Louisville MS, April 23-24, 1999. Endnotes are included. It is this text alone which overtures the General Assembly and replaces all copies currently in circulation.

The Overture addresses tensions existing within the EPC centering around the ordination vows in **BOG 14-1A**. It allows those of different views to co-exist under the umbrella of our denomination yet have differing theological standards.

Attest:



Rev. Dennis C. Flach, Stated Clerk

Date: 04/28/99

ENDNOTES

¹ We believe that the third and fourth ordination vows, in keeping with historic Presbyterian practice, need to be consistent with each other, referring to the same confessional documents in both vows; but we understand the feelings of many in the EPC who desire greater flexibility than is now allowed in our current language. We believe there is a solution to this concern, without destroying the consistency of our vows.

² We believe this committee should consist of at least one member of each presbytery and should include innovative thinkers as well as gifted implementers.

³ We believe that "The Essentials Of Our Faith" provides a common ground for all of our presbyteries, as well as for all churches who would seek to join the EPC in the future.

⁴ We believe the Ad-Interim Committee should consider the following:

- a. Each presbytery will be given the right to choose whether vows three and four shall refer to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms or to "The Essentials Of Our Faith" (but not *both* documents).
- b. Within the presbyteries, churches holding a minority opinion would be given the freedom to transfer to the nearest presbytery who chooses the same preferred confessional standard.
- c. Two synods would be developed, both of which cover the entire area of the United States, consisting of those presbyteries who choose the same confessional standards, and with as many future presbyteries within each synod as the synods deem wise and necessary.
- d. The EPC would continue to meet in annual general assembly (first in two separate synods, followed by a joint general assembly).
- e. Each synod would be responsible for its own national and world outreach, Christian education, and church discipline, based upon its distinctive confessional standards.
- f. The general assembly would handle theological and pastoral issues referred to it and disciplinary cases on appeal from the synods based upon our common confession (The Essentials) and our common order (BOO), and other matters that properly come before the assembly.

⁵ A restructuring such as in Number 4 above would provide a means for all churches reformed in theology to work together in education and missions in the future without hindering others of a different persuasion. Other theological groups within evangelicalism would have a similar structural mechanism for education and growth.

⁶ We believe that our evangelical diversity in the EPC, which has been such a blessing and encouragement through the years, has at times impeded our mission to the nation and to the world, because we sometimes lack the common vision which would inspire us to pool our resources for greatest effect. If each theological/missional group is enabled to form its own missional leadership and organization, we believe our common efforts will grow.

⁷ These recommendations would of course be acted on by both the assembly and the presbyteries.

(April 24, 1999)



OVERTURE 99-E

**Presbytery of the Southeast
Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

435 Patten Chapel Road • Chattanooga, Tennessee 37419
Phone (423) 821-3419

Russ Ragon, Stated Clerk
John Perry, Treasurer

May Eighth, 1999

We, the members of the Presbytery of the Southeast overture the Nineteenth General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that;

Whereas the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has, since its inception, had the peculiar mission in American Presbyterianism of displaying the unity of the Body of Christ based upon the truth of Scripture, and

Whereas the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is unique in that it allows for theological diversity under the canopy of the Word of God, uniting both confessional subscriptionists and moderate subscriptionists together in one household of faith, and that it allows for different worship styles, philosophies of ministry and mission strategies, based on the Word of God, and

Whereas that unity has not only been displayed in word, but in the very nature of our polity and governance, and

Whereas the unity of our body continues to flourish under our present system, without any necessity of restructuring our courts, and

Whereas the unique mission of our denomination remains crucial in a period of theological controversy and strife, and

Whereas our inability to be united under our present system would essentially mean an abrogation of our mission as the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of displaying "In essentials, Unity; In non-essentials, Liberty; In all things, Charity" and lead to our being united only in name, and

Whereas history teaches that denominations with two or more separate sets of boards rarely survive intact, and

Whereas Synods have always been a thorn in the side of American Presbyterianism, and

Whereas we love all of our brothers and sisters in the E.P.C. and do not want to break fellowship with any of them,

Therefore, the Nineteenth General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church meeting in Rome, Georgia in June 1999 not select an Ad-Interim Constitutional Committee to reimagine our polity.

United in Essentials,
The Presbytery of the Southeast

Russ Ragon, Stated Clerk



OVERTURE 99-F

Presbytery of the Southeast Evangelical Presbyterian Church

435 Patten Chapel Road • Chattanooga, Tennessee 37419
Phone (423) 821-3419

Russ Ragon, Stated Clerk
John Perry, Treasurer

April 27, 1999

Whereas, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church desires to be a denomination in which there is a full participation in the courts of the denomination; and

Whereas, full participation as measured by the attendance at the meetings of presbytery and General Assembly gives greater expectation of all congregations being better informed as to the issues facing Christendom in general and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in particular; and

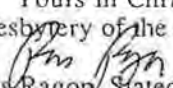
Whereas, the concept of connectionalism suffers when pastors are not able to attend meetings of the church courts; and

Whereas, some pastors never or seldom attend a meeting of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, a number of congregations in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church are small in number of worshipers; and

Whereas, a number of small church pastor's income presents a serious limitation on their ability to personally finance trips to presbytery and especially General Assembly meetings;

Therefore, the Presbytery of the Southeast respectfully overtures the 19th General Assembly to amend the Book of Government, Chapter Eleven (11-5-f) by adding as number eight (8) the following: "Cost of pastor's attendance at presbytery and General Assembly meetings." further, that the current number "8" be renumbered "9"

Yours in Christ,
The Presbytery of the Southeast

Russ Ragon, Stated Clerk



OVERTURE 99-G

Evangelical Presbyterian Church Presbytery of Florida

5150 Oleander Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34982
Phone (861) 468-0869

Robert J. Garment, Stated Clerk

The Presbytery of Florida at its 27th Stated Meeting approved the following Overture to be submitted to the 19th General Assembly. (**NOTE:** This supercedes a draft overture submitted for review and advice previously)

Overture 99-A

Recommendation: That the Book of Government be amended by the following:

- A. Delete from BOG 15-9 the following sentence:

A Minister who is so retired remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery.

- B. Create a new section BOG 15-10 as follows:

BOG 15-10 *Retired Ministers: A Minister who is retired according to the provisions of BOG 15-9 remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery. A retired minister who does not participate in the life of the presbytery by attending at least one Stated Meeting during a calendar year, may be placed on Inactive Status at the discretion of the Presbytery. After at least one year, the Retired Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to active status. The Presbytery shall make the determination based on the minister's participation in the meetings of the Presbytery and need not require a specific call to be restored to active status. A Retired Minister on Inactive Status shall not be removed from the Presbytery rolls for that cause and is to be afforded the same pastoral care as Retired Ministers on Active Status.*

- C. Amend BOG 15-8 by inserting the words who is not retired after the word *Minister* in Paragraph 2 and after the words *Inactive Status* in Paragraph 3 so that the sentences read:

BOG 15-8 ¶2 Sentence 1: *When the Minister who is not retired has been without approved call for a period of one year, the Ministerial Committee will confer with the Minister as to his continued sense of call and his expectations for future ministry.*

BOG 15-8 ¶3 Sentence 1: *A limit shall be placed on the time during which a Minister on Inactive Status who is not retired shall remain on the roll of Presbytery, the limit being five years.*

- Grounds:**
1. As the BOG is now structured, a Retired Minister may be completely uninvolved in the life of his presbytery for years and then suddenly appear for a key vote, having no ongoing knowledge of the work of the court. Retired Ministers currently retain the authority and privileges of their office even when they are not participating in the responsibilities and means of accountability required of non-retired Ministers.
 2. In many Presbyteries, congregations are asked to bear the expenses of sending additional Ruling Elders to insure parity for Retired Ministers who never attend Presbytery meetings.
 3. Retired ministers not participating in Presbytery maintain the authority to administer sacraments, marry couples, counsel and otherwise engage in ministry, but without the supervision of any presbytery. The absence of accountability may present legal liability to the presbytery as well as violating the biblical principle of oversight.
 4. BOG 15-8 adds the phrase *who is not retired* since a retired minister could remain inactive indefinitely without being removed from the membership of presbytery.

Approved by Florida Presbytery May 8, 1999


Robert J. Garnett
Stated Clerk

OVERTURE 99-H

Evangelical Presbyterian Church Presbytery of Florida

5150 Oleander Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34982
Phone (861) 468-0869

Robert J. Garment, Stated Clerk



Overture 99-B

The Presbytery of Florida at its 26th Stated Meeting approved the following Overture to be submitted to the 19th General Assembly:

To amend the *Book of Government* 12-2.F by adding the following sentence:

If an individual has been under the care of another Reformed church for at least one year and the Presbytery can determine that that body has exercised due care over that individual and sufficient knowledge of that individual can be obtained to assure the Presbytery of the individual's fitness for ministry, that period of care under that Reformed body may be counted as all or part of the individual's satisfaction of requirements for being under care in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In such a case, the individual may be received immediately under care upon joining an EPC church or be immediately eligible for examination as a candidate.

Grounds: Under last year's action of the General Assembly, candidates from other orthodox, Reformed denominations (some of whom the EPC has formal fraternal relations) may not be called to EPC churches without undergoing a period of six months membership in an EPC congregation. This in spite of the fact that they may have given full evidence of the fitness and calling.

Approved by Florida Presbytery February 13, 1999


Robert J. Garment
Stated Clerk

OVERTURE 99-I

PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

4343 S. Buckley Rd. #220
Aurora, CO 80015

Telephone (303) 699-2272
Fax (303) 617-8589

Toll free outside the Denver area 1-888-231-9012

May 15, 1999

Overture to the 19th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Whereas, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has been discussing how to include the document known as *The Essentials of the Faith* in the constitution of our denomination, and

Whereas, the Presbytery of the West is concerned over losing *The Essentials of the Faith* as what distinguishes us from other Presbyterian bodies, and

Whereas, given that *The Essentials of the Faith* is a document with significant historical influence in the creation and life of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and is prominently used to describe and define our denomination (see any literature which addresses who we are as an Evangelical Presbyterian Church), and

Whereas, all officers of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church must sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church as the system of doctrine taught in the Scriptures and we do not want to reduce in any way our ordination standards, and

Whereas the return of the Book of Order to its original form would serve as a minimal guideline to each Presbytery and Session as they carry out their historic practice as the ordaining judicatory, determining to them what exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms of this Church are in fact essentials of faith, and

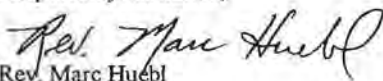
Whereas, we do not desire our denomination to be reduced to regionalisms of what is or is not an essential of faith, and

Whereas, we desire that no officer may so reduce his or her convictions as to be out of accord with any of the basic tenets of the Christian faith encapsulated by *The Essentials of the Faith*.

Therefore, we, the members of the Presbytery of the West, do respectfully overture the 19th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to amend the Book of Government 14-1 A.4 and E.4 to capitalize, embolden, and italicize the current words: the essentials of the faith so that it will refer to the historic document of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church which is known as *The Essentials of the Faith*, and to amend all parallel portions of the Book of Order and denominational documents.

Approved by the Presbytery of the West at its 57th stated meeting, May 15, 1999, at Trinity EPC, Littleton, Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,


Rev. Marc Huebl
Stated Clerk
Presbytery of the West, EPC

OVERTURE 99-J
PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST
4343 S. Buckley Rd #220
Aurora, CO 80015

Telephone (303) 699-2272
Fax (303) 617-8589
Toll free outside the Denver area 1-888-231-9012

May 15, 1999

Overture to the 19th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

In response to concern expressed by teaching elders and churches within the Presbytery of the West with the EPC Health Insurance plan and its mandatory enrollment provision, the Presbytery of the West requests the General Assembly to reconsider mandatory enrollment of teaching elders in the EPC Health Insurance plan.

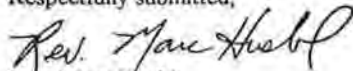
Grounds:

Recent laws enacted regarding eligibility in health insurance plans based on pre-existing conditions may now provide better health plans (available on a regional level).

As good stewards of God's resources, we are required to be wise in the management and payment for the benefits provided to teaching elders.

This overture was unanimously approved at the 57th stated meeting of the Presbytery of the West on May 15, 1999, at Trinity EPC, Littleton, Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,



Rev. Marc Huebl

Stated Clerk

Presbytery of the West

DESCENDING OVERTURE

Sent to the Presbyteries by Order of the 18th General Assembly

Overture 98-A (formerly Overture 97-A*):

Shall the **Book of Government** be amended in §11-10 by:

- (a) deleting the word "Presbytery" in the second sentence and substituting the words "church body" so the sentence will begin "The dismissing church body..." and
- (b) adding the following sentence at the end of the paragraph:
"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."

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>G.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.</p>	<p>G.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 <i>Presbytery church body</i> shall be informed by the calling Presbytery for the purpose of taking appropriate action. <i>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.</i></p>

Grounds: The original intent of this amendment (June, 1997) was to define the best channels for official correspondence between presbyteries in the transfer of ministers and candidates. In practice, various persons have sometimes been involved in ministerial and candidate transfers without informing other appropriate persons of such pending action. This can effectively impair presbytery work. To assign presbytery stated clerks the final responsibility for communication relative to pending transfers will ensure uniformity and clarity. The use of the words "church body" recognizes the fact that not all ecclesiastical organizations dismissing a minister are presbyteries.

*This overture, originally sent to the presbyteries following the 17th Assembly, at that time inadvertently contained typographical errors in the second sentence which altered the meaning of that sentence. In June 1998, the Permanent Judicial Commission ruled that the corrected overture should be resubmitted to the presbyteries for consideration.

The Vote of the Presbyteries

Overture 98-A: To amend G.11-10 regarding the transfer of ministers and candidates

	Yes	No	
Central South.....	68	0	
East.....	39	0	
Florida.....	33	0	
Mid-America.....	22	0	
Mid-Atlantic.....	77	0	
Midwest.....	64	0	
Southeast.....	51	0	
St. Andrews.....	21	0	
West.....	51	0	<u> </u> <i>Passed</i>

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

3775 Kimmel Road
Horton, Michigan 49246

(517) 563-8856 Phone / 563-2552 Fax
Email: kdrake@voyager.net

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, 1998, 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 provides 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, 1998 and the changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Karl L. Drake

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

February 26, 1999

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

December 31, 1998

(With Comparative Totals for 1997)

ASSETS

	1998	1997
Current Assets		
Cash and Equivalents:		
Unrestricted	\$ 2,427,369	\$ 2,096,696
Restricted	634,574	942,178
Investments:		
Unrestricted	337,625	260,563
Restricted	824,721	969,855
Accounts Receivable	1,023	6,169
Inventory	61,758	39,656
Total Current Assets	4,287,070	4,315,117
Property and Equipment		
Furniture and Equipment	135,177	131,443
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-86,274	-61,780
Net Property & Equipment	48,903	69,663
Other Assets		
Notes Receivable	342,014	391,597
Deposits	6,129	6,129
Total Other Assets	348,143	397,726
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,684,116	\$ 4,782,506

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 6,944	\$ 36,162
Accrued Expenses	976	1,148
Total Current Liabilities	7,920	37,310
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	441,170	328,822
Temporarily Restricted	4,188,485	4,372,058
Permanently Restricted	46,541	44,316
Total Net Assets	4,676,196	4,745,196
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 4,684,116	\$ 4,782,506

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For The Year Ended December 31, 1998
(With Comparative Totals for 1997)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	1998 Total	1997 Total
REVENUES					
Contributions	\$ 768,340	\$ 2,259,915	\$ ---	\$ 3,028,255	\$ 2,472,331
Investment Income	55,423	240,992	2,225	298,640	315,585
Literature Sales	40,008	---	---	40,008	27,861
Program Income	23,475	1,815,047	---	1,838,522	1,917,302
Other Income	7,474	---	---	7,474	6,824
Assets Released					
From Restrictions	4,499,527	-4,499,527	---	---	-0-
TOTAL REVENUES	5,394,247	-183,573	2,225	5,212,899	4,739,903
EXPENSES					
Program Expenses	4,419,916	---	---	4,419,916	3,598,850
General & Admin.	845,472	---	---	845,472	820,673
Fund Raising	16,511	---	---	16,511	15,880
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,281,899	---	---	5,281,899	4,435,403
INCREASE <DECREASE>					
IN NET ASSETS	112,348	-183,573	2,225	-69,000	304,500
NET ASSETS					
BEGINNING OF YEAR	328,822	4,372,058	44,316	4,745,196	4,440,696
NET ASSETS					
END OF YEAR	\$ 441,170	\$ 4,188,485	\$ 46,541	\$ 4,676,196	\$ 4,745,196

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

Karl L. Drake, P.C

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**

**For the Year Ended December 31, 1998
(With Comparative Totals for 1997)**

	Medical		PROGRAM	SERVICES
	Insur. Plan	Pension	World Outreach	Church Assistance
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	318,035	---	---	---
Claims	2,038,020	---	---	---
Administrative Expense	78,624	4,655	---	---
Restricted Expenses	---	---	1,146,417	93,986
Technology Support	---	---	---	---
Literature	---	---	---	---
Totals	\$ 2,434,679	\$ 4,655	\$ 1,146,417	\$ 93,986

Special Projects	Church Loan	General & Administrative	Fund Raising	1998 Total	1997 Total
\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 353,023	\$ ---	\$ 353,023	\$ 345,014
---	---	66,425	---	66,425	69,274
---	---	25,205	---	25,205	22,580
---	---	11,516	---	11,516	9,944
---	---	49,133	---	49,133	54,044
---	---	56,559	---	56,559	51,586
---	---	8,558	---	8,558	3,199
---	---	49,531	16,511	66,042	62,880
---	---	3,900	---	3,900	5,700
---	---	67,708	---	67,708	70,283
---	---	1,287	---	1,287	1,305
---	---	24,494	---	24,494	25,641
---	---	7,997	---	7,997	7,232
---	---	17,674	---	17,674	13,436
---	---	5,256	---	5,256	5,729
---	---	5,000	---	5,000	4,280
---	---	22,440	---	22,440	20,034
---	---	2,081	---	2,081	3,986
---	---	8,412	---	8,412	7,238
---	---	1,900	---	1,900	699
---	---	21,750	---	21,750	17,192
---	---	3,649	---	3,649	2,821
---	---	--	---	318,035	275,906
---	---	--	---	2,038,020	1,515,379
---	1,000	--	---	84,279	77,398
739,179	---	--	---	1,979,582	1,730,167
---	---	11,972	---	11,972	5,365
---	---	20,002	---	20,002	27,091
\$ 739,179	\$ 1,000	\$ 845,472	\$ 16,511	\$ 5,281,899	\$ 4,435,403

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended December 31, 1998
(With Comparative Totals for 1997)

	1998	1997
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase <Decrease> in Net Assets	\$ -69,000	\$ 304,500
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase <Decrease> in Net Assets to Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	24,494	25,641
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease <Increase> in accounts receivable	5,146	-5,369
Decrease <Increase> in inventory	-22,102	-14,501
Increase <Decrease> in accounts payable	-29,218	4,386
Increase <Decrease> in accrued liabilities	-172	76
Decrease <Increase> in notes receivable	49,583	7,903
NET CASH FLOWS FROM <USED BY> OPERATING ACTIVITIES	-41,269	322,636
 CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Sale <Purchase> of Fixed Assets	-3,734	-6,542
Sale <Purchase> of Investments	68,072	-172,740
NET CASH FLOWS FROM <USED BY> INVESTING ACTIVITIES	64,338	-179,282
 CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
	--	--
 INCREASE IN CASH	 23,069	 143,354
 CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	 3,038,874	 2,895,520
 CASH - END OF YEAR	 \$ 3,061,943	 \$ 3,038,874
 OTHER DISCLOSURES		
Cash used for:		
Income taxes	--	--
Interest	--	--

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1998

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.

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.

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. The Organization is not a private foundation under Code Section 509.

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 those donated assets must be maintained, the Organization

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

December 31, 1998

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (continued)

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 years 1998 and 1997 totaled \$24,494 and \$25,641 respectively.

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.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES

During the year ended December 31, 1998, the value of contributed services meeting the requirements of recognition in the financial statements was not material and has not been recorded.

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. All notes other than Asheville EPC are included in the Church Loan Fund. Details of this account consist of the following:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Ashville EPC	\$ 4,100	\$ 4,100
Heartland	14,583	19,583
Westkirk	15,834	21,250
Argentina	29,581	33,331
Faith EPC	29,167	33,750
North Park EPC	30,000	35,000
Elkton EPC	30,000	35,000
Tabernacle EPC	35,000	35,000
Cornerstone EPC	35,833	40,833
Christ Fellowship	35,833	41,250
Covenant Community	37,500	42,500
Covenant	44,583	50,000
Total	<u>\$ 342,014</u>	<u>\$ 391,597</u>

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1998

NOTE 4 - NET ASSET RESTRICTIONS

At December 31, 1998 and 1997, temporarily restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	1998	1997
World Outreach	\$ 945,061	\$ 711,004
Church Development	---	2,495
Church Loan	615,808	574,071
Programs	1,168,321	1,172,455
Medical Insurance Plan	1,459,295	1,912,033
	\$ 4,188,485	\$ 4,372,058

At December 31, 1998 and 1997, permanently restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	1998	1997
Ministerial Endowment	\$ 46,541	\$ 44,316

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 1998 and 1997.

	1998	1997
Premiums Collected	\$ 1,811,764	\$ 1,881,039
Interest Income	117,941	146,221
Gain in Market Value	52,236	41,464
Premiums Paid	-318,035	-275,906
Claims Paid	-2,038,020	-1,515,379
Administrative Expense	-78,624	-70,514
Excess Of Revenues Over <Under>Expenses	\$ -452,738	\$ 206,925

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1998

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 1998 and 1997 were \$34,399 and \$27,981 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 1997 amounts have been reclassified to conform to current year's financial statement presentation.

NOTE 8 - LEASE AGREEMENT

The Assembly entered into a lease agreement for office space effective February 1, 1993. The lease had a five-year term with monthly rent of \$4,512 during the first year. This lease has been extended for three additional years, expiring January 31, 2001. Total minimum lease payments are as follows:

1999	\$ 63,228
2000	\$ 66,132
2001	\$ 5,533

A security deposit of \$6,129 was paid to secure the lease. Total lease expense for 1998 and 1997 was \$60,020 and \$57,758, 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.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 1998

NOTE 9 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (continued)

At December 31, 1998, cash and cash equivalents included:

	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Book Value</u>
Amounts covered by FDIC Insurance	\$ 200,000	\$ 188,982
Amounts covered by SIPC Insurance	1,500,000	1,500,000
Amounts covered by brokerage company insurance	684,456	684,456
Amounts uninsured	<u>830,337</u>	<u>688,505</u>
Total Cash and Equivalents	<u>\$ 3,214,793</u>	<u>\$ 3,061,943</u>

Differences between bank carrying value and book value are caused by deposits in transit and outstanding checks.

FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The purpose of the Fraternal Relations Committee has been clearly defined by the action of the General Assembly. It is to develop cordial relationships with other communions of Christians of the evangelical and Reformed faith, as unitedly we promote the Lordship of Christ and the spiritual unity of His Church. We also foster fellowship with ecumenical agencies which share our theological perspectives, and with other groups and organizations which work to advance the Kingdom of our Lord through ministries of evangelism, nurture and service.

The current members of the Committee are TE Ramona Spilman, RE Frances Wall, RE Jim Currie, TE Ed Randal, RE Dexter Kuhlman, and TE Graham Smith, convener.



Graham Smith, Chairman

On November 19, 1998 Dr. Edward Davis, Dr. Paul Heidebrecht and the Convener visited the headquarters of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Greenville, S.C., and met with the Convener of the corresponding committee of the ARP, Dr. William Evans, along with the Moderator of their Synod and other leaders of the denomination. This proved to be a very rewarding meeting as we learned about innovative programs they are undertaking, and as we dialogued about additional ways in which we, as Reformed churches, might further cooperate to make an impact on the life of the nation.

The other Reformed body with which we have fraternal relations is the Christian Reformed Church, and as last year's report indicated, we met with their executive leadership in Grand Rapids, Michigan in May, 1998. We continue to be gratified by the manner in which they are dealing successfully with the internal problems which have beset them in recent years.

It is sad to relate that our discussions with NAPARC (North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council) have been terminated. Theological differences between the Council and our church proved to be of such a nature that we had reached an impasse, and further discussions regarding our membership in the Council appeared to be futile.

The Convener was a fraternal delegate to the 1998 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland where he was cordially received as he brought greetings from the EPC. Several of the leading figures in the Irish Assembly expressed their desire that closer bonds of fellowship might be established between our two communions.

At the personal invitation of the Stated clerk of the Presbyterian Church (USA), our Stated Clerk, Dr. Edward Davis, was invited to attend the 1998 General Assembly of that body. His remarks on that occasion stressed "cordiality without compromise," and were well received.

The 18th General Assembly again encouraged all our ministers to become increasingly involved in the work of the National Association of Evangelicals. Dr. Davis, Dr. Virginia Patterson, Miss Susan Nash and the Convener attended the annual convention of the NAE in Orlando, Florida February 27 through March 3, 1999 when the new president of NAE, Dr. Kevin Mannoia, was appointed and installed. He is a young man of outstanding ability and spirituality, a pastor-theologian and bishop of the Free Methodist Church who will undoubtedly bring new and vital insights as he leads the NAE into the 21st century.

The Reverend Richard Cizik, a senior staff member of the Washington Bureau of NAE and a minister of the EPC, believes that the most important motion passed at the convention was the one condemning the sexual trafficking of women and children throughout the world. It is appalling to learn that 50,000 children are brought into the USA clandestinely each year to be sexually exploited. The NAE, along with concerned legislators, is helping to craft a bill which we hope will be passed in the Congress and is called "The 3-P Bill" - Protection for the victims, Prevention by governments, and Prosecution of traffickers. This is certainly a time for all of us in the EPC to be concerned about the social implications of the Gospel.

Dr. Davis is now the second vice-chairman of the Executive Committee, and continues to hold the important position of Chairman of the Board of the World Relief Corporation, a vital subsidiary of NAE.

We covet the prayers of the whole Church for the important work which the Fraternal Relations Committee seeks to accomplish as we approach the new millennium.

Respectfully submitted,



W. Graham Smith, Chairman

June, 1999

MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE REPORT



William Moore, Chairman

Our ministers are our greatest assets. The responsibility of Ministerial Vocation Committee is to assist ministers in their work and deal with issues impacting their life and ministry. 'Christ gave some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.' (Ephesians 4:11,12)

The Ministerial Vocation Committee met at the EPC office on October 23-24, 1998, and again on March 11-12, 1999. Members of this committee are Mr. John Allman, Mr. Jerry Alpert, Chaplain Mark Jumper, Dr. William C. Moore, Rev. Paul Rettew. Dr. L. Edward Davis, our Stated Clerk, met with this committee and his counsel was invaluable to us. Rev. Ed McCallum served as Committee Clerk and helped us with innumerable occasions of word-smithing and motion-crafting.

THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

- 1. The Andrew Jumper Scholarship Fund:** **ON MOTION** "to revise the current pamphlet on the Andrew Jumper Scholarship." **ON MOTION** "to ask the COA to make the completion of the funding of the Jumper Scholarship (\$300,000) part of the goals of the 20th Anniversary Celebration." **ON MOTION** "that a Sub-Committee to undertake this goal be established and be comprised of the Moderator, one EPC faculty member, one EPC advisor, one EPC member of the RTS Board of Trustees, and the MVC Chairman. The Stated Clerk will be the convener and moderator without a vote."
- 2. Candidate Process:** David Wahlstadt and Keith Cobb, both candidates under the extraordinary clause, have passed the written ordination exams.
- 3. Chaplain's Sub-Committee:** TE Jumper presented the rough draft of a proposed report form for all chaplains. He also presented a pastoral care plan by which each endorsed chaplain would be contacted by phone, twice per year, by a member of the Chaplains Sub-Committee.

ON MOTION "that the Chaplains Sub-Committee for 1999-2000 be appointed as follows: TE Mark Jumper, Chairman; TE Bud Sparling."

- 4. General Assembly Events:** MVC will continue to present a booth in the G.A. display area to assist pastors and churches looking for each other. Materials for Doctor of Ministry programs from evangelical seminaries will continue to be made available. Changes include the following: A larger table to be obtained; a large sign to be prepared and displayed (highlighting "Pastoral Ministries, sponsored by the Ministerial Vocation Committee"); the table will not be manned, but will be tended occasionally by a member of the MVC. Chaplains Dinner to be held

Thursday evening, Holiday Inn; Jim Edgren, Director of NAE Chaplaincy, to speak. Newly Ordained Ministers Dinner to be held Thursday evening, Holiday Inn. Instead of a speaker, time will be spent in discussion around tables, led by William C. Moore.

5. **Procedure Manual (revision scheduled for 2000):** The revision will include a section on guidelines for staff relationships. The committee will solicit feedback from Ministerial and Candidates Care Chairmen and Presbytery Clerks prior to the Fall meeting.
6. **The PIF and the CIF Forms:** We have permission from the Christian Reformed Church to adapt their documents for our use. If the way continues to be clear, the MVC intends to use the CRC forms as a basis for revision of our Personal Information Form and development of a Church Information Form.
7. **Problematic Portion of the Book of Government:** Two areas of the BOG were discussed: G5-3 dealing with the formation of a new church, and G11.6 dealing with Associate Pastors being called to pastor when the pastor leaves the church. **ON MOTION** "that a Sub-Committee of Moore, Rettew, Davis, McCallum draft a re-write of G5-3."
8. **The Personnel Management Task Force:** **ON MOTION** "that the Personnel Management Task Force give consideration to the issues of minimum study leave allowance, criteria for and accountability of valid study leave, and to report to the MVC at its Fall meeting."
9. **Trinity College and Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana:** Evaluated their offering and decided that the MVC would not recommend this institution for our candidates to pursue full graduate programs.
10. **Study Leave for Ordained Missionaries:** Ordained missionaries will be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for 4 years to be used in their fifth year during furlough in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director.
11. **Pastor Encouragement Program:** The Committee will continue to encourage EPC church Sessions to mobilize a year of prayer for their pastors.

MATTERS REFERRED

1. **Overture 95-D** '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.' The MVC has investigated this matter, seeking counsel from pastors and theologians, reading widely in the field of the theology of ordination, and talking about the matter with legal counsel with regards to the issue of the denomination's liability for those serving in out of bounds ministries. See under RECOMMENDATIONS.
2. **From the 18th Assembly, to study the feasibility, effectiveness and benefits of a periodic sabbatical for teaching elders.** **ON MOTION** 'that the Assembly grant the MVC an additional year to complete its study.'

3. **From the 18th Assembly, to recommend guidelines for performance evaluation and feedback for the pastor's annual review by the Session. ON MOTION** "that the Assembly grant the MVC an additional year to complete the project."
4. **From the 17th Assembly: General Assembly instruction on healthier church environments:** The Committee tried to understand the action requirements of the General Assembly's recommendation #1, that "...the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee... evaluate the issue of pastoral vocational pressures from the perspective of identifying warning signs and seeking preventive measures for creating healthier church environments. Much of the concern behind this recommendation will be handled by the Personnel Management Task Force recommendation. However, a list of warning signals will be developed and forwarded to the Personnel and Policy Committees of EPC churches.
5. **Moderator Buck Russell's Request for a task force to develop a plan for the care and nurture and direction of our clergy.** The Task Force has met many times to discuss this issue. They met for a weekend consultation with pastoral care professionals under the direction of Dr. Louis McBurney from Marble Retreat Center. They have also researched the work being done by the Christian Reformed Church, the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Evangelical Free Church, the Presbyterian Church of America and the Baptist General Conference. A preliminary report was given to the 2001 Committee in May, consisting of the following possibilities for a systemic and long-range plan for the care and nurture of our pastors:
 - a. To establish a National Assessment Center for all candidates who are seeking ordination within the EPC.
 - b. To establish an EPC-wide mentoring program that would seek to mentor all candidates through their third year of ministry after ordination, all pastors who transfer into our presbyteries through their third year of ministry, any pastors who request or need the encouragement of a mentor.
 - c. To establish a Resource Network combining the use of the Internet, telephone hot line and the Office of Stated Clerk to provide both crisis and normal assistance in such areas as conflict management, decision making, leadership development, career changes, professional development and study leave opportunities.
 - d. To develop a Pastors' Conference, in partnership with the presbyteries, to coordinate an annual national conference for all EPC pastors alternating with a annual conference for pastors and their spouses on the presbytery level.
 - e. To enlarge the Board of Pension and Benefits to include oversight of retired ministers, financial planning, vocational guidance, crisis assistance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the GA endorse the following guidance recommended by MVC for denominational military chaplains: "While our chaplains are encouraged to exercise their ministry in the Armed Forces with the maximum of collegiality in cooperation with persons of varying beliefs, the EPC does not approve joint participation in a worship service with persons representing faith groups outside the historic Protestant Christian tradition, as defined by the Apostles Creed."

2. **Overture 95-D**, regarding requests for guidance for out of bounds calls, the MVC commends the adoption of the following recommendations and their additions to the appropriate sections of the *Procedure Manual*:
- a) That Presbyteries give due attention to G10-3 F, that Presbyteries be fully satisfied that each calling reflects the centrality of the ministry of word and sacrament, and is consistent with the variety of callings within the office of minister (G10-3 A-F), and
 - b) That Presbyteries make diligent, annual use of the form "Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery." The call to a validated ministry outside the bounds of Presbytery should not be renewed when it is determined that the member's calling is not consistent with the ministry of the word and sacrament, and
 - c) That Presbytery members who desire to transfer within the bounds of presbytery to a calling not consistent with the ministry of word and sacrament should not be approved, and
 - d) That when an out of bounds call is not approved, and the minister persists in that call, the Presbytery shall follow the procedures set forth in G.15-8.

Regarding the possibilities of legal liabilities of those currently serving out of bounds, we recommend, on advice of counsel, that the following recommendations be added to the *Procedure Manual*:

- a. That Ministers laboring out of bounds are by definition 'serving outside the authority of a court of the church' (G.10-3F) and 'outside the structures of the Church' (G.11-12). Therefore they serve under the ecclesiastical but not the legal authority of the EPC. They can not, therefore, act as an agent of the EPC in the legal sense. They can not exercise any authority to bind the EPC to any contracts or agreements, nor can they commit the EPC to fulfill any other legal obligations.
- b. That because Ministers laboring out of bounds will be 'serving outside the authority of a court of the Church' (G.10-3F) and 'outside the structures of the Church' (G.11-12) they will be employed by the calling agency, not the EPC. They will not be subject to the supervision of the EPC with respect to time, place, or manner of ministry. Any financial relationships or legal accountability regarding their ministry will be undertaken solely through the calling agency. Accountability to the EPC relates solely to spiritual and ecclesiastical matters.
- c. The regulations of the IRS state that eligibility to claim any special tax benefits or privileges available to the Minister of the gospel under federal law may be jeopardized if any of the following apply to your ministry:
 1. The calling agency did not arrange with the EPC for the Minister's services
 2. The Minister performs services for the calling agency that other employees of the calling agency who are not Ministers are performing.
 3. The Minister performs the same services before and after obtaining permission from the EPC to labor out of bounds.

3. "That Act 82-07 "Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination," be amended in #5 "Terms of Call" to add the following sentences:

'Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.'

The section as amended would then read:

5. Terms of call: The amount of time to be given for study leave: two weeks, cumulative up to six weeks.

Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.

4. **ON MOTION** "that the Assembly grant the MVC an additional year to complete its study of the feasibility, effectiveness, and benefits of a periodic sabbatical for Teaching Elders."
5. **ON MOTION** "that the Assembly grant the MVC an additional year to complete the study of guidelines for performance evaluation and feedback for the pastor's annual review by the Session."

Respectfully submitted,



William C. Moore, Chairman

June, 1999

MODERATOR'S REPORT

*W.H. Alan Smith, Moderator
18th General Assembly*



It is with a deep sense of humility, appreciation, and gratitude to God that I present to the Assembly this report of the Moderator. My year was filled with wonderful memories, new friendships, and personal and spiritual fulfillment. I was privileged to attend worship with and extend greetings from General Assembly to the following presbyteries:

- West - Faith Presbyterian, Loveland, CO
- Southeast - New Beginning EPC, Erlanger, KY
- Mid-America - Grace EPC, Lawrence, KS
- East - Allenberry Inn, Carlisle, PA
- Central South - Westminster EPC, Laurel, MS
- Florida - Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, FL
- Midwest - First Presbyterian Church, Trenton, MI
- Mid-Atlantic - St. Giles EPC, Charlotte, NC

Although I was unable to attend the St. Andrews Presbytery, we were excited to read and hear the report from our Director of World Outreach, Richard Oestreicher, detailing his trip last October to our member churches there. Tremendous work and witness is being accomplished by our faithful and devoted pastors and elders in Argentina, and our continued prayers are with them.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the Clerks and Moderators of each presbytery for their gracious hospitality, and to the many individuals who escorted me during my travels.

It was exciting to see how God is working within our denomination and in the lives of our members. Many of us remember from past experience that attendance at presbytery meetings was oftentimes an obligation rather than a privilege. I can't tell you how many times over the course of my travels I heard our presbytery meetings referred to as "a family reunion," where brothers and sisters could gather, fellowship together under the Lordship of Christ, and conduct the business of the Church in a respectful and worshipful manner. Our adherence to reformed theology as contained in the Westminster Confession and the Essentials has encouraged a unifying spirit of oneness, which serves to further enhance the love and unity of spirit we enjoy. While differences exist, there is no disagreement over the essential beliefs espoused and taught by our denomination, namely, justification by faith alone, by grace alone, through Christ alone. It was R.C. Sproul who wrote, "The two prominent doctrines that served as the cohesive forces of evangelical unity were the authority of the Bible and justification by faith alone. Though Protestants historically were divided over many issues, they were united on these two points." It is my observation and belief that our denomination remains united on these fundamental tenets of faith, and will continue to receive God's blessings so long as we persevere. I was also greatly encouraged by the quality of character, maturity and devotion to Christ exhibited by the many candidates whom I observed

being examined both for ordination and to come under care of the various presbyteries. I believe this bodes well for the continued strength and vitality of our EPC.

I know that denominational growth is always a concern. We grieve when a congregation disbands or chooses to leave our fellowship, yet at the same time we are encouraged when new churches and congregations are formed or unite with us. Yet our focus has never been on growth for growth's sake, but about unchurched people coming to a saving knowledge of Christ. Evangelism will be the key to the future and continued growth of our denomination. I looked up the word "revival," and discovered it doesn't refer to the unsaved, but to believers who need to get out and work for the Lord. As we consider our churches and our denomination, we need to ask who has a passion for lost souls. As individually and corporately we consider our evangelistic responsibilities let us recall the words of 1 Peter 3:15, "But in your hearts set aside Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone that asks you to give the reasons for the hope that you have."

I was encouraged by the commitment to evangelistic outreach and new church growth in the presbyteries. While there have been notable setbacks and outright failures, the presbyteries have not become discouraged, the commitment has remained, they have learned from their mistakes, and they are committed to seeking God's guidance and direction as new opportunities arise. An exciting example of victory snatched from the shadow of defeat is that of Emmanuel EPC in St. Louis, Emmanuel was a church planting situation which appeared to be floundering, yet a creative solution by the Mid-America Presbytery resulted in the Reverend Phillip Douglas, a professor at Covenant Theological Seminary, (and a former Assistant Minister in my home church) being asked to assume the pastoral responsibilities at Emmanuel. There he uses seminary students with gifts in evangelism and church growth in the work of the church. While serving as a real life classroom for the students, the church has begun to experience growth, and it is anticipated that the church will become a contributing financial resource to the presbytery before the year 2000.

I was further encouraged and challenged by the enthusiasm and commitment expressed by many of the church planters I met. One such pastor in Colorado, after longing glances at the Moderator's cross I was wearing, suggested that if we were to have the cross melted down, he would have enough money to plant two new churches. While impressed by his enthusiasm and passion, I was not too excited by his proposal. I recalled the words Dick Little whispered to me when he put the cross around my neck at the installation service last June in Denver, "Don't lose it!"

It was gratifying to see the support and involvement of the women in the women's ministries programs. For a while, I thought Jan Juday, our Director of Women's Ministries, was following me around because we attended the same presbytery meetings on three consecutive weekends. Jan's devotion and hard work has produced its intended fruit, as evidenced by the enthusiastic and widespread support for the Kazakhstan project and for the biannual women's conference next October in Virginia Beach. This level of commitment was exemplified recently by the women of the Presbytery of the East which, though the smallest our presbyteries numerically, sent 90 women to their retreat in late May at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania.

I would be remiss were I not to mention the exceptional work of Dan Weidman, our recently departed Director of Student and Young Adult Ministries. Dan has accepted a pastoral call, but during his tenure he established the youth ministry program as a vital and exciting ministry within our denomination. Under his guidance and leadership, attendance at Assembly-sponsored youth events increased tremendously. As young people were introduced to the saving grace of God, commitments were made and lives changed. We would all extend our prayers to Dan that God's richest blessings will be poured upon him and his family as he enters this new area of ministry.

In his report last year, my predecessor, Dr. Richard Little, expressed a concern which I share, regarding involvement in the work of presbytery. Unquestionably, time and distance are factors, yet every effort must be made to encourage greater participation in and attendance at presbytery. As one of our presbytery moderators stated, "Without presbyteries we would be the Evangelical Blank Church." Presbytery is where we develop and nurture relationships, provide mutual accountability, encourage one another and fellowship together. The work of our denomination is performed at presbytery level, and we must be concerned enough to know when presbytery is being held, to establish it as a priority on our calendars, and to make every effort to faithfully attend. On my visits, I challenged each church, if they had not already done so, to prayerfully consider establishing a line item in their budgets, allowing their pastors and spouses, along with ruling elders, to attend presbytery and General Assembly. Everyone in attendance receives tremendous encouragement from the fellowship we enjoy, and gains a deeper appreciation for our connectionalism.

In conclusion, I would also express my thanks and indebtedness to the Assembly staff in Livonia, and to our Stated Clerk, Dr. Ed Davis. The staff was unfailing in their support, and Ed was always there to gently guide me through the narrow straits of procedures and polity. Finally, I thank my wife, Debbie, for her encouragement and support and for serving double duty when I was traveling, and my three boys, Trevor, Torrey and Todd, who didn't complain too much when Dad was away and missed their soccer games.

Respectfully submitted,



W.H. Alan Smith, Moderator
18th General Assembly

June, 1999

NATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT



Bill Meyer, Director

The National Outreach Committee met in two stated meetings since the 18th General Assembly, October 8-10, 1998 and March 25-27, 1999. At the October meeting several presbytery Church Development Committee chairmen were present. This is an annual event as we seek to work in partnership with the presbyteries and congregations of the EPC to accomplish the goals the Lord has given us through you.



Rodger Woodworth, Chairman

The Committee is faithfully served by:

RE Sam Searcy	TE Bob Stauffer	TE Ian Lamont
TE Robert Wilbur	TE James Murphy	TE John Cedar
TE Eli Morris	RE Ronald Whalen	TE Rodger Woodworth

The Mission the General Assembly has give National Outreach is: *To labor with God to build a multiplying movement of growing churches.* The Committee reports its work under the outline of the four **KEY STRATEGIC AREAS** approved by the 18th Assembly.

I. CHURCH PLANTING: *To equip and empower people to plant churches and effectively fulfill the Great Commission.*

A. Key Cities: to plant multiplying church in cities of over 1,000,000 population with no present EPC presence.

- Cypress Pointe Church, Orlando, Florida;** Dan Lacich, pastor. On February 12, 1999 Cypress point was constituted a particular church by Florida Presbytery with 65 charter members signing the petition to organize. We rejoice with them and ask that you continue to pray for this new congregation as they seek to grow, by God's grace, to become a multiplying church in central Florida.
- At its October meeting the NOC designated **San Antonio, Texas** as the next Key City where work should begin. Tom Masterson was called as the Evangelist to begin this work. "The Administrative Model for Key City Church Plants" is being used to administer the work. The Oversight Committee of Bob Brock, Craig Strickland, Bob Stauffer, Rhett Payne and Ed McCallum was established. Ed McCallum will serve until the National Outreach Director is in place. The initial budget was established as follows:

Core group/individual giving	\$25,000
Central South Presbytery	50,000
Key City Benevolent Asking	75,000
Additional sources	<u>20,000</u>
	\$170,000

Year One of the project began April 1, 1999. The project is in the core-group development stage. As of May 4, 1999 \$84,225 has been received toward the budget. We give thanks to the Lord for this great beginning. Of this, \$18,509 came from the 1998 Thanksgiving Offering, and we thank you for that.

Please continue to pray for Tom, Kathy and their daughter, Sidney. Pray the Lord will develop the core group that will lead this project to becoming a strong multiplying church.

B. Church Plants/Mission Churches in Process and Planned by the Presbyteries

It is the goal of the Committee and the Director to work in partnership with these presbyteries and mission congregations to aid in their development.

Presbytery of the Central South

Opelousas, LA (daughter of Grace, Alexandria)
 Planning stage- Shreveport, LA & Mobile, AL: Funding available looking for Church Planters

Presbytery of the East

New Hope, Pittsburgh
 Dundalk Pres., Dundalk, MD is planning on starting a Sunday evening service in a town 30 miles away as a nucleus for a new church.
 Presbytery is looking at an area of Northern Virginia.

Presbytery of Mid-America

Greentree Community, St. Louis, MO
 Trinity Fellowship, Alton, IL
 Midtown, Kansas City, MO (daughter of Heartland)
 Lakeland Community, Lee Summit, MO

Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic

Lake Forest Community, Cornelius, NC (daughter of Forest Hill)
 River Oaks Community, Lewisville, NC (daughter of Reynolda)
 Bridgeway EPC, Chesapeake, VA (daughter of Kempsville)
 Hope, Richmond, VA
 Burgaw, Burgaw, NC (daughter of Myrtle Grove)
 Northside area (planned daughter of Myrtle Grove)
 Dilworth area (planned daughter of Forest Hill)

Presbytery of Midwest

New Hope, Oxford, MI (daughter of, Faith, Lake Orion)
 Immanuel, Novi, MI (daughter of Ward)
 Grace Community, Oscoda, MI
 BayWind Christian Center, Navarre, MN
 Trinity Evangelical Fellowship, Newark, OH

Presbytery of the West

Christ's Family Presbyterian, Chandler, AZ
 Clayton Community, Clayton, CA
 Arvada Community, Arvada, CO
 Clear View Community, Buena Vista, CO
 Celebration Community, Denver, CO
 Presbyterian Parish, Vail/Beaver Creek, CO

Presbytery of the Southeast

Flatrock Covenant Presbyterian Community, Denniston, KY

We celebrate each one of these and ask that you pray regularly for them. The National Outreach Committee was only able to provide \$10,000 total assistance to these churches in 1998. They need more to be on solid ground.

Won't you prayerfully consider giving to the Church Planting Benevolence Asking?

C. Church Planting Assessment Center (CPAC)

One of the not-too-surprising conclusions of the Church Planting Survey is that the gifts necessary to plant a church are different from the gifts needed to pastor growing, established churches. CPAC is our cooperative program with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church to assess the gifts of church planting candidates. The program of CPAC has been expanded to put more emphasis on evaluating the candidates preaching skills. We had five candidates at the last CPAC, April 20-23, 1999. **"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore, beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."** Mt.9:37-38.

II. CHURCH VITALITY: *To provide presbyteries and congregations the necessary resources to positively impact church vitality.*

A. The Bartlett Hess Award for Church Vitality

The award was established to recognize churches that were doing unique and effective work to maintain the vitality of the congregation or to re-vitalize their congregation. This year the award is being presented to the Military Avenue Church, Detroit, Michigan.

Presbyteries are asked to submit names of churches for next year's award to the NOC by March 1, 2000. Please include the reasons why that church was nominated.

B. The 200 by 2000 Program

This was established by NOC in 1995 in conjunction with Lay Renewal Ministries to assist churches with around 100 members grow to 200 by the year 2000. There were a small number of churches who enrolled in the program with mixed results. No more applications for the program are being received by NOC.

The NOC continues to encourage churches to use the resources of Lay Renewal Ministries if you desire to maintain and/or increase the vitality and effectiveness of your churches overall ministry and outreach. We will seek to provide churches with other resources to accomplish these goals.

III. EVANGELISM: *To equip and encourage churches to effectively reach their communities with the Gospel.*

Through the Committee on Administration, we, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, are a participating denomination in the Mission America's evangelism emphasis **CELEBRATE JESUS 2000**. The goal is to "pray for and sensitively share Christ with every person in America by year-end 2000." Dr. Paul Cedar, Mission America Director, will be the keynote speaker for this General Assembly. A task force established by COA as adopted the **Lighthouse** program as one of the ways we can participate in this exciting, nation-wide evangelistic outreach. For more information, contact National Outreach Director Bill Meyer, our **Celebrate Jesus 2000** Coordinator. Visit the **Celebrate Jesus 2000** display at General Assembly.

The NOC continues to encourage churches to use the Alpha evangelism program. A number of our churches are using this to great effectiveness. Contact the National Outreach office for information.

IV. URBAN MINISTRY: *To transform urban centers by establishing churches and aiding existing urban ministries to impact their communities for Christ.*

A. Two members of NOC, Rodger Woodworth and Eli Morris, attended the "Crowns of Beauty" conference on planting urban churches. It is estimated that there are 40 million urban poor in the cities of the United States, 90% of whom are unchurched. This is a "people group" of 36 million people here in our own country. The NOC desires to begin sending church planting missionaries to reach this people group. During this year the following churches responded to a letter sent out by NOC inquiring about churches involved in urban ministry: Faith EPC (Alexandria, VA), Kempsville Presbyterian (Virginia Beach, VA), Sutter Presbyterian (Bridgeton, MO), Oakland Ave EPC (Pontiac, MI). Other involved churches include Hope Presbyterian (Cordova, TN), City of Refuge, (Houston, TX), and Tabernacle EPC (Youngstown, OH). We know there are others that we have not mentioned. We are sorry. Please let us know who you are. We desire to help these and other churches expand their urban ministry. A video presentation on urban ministry is planned for viewing at General Assembly.

- B. Presently we have two urban mission churches: New Hope EPC, Pittsburgh, PA, Rodger Woodworth, pastor and Military Ave. EPC, Detroit, MI, Randy Brown, pastor. Both churches have displays at General Assembly. We encourage you to stop and talk with Rodger and Randy.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the **National Outreach Master Plan, Strategic Area #4**, be amended by adding the following sentence: "*Urban ministry is providing hope by turning our hearts and extending our hands to the poor in urban centers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*" so that the section reads:

"To transform urban centers by establishing churches and adding existing urban ministries to impact their communities for Christ. Urban ministry is providing hope by turning our hearts and extending our hands to the poor in urban centers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

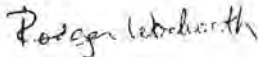
Rationale: NOC believes "urban ministry" needs to be defined in this way.

2. That the NOC be given a one-year extension of the 18th General Assembly's action "that the NOC be instructed to develop a provision for national home missions, and to present that plan to the 19th General Assembly." (This action was taken in response to Overture 98B.)

Rationale: Without a National Outreach Director until April, 1999, the NOC has not been able to accomplish this.

3. That the Assembly approve the taking of a 1999 General Assembly-wide Thanksgiving Offering.
4. That the 1999 Thanksgiving Offering be designated to the San Antonio Key City Project.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rodger Woodworth, Chairman



William Meyer, Director

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee opened with prayer by chairman Buck Oliphant at 9:05 a.m., May 21, 1999 in the office of the General Assembly, Livonia, Michigan. The committee offered special prayers for retired minister, Bob Harvey, who is seriously ill. Chairman Oliphant delivered a devotional from I Chronicles 29. Stated Clerk Ed Davis explained the *Rules for Assembly* and guidelines as they affect the work of the committee.

All Nominating Committee members were present: Chairman Buck Oliphant, John Sherard, Nancy Stewart, John Ward, James Coleman, Gerald Brundle, Ramona Chadwick and Richard Heidtman. The chairman declared a quorum. Also in attendance was Edward Davis, Stated Clerk.

Permanent Committees

ON MOTION to nominate to the Committee on Administration RE Mark Sharpnack (East) for the class of 2001, TE Willard Davis (Florida), RE John Adamson (Central South) and TE Harold Polk (Midwest) for the class of 2002.

ON MOTION to nominate to the Board of Pension and Benefits RE John Baird (Midwest) and RE Orin Littlejohn (Central South) for the class of 2002.

ON MOTION to nominate to the Committee on Christian Education & Publications TE David Todd (Central South) for the class of 2001, TE David Ruff (Mid-Atlantic) and Sandy Hazelwood (Central South) for the class of 2002.

ON MOTION to nominate to the Fraternal Relations Committee TE Ed Randal (West) and RE Paul Heidebrecht (Mid-America).

ON MOTION to nominate to the Ministerial Vocation Committee RE Jim Canteley (Central South) for the class of 2000, and RE John Allman (Mid-Atlantic) and TE Mark Jumper (Florida) for the class of 2002.

ON MOTION to nominate to the National Outreach Committee RE William Bumford (Midwest), RE Wayne Hoffman (Mid-America) and RE Carolyn Nystrom (Mid-America) for the class of 2002.

ON MOTION to nominate to the Permanent Judicial Commission RE Evelyn Cisney (West), TE Darryl Sparling (West) to the class of 2002, with one vacancy in the class of 2002 to be nominated at the June meeting.

ON MOTION to nominate to the Presbytery Review Committee TE George Woodcock (Midwest) for the class of 2002, and RE Buck Russell (West) for the class of 2000 (partial term, cf. *Rules 9-4*).

ON MOTION to nominate to the Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee RE Sonny Flowers (Mid-Atlantic) and RE Smokey Ridgley (West) for the class of 2002.

ON MOTION to nominate to the Theology Committee TE Mike Glodo (Florida) and RE Robert Warburton (Mid-America) for the class of 2002.

ON MOTION to nominate to the Women's Ministries Committee Susie McQueen (West) and Anne Blackley (Mid-Atlantic) for the class of 2002, with one vacancy in the class of 2001 to be nominated at the June meeting.

ON MOTION to nominate to the World Outreach Committee TE Philip Linton (Midwest) for the class of 2001, and RE Robert Healy (Midwest), RE Rister Jenkins (Mid-Atlantic), TE Jeff Chadwick (Mid-Atlantic) for the class of 2002.

Moderatorial Nominee:

ON MOTION that the name of Dr. James McGuire (TE, Midwest Presbytery) be placed in nomination for moderator of the 19th General Assembly.

The committee adjourned with prayer at 5:00 p.m. for dinner. The committee reconvened at 9:30 a.m., May 22, 1999 with a devotional and prayer.

Standing Committees

Standing committee lists were prepared from the commissioner registrations received to date.

The committee adjourned at 1:20 p.m. with prayer, and will reconvene at First Presbyterian Church, Rome, Georgia on Wednesday, June 23, 1999 following the opening program of the host church.

Respectfully submitted,

Buck Oliphant, Chairman

John Sherard, Recording Clerk

<p>SLATE OF NOMINATIONS for the PERMANENT COMMITTEES</p>
--

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Class of 2002 | TE Willard Davis (East)
RE John Adamson (Central South)
TE Harold K. Polk, Jr (Midwest) |
| Class of 2001 | RE Mark Sharpnack (East) |

COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Class of 2002 | Sandy Hazelwood (Central South)
TE David Ruff (Mid-Atlantic) |
| Class of 2001 | TE David Todd (Central South) |

COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Class of 2002 | RE Paul Heidebrecht (Mid-America)
TE Ed Randal (West) |
|---------------|--|

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Class of 2002 | RE John Allman (Mid-Atlantic)
TE Mark Jumper (Florida) |
| Class of 2000 | RE Jim Cantey (Central South) |

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Class of 2002 | RE William Bumford (Midwest)
TE Wayne Hoffman (Mid-America)
RE Carolyn Nystrom (Mid-America) |
|---------------|--|

COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Class of 2002 | TE George Woodcock (Midwest) |
| Class of 2000 | RE Buck Russell (West) |

COMMITTEE ON STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Class of 2002 | Sonny Flowers (Mid-Atlantic)
RE Smokey Ridgley (West) |
|---------------|--|

COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Class of 2002 | TE Mike Glodo (Florida)
RE Robert Warburton (Mid-America) |
|---------------|--|

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Class of 2002 | Anne Blackley (Mid-Atlantic)
Susie McQueen (West) |
|---------------|--|

Class of 2001 Sue Smith (Southeast)

COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

Class of 2002 RE Robert Healy (Midwest)
TE Jeffrey Chadwick (Mid-Atlantic)
RE Rister Jenkins (Mid-Atlantic)

Class of 2001 TE Phil Linton (Midwest)

BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS

Class of 2002 RE John Baird (Midwest)
RE Orin Littlejohn (Central South)

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2002 RE Evelyn Cisney (West)
TE Darryl "Bud" Sparling (West)
RE Barry Smith (Southeast)

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES

ADMINISTRATION

TE Bruce Anderson
RE John Baird
RE Augie Barker
TE David Beaty
RE Jan Bole
RE Michael Borton
RE Hugh Burnes
TE George Callahan
TE Howard Chadwick
RE Leroy Cole
RE Harlen Dewey
TE David Fenska
TE Don Fortson, II
TE Don Galardi
RE Bruce Hamler
TE Donald Hardman
RE Wilton Hazelwood
TE David Herbertson
TE Bartlett Hess
RE Donald Hildebrand
RE William Hornsby
RE Connie Jennings
RE Bill Johns, Chairman
TE Woody Johnson
TE Mark Jumper
TE Lee Kizer
TE James Murphy
TE Tom Musselman
TE Waring Porter
RE Keith Quartermaine
TE Ed Randal, Recording Clerk
RE David Rilling
RE Irvin Rinehart
RE John Roberts
RE Allen Roes
RE John Rudd
RE Michael Scheidell
RE Mark Sharpnack
RE Knox Sherer
TE John Torres
TE Brad Werner
TE Steve Wilkinson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

RE Charles Blackstock
TE Jim Blaha
RE Gwynn Blair
TE David Boswell
TE Brad Buescher
TE Ron Cox
TE Grady Davidson
RE Kathy Fry
RE Terry Hall
RE Hawley Ingram
RE Lynwood Jackson
RE Tim Jordan
RE Billy Ray Kirby
RE Doug Knapp
RE Terry McQuain
RE Charles Miller
RE Ken Millice
RE Doreen Neal
TE Ross O'Dell
RE Virginia Patterson, Chairman
RE Roy Schrameck, Recording Clerk
RE Gerald Streichert
TE Don Sweeting
TE Paul Swets
TE Robert Tansill
TE David Todd
RE Milton Tulgetske
TE Wayne Uppendahl
TE Mark Vanderput
TE Robert Vincent
RE Allen White
RE Stuart White

FRATERNAL RELATIONS

TE Craig Babb
 TE Michael Boulware
 TE James Byrne
 RE Ken Casey
 RE Richard Day
 RE Charlie Franks
 RE Joe Gruneisen
 RE Al Johnson
 RE William Johnson
 TE Tommy Jordan
 TE Ian Lamont
 RE Ralph Neumann
 RE Allen O'Brian, Chairman
 TE Tom Pitman
 TE Peter Preiser, Jr.
 RE Joan Quartermaine
 TE John Quigley, Recording Clerk
 TE Joe Renfro
 TE Michael Schulte
 RE Felix Sharpe
 TE Neil Smith
 RE Larry Swinson
 TE Bill Vogler
 TE Doug Walker
 RE John Wehrle
 TE Bob Wilbur
 TE Michael Winship
 TE Wayne Wood

MEMORIALS AND APPRECIATION

TE Percy Burns
 RE Bob Healy, Chairman
 RE Joe Schluchter
 RE George Polivka
 RE Hillard Strong

MINISTERIAL VOCATION

RE John Adamson
 RE Jerry Alpert
 TE Nate Atwood
 TE David Brogren
 TE Stephen Brown
 RE William Bumford
 RE Jim Cantey
 RE Stan Davis
 RE Ronald DeHaas
 TE Ron DiNunzio
 RE Larry Doak
 TE Neil Ellison
 RE Gary Fields
 RE Al Guilstorf
 TE David Hicks
 RE George Hoard
 TE James Hoilman
 TE Art Hunt
 TE Scott Jackson
 RE Don Jordan
 TE Chris Kiepe
 RE Frank Leslie
 TE Cooper McWhirter, Chairman
 RE David Meserve
 RE James Musick
 RE Donald Nelson
 RE Carolyn Nystrom, Recording Clerk
 TE Rhett Payne
 RE John Plag
 RE William Primm
 RE James Ratliff
 TE Miguel Robles
 RE Rudy Rogers
 TE Rick Slate
 RE Joseph Slesinski, III
 TE Jonathan Tagg
 TE Sanders Willson
 TE Dean Wolf

NATIONAL OUTREACH

RE John Allman
TE Ed Bertalan
RE Bill Blackley
TE Ed Blake
TE David Brown
RE Bruce Bryant
TE Kenneth Burbridge
TE James Carr
RE David Curtis
RE John Dewald
TE Dennis Flach
TE Bruce Gimbel
RE Rich Harris
TE Barney Heyward
RE Don Henderson
RE Rex Hoffman
RE Norm Jackson
RE Frank Johnson, Recording Clerk
RE Ken Jones
RE Dexter Kuhlman, Chairman
RE Robert Lloyd, Jr.
TE Glenn Marshall
TE Ronald Meyer
RE Peter Mogren
RE Bill Morgan
TE Julian Reese
TE Jamie Richard
RE Sandy Russell
RE Sam Searcy
RE Larry Utt
RE Lynn van der Harst
TE Kirk Werner
TE Gary Westra
RE Robert White
TE Daniel Wilburn
RE Roger Wolfe

OVERTURES AND RESOLUTIONS

TE Rocky Anthony
RE John Barber
RE Curt Brown
TE James Brown, Jr.
TE Sam Downing
RE Virgil Edwards
TE Glenn Ferrell
RE Paul Heidebrecht, Chairman
RE Dick Hile
TE Jim Holland
TE Brian Holt
TE Mark Hudson, Recording Clerk
TE Paul Husband
TE Bill Hyer
TE Steve Kerhoulas
TE Doug Klein
TE Ian Leslie
RE Carl Lewis
RE Mike Mathews
RE Candace McCune
RE Steve McFadden
RE Mel Medema
RE Andrew Mitchell
TE David Moncla
RE Robert O'Brien
TE Erik Ohman
RE Bill Painter
RE F. Roy Price
RE Traverse Read, III
RE Colleen Rinehart
RE Tom Schultz
RE David Shores
RE John Simmons
RE Bill Smith
RE Perry Spell
TE John Taylor
RE Deborah Toombs
TE James Van Dyke
TE Richard Vroon
TE David Wahlstedt
RE James Wall
RE Allen Wallace
RE Glenda Wolfe

STUDENT AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

RE Connie Arnold
 RE David Bell, Jr.
 RE Merrill Blackburn
 RE Eugene Cashman
 TE Jeff Chadwick, Recording Clerk
 TE Brett Garrettson
 RE Richard Geer
 TE Chris Gibson
 TE James Glasgow
 TE Doug Graham
 RE Charles Haden
 TE Corbett Heimburger
 RE Donald Larson
 TE Jim Letizia
 RE Anne Litzenberger
 RE Harry Lovelace
 TE Tom Masterson
 TE Adger McKay
 RE Jack Newman
 RE Douglas Noll
 TE John Patterson
 RE George Pisor, Jr.
 RE W.A. Ray
 RE Steele Stewart, Chairman
 RE John Young

THEOLOGY

RE Doug Agnew
 TE Greg Anthony
 RE Glen Boeshaar
 TE Randy Brown
 TE Dan Burns
 TE John Cedar
 TE David Chadwick
 RE Nita Cowart
 RE Roger Derksen
 TE Jim Dixon
 RE Robert Flores
 TE Donald Fortson, III
 TE Glen Francis
 TE David Franklin
 RE George Frasca
 TE Michael Gatliff
 TE Homer Graham
 RE Mark Gring
 TE Bob Hopper
 TE Jeff Jeremiah
 TE Richard Kidd
 RE Don Lewis
 RE Jack Loflin
 TE Bill McCutchen
 RE Tim MacGregor
 TE Tom Melton
 RE Mark Mills
 RE Ken Mitchell
 RE Ed O'Connell
 RE Keith Parkhill
 RE John Perry
 TE Bob Petterson
 TE Jeffrey Richards
 TE Marcelo Robles
 TE Sam Rowen, Chairman
 TE David Ruff
 TE Bill Sharpe
 RE James Slyman
 RE Gene Smith
 TE Bud Sparling
 TE Doug Thompson, Recording Clerk
 RE William Walker
 RE Frances Wall
 RE Bill Wichman
 RE Robert Wood

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

RE Greg Bailey
RE Doug Balch
RE Jack Boran
TE Steve Bristol
RE Janet Carlton, Recording Clerk
RE Steve Cerezo
TE Reid Clark
RE Carol Cleveland
TE Brett Eubank
RE Nettie Graham
TE Helmar Heckel
TE David Keyser
RE Andy Lingenfelter
TE Greg Livingstone
RE William McCullough
TE Jeffrey Park
RE Lisa Rains
TE Phil Reynolds
RE George Schneider
RE Charles Scott
RE Basil Smith
RE Carey Smith
TE Ramona Spilman, Chairman
TE Craig Strickland
TE Jim Thyne
RE Bettie Woodward
TE Bradley Yorton

WORLD OUTREACH

TE James Bates
TE Pete Howell
RE Morton Bradley
RE Steve Briggs
RE King Brown
RE Jim Conzelman
TE Tom Dages
TE Ed G. Davis
RE Robert Eager
TE Howard Finkel
RE Carl Hassel
RE Joe Hallenbeck
RE Thomas Henson
TE Marc Holstege
TE Robert Horel
TE Gene Huntzinger
RE Rister Jenkins
RE Gloria Joiner
TE Stephen Jones
TE Dan Lacich
RE Arnold Lindseth, Jr., Recording Clerk
TE Phil Linton
RE Bob Marlow
TE Tom Masterson
RE Bill Meeks
TE Perry Mobley, Chairman
TE Langdon Montgomery
TE Mark Moore
TE Eli Morris
TE Gil Odendaal
RE June Parks
TE Dick Robinson
TE Ron Sadlow
RE Dan Sharp
TE Bryan Slater
TE Rufus Smith
RE Charles Talbot
RE Daniel Tidwell
RE Terry Wiersma
RE Jay Yoo

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Judicial Commission met on May 14, 1999 in the General Assembly Office, with all members present. Meeting was called to order and opened with devotions and prayer by its moderator, Harold Polk. The Commission was led in an overview of its responsibilities and then its attention was directed to matters received. These matters were acted on and referred as follows.

Overtures received:

1. The overture from the **Presbytery of the Midwest** (p. 44) regarding G.12-2A was considered and found to be clear, concise and consistent with the rest of the Constitution.
2. Overtures from the **Presbyteries of Florida** (p. 53) and the **Midwest** (p. 45) regarding G.12-2F were examined and compared. While both are intended to accomplish the same end, the Florida overture was preferred and is recommended to General Assembly.
3. An overture from the **Presbytery of the Southeast** (p. 50) concerning G.11-5F was reviewed and found to be in order. For purposes of linguistic consistency, it is recommended in the following form:

- “8. Cost of your attendance at Presbytery and General Assembly meetings.
9. Others...”

Note: The original overture makes reference only to the expenses of Pastors, not to Teaching Elders called to other positions.

Note: In #6, the pronoun used is the second person.

4. An overture from the **Presbytery of Mid-America** (p. 46) to change the form of G.14-1,A-4 and 14-1,E-4 by printing in bold italics the words “the essentials of the faith” was examined. (Comments apply likewise to similar overture received from the **Presbytery of the West**, found on page 54).

While it is clear and concise, its pre-suppositional foundation is deemed seriously flawed. It assumes that the adoption of this proposal would “...return the *Book of Order* to its original form...” The 18th General Assembly accepted the report of the permanent Committee on Theology which included a detailed historical analysis of the language of these crucial ordination vows by the Stated Clerk which concluded that the original form of the *Book of Order* is not that sought by this overture.

5. An overture from the **Presbytery of Florida** (p. 51) relating to the status of retired ministers was considered and found to be clear, concise and consistent with other constitutional documents.

Request for interpretation (G.16-27B.1)

1. The Commission acted on a request from the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Central South (Attachment A) on the constitutionality of certain actions of that presbytery. The actions referred to involved the adoption of the following:
 - A. That ordination or transfer from other presbyteries or denominations normally be to the pastoral office in the local church, to the office of evangelist and church planter (in our presbytery or on the foreign field), to military, hospital and other chaplaincies, to administrative office in the courts of the church, or to seminary professorship where students are being trained for pastoral ministries.
 - B. That members of the presbytery who desire to transfer within the bounds of presbytery to a ministry not described in #1 above will, upon request, be placed on "inactive status" upon presbytery approval. He may remain on "active status" as a "minister without call" for up to one year after the dissolution of the previous call.
 - C. That presbytery members currently serving out of bounds submit annual reports of their ministries so that their status can be renewed annually by the presbytery. Those not qualifying under #1 above will be placed on the inactive roll, unless a one-year extension as a "minister without call" is requested by the member and granted by the presbytery.

The Commission unanimously concluded that these actions are contrary to the Constitution on the following grounds:

- Presbyteries are not permitted to be more restrictive than the *Book of Order* and cannot deny what the Constitution requires. Action #1 lists valid ministries and includes a "...seminary professorship..." The *Book of Government* (10-3B) states "A Minister may be called to teach in a seminary, college, or some other school." Action #1 invalidates what the Constitution validates.
- These actions virtually eliminate "out of bounds" ministries as defined in the *Book of Government* (10-3F and 11-12).

Recommendation: That the General Assembly sustain the PJC's interpretation on this matter.

2. A request for interpretation of the **Book of Government** was received from the Ministerial Vocation Committee (Attachment B). It relates to the status of "missionaries serving totally under the auspices of the EPC and with ministers serving in administration in one of the courts of our Church" and the common practice of regarding such as being "out of bounds." The Commission studied G.10-3 which defines certain callings and concluded that the ministers about whose work the clarification was sought do not qualify as those laboring out of bounds but should be on the Active Rolls (ministers with calls) of their presbyteries.

The Commission, authorized by the *Book of Government* to initiate its own proposed changes in the Constitution, recommends the following:

Recommendation: That the words of G.10-3C "...outside the bounds of the Presbytery..." be changed to "...outside the geographical bounds of the Presbytery..."

Grounds: "Outside the bounds" implies the limits of a presbytery's jurisdiction while what is clearly intended is its geographical parameters.

Advice:

The Commission strongly encourages that presbyteries submitting overtures use the resources of the General Assembly (particularly the Stated and Assistant Clerks) to verify the clarity and syntax of their proposals before the final votes of the presbytery.

This report of the PJC is based on the thorough work of its clerk, Robert Hess, and respectfully submitted by its moderator.

Harold Polk, Jr.
Moderator

Stated Clerk's note: Assembly is reminded of procedure defined in Act 90-21 to the effect that "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 the 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**)

ATTACHMENT A



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

29140 BUCKINGHAM AVENUE, SUITE 5 LIVONIA, MICHIGAN 48154
(734) 261-2001 Fax (734) 261-3282

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Reverend Dennis Flach, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of the Central South
201 Magnolia Place
Natchez, Miss 39120

Re: Request of presbytery for opinion

Dear Dennis:

I am in receipt of your November 18, 1998 request on behalf of your presbytery requesting an opinion on the action taken by that presbytery in its Fall meeting. Your correspondence is attached for reference.

Having studied this matter for some time, I have decided to refer the matter directly to the Permanent Judicial Commission for its Spring meeting. In the context of a major overture ascending to your presbytery from two of your sessions, I am choosing to not comment personally on this matter before us at the time.

The request is in order and should be given most serious attention by our PJC. Pray for their deliberation. Until then I am

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk

cc. The Reverend Hal Polk
Moderator, Permanent Judicial Commission

APPENDICES



PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH

Office of the Stated Clerk
201 Magnolia Place
Natchez, Mississippi 39120
Telephone & Fax (601) 445-5010
E-Mail: ntznepc@bkbk.com

DATE: 11/18/98

TO: Dr. Ed Davis, General Assembly Stated Clerk
FROM: Rev. Dennis C. Flach, Central South Stated Clerk
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY OPINION AND REFERRAL TO PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION FOR FINAL JUDGMENT

PURPOSE

This requests your preliminary opinion and, at a later date, final judgment by the PJC on constitutionality of presbytery's ADOPTION of the following three MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE Recommendations at the 1998 FALL STATED MEETING in Laurel MS:

1. "That ordination or transfer from other presbyteries or denominations normally be to the pastoral office in the local church, to the office of evangelist and church planter (in our presbytery or on the foreign field), to military, hospital & other chaplaincies, to administrative office in the courts of the church, or to seminary professorship where students are being trained for pastoral ministries." **ADOPTED**
2. "That members of presbytery who desire to transfer within the bounds of presbytery to a ministry not described in # 1 above will, upon request, be placed on 'inactive status' upon presbytery approval. He may remain on 'active status' as a 'Minister without call' for up to one year after the dissolution of the previous call." **ADOPTED**
3. "That presbytery members currently serving out of bounds submit annual reports of their ministries so that their status can be renewed annually by the presbytery. Those not qualifying under # 1 above will be placed on the inactive roll, unless a one-year extension as 'minister without call' is requested by the member and granted by the presbytery." **ADOPTED**

BACKGROUND

The Ministerial Committee, under the chairmanship of Rev. Sandy Willson, has been discussing ways and means for efficient handling of member ministers in conformity with the constitutional standards of the EPC. Evidence of clear process and procedure are observable at any presbytery meeting. The GA Review of Presbytery Minutes noted our pastoral concern for ministers in our care. In all, very competent and consistent work occurs on behalf of ministers in the Central South Presbytery.

Equally, the Committee believed there are some ambiguities in constitutional standards for member ministers. Consequently, the Committee distributed "guidelines" which it had been using on a trial basis for its work. After reasonable time, the Committee MOVED the ADOPTION of its guidelines now in the form of THREE RECOMMENDATIONS (see above).

Following the presbytery action at the 1998 Fall Presbytery Meeting, several ministers expressed concern over the possible ramifications in their ministries and status with presbytery. The court declined to RECONSIDER its actions but authorized the Stated Clerk to secure GA Opinion in the matter.

KEY QUESTIONS

The questions which arise from the court of presbytery and its members are as follows:

1. Are these ADOPTED ACTIONS constitutional? BOG 16-4C
2. If any or all are not constitutional, does the action of presbytery have any authority

or force on member ministers?

3. Would this matter recommended by Ministerial Committee be better handled as an OVERTURE to the General Assembly?

NEED BY DATE

The Presbytery requests a provisional reply before its Winter Meeting in January 1999.

cc Rev. Sandy Willson
Dr. Russell Louden
Mr. John Adamson
Dr. Joe Meller.



ATTACHMENT B

Trinity Presbyterian Church

10101 W. Ann Arbor Road • Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Telephone: (734) 459-9550 • Fax: (734) 459-0562

May 13, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk

FROM: William Moore, Chairman
Ministerial Vocation Committee

RE: **Clarification of out of bounds status for EPC missionaries and ministers serving in administration in a court of our Church**

The Ministerial Vocation Committee has been studying the issues surrounding the "out of bounds" provision in our *Book of Government* for the last couple of years. Overture 95-D requested that we give guidance to our presbyteries for out of bounds calls.

One of the questions on which we would like an opinion rendered deals with missionaries serving totally under the auspices of the EPC and with ministers serving in administration in one of the courts of our church. In practice it seems that these people are considered as serving "out of bounds." In reality, they are serving under both the judicial and the ecclesiastical authority of the Church, and so would seem to be within our boundaries.

Would you be able to clarify and render an opinion about the boundary status of these individuals?

Thanks.

William C. Moore, Chairman
Ministerial Vocation Committee

Minutes and Report of the Presbytery Review Committee

May 18-19, 1999

The Permanent Presbytery Review Committee (PRC) met at the General Assembly Office at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18, 1999. Committee members present were: RE Buck Russell (chairman), TE Dr. Steven C. Riser and RE Samuel L. Jones. Also attending were TE Dr. L. Edward Davis (Stated Clerk) and TE Ed McCallum (Assistant to the Stated Clerk).

TE Buck Russell opened the meeting with prayer and a working lunch commenced. TE Samuel Jones agreed to act as recording secretary.

A. Review of Responses to exceptions from 18th General Assembly

The Committee reviewed the responses by the various Presbyteries to the exceptions conveyed by the 18th General Assembly. Several Presbyteries failed to report in writing how they had handled the exceptions, and faxed responses to the General Assembly Office for this meeting. Written notice should be sent to the Office of the Stated Clerk well in advance of the Presbytery Review Committee meeting.

Presbytery of St. Andrews - TE Juan Jose Mejias, stated Clerk

Exception: No Minutes presented to the PRC.

Response: Minutes have been submitted in Spanish and are being translated into English with the aid of a computer program that is far from perfect. The Assistant to the Stated Clerk is working on this problem and hopes to have some resolution by the 19th General Assembly meeting.

Presbytery of the Central South - TE Dennis Flach, Stated Clerk

Recommendation 21: That the Assembly inform the Presbytery of the Central South of its incomplete response to the third exception given by the 17th General Assembly (no record present of a review of retired and inactive ministers) and instruct the Presbytery to perform such a review for 1998 and include a record of its review in its Minutes by February 1999.

Response: The Ministerial Committee completed a comprehensive review of all ministers in all callings which has been summarized and included in Presbytery minutes of Fall Stated Meeting (Oct. 23-24, 1998).

The Committee accepted the response to recommendation 21 as adequate but with comment: Minutes (45-19) indicate that out- of-bounds and retired ministers' reports were scheduled for Winter Presbytery. However, they were not reported until the October meeting. Also it is noted that 28 ministers did not respond to the annual review of calls as reported in the Fall (October) meeting. Ministers are urged to take their ordination vows seriously and respond to the inquiries of the Ministerial Committee.

Recommendation 28: The minutes do not reflect that the commission approved by presbytery (41.3) was ever appointed.

Response: Presbytery acknowledged the oversight and future minutes reflect adherence to constitutional standards.

The Committee accepted the response to recommendation 28.

Exception 1: The names of absentees at stated and called meetings are not recorded in the minutes (Rules of the Assembly, 8-11-G-1).

Response: Subsequent minutes will detail names of unexcused absences.

Exception 2: Advisors for candidates under care are not identified.

Response: Candidates Care Chairman reported that advisors had been appointed. Subsequent minutes will note advisors for each incoming candidate.

The Committee accepted the responses to exceptions 2 and 3.

Presbytery of the East - RE Frank Johnson, Stated Clerk

Exception 1: Nature & terms of calls not included in the minutes.

Response: Minutes of the 53rd Stated Meeting included the missing information.

The Committee accepted the response as adequate, but with comment: Terms of call should be reported using the form from the Procedural Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees (Attachment 2) (Rules for Assembly 98-03).

Exception 2: No record of session endorsement or advisor appointed.

Response: Minutes of the 53rd Stated Meeting included the missing information.

Exception 3: No record of review of inactive, retired and out-of-bounds ministers.

Response: Verbal reports were given in the past, but future reports will be included in full in the minutes along with all recommendations.

The PRC accepted the responses to Exceptions 2 and 3 as adequate.

Presbytery of Florida TE Bob Garment, Stated Clerk

Recommendation 22: That the Assembly inform the Presbytery of Florida of its inadequate response the second exception given by the 17th General Assembly (no record present of retired and/or inactive ministers) and instruct the Presbytery to perform such a review for 1998 and include a record of its review in its minutes by February 1999.

Response: There was no response to this recommendation.

The Committee recommends that due to continuing non-compliance with G.16-27,A.1 the General Assembly remand this issue to the Presbytery for immediate correction. The Presbytery, through its Stated Clerk, shall report to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following its Fall meeting regarding its plans to implement the required reporting process for ministers of the word.

Exception: No record of home churches, endorsement of sessions or appointment of advisors for candidates taken under care (Gimbal and Avato, 23.5) (Rules

of the Assembly 8-11.G-7; G. 12-2).

Response: The PRC accepted the response as adequate. However, there was no response to the failure to include home church and endorsement by Session for Gimbal and Avato.

Presbytery of Mid-America - RE Ken Breckner, Stated Clerk (June - Dec. 1998); RE Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk (beg. January 1999)

Exception 1: Terms of call for ministers changing status within the Presbytery should be recorded in the minutes (Quay, 18th Stated Meeting) (*Rules of the Assembly* 8-11.G-9).

Response: Minutes corrected to include terms of call.

Exception 2: Minutes do not record that candidates have the recommendation of their respective sessions and that they have been examined as required by the *Book of Order* (Masterson and Meeks, 19th Stated Meeting) (*Rules* 8-11.G-7).

Response: Minutes corrected to include the required information.

Exception 3: Minutes do not record the names of the Advisors appointed for candidates (G.12-2.D; Rules 8-11.G-7).

Response: Minutes corrected to include names of advisors.

Exception 4: The terms of call of ministers received by Presbytery are not recorded in the minutes (Heimburger, 19th Stated Meeting) (*Rules* 8-11.G-9).

Response: Minutes corrected to include terms of call.

Exception 5: The Presbytery improperly delegated authority to appoint a commission to an individual member of Presbytery (Splinter, 19th Stated Meeting).

Response: A commission was appointed in accordance with G.5-2.C.

Exception 6: Changes in terms of call being approved are not recorded in the minutes (Graham and Quay, 20th Stated Meeting) (*Rules* 8-11.G-9).

Response: Minutes corrected to include the changes in terms of call.

The Committee accepted the responses to exceptions 1 - 6 as adequate but with comment: Terms of call should be reported using the form from the Procedural Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees (Attachment 2) (Rules for Assembly 98-03).

Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic - RE Llew Fisher, Stated Clerk (June - Dec. 1998); TE Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk (beg. January 1999)

Exception 1: Names of Teaching Elders unexcused from stated meetings should be recorded in the minutes (*Rules of the Assembly* 8-11.G-1).

Response: In the future, all absentee ministers will be listed in the minutes.

The Committee accepted the response as adequate.

Exception 2: Statement that candidates taken under care have the recommendation of their respective sessions is not recorded in the minutes (§26.25; 27.21)

Response: Presbytery considers that such a statement would be superfluous since the

Ministerial Committee will not examine a candidate unless the sessional recommendation form is completed and available for the committee's review.

The Committee considers the response to be inadequate. To make the record complete, sessional endorsement should be included in the minutes (Acts of the Assembly 98-03).

Exception 3: No review of retired, out of bounds and inactive ministers.

Response: There is no requirement for an annual review of the status of inactive ministers. The statement regarding a review of retired ministers was inadvertently omitted from the minutes of the 26th Stated Meeting. Minutes of the 26th stated meeting include the approval for out of bounds ministers to continue in their capacities for another year.

The Committee considers the response to be inadequate. Presbyteries should conduct an annual review of inactive pastors to determine if they should be placed back on the active roll or, if after 5 years, to drop them from the rolls without censure (G.15-8; p. 54 Procedural Manual).

Presbytery of Midwest - RE Al Bennett, Stated Clerk

Recommendation 23: No record present dealing with the status of retired inactive or out of bounds pastors (1996).

Response: A copy of the report was supplied to the Committee.

Exception 1: Authority to appoint commissions improperly delegated to Ministerial Committee.

Response: The Presbytery recognized the exception and greater care will be taken in subsequent meetings.

Exception 2: Names of commission members not recorded.

Response: Minutes were corrected to include the names.

Exception 3: No terms of call for Burbridge.

Response: Minutes were corrected to include terms of call.

The Committee accepted the response as adequate, but with comment: Terms of call should be reported using the form from the Procedural Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees (Attachment 2) (Rules for Assembly 98-03)..

Presbytery of Southeast - TE Sam Harris, Stated Clerk (June - October, 1998); TE Russ Ragon, Stated Clerk (beg. November 1999)

Exception 1: Minutes do not reflect that the status of inactive ministers was actually reviewed.

Response: Ministerial Committee was instructed to do such a review and their report was given to the Presbytery in May 1999.

The Committee accepted the response as adequate.

Presbytery of the West - TE Marc Huebl, Stated Clerk

Recommendation 24: No record present dealing with the status of retired, inactive and/or out of bounds ministers.

Response: Minutes were corrected to include a more thorough account of the Ministerial Committee's efforts to contact all ministers when such record is presented (Feb. 1999).

Exception 1: No advisor recorded for candidate taken under care.

Response: Minutes corrected to include name of the advisor.

Exception 2: No indication in the minutes that candidates taken under care have been recommended by their respective sessions.

Response: Presbytery acknowledged the exception and future minutes will include the required information.

Exception 3: No indication that the service of appreciation for retired pastors required by G.15-9 was held.

Response: Future records will be more clear to record that a service of appreciation is held.

Exception 4: There is no provision in the Book of Government for an "Extraordinary candidate under care."

Response: Minutes changed to read, "candidate under extraordinary circumstances."

Exception 5: If candidate has valid Christian ordination, Presbytery should proceed under G.13-5.

Response: Minister in question did not have current ordination credentials, nor did he have a valid call.

Exception 6: Motion to call minister as "Executive Pastor" is improper. The function of Executive Pastor may be performed by an Assistant or Associate Pastor. The length of the call and financial terms of the call should be recorded in the minutes.

Response: Minutes were changed to read "Assistant Pastor" and terms of call were included.

The Committee accepted the response as adequate.

B. Minutes Subject to Review by the 19th General Assembly

The Committee received certified copies of Presbytery Minutes 5 days in advance of the meeting. The Committee reviewed minutes of the Presbytery meetings from Spring 1998 through Winter of 1999 (*Rules for Assembly* 8.6-1) and approved them with the following exceptions to be forwarded to the Clerks and the 19th General Assembly:

Presbytery of the Central South

The Committee recommends that the minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South be approved with the following exceptions:

1. No record of session endorsement and no advisor appointed for candidates (44-11 and 45-21) (G.12-2,A and G.12-2.D) (Bristol, Eubank, Land, Masterson, Pekary and Roberts).
2. No indication that congregation approved dissolution of pastoral relationship with David Hicks, David Keyser and David Moncla (45-19) (G.15-2)

3. Three commissions appointed by Presbytery to examine candidates for ordination, however they should have been committees. They made recommendations and did not take action for the Presbytery. Therefore no written report would be required (46-23).
4. No indication that candidates Rufus Smith, Chris Pekary, Brian Land, Adam Roberts and Tom Masterson had preached a sermon (G.13-2) or passed written exams (G.13-2). The commissions to ordain and install them did not include the record of the churches of the commission members (46-23) (G.16-26.B-2.e).

Commendation: Commission reports are excellent.

Presbytery of the East

The Committee recommends that the minutes of the Presbytery of the East be approved with the following exceptions:

1. For three meetings (52, 53 and 54) there were no unexcused absences reported even though there were absences not approved by the Council (*Rules for Assembly* 8-11.6-1).
2. There is no record that there was any type of recognition or appreciation for TE David Hadden upon his retirement (p. 171) (G.15-9).
3. No record of terms of call for John Torres or Rick Stauffer (pp. 171-2) (*Rules for Assembly* 8-11.G-9).
4. No record that a commission was approved to ordain / install John Torres (p. 171) (G-14.1; G.16-26,B.2-a).
5. Moderator does not have authority to appoint a commission (p. 172 Stauffer and p. 177 Winship). Only Presbytery has this authority (G.16-26,B).
6. There is no approved call for Dr. Sam Rowen (p. 182, D-3) (G.11-1 and G.11-4).
7. No indication that there was 10 day notice of the called meeting June 26, 1998 and its purpose (G.16-17).
8. No written report from commission appointed to ordain / install John Torres, to install TE Mike Winship and to install TE Rick Stauffer (G.16-26.B).
9. No record of annual review of active, inactive out-of-bounds or retired ministers (G.16-27,A.1 and p. 54 of *Procedure Manual for Ministerial ad Candidates Committees*).
10. Terms of call forms have not been utilized (*Acts of the Assembly* 98-03).

Presbytery of Florida

The Committee recommends that the minutes of the Presbytery of Florida be approved with the following exceptions:

1. Commission reports were received but written reports were not inserted in the minutes (24.08 and 26.09) (G.16-26,B)
2. The Presbytery does not have the right to drop a person from the role without censure before the person has been on the inactive role for 5 years (TE Henry Braga, 24.15) (G.15-8). The PRC recommends that the Assembly remand this issue to the Presbytery for correction and to restore his membership in the Presbytery.
3. Terms of call forms not utilized for TE's Dan Lacich, Bruce Gimbal, Jonathan Tagg and Dave Franklin (26.01, 26.14) (*Acts of Assembly* 98-03; see attachments 2 & 17 in *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidate Committees*)
4. No indication that Tagg, Gimbal or Franklin had successfully passed written examinations (26.14) (G.13-2).
5. The moderator is not authorized to appoint or dismiss commissions (26.14, 24.09) (G.16-26,B).
6. There is no record that the requirements of G.5-3,B have been met (Cypress Pointe, 26-01).
7. There is no record of annual review of the work of the minister (active, inactive, out of bounds and retired) (G.16-27,A.1; G.15-9).
8. Terms of call forms have not been utilized (*Acts of the Assembly* 98-03)

Presbytery of Mid-America

The Committee recommends that the minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved with the following exceptions:

1. No indication that the called meeting of August 11, 1998 was given 10 days notice and the purpose of the meeting specified (p. 137) (G.16-17).
2. Committee Chairman does not have authority to change the composition of the committee (p. 138) (G. 16-27.a).
3. There is no such designation as "student pastor" (p. 138). Mr. Taylor's status need to be clarified (G.10-3; G.11-6, 7, 8).
4. It is not clear whether Michael Taylor is a candidate for ordination. If so, no approval by Presbytery has been recorded (p. 138) (G.12-2).
5. It is not clear whether Brad Buescher is being examined as a candidate for ordination (p. 138; G.13-7) or by transfer (G.13-4, 5). No indication of approval for either ordination or transfer.

6. Terms of call forms not utilized (p. 139 Buescher, p. 140 Heyward, p. 145 Werner) (*Acts of Assembly* 98-03).
7. No indication of whether TE Heyward was examined under G.13-2, 13-4 or 13-5 (p. 139).
8. No written commission report to install TE Doug Graham (p. 140) (G.16-26, B).
9. Commission is not properly constituted (p. 143). There was no purpose stated, only 3 members appointed (minimum is 5) with no indication of which churches they represent (G.16-26,B.2-a).
10. No indication that the congregation approved dissolution of pastoral relationships with TE Tom Ricks (p. 144) or TE John Splinter (p. 143) (G.15-2).
11. Commission for Trinity Fellowship is improperly constituted (minimum 5 members) (pp. 143, 149) (G.5-2; G.16-26,B.2-a).
12. No indication that Brad Werner had successfully completed written exams (p. 145; G.13-2). Call and terms of call not approved by Presbytery (G.11-7). The commission to ordain / install did not include home churches of commission members (G.16-26,B.2-e).
13. No record of annual review of work of ministers (active, inactive, out of bounds and retired) (G.16-27,A.1; G.15-9).

Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

The Committee recommends that the minutes of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic be approved with the following exceptions:

1. No indication that Peter Boswell, Keith Cobb or Grady Davidson had successfully completed the written exams for ordination (29-21; 31-23) (G.13-2).
2. Terms of call forms not used (29.25.1.B, E; 29.25.1.I, Q; 30.21.B) (*Acts of Assembly* 98-03).
3. Home church for commission members not included (G.16-26,B.2-e).
4. Ministerial Committee cannot constitute itself as a commission (29.25, last motion p. 22) (G.16-27,A.10).
5. A committee cannot constitute a commission (29.26.1 & 10; 30.21.1.O) (G.16-26,B). Presbytery by-laws (Article IV, Section 3 C.b), which allow for the Church Development Committee to form commissions need to be brought into conformity with G.16-26.
6. No indication that the commission formed for the disposition of Christ EPC was appointed by Presbytery (31.13.A.1) (G.16-26,B).
7. The Presbytery to which the inactive member belongs should restore him to the active roll and then transfer him to another Presbytery at their request to receive a valid call (30.21.2) (G.15-8).

Commendation: Excellent financial reporting, approval of ministers to serve out of bounds, changes to terms of call and committee reports.

Presbytery of the Midwest

The Committee recommends that the minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest be approved with the following exceptions:

1. No indication of which church endorsed the candidacy of Scott Poblenz (p. 88) (G.12-2,A). No advisor appointed (G.12-2,D).
2. No indication that Herb Frost had successfully passed written exams (p. 89; G.13-2). No indication that he preached a sermon (G.13-2), no approval for ordination. Page 186 says he was called to Ward church, p. 191 says he was called to Immanuel Church.
3. Terms of call forms not utilized (p. 90, Reynolds; p. 91, Hicks; p. 223, Brown; p. 224, Mattis) (*Acts of the Assembly 98-03*).
4. No record of any recognition or ceremony upon retirement of TE Hugh Gowman (p. 91) (G.15-9).
5. Committees do not have authority to appoint commissions (p. 91, Hicks) (G.16-26,B).
6. No indication that 10 days notice and purpose for a called meeting was provided (p. 116) (G.16-17).
7. No indication of which church endorsed Paul Burr as a candidate for ministry (p. 173) (G.12-2,A).
8. There was no motion to approve Douglas Walker for ordination (p. 174). Terms of call form not utilized (*Acts of Assembly 98-03*).
9. No indication of the provision under which Steve Brown was examined (p. 222) (G.13-2, 4 or 5).
10. No advisor appointed for James Cupschalk (p. 225) (G.12-2,D).
11. Minutes not signed by Moderator (p. 226).
12. No annual report of status of retired ministers (G. 15-9).
13. No record of review of Out of Bounds ministers (G.10-3,F).

Commendation: Excellent review of terms of call and financial reporting.

Presbytery of the Southeast

The Committee recommends that the minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved with the following exceptions:

1. Reporting of attendance needs to be improved, especially as it pertains to excused and unexcused absences (44-19; 45-19) (*Rules for Assembly* 8-11-G-1).
2. The form for the out of bounds call for Cobby Ware is missing.(44-21,45-21) (*Acts of the Assembly* 98-03).
3. The assets and church property discussed in 45-11 was not disposed of in accordance G.5-5 (Hope and 1st Presbyterian, Louisville).
4. Church Revitalization Committee acting as a commission did not provide a written report of their action to be inserted in the minutes (45-23) (G.16-26,B).
5. There is no indication that Dan Gilchrist and Jack Piers were examined by Presbytery, that they responded to questions from the Moderator, that a charge was given to them or that advisors were appointed. (45-21) (G.12-2,C, D).
6. Ruling #3 of the Stated Clerk is in error (46-11). Parity is adjusted annually, not whenever the roll of teaching elders changes (G.16-14). Ruling #4 is not clear and should be rewritten (46-11).
7. No indication of which EPC church endorsed Alan Wallace as a candidate for ministry (46-12) (G.12-2,A).
8. No terms of call or form included for Tommy Jordan (G.11-5,E; *Acts of Assembly* 98-03).
9. No indication that 10 days notice was provided for the called meeting of Dec. 4, 1998 (G.16-17).
10. Churches of commission members were not included (46-33) (G.16-26,B.2-e).
11. There is no record of annual review of the status of retired ministers (G.15-9).
12. At the Dec. 4, 1998 called meeting, the Ministerial Committee was appointed as a Judicial Commission was formed. There is no subsequent written report from the Commission inserted in the minutes (G.16-26,B). As the summary is currently written in the minutes, it is unclear what actions have been taken.

Commendation: Excellent review of changes in terms of call (46th meeting).

Presbytery of the West

The Committee recommends that the minutes of the Presbytery of the West be approved with the following exceptions:

1. No indication that Ramona Spilman successfully completed the written exams for ordination (54-10) (G.13-2).
2. Many reports not opened in prayer.

At the June 11, 1998 called meeting the Moderator and Stated Clerk were authorized to appoint an administrative commission. Only the presbytery can appoint commissions (G.16-26,B).

4. Attachment 16 to the 56th Stated meeting minutes should have included the Out of Bounds Call Form (Attachment 17, *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*; Acts of Assembly 98-03)

We commend the Presbytery of the West for their progress in their annual report of the work of the minister of the word. However, we note that less than 60% of the ministers responded to the Ministerial Committee. We urge the Ministerial Committee to work to increase the number of responses and the ministers to take their ordination vows seriously and respond to the Ministerial Committee requests.

Adjournment

Notations were recorded for each Presbytery and will be forwarded to the Stated Clerks in July.

Recommendations from the Presbytery Review Committee may be found in the Recommendations section of the *Commissioners Handbook*.

The PRC adjourned at 6:30 p.m., May 18, 1999 in prayer by TE Steve Riser. We met in session from 12:30 p.m., May 18 until 10:30 p.m. (with a short dinner break) and from 8:30 a.m. May 19 until 6:30 p.m. (with a short lunch break). This is not enough time for each PRC member to review all minutes. We recommend that in the future the PRC be scheduled for two full days (arriving at the GA Office the day before the meeting starts.)

Respectfully submitted,

RE Buck Russell, Chairman

1 Attachment: General comments and recommendations concerning presbytery minutes.

General Observations of Presbytery Minutes

There is a great need for standardization of what and how information and actions are reported in the Presbytery minutes. Following are suggestions to accomplish standardization:

- A. Method of numbering sections and sub-sections: Example: each section should identify the number of the meeting and the major section of the minutes, i.e., 76.1 would identify the 1st section of the 76th meeting. Sub-sections would be identified by a letter or number as appropriate (i.e., 76-10 A.2).
- B. Method of reporting attendance: Attendance can be recorded either in the body of minutes or as an attachment. In either case it should reflect attendance by categories and by teaching or ruling elders, by church and whether they were present, excused or unexcused. Suggestion:

<u>Church Name</u>	<u>Teaching Elder</u>	<u>Ruling Elder</u>
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with an indication of present, excused or unexcused followed by other categories such as evangelists, chaplains, teachers, administrators and out of bounds, followed by a listing of visitors present.

- C. Use of attachments: They should be numbered and identified within the body of the minutes and all attachments by listed by number and subject at the end of the minutes. If they consist of more than one page, the attachment should so identify this information, e.g., "page 1 of 5." Attachment identification should be at the bottom right side of each page.
- D. Calls and terms of call: In accordance with Acts of the Assembly 98-03, the approval of the call by Presbytery should be included in the minutes with reference to the terms of call as an attachment. The terms of call should be presented using the appropriate form from the Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees (attachments 2, 3, 4 and 17).
- E. Ministerial Obligation: G16-16,L requires subscription before being received into membership. Most Presbyteries make no reference to this requirement. Some show this has been done within the minutes and some attach a copy to the minutes. All minutes of ministers being received should indicate compliance with this requirement.
- F. Examination of Candidates: Minutes should indicate under which section of Chapter 13 the candidate is being examined. If through the presbytery candidate system (G.13-2) or coming from another denomination. Ministers coming from non-reformed denominations (G.13-5) must successfully complete the written examinations. For all candidates and ministers taking written exams, note should be made in the minutes of successful completion.
- G. Standardize terminology: Minutes show that motions and reports are sustained, adopted or approved. All mean the same thing. We suggest that we use only one of these forms and that the Presbyteries be so advised.

Other observations:

- A. There is a need to improve the reports of annual review of calls. All Presbyteries to some degree report changes in compensation, but fail to address the issues of accomplishment, disappointment, expectation and needs (see p. 54 *Procedure Manual*). Records indicate poor responses from Teaching Elders to such reviews by the Ministerial Committee. Page 55 of the *Procedure Manual* requires that changes to terms of call be reviewed by the Ministerial Committee before it presents these changes to Presbytery. There is no indication that this is being done. There is a poor response from Presbyteries that out-of-bounds calls have been reviewed and approved.
- B. There is a need to advise Presbyteries how to legally correct minutes or change them. Some do so in subsequent minutes, but there is no reference in the minutes being changed that there has been a change and where to find it. Some insert pages in the original minutes. Some go back to original minutes and make actual changes to the minutes even after the original has been approved.
- C. Commissions. There is a need to know names of member churches of commissioners to insure compliance with G.16.B-2.e. Presbyteries should use the form in Attachment 14 of the *Procedure Manual* to report minutes of commissions to ordain and / or install ministers. This form should be an attachment to the minutes. Reports of commissions should be presented to the Presbytery and the commission dissolved by Presbytery.
- D. Minutes indicate that in most Presbyteries the attendance of both teaching and ruling elders is poor and responses by teaching elders to queries about the annual review is very poor. This needs to be emphasized and some method be implemented by General Assembly and Presbyteries to insure better compliance. We consider this to be a very serious matter for this denomination.
- E. Presbyteries need guidance in how to report housing allowance and changes on the terms of call form. What are the legal (IRS requirements)?
- F. Does a copy of the docket need to be included in the minutes? Docket must be approved and changes made as authorized.
- G. We note a wide disparity in the information given in treasurers reports ranging from complete details of income and expenditure, compared with the budget by month and year to date, while others either report no figures or only a cursory statement of money in their bank account. We believe that some guidance of minimum requirements should be given to Presbyteries.

We recommend that a representative from the Presbytery Review Committee be invited to the annual Presbytery Stated Clerk's Workshop to discuss these items plus any requested by the Stated Clerks.

Buck Russell, Chairman
Presbytery Review Committee

Recommendations to the 19th General Assembly:

- That the Assembly accept the responses of the Presbyteries (including written comments) to the exceptions of the 18th General Assembly (pp. 207-211).
- That due to continuing non-compliance with the requirement of G.16-27,A.1 and G.15-8,9 for the Ministerial Committee to perform an annual review of the work of the Ministers of the Word (active, out-of-bounds, inactive, and retired), the Assembly remand this issue to the Presbytery of Florida for immediate correction. The Presbytery, through its Stated Clerk, shall report to the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly immediately following its Fall 1999 meeting regarding its plans to implement the required reporting process.
- That the Assembly instruct the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic to conduct an annual review of inactive pastors to determine if they should be placed back on the active roll or, if after 5 years, to drop them from the rolls without censure (B.15-8; p. 54 *Procedure Manual*).
- That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South with the exceptions noted in this report.
- That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the East with the exceptions noted in this report.
- That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of Florida with the exceptions noted in this report.
- That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America with the exceptions noted in this report.
- That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic with the exceptions noted in this report.
- That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest with the exceptions noted in this report.
- That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of Southeast with the exceptions noted in this report.
- That the Assembly approve the minutes of the Presbytery of the West with the exceptions noted in this report.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

We are at what strikes me as a "defining moment." Perched on the threshold of a new century, this Assembly shall convene with one eye to its future and one eye on its history. In numerous ways, ascending overtures and recommendations raise the question, "Truly, how is God at work in our midst?"

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a family of churches who share a precious legacy, a common mission and shared values. Questions and concerns, which we all share, regarding the future beg to be seasoned with the salt of Scripture.

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15)

By faith, as with father Abraham, we set forth almost twenty years ago to follow God's call, though, like Abraham, we hardly knew where God would lead. And here we are. What a privilege to be alive and part of God's family! What a privilege to be part of the EPC family.

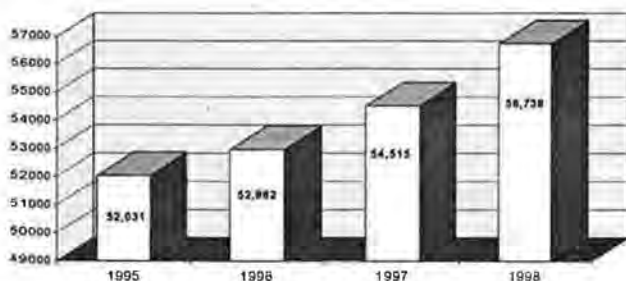
The stated mission of the Assembly is "to glorify God by helping congregations and presbyteries fulfill Christ's mission for His Church in those regions and communities God calls them to serve." In gathering as a family, we are asking God to renew our confidence that He alone has called us to this place "for such a time as this."

Taking stock is like taking a family picture. A family picture shows it all – blessings and blemishes. May the pictures of the present only challenge us to become the people of the future through whom God still speaks and works.

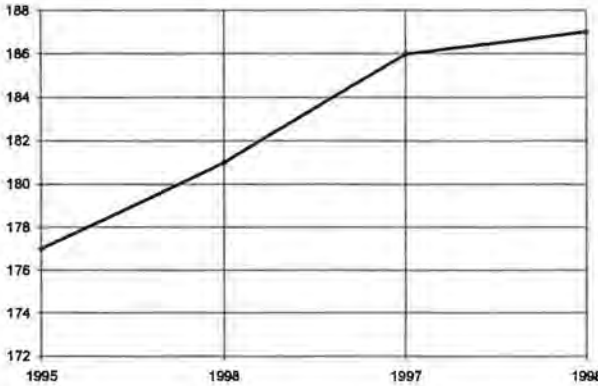
I. Active Membership 1998

Inclusive Membership 1998:

1. Active Adult: 56,738
2. Baptized Roll: 4,166
3. Ministers: $\frac{443}{61,347}$



II. Number of churches reported this Assembly year is 187, including both particular and mission churches of record.



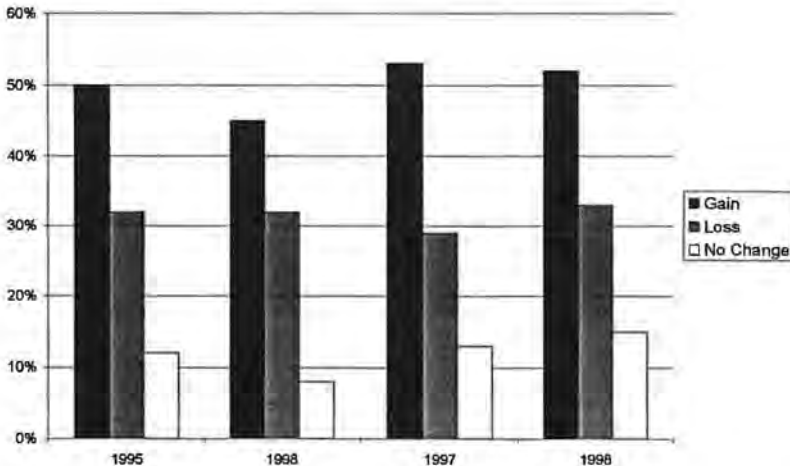
New churches added this Assembly year:

1. Celebration Community Church, Denver, CO (West)
2. Lake Forest Community Church, Cornelius, NC (Mid-Atlantic)
3. Mercy Christian Fellowship, West Bloomfield, MI (Midwest)
4. Trinity Fellowship, Alton, IL (Mid- America)
5. River Oaks Community Church, Lewisville, NC (Mid-Atlantic)
6. Presbyterian Chapel at Vail & Beaver Creek, Vail, CO (West)

Offsetting greater gain were the following losses:

1. Hope Church, Cartersville GA (Southeast), dissolved
2. Christ EPC, Midlothian VA (Mid-Atlantic), dissolved
3. Faith EPC, Salem VA (Mid-Atlantic), dissolved
4. Trinity Presbyterian, Mobile, AL (Southeast), dissolved
5. Covenant Fellowship, Shelby NC (Mid-Atlantic), dismissed

III. Internal Growth

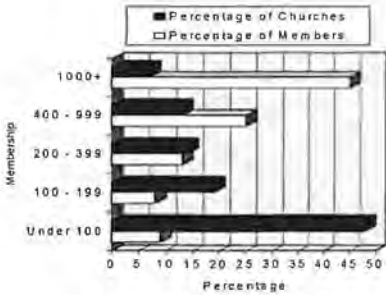


	1995	1996	1997	1998	% Change
Total Professions of faith:	1,362	1,518	1,106	1,658	+50%
Adult:	858	1,062	566	1,117	+97%

Youth:	504	456	540	541	0%
Total Baptisms:	1,505	1,465	1,534	1,634	+7%
Adult:	586	576	691	688	-0.5%
Infant	919	889	843	946	+12%
Sunday School Enrollment:	34,069	35,075	37,158	35758	-4%

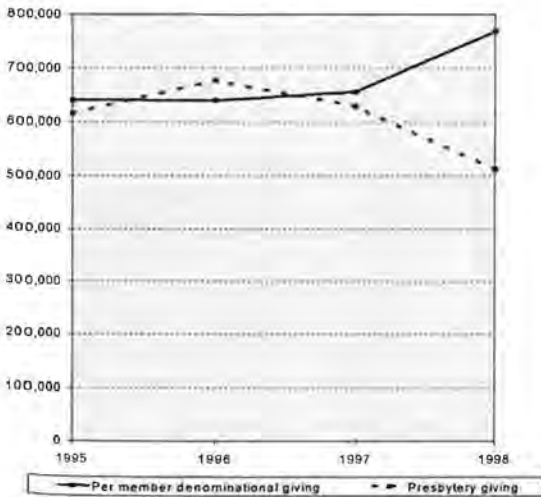
IV. Distribution of congregations by size and membership (1998):

Some observations: Lyle Schaller has called us a denomination of large churches. The EPC is unique among North American denominations in that such a large percentage of our members attend churches of 1,000+. Note in the chart above, that by far the greatest percentage of our churches (47%, or 89 churches) are under 100 members. 7% of our members attend 47% of our churches. It is just the reverse for the largest churches in our denominational family. 45% of our members attend 7% (12) of our churches.



V. Giving

Per Member and Presbytery Giving:



General Assembly Benevolence Giving:

Total Benevolence Giving:
 1997: \$1,373,871
 1998: \$1,469,562
 Change: +7%

Of the 1998 total, \$1,201,331 came from EPC churches. The remaining \$268,231 was provided by individual giving, mostly toward individual missionary support.

General Assembly Benevolence giving by category:

	1995	1996	1997	1998	Change
Missionary Support	711,124	888,614	968,551	968,183	-3.8%
World Outreach	182,263	177,834	161,667	212,368	+31%
Women's Ministries	33,534	54,541	62,294	41,368	-34%
Special Offerings	46,210	44,724	36,807	37,407	+2%
National Outreach	59,351	72,471	78,668	71,320	-9%
Church Loan Fund	10,950	11,185	10,553	11,012	+4%
Youth Ministries	297	719	3,290	3,742	+14%
Other Designated Giving	34,543	63,854	52,041	75,087	+44%
	1,078,245	1,313,941	1,373,871	1,469,562	+7%

1998 is the first year giving to individual missionaries has declined. The 31% increase in general World Outreach giving is attributable mainly to the wonderful support given to the building project spearheaded by our Kazakhstan team, the Burns and Hamptons. The decline in Women's Ministries giving is due to the "off year" between major overseas conferences. 1999 giving will reflect healthy support for the Kazakhstan Prayer Conference held in August. The 44% increase in "Other Designated Giving" represents the generous response of our denominational family following the devastation of Hurricane Mitch in Honduras (\$31,326).

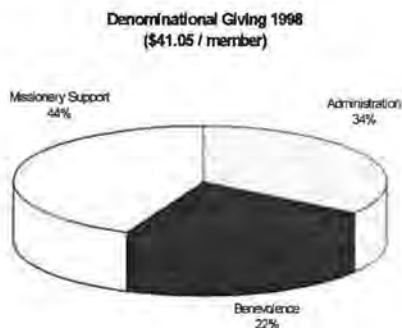
Benevolence giving by approved program:

Approved Benevolence Askings Project	Goal	Actual	Percentage of Goal
Orlando Church Planting Project	50,000	47,514	95%
Church Loan Fund	25,000	11,012	44%
Church Planting	150,000	23,806	16%
Student & Young Adult Ministries	8,000	3,742	47%
Per Woman Asking	25,000	7,667	31%
Faith Focus '98	30,000	33,719	112%
Siberia Team Ministry	15,000	9,951	66%
Kazakhstan Team Ministry	15,000	8,054	54%
Muslim Video	12,500	4,892	39%
China Seminary	50,000	31,988	64%
China Field Development	5,000	103	2%
World Impact / Military Avenue	30,000	33,182	111%
Appalachian Project	5,000	5,039	101%
Brazil Theological Scholarships	35,000	19,576	56%
Andrew Jumper Library	10,000	0	0%
Brazil Foreign Missions (Angola)	15,000	10,682	71%
Argentina Pastoral Brazil Scholarship	2,000	0	0%
Ghana New Ministry Development	8,000	1,627	20%
Church Planting Consultation	5,000	0	0%
Muslim Team Development	10,000	280	3%
Argentina Field Development	10,000	2,471	25%

Argentina Leadership Development	10,000	4,543	45%
Argentina Church Planting Team	40,000	26,969	67%
Argentina IBBA Library Development	5,000	8,567	171%
Argentina Presbytery Outreach / Church Planting	10,000	0	0%
Argentina Pastoral Local Scholarships	1,500	0	0%
Newly Ordained Ministers' Dinner	3,000	0	0%
Andrew A. Jumper Scholarship Fund	50,000	19,581	39%
Hispanic Project	5,000	108	2%
Thai Outreach Project	10,000	50	0.5%
TOTAL	650,000	315,123	48%

Actual giving toward General Assembly Benevolence Askings reflects 48% of the goal, the same rate as 1997. Variation in response provides some indication of knowledge of and ownership of the projects. Giving response indicates a need for greater mission interpretation by our Assembly Staff. Pastors and Sessions also bear responsibility for incorporating benevolence giving for projects endorsed by the larger church family in their own local budgets. When the needs and value of the project are communicated to the congregations, people respond.

In summary, in 1998 our membership gave an average of \$41.05 per member toward the total work of the General Assembly. This represents a 7% increase over 1997 (see chart on next page). The per member asking for the administration of the General Assembly Office is \$18. Actual giving in 1998 was \$14.10 per member.



MOVING INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

Times of transition are upon us. Adolescence is a time of redefining who we are as individuals. We are at such a time as a family of churches. This Assembly brings us face to face with who we are – evangelical and reformed. This Assembly brings us to the question of how much diversity can a family absorb and still be healthy. But beyond the season of adolescence, as we come to terms with who we are and what place we are to occupy as a group of God's chosen people, there lies the promise of adulthood. The future will be a time to be both traditional and creative; a time for applying the best parts of our heritage to the challenges of ministry in the 21st century. Mature adulthood is a time when we have both energy and wisdom for the task the Lord has given us. The coming year will bring a number of significant transitions.

We have been described as a pastoral people, not a theological people. That feels negative if it means we have sold ourselves to pragmatism and to peace at all costs. Our methodology must be informed and disciplined by our theology. The doxology of our worship must be an loving expression to the Lord flowing directly from warm hearts indwelt by the Spirit and vigorous minds informed by our biblical and theological heritage. I trust that in being a pastoral people it means not that we have forsaken theology, but that we practice our theology with a pastoral heart. May the Lord bless and guide us with his wisdom in this Assembly and in the year ahead.

CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH 1998-1999 (by Presbytery)

Current figures approximated from previous year or preliminary information	#Mission church	96-97 MEMB	97-98 MEMB	98-99 MEMB	CHANGE	96-97 SUN AM	97-98 SUN AM	98-99 SUN AM	CHANGE
CENTRAL SOUTH									
Aloka Presbyterian Church	Aloka TN	44	44	38	-13.6%	50	42	35	-16.7%
Christ EPC	Houston TX	628	579	582	-2.9%	500	400	400	0.0%
Christ Presbyterian Church	Cape Girardeau MO	45	45	51	4.1%	41	45	48	6.7%
Church of the King	Corpus Christi TX	39	40	43	7.5%	105	70	75	7.1%
City of Refuge*	Houston TX	104	117	117	0.0%	250	100	100	0.0%
Cornerstone EPC	Katy TX	74	93	129	38.7%	85	225	167	-25.8%
Covenant Presbyterian Church	Columbus MS	38	43	41	-4.7%	30	50	35	-30.0%
CrossPointe Community Church	Carrollton TX	93	108	131	21.3%	140	150	160	6.7%
Crossroads Community Church	Austin TX	32	36	34	-5.6%	79	98	100	2.0%
EPC of Marshall	Marshall TX	222	245	244	-0.4%	167	194	194	0.0%
First EPC	Anna IL	164	182	187	2.7%	189	212	189	-10.8%
First Presbyterian Church	Houma LA	71	60	66	10.0%	45	41	46	12.2%
First Presbyterian Church	Meridian MS	466	362	368	1.7%	460	300	235	-21.7%
First Presbyterian Church	Waskom TX	23	39	28	-25.6%	25	40	30	-25.0%
First Presbyterian Church	West Point MS	148	143	146	2.1%	125	150	135	-10.0%
Golden Rule Presbyterian Church	Elysian Fields TX	45	14	14	0.0%			22	
Grace Covenant*	Opelousas* LA		35	50				50	
Grace Presbyterian Church	Alexandria LA		241	245	1.7%		200	225	12.5%
Grace Presbyterian Church	Montgomery AL	65	99	83	-16.2%		80	85	6.3%
Hope Presbyterian Church	Gordona TN	645	1102	1565	42.0%	1225	1765	2056	16.5%
Lakeside Presbyterian Church	Brandon MS	533	505	458	-9.3%	315	320	335	4.7%
Louisville Presbyterian Church	Louisville# MS	65	35	42	20.0%			50	
New Covenant Presbyterian Church#	Nalichez MS	16	24	41	70.8%		50	50	0.0%
Providence Presbyterian Church	Rowlett TX	68	68	82	20.6%	110		135	
Redeemer EPC	Birmingham AL	68	87	62	-28.7%	70	85	85	0.0%
Second Presbyterian Church	Memphis TN	3138	3197	3267	2.8%	1455	1535	1306	-14.9%
St. Patrick Presbyterian Church*	Collierville* TN		200	200	0.0%		200	200	0.0%
Trinity Presbyterian (dissolved 1999)	Mobile AL		38	36	-5.3%	58	45	35	-22.2%
Tunica Presbyterian Church	Tunica MS	127	126	121	-4.0%	110	95	95	0.0%
Westminster Presbyterian Church	Laurel MS	267	245	262	6.9%	180	180	160	0.0%
Zachary Presbyterian Church	Zachary LA	87	87	66	-24.1%	58	60	43	-28.3%
TOTAL		7337	8243	8800	6.8%	5872	6732	6901	2.5%
	Increase:	15	Decrease:	12	No gain:	3			
EAST									
Ashland EPC	Voorhees NJ	413	436	422	-3.2%	365	325	285	-12.3%
Calvary Presbyterian Church	Butler PA	171	141	121	-14.2%	87	62	60	-3.2%
Dundalk Presbyterian Church	Dundalk MD	282	249	246	-1.2%	230	230	230	0.0%
Faith Presbyterian Church	Alexandria VA	234	257	283	10.1%	218	233	274	17.6%
Fourth Presbyterian Church	Bethesda MD	2367	2420	2493	3.0%	1425	1530	1500	-2.0%
Goodwill Presbyterian Church	Montgomery NY	86	95	110	14.6%		115	100	-13.0%
Montclair Community Church	Montclair VA	27	25	37	48.0%	40	45	50	11.1%
New Covenant EPC	New Castle PA	237	242	254	5.0%	157	160	176	9.4%
New Hope EPC#	Pittsburgh# PA	58	61	31	-49.2%	115	110	115	4.5%
North Park EPC	Wexford PA	418	422	432	2.4%	379	471	470	-0.2%
Princeton EPC	Duanesburg NY		250	264	5.6%			240	
TOTAL		4303	4599	4693	2.0%	3016	3301	3500	6.0%
	Increase:	7	Decrease:	4	No gain:	0			
FLORIDA									
Abundant Life Presbyterian Church	Lake Mary FL	28	27	27	0.0%	17	19	25	31.6%
Cypress Pointe*	Oviedo FL	100	125	125	0.0%				
EPC of Plant City	Plant City FL	328	348	358	2.9%	275	315	315	0.0%
Faith EPC	Brooksville FL	343	298	296	-0.7%	320	425	280	-34.1%
First Presbyterian Church of Homestead	Homestead FL	142	143	129	-9.8%			185	
Glendale Presbyterian Church	DeFuniak Springs FL	65	59	55	-6.8%		70	70	0.0%
New Covenant E.P.C.	Pompano Beach FL	948	613	615	0.3%	650	450	450	0.0%
The Cornerstone EPC	Daytona Beach FL	149	138	146	5.8%	133	122	60	-50.8%

APPENDICES

CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH 1998-1999 (by Presbytery)

*Current figures approximated from previous year or preliminary information	#Mission church:		98-97	97-98	96-99	CHANGE	98-97	97-98	96-99	CHANGE
			MEMB	MEMB	MEMB		SUN AM	SUN AM	SUN AM	
Trinity EPC	Fl. Pierce	FL	110	129	92	-28.7%	95	80		
University EPC	Tampa	FL	133	118	120	1.7%	80	82		-9.9%
TOTAL			2344	1998	1963	-1.8%	1570	1571	1467	-6.6%
	Increase:	4	Decrease:	4	No gain:	2				
MID-AMERICA										
Baldwin Community Presby. Church	Baldwin	IL	40	40	39	-2.5%	25	25	25	0.0%
Central Presbyterian Church	St. Louis	MO	2881	2688	2663	-0.9%	1249	1144	1131	-1.1%
Covenant Chapel	Leawood	KS	222	230	234	1.7%	360	350	350	0.0%
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church	Grover	MO	65	54	67	24.1%	70	75	75	0.0%
Grace EPC	Lawrence	KS	271	286	302	4.9%	610	703	770	9.5%
Greentree Community Church#	Kirkwood	MO		150	150	0.0%				
Hearband Community Church	Overtland Park	KS	400	526	565	7.0%	925	930	1022	9.9%
Immanuel Presbyterian Church	Warranville	IL	281	281	281	0.0%	290	295	300	1.7%
Lakeland Community Church	Lees Summit	MO	40	10	38	280.0%		124	175	41.1%
New Harvest Community Church	Bellwin	MO	48	48	48	0.0%	65	60	70	16.7%
Sutter Presbyterian Church	Bridgeton	MO	106	107	107	0.0%	80	93		
Trinity Fellowship Church	Alton	IL			45				45	
West Highlands Pres. Church	Lenexa	KS	15	48	58	20.8%		60	70	16.7%
Westkirk EPC	Des Moines	IA	272	295	305	3.4%	195	198	181	-8.6%
TOTAL			4641	4767	4902	2.6%	3879	4057	4214	3.9%
	Increase:	7	Decrease:	2	No gain:	4				
MID-ATLANTIC										
Abundant Life Church	Chesapeake	VA	50	71	90	26.8%		160	160	0.0%
Bethesda Presbyterian Church	Florence	SC	50	53	17	-67.9%	60	40	20	-50.0%
Bridgeway EPC#	Chesapeake	VA	50	63	83	31.7%			65	
Brunswick Presbyterian Church	Brunswick	NC	33	27	18	-33.3%	20	20	15	-25.0%
Christ Church EPC	Anderson	SC	83	100	110	10.0%	140	160	170	6.3%
Christ EPC (dissolved)	Middleton	VA	33	37			35	35		
Christ Fellowship	Southern Pines	NC	45	47	64	36.2%	93	75	80	6.7%
Cleveland Presbyterian Church	Abingdon	VA	38	47	47	0.0%	36	36	35	-2.8%
Covenant Community Church	Charlotte	NC	47	58	51	-12.1%	79	75	65	-13.3%
Covenant Fellowship (dismissed)	Shelby	NC	64	64			75	65		
Cramerton Presbyterian Church	Cramerton	NC	37	37	34	-8.1%	54	30	25	-16.7%
Gregmore Presbyterian Church	Columbia	SC	54	70	71	1.4%	135	85	70	-17.8%
Emmanuel Church	Laurens	SC	39	31	31	0.0%	56	35	30	-14.3%
Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Elkton	VA	139	133	149	12.0%	100	135	135	0.0%
Faith EPC (dissolved)	Roanoke	VA	35	35	18	-48.6%	30	25		
Fellowship of Christ	Carney	NC	143	134	144	7.5%	200	232	250	7.8%
First EPC Clover	Clover	SC	34	46	46	0.0%	67	60	43	-28.3%
Forest Hill Presbyterian Church	Charlotte	NC	1589	1588	1579	-0.6%	1726	1980	1457	-5.6%
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church	Wilson	NC	94	76	68	-10.5%	50	85	60	-29.4%
Grace Presbyterian Church*	Fredericksburg	VA	16	26	26	0.0%	25	25		
Hope Church, an EPC#	Richmond	VA			43				250	
Kempsville Presbyterian Church	Virginia Beach	VA	1316	1277	1235	-3.3%	1146	1115	1078	-3.3%
Lake Forest Community Church#	Cornelius	NC			100				261	
Lebanon Presbyterian Church	Greenwood	VA	58	65	75	15.4%	70	75	80	6.7%
Lee Park Presbyterian Church	Montee	NC	80	79	89	12.7%	69	81	66	-11.5%
Linwood Presbyterian Church	Gastonia	NC	64	64	64	0.0%	34	34	40	17.6%
Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church	Wilmington	NC	1312	1362	1460	8.3%	900	1100	1200	9.1%
Northampton Presbyterian Church	Hampton	VA	99	101	97	-4.0%	50	50	40	-20.0%
Overtbrook Community Church	Gaffney	SC	116	85	101	18.8%	120	100	95	-5.0%
Parow Presbyterian Church	Cross Lanes	WV	312	327	343	4.9%	500	590	380	-39.0%
Reynolds Presbyterian Church	Winston-Salem	NC	635	699	668	-3.4%	745	700	675	-3.6%
River Oaks Community Church	Lewisston	NC			100					
St. Giles Presbyterian Church	Charlotte	NC	335	327	320	-2.1%	268	257	257	0.0%
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Florence	SC	448	429	430	0.2%	355	328	297	-9.5%
Westminster Presbyterian Church	Bluefield	WV	508	494	471	-4.7%	284	328	290	-11.6%

CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH 1998-1999 (by Presbytery)

*Current figures approximated from previous year or preliminary information	#Mission church	96-97 MEMB	97-98 MEMB	98-99 MEMB	CHANGE	96-97 SUN AM	97-98 SUN AM	98-99 SUN AM	CHANGE
Woodside Presbyterian Church	Roanoke VA	33	34	35	2.9%	31	29	32	10.3%
TOTAL		8180	8316	8497	2.2%	7556	7525	7703	2.4%
	Increase:	14	Decrease:	12	No gain:	5			
MIDWEST									
BayWind Christian Church#	Navarre MN			47				150	
Calvary Presbyterian Church	Flint MI	638	632	643	1.7%	420	401	384	-4.2%
Community EPC	Owosso MI	116	103	93	-9.7%	305	155	180	3.2%
Cornerstone EPC	Brighton MI	880	1089	1268	16.4%	1450	1600	1800	12.5%
Covenant Presbyterian Church	Ann Arbor MI	72	88	88	-2.3%	140	125	150	20.0%
East Crossing EPC	Madison WI	43	47	51	8.5%	52	52	60	15.4%
Faith EPC	Lake Orion MI	272	288	317	10.1%	577	552	615	47.6%
Faith EPC	Richmond OH	138	113	117	3.5%	195	175	150	-14.3%
Fellowship EPC	South Lyon MI	218	203	233	14.8%	300	300	275	-8.3%
First Presbyterian	Trenton MI	823	824	804	-2.4%	554	480	500	4.2%
Grace Chapel	Farmington Hills MI	452	392	241	-38.5%	423	358	250	-30.2%
Grace Community Church*#	Oscoda MI		26	35					
Highview Evangelical Presbyterian	Waukesha WI	84	85	83	-2.4%	85	100	100	0.0%
Hope Community Church	Mentor OH	91	33	27	-18.2%	60	45	35	-22.2%
Immanuel Presbyterian Church	Northville MI		54	54	0.0%		97	86	-11.3%
Kensington Community Church	Troy MI	603	691	851	23.2%	2700	2700	3000	11.1%
Knox Presbyterian Church	Ann Arbor MI	281	314	362	15.3%	400	550	600	9.1%
Knox Presbyterian Church	Harrison Twp. MI	548	568	575	1.2%	715	535	450	-15.5%
Lake City EPC	Lake City MI	75	64	60	-8.3%	120	125	125	0.0%
Mercy Christian Fellowship#	West Bloomfield MI			25				50	
Military Avenue EPC	Detroit MI	60	82	84	2.4%	125	150	150	0.0%
Mt. Pleasant Community Church	Mt. Pleasant MI	267	285	302	2.4%	342	355	308	-13.2%
New Hope#	Oxford MI			50				97	
North Oaks Community Church	Clarkston MI	60	73	65	-11.0%	120	125	75	-40.0%
Oakland Avenue EPC	Pontiac MI	247	228	189	-17.1%	190	190	188	-2.1%
St. Andrew EPC	Auburn IN	101	145	193	34.5%	110	164	179	9.1%
Stonebridge Church#	Perrysburg OH	50	23	36	56.5%		35	75	114.3%
Tabernaede EPC	Youngstown OH	483	465	503	8.2%	457	490	495	1.0%
Trinity Evangelical Fellowship#	Newark OH		150	160	0.0%				
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Columbia City IN	107	116	116	0.0%	110	115	115	0.0%
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Plymouth MI	602	620	630	1.6%	610	615	550	-10.6%
Ward Presbyterian	Northville MI	4191	4194	4195	0.0%	2949	2900	3000	3.4%
TOTAL		11522	12005	12488	4.0%	13509	13488	14370	6.5%
	Increase:	16	Decrease:	9	No gain:	3			
SOUTHEAST									
Brainerd Presbyterian Church	Chattanooga TN	485	505	548	8.5%	240	312	315	1.0%
Christ Presbyterian*	Knoxville TN	33	22	22	0.0%	39	38		
Community Bible Church	Highlands NC	124	168	182	8.3%	184	243	225	-7.4%
Cornerstone EPC	Franklin NC	76	80	80	0.0%	101	82	93	13.4%
Faith Presbyterian Church	Lavonia GA	92	92	95	3.3%	48	42	45	7.1%
First Presbyterian Church	Rome GA	1143	893	898	0.6%	500	575	610	6.1%
Flatrock Covenant Community*	Denniston KY		5	25	400.0%		14		-100.0%
Grace Community Presbyterian	Marietta GA	79	72	69	-4.2%	70	43	45	4.7%
Grace Presbyterian Church	Franklin NC	91	96	93	-3.1%	100	109	188	79.0%
Harvest Church	Asheville NC	115	100	85	-15.0%	267	180	120	-33.3%
Lookout Valley Presbyterian	Chattanooga TN	101	99	106	7.1%	70	70	75	7.1%
Lynn Garden Presbyterian Church	Kingsport TN	90	90	85	-5.6%	110	125	75	-40.0%
Mt. Calvary Presbyterian*	Kingsport TN	84	50	50	0.0%	50			
New Beginning E.P.C.	Ertanger KY	128	87	62	-28.7%	104	55	55	0.0%
Northshore Community Church	Knoxville TN	63	55	59	7.3%	75	75	65	-13.3%
Plumtree Presbyterian Church	Plumtree NC	110	101	113	11.9%	110	105	95	-9.5%
Valleybrook Presbyterian Church	Hixson TN	137	140	109	-22.1%	200	115	110	-4.3%
TOTAL		2921	2655	2631	1.0%	2275	2178	2116	-2.9%

CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH 1998-1999 (by Presbytery)

*Current figures approximated from previous year or preliminary information	#Mission church	96-97 MEMB	97-98 MEMB	98-99 MEMB	CHANGE	96-97 SUN AM	97-98 SUN AM	98-99 SUN AM	CHANGE
	Increase: 8	Decrease: 6	No gain: 3						
ST. ANDREWS (ARGENTINA)									
Belgrano*	Buenos Aires	25	35	60	71.4%			60	
City Church*	Buenos Aires	73	69	69	0.0%			70	
Church of Olivos	Buenos Aires	347	361	152	-57.8%			175	
Concepcion del Uruguay*	Entre Rios Prov.		40	50	25.0%			50	
La Mision*	Buenos Aires		100	120				120	
Quilmes*	Buenos Aires	20	20	40	100.0%			40	
San Antonio de Padua*	Buenos Aires	35	35	40	14.3%			40	
Temperley*	Buenos Aires	140	140	200	42.9%			200	
TOTAL		640	600	731	-8.6%			765	
	Increase: 5	Decrease: 1	No gain: 1						
WEST									
Arvada Community Church#	Arvada CO			35		50		100	
Bear Creek EPC	Lakewood CO	541	543	521	-4.1%	482	477	463	-2.9%
Canyon Creek Community Church	Chandler AZ	78	72	74	2.8%	252	283		-100.0%
Celebration Community Church#	Denver CO			50					
Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church	Englewood CO	1066	1081	1162	7.5%	1155	1078	1050	-2.8%
Cherry Hills Community Church	Highlands Ranch CO	3387	3718	3848	3.5%	3000	3000	4250	41.7%
Christ Covenant Church	Leoti KS	50	80	85	8.3%		95	99	4.2%
Chmura Family Presbyterian	Chandler AZ	39	49	47	-4.1%	27	20	40	100.0%
Christ Fellowship Church	Fl. Collins CO	53	29	33	13.8%	70	55	45	-18.2%
Cleaton Community Church#*	Clayton CA	150	200	200	0.0%				
ClearView Community Church#*	Buena Vista CO	50	50	50	0.0%				
Cornerstone Community Church	Denver CO	218	268	295	10.1%	220	275	280	-5.5%
Covenant Community Pres. Church	Aurora CO	78	78	76	-3.8%	90	84	92	9.5%
Faith Evangelical Church	Loveland CO	391	420	434	3.3%	440	450	492	9.3%
Faith Presbyterian	Aurora CO	1108	1029	1002	-2.6%	770	770	749	-2.7%
Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Folsom CA	33	35	38	8.6%	45	48	48	0.0%
First Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Renton WA	589	596	598	0.3%	612	670	650	-3.0%
Grace Community church	Sun City West AZ			141					
Greenwood Community Church	Englewood CO	578	594	694	16.8%	1000	1000	1100	10.0%
Lookout Mtn. Community Church	Golden CO	328	402	429	6.7%	950	714	800	12.0%
Morningside Presbyterian Church	Phoenix AZ	143	140	137	-2.1%	95	80	80	0.0%
New Community Christian Church*	Denver CO	63	100	140	40.0%	260	250		
New Covenant Church	Tucson AZ	70	80	66	-17.5%	100	120		
Northwest EPC	Redmond WA	37	45	55	22.2%	101	110	110	0.0%
Parker Presbyterian Church	Parker CO	256	296	342	15.5%	411	450	512	11.3%
Presbyterian Chapel at Vail & Beaver Ck.	Arvada CO			50				100	
San Ramon Presbyterian Church	San Ramon CA		294	429	45.9%		440	450	2.3%
Santa Maria Community Church	Santa Maria CA	78	91	103	13.2%	50	56	58	3.6%
Thal EPC	Bellflower CA	45	45	45	0.0%				
Trinity EPC*	Littleton CO	163	183	183	0.0%	185	189		
Valley Community Church	San Jacinto CA	55	59	67	13.6%	75	78	90	15.4%
West Bowlias Community Church*	Littleton CO	554	554	554	0.0%				
TOTAL		10201	11132	11983	7.6%	10430	10802	11638	7.7%
	Increase: 17	Decrease: 6	No gain: 15						
Total	88	55	25						
SUMMARY		52099	54515	56738	4.1%	48107	49656	52664	6.1%

STUDENT AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES REPORT



Rick Stauffer, Chairman

Jeremiah 6:16 says, *This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls."*

In some ways the Student and Young Adult Ministries of the EPC is at a crossroads. This year, after serving for six years at the EPC's General Assembly office, Dan Weidman (*below*) leaves as the Director of the SYAM to take an assistant ministry position at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Plymouth, MI. In addition, Rick Stauffer (*left*) will resign in 2000 as SYAM Chairman after serving six years on the SYAM committee and four years as chairman. Such changes necessitate that we consider where God is leading the SYAM in the future and where the good way is so that we may walk in it. But it also causes the committee to look back at all He has

accomplished these past six years through the SYAM and reflect on His goodness and faithfulness to us. The following report is a glimpse at what God has done and is doing with the Student and Young Adult Ministries of the SYAM.

The Committee

The SYAM Committee convened twice this assembly year, October 2-3, 1998 and March 5-6, 1999, at the General Assembly of Offices in Livonia, Michigan. The six committee members this year included Kris Decker (Youth Worker), Reg Smith (RE), Ken Roberts (RE), Sue Werner (Youth Worker), Jim Byrne (TE), and Rick Stauffer (TE), Chairman. We thank our Lord for the service of his willing saints to this committee.

In addition, the Director of SYAM Dan Weidman is an ex-officio member of the committee. His secretary, Sue Ferrell, also sits in on the meetings and diligently takes the minutes. Praise the Lord!

The Summer of 1998 in Review

During the conferences and mission trips in the summer of '98 we were astounded by the mighty hand of God at work in the lives of students and leaders. The summer of '98 started with seven student ministry opportunities for churches of the EPC - three Summer Jam conferences and four mission trips. We added a Mission Mexico trip to accommodate an increased demand for a limited cross cultural experience... and because the first trip was full. All together the SYAM committee hosted 1159 students and adult leaders from 54 congregations on SYAM summer events. The breakdown was as follows:

- Summer Jam (3 trips) - 756 participants
- Appalachian Impact (3 trips) - 225 participants
- Mission Mexico (1st trip) - 123 participants
- Mission Mexico (2nd trip) - 55 participants



Dan Weidman, Director

One last note on 1999 summer trips: Many EPC youth workers have stepped up to leadership roles for summer trips. Dan Weidman and the SYAM committee wish to thank God for all the willing servants who must lead their own groups on one or more of the above trips as well as take a leadership role in the trip.

As we looked to the summer of 2000, we had a lengthy discussion on creative alternatives for Summer Jam. The committee decided on a special Super Jam (Dan liked *Monster Jam*) that will bring the three Summer Jams to one event with a variety of speakers. We are currently working out details of venue, theme, speakers, etc. Pray as we continue to think this through.

EPC/IPB Student Partnership Plan

The summer of 1999 also sees the beginning of phase 2 of a cooperative student ministry plan between the EPC and our sister denomination, the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB). Phase 1 of the plan sent Dan to Brazil to continue developing plans for this emerging relationship to include ministry opportunities. Phase 2 will see a group of 45 students and adults head to Brazil this summer on a cooperative short term missions experience in connection with several of their churches. Phase 3, currently under consideration, holds the possibility of a joint EPC/IPB short-term project for a third party country and/or a trip by Brazilian students to the USA for a mission experience perhaps in an urban or Appalachian region setting. Furthermore, some excellent possibilities are at hand for a student exchange program to be developed between the EPC and IPB in the near future. Pray for God's guidance in this exciting plan of international relations.

Youth Worker Retreat

As we realize the increased demand on EPC youth workers we are aware of the need for a weekend to allow youth workers to be ministered to through worship and teaching. In 1998 Kempsville Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach, Va., hosted the Youth Worker's Retreat. Our retreats are designed to offer both spiritual nurture and ministry training. Our keynote speaker was Pastor David Chadwick from Forest Hill in North Carolina who addressed the spiritual needs of youth workers. David's teaching was just what this group of youth workers needed. Also, Dan Weidman led two workshops: *Ministry to the Next Generation*, and *Creativity Challenged*. Our 1999 Youth Worker's Retreat will be hosted by Brainerd EPC in Chattanooga, Tenn., October 14-16. Pastor Ron Ragon will be one of the keynote speakers along with Ben Freudenburg, author of *The Family Friendly Church*. Look for additional information to be mailed shortly. It promises to be a fantastic time of refreshment and renewal.

Young Adult Ministry

As a committee we have spent much time trying to bring a greater awareness about this need to our churches. We are excited about some of the work now being done. Committee discussions range from talking about the way we currently do youth ministry to how we can more effectively do family ministry within the church. We discussed the need to develop strong leadership among young people and incorporate that leadership into active participation in the church. We have brainstormed on the idea of developing a denominational college ministry and continue to discuss the possibility. We attempted to put together a college age mission trip in the spring of '99 but had minimal response. We hope to partner with several churches and attempt this again next year.

Hiring a Youth Pastor: Helping Churches Through The Process

As the student ministry arm of the denomination we are interested in helping churches find and keep quality youth workers. To this end, this fall we completed *HIRING A YOUTH PASTOR: A Practical Guide For Selecting The Right Person To Lead Your Church's Youth Ministry*. This publication is aimed at providing practical help to churches looking for youth workers and includes the following components as taken from the table of contents:

- **Youth Worker Search Process Timeline**
- **Church Profile Information For Candidates**
- **Qualifications For Youth Ministry Professionals**
- **Youth Worker Selection And Interview Process Outline**
- **Places To Post Your Church's Job Opening**
- **The Interview: Asking Good Questions**
- **Sample Job Descriptions**
- **Article: *What You Should Expect From Your Church's Youth Ministry***

To date, we have distributed about 20 copies of this publications to interested churches and search committees. The feedback we received is that it has been helpful in guiding their thought processes for finding and hiring a youth worker.

Additionally, the SYAM continues to maintain a record of churches actively seeking a youth worker for their youth ministry and a record of individuals seeking positions in a church. To date, we have assisted several churches locate qualified youth workers. We wish we could be more helpful, but for the present time we will continue this process of "match-making."

Link

This quarterly newsletter continues to improve with age. Through it we can provide articles of encouragement for youth workers and their families, training, resources, as well as address current issues in each edition. It is an excellent avenue of connectivity for us and provides a forum to allow other EPC youth workers to share their ideas and creativity.

Denominational Youth Ministry Meeting

In January, Dan met with 20 student and young adult leaders in their denominations for a first annual meeting of its kind (at least in recent history). We discussed trends in ministry (specifically student ministry) our respective ministries, struggles and joys of the position, and where youth ministry is heading in the future. We share five observations from this valuable time together:

- 1) The EPC does more than many denominations to resource student and young adult ministries in the local congregations. But other denominations have their areas of excellence.
- 2) Each of the ministries has its strengths and weaknesses but their desire is the same as ours: To make disciples of Jesus Christ.
- 3) Each denomination and ministry represented is highly concerned with reaching this next generation in our post-modern culture in the new millennium esp. considering the church in America is losing influence and adherents faster than other institutions in America. The downfall of the church is not its message but its application and practice (Barna).

- 4) Denominational bodies must rethink and retool for the next generation. It may need to start with student and young adult ministries.
- 5) Our strength, as leaders in denominations, will not be in joining theologies, churches, or events but in evaluating how we have failed to reach our culture, then putting our heads together and developing ways to do it.

Membership Curriculum

A much requested resource from the SYAM is membership curriculum for students. We are still working on a second draft of this document, and it is now being field tested and modified. It currently contains eight sessions. Our goal is to have it formatted and presented to the Christian Education & Publications Committee in the fall of '99.

SYAM Survey

This winter the SYAM office conducted a survey of all EPC churches. Attached is that survey and a summary of some of the results. The purpose was five-fold:

1. To gather information about youth ministries in our denomination and determine where, as a whole, the EPC might be strong or weak;
2. To look at the trends the compiled data might suggest within EPC youth ministries;
3. To determine needs of our churches so we could develop ways to better serve them;
4. To solicit feedback about denominational ministry;
5. To give student and young adult workers a trigger for evaluating their ministries with regard to evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, family and church integration, and staffing.

We have about 45% return from the survey (see attached).

Final Thoughts

First, a word of thanks to the many dedicated servants of God who step in the gap with their physical labor, administrative genius, and prayer support. Our committee would not be able to accomplish much of what it does without you.

Second, we would ask you, commissioners to the 19th General Assembly, to pray diligently for those leading the ministry to students and young adults and for those participating in the ministries we lead. At times it is a strenuous and complex task which, unfortunately, we saw accentuated in Littleton this year. But it is also a labor of love for God and teenagers. Pray for those called to this ministry that they would continue to see God's supremacy and sovereignty, drawing close to Him who is faithful.

The church is at a crossroads. May we continue to strive to relevantly meet the needs of each generation which may (or may not) comprise it.

With Thanksgiving,

Rick Stauffer

Rick Stauffer, SYAM Chairman

Dan Weidman

Dan Weidman, SYAM Director

June, 1999

Your Student Ministry

1. How many young people do you minister to - on average - on a weekly basis (don't duplicate students who attend multiple services or events)?
 Junior High: _____ Senior High _____ College/Young Adult (18-25) _____
2. How many of the above evidence student leadership qualities including being faithful, available, teachable, a servant, and have a desire to minister and reach their friends for Christ?
 • Junior and Senior High: _____ • College/Young Adult: _____
3. Do you meet separately with "leadership" students for discipling and ministry training? Yes No
 • How many times a year do you meet with these students? _____
4. What was your largest attendance at a youth outreach event in '98 (designed to reach the lost?) _____
 • How many of these outreach events did you host for jr./sr. high? _____
 • How many of these outreach events did you host for college/young adults? _____
5. How many people made first-time decisions (conversions) for Christ in 1998 through your ministry? _____
 • How many of these were led to Christ through one of your believing students? _____
 • How many of these are currently active in your ministry? _____
6. Do you have a purpose/mission statement by which you measure progress and success? Yes No
7. Do you use cell or small groups in your ministry for discipleship? Yes No
8. How often do you integrate family in into your ministry?
 Regularly Occasionally Seldom Never
9. How often do you integrate your ministry into the life of the church?
 Regularly Occasionally Seldom Never
10. Do you have a junior college, college or university near your church? Yes No
 • Do you have programs, activities or outreaches to the students on campus? Yes No
11. In which denominational SYAM events does your ministry participate?
 Summer Jam Student Missions Youth Worker Retreat
 • If your ministry hasn't participated, which considerations have contributed to this decision?
 Cost Distance Insufficient information Not Interested Other
12. Do you network with other EPC youth workers Yes No If so, how many? _____
13. What do you see as your greatest current need in your student and young adult ministry?
 Personal development Training for leaders More volunteers Finances
 Networking youth workers/ministries Curriculum Other _____
14. How can Dan Weidman and the SYAM serve you best in the future? (Use separate sheet or back of page)

1998 Evangelical Presbyterian Church Student and Young Adult Ministries Survey Results April 2, 1999

74 churches are included in these results which is 40% return from the denomination. We know 7-8% of churches did not respond due to a lack of youth program (we made follow-up calls) and 7-8% responded but the surveys are not reflected in these results due to inconsistencies in the survey or late arrival. Margin of error is between 1-99%.

Church and Youth Worker Information

- ◆ According to the results approximately 90% of membership attends on Sunday morning with average attendance at 473 and median attendance at 225.
- ◆ The average church budget is \$571,000, the median church budget is \$270,000.
- ◆ The average youth budget is \$38,000, which is a respectable 6% of the church budget. The median youth budget is \$20,000.
- ◆ The average EPC church has .8 full time youth workers, .7 part-time youth workers and 10 volunteers on staff.
- ◆ The average youth director has been in his/her ministry for over 3½ years (double the national averages) and is 32 years old. 39% have a BA/BS, 11% have their MA and 21% an M.Div.

Congregational Student and Young Adult Ministry Information

- ◆ 20% of EPC churches "regularly" integrate families into the youth ministry. 46% of EPC churches "occasionally" do. The rest seldom or never do.
- ◆ 38% of churches "regularly" integrate the youth ministry into the life of the church. 42% "occasionally" do. The rest seldom or never do.
- ◆ 88% of EPC churches have some ministry to junior high and senior high students. 45% of EPC churches have a ministry with college students. And 28% of churches have a ministry with young adults.
- ◆ Of these, the average EPC church has involvement with 32 jr. high students, 33 sr. high students and 9 college/young adults. The median involvement is 14 jr. high, 20 sr. high and 1 college student or young adult.
- ◆ Last year 64% of EPC churches held at least one outreach event - for the purpose of reaching the lost - for students and/or young adults and saw 682 decisions for Christ. 45% were assimilated into the church. 34% of those decisions were led by students.
- ◆ On average there are 14 students who are leaders within a given youth ministry and 4 leaders from the college and young adult ranks. The average ministry meets with these student leaders about 1 time per month for training and development.
- ◆ 68% of EPC churches have a stated purpose for their student/young adult ministry.
- ◆ 55% of our churches use cell or small groups to enhance their ministry.
- ◆ 59% of our churches are near a college or university campus. But only 24% have any ministry to the students from those campuses.

Denominational Involvement in SYAM Ministries

◆ Involvement in denominational ministries is as follows:

- Summer Jam 36%
- Mission Trips 38%
- Youth Worker Retreat 20%

◆ The reasons most given for non-involvement are:

- Cost 23%
- Distance 19%
- No Interest 8%
- Not enough info. 8%
- Other 20%

◆ On average each youth worker networks with only one other youth worker in the EPC.
Aren't we connectional?

THEOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee was charged with the following task by the Eighteenth General Assembly:

1. That the Permanent Committee on Theology be instructed to discuss the possibility of elevating the document "Essentials of Our Faith" to a formal document of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and that the Committee report back to the Nineteenth General Assembly on the results of that discussion.

Items of business unfinished from previous years are:

2. Position paper on a Christian view on marriage
3. Position paper on the theology of children



James Russell, Chairman

The Committee met on September 25 and 26, 1998 at the General Assembly offices in Detroit. Members present at the meeting were:

RE Dr. James Russell (Central South), Chairman
RE Charles Haden (Central South)
RE George Schneider (Southeast)
TE Dr. Paul Johnson (West)
TE Dr. Bruce Demarest (West)

Absent from the meeting was Rev. Tom Ricks (Mid-America)

The Committee makes the following **recommendations**:

1. That the document "Essentials of Our Faith" not be elevated to a formal document.

The grounds for the recommendation are:

- a. The document "Essentials of Our Faith" already exists as an official document of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. See the "Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the Seventeenth General Assembly Instructions Regarding 'The Essentials' and the Westminster Confession," adopted by the Eighteenth General Assembly, quoted in part, as follows:

Act 81-01 states that, "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 of Faith and professed by the

Evangelical Presbyterian Church.” While the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms express our commitment to historic Reformed orthodoxy, “The Essentials of Our Faith” expresses our desire to hold to that commitment with an evangelical and irenic spirit.

The “Essentials of Our Faith” is not intended to be a confessional document deemed sufficient for ordination to office in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

- b. We believe that the fourth ordination vow refers to the essentials of faith as found in the Westminster Confession of Faith. It is predicated on the acceptance of the third vow.
- c. The meaning of “receive and adopt” in the context of the third ordination vow is discussed in the “Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the Seventeenth General Assembly Instructions Regarding ‘The Essentials’ and the Westminster Confession,” adopted by the Eighteenth General Assembly, quoted in part, as follows:

The action of the Seventeenth General Assembly stated that 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.

When one answers affirmatively the questions asked at the service of ordination, an oath is taken before God and before a congregation or a presbytery... If one says that he sincerely receives and adopts the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms as containing the system of doctrine as taught in the Scriptures, this oath involves more than his own understanding of the Confession. It also involves the understanding of the Church. It would be dishonest for someone to take an oath that he receives and adopts the Confession if he knows that his own understanding of that Confession is different from that of the Church. That oath is taken before witnesses who have every right to assume that there is a common understanding of the system of doctrine. It is an obligation of every officer of the church to promote and defend the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms. Confusion would result if there were no common understanding of doctrine.

Even though the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms have stood for centuries as a fine expression of the Reformed faith, they are not the Word of God. They stand as secondary standards and define what the Reformed church believes to be true doctrine as given in the Holy Scriptures. Because the Confession and Catechisms are not Scripture, Reformed Christians may differ on some minor points of doctrine as stated in those documents. Candidates for ordination should be willing to state

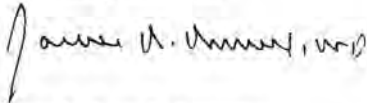
the points on which they disagree with the Confession and Catechisms and give their reasons. Courts would do well to encourage candidates to state their differences. [lines 337 - 366]

Regardless of their sources, it is apparent that these varied understandings exist. However, it is the conclusion of the Committee that the record of the Assembly's actions is unambiguous. The standard for holding office in the EPC includes "sincerely receiv[ing] and adopt[ing] the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures." Though it is not our desire to find otherwise, even if we were willing the record will not permit it. This conclusion does not address what constitutes this system of doctrine. Further, it is not intended as an interpretation of the vow. This is the responsibility of the courts of original jurisdiction. [lines 215 - 223]

2. In conclusion, the Committee strongly exhorts the churches diligently to train officers and ordinands in the essential tenets of the Reformed faith so that they understand what constitutes the Reformed faith. The Committee recommends that sessions and presbyteries familiarize themselves with the "Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the Seventeenth General Assembly Instructions Regarding "The Essentials" and the Westminster Confession," and use such works as R. C. Sproule's *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Tyndale House, 1998 Paper).

The Committee has prepared the minutes of its meeting for review by the standing committee and approval by the Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,



James R. Russell, Chairman
Permanent Committee on Theology

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT



Anne Blackley, Chair

Women's Ministries Handbook Development

One of the most pressing needs in EPC Women's Ministries has been to communicate effectively who we are, how we work, and what our function is in the local church and beyond. Clearly there is no one "look" for every church, but there is a common vision and purpose that binds us together beyond the bonds we share as sisters in Christ. There is also structure that is helpful, though often misunderstood by those who participate in Women's Ministries. Pastors may even question the need for Women's Ministries where women serve in leadership roles, presuming it is then unnecessary. In an effort to address these needs and further the vision and work of Women's Ministries, it has long been the desire of the Women's Committee and the Director of Women's Ministries to compile a handbook to be distributed to each local church that would provide direction for

new ministries as well as answer the many questions that arise. Questions such as:

- What is the goal of Women's Ministries?
- How do I start a Women's Ministries?
- What is the structure of Women's Ministries?
- What is the history of Women's Ministries?
- What are components of an active, healthy Women's Ministries?

In the process of compiling the handbook it became apparent that the present Constitution needed revision. Therefore recommendations have been made for revision of the Women's Ministries Constitution which is included at the end of this report.

We are pleased to introduce the *Women's Ministries Handbook* to the 19th General Assembly. It should be an excellent resource for women and promote an understanding of the various aspects that comprise EPC Women's Ministries. The pastor and Women's Ministries contact person from each local church will receive a copy. If additional copies are desired, they may be purchased for the printing and mailing cost of the handbook.



Jan Juday, Director

Woman To Woman - Women's Ministries Newsletter

With work on developing the Women's Ministries Handbook at the forefront, only one issue of *Woman to Woman*, the Women's Ministries newsletter, has been published this year, with another expected by early fall. Typically the goal for publication is three times a year, but budget and time constraints have limited this year's schedule.

Faith Focus Projects

The 1998 *Faith Focus* Project for Women's Ministries has been to raise funds to host the Prayer Summit for the Persecuted Church in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The funds will provide scholarships for women from surrounding areas of persecution (Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan, Pakistan) to attend and participate in a time of prayer and revitalization. In addition to this, special mercy dental care will be provided for attendees by a full dental team who will screen and care for over 150 participants expected to attend. Dr. Kitsie Hendrix of Second Presbyterian in Memphis will head the dental team. Mary Welchel of The Christian Working Woman, and Iqbal Massey, EPC missionary, will be the speakers.

There has been excellent participation in this project throughout the denomination, with many Women's Ministries groups sponsoring individual foreign nationals financially, as well as committing to support them in prayer for the upcoming year. With a project goal of \$30,000 we have seen that goal nearly doubled with over \$50,000 contributed for the nationals alone. Many churches have also supported EPC team members who will host and serve the women during that time and play a key role in the success of the conference. Fozia Young, EPC missionary to Kazan, will act as program chair. Dan Burns and Bill Hampton, EPC missionaries to Almaty, Kazakhstan, are assisting with site and arrangements coordination and visa acquisition, while Diedre Galardi, of Community EPC in Owosso, Michigan is the EPC team coordinator. Jan Juday, Director of Women's Ministries, is general coordinator. The project is a wonderful concert of EPC family cooperation that should not only impact women attending from the surrounding nations, but the fellowship and connectionalism of our own denominational family as well.

This year the Women's Committee has worked to further clarify and define *Faith Focus* for Women's Ministries and to reaffirm *Faith Focus* as a mission emphasis with Almaty, Kazakhstan as that particular area of emphasis. In the past the upcoming project has been announced at General Assembly in June with promotion beginning in January of the following year. The Women's Committee voted to change the project timetable to announcement and promotion beginning in June. (WM Minutes - 99-4B) Promotion packets will be available upon announcement of the project in June and program planning can then begin in advance of the upcoming year. The giving year will extend from June to June, rather than January to January.

The 1999 *Faith Focus* Project currently being promoted is "*Bringing The Missionaries Home*" for the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the EPC at GA 2000. This effort is a partnering effort with World Outreach for the encouragement and training of the entire EPC mission team, and an opportunity for them to experience this special family celebration. Some of the goals expressed for this time are:

- Renewed in spirit
- Encouraged to persevere
- United with EPC family
- Nurtured with love
- Inspired by teaching
- Observed by EPC (visibility for denomination)
- Nourished in the Word

General Assembly Planning

Women's Ministries looks forward to General Assembly as a time of training and growth as well as fellowship and celebration. In response to evaluations of women's programming at the

18th General Assembly the Women's Committee recommended distributing individual packets for women upon registration. (WM 98-12) These packets would include all the material to be presented, such as Bible studies, Faith Focus, National Conference updates and any additional information, including the current names of contacts for each church. Feedback from the Saturday morning Q&A session at GA revealed the need for strengthening our lines of communication between churches and presbytery chairs, and all levels of administration. It was therefore proposed by the Women's Committee that Jan Juday lead a special workshop at the 19th General on "Connections" and how they facilitate the work of Women's Ministries.

Judy Reamer was selected as the GA luncheon speaker. Judy is a converted Jew who lives in the Atlanta area. In addition to the luncheon Judy will be conducting a special workshop on "Feelings Women Rarely Share" from her book by the same title. She will address this very pertinent topic for women from her unique perspective as a Christian author and speaker.

Patsy Clairmont has been invited to be the luncheon speaker for GA 2000, and has promised to respond when the details of a speaking tour contract have been determined.

National Women's Conference

One of the highlights for Women's Ministries is the gathering of women from the every presbytery, including Argentina, to celebrate the oneness we share in Christ and the rich fellowship of our EPC family. This year the Women's Committee in conjunction with our host, the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery, will welcome over 400 women to Founders Inn in Virginia Beach, Virginia on October 7-10th. Nancy Larsen of Kempsville EPC is the conference chairman and Mary Glynn Peeples will be the keynote speaker. The theme for the conference is "You Will Go Out In Joy!" Two special drama presentations, one on the Persecuted Church and another by Peggy Miller of Tampa Florida, dramatizing the life of Fanny Crosby, will be featured. "His Voice" will lead praise and worship. A registration deadline of August 25th has been set. Eight workshops have been approved by the Committee. They are as follows:

- * *Leana Fay - Glory to God! ... Through Art* - Leanna Fay
- * *Loving Your Neighbor* - Mary Lance Sisk
- * *Help! I Don't Have Time!* - Barbara Neumann.
- * *The Nitty-Gritty of Integrity* - Ramona Spilman
- * *Beyond Rainbows and Ruby Slippers... There's No Place Like Home* - Donna Alberta
- * *The Joy of Intentional Living* - Nancy Crosby
- * *Beauty-ful Ministry on a Budget* - Mary Beth Gilbert
- * *The Joy of Victory* - Pam Davis

Women's Ministries Presbytery Development

With 18th General Assembly approval of uniform guidelines for Women's Ministries at the presbytery level, several presbyteries have begun successful rebuilding and revitalization efforts:

- The *Florida Presbytery* reports rekindled activity and leadership under Priscilla Dunning.
- Susie McQueen is the new chair for *Presbytery of the West* and reports the selection of a new committee according to the new GA guidelines.
- Beth Beattie, the new chair for *Mid America Presbytery*, is in the initial stages of committee development.
- *Midwest Presbytery* has received the resignation of the former chairman, Fran Townsend, and will now begin the committee selection process.

- Dr. Kitsie Hendrix is the new chair for *Central South*.
- Martha Rodenbeck replaces Sandy Harris as chair of the *Southeast* Presbytery.
- Wendy Johnson reports new activity and revitalization in *Presbytery of the East*.
- Ruth Robertson is the new contact for our Presbytery in *Argentina*.

We are thankful for the vision and service of these women and look forward the good things they will accomplish in the future.

Jan Juday,
Director of EPC Women's Ministries

Anne Blackley,
Chair of Women's Committee

Recommendation:

"That the General Assembly adopt the proposed revision of the Women's Ministries Constitution.

Rationale: As uniform guidelines for presbyteries were approved and Women's Ministries has experienced changes from traditional structures (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) to newer program models, our Constitution has needed updating. The suggested revision of the Constitution maintains the former purposes and statements of faith and spirit of the Constitution, while updating the actual practice and structure by giving variable options.

Proposed Revision:

**Constitution
for
EPC Women's Ministries**

Article I: Name

This organization shall be known as:

Women's Ministries of _____ Church, Presbytery
of _____, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Article II. Statement of Faith and Purpose

We subscribe to the Statement of Faith of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The foundation paragraph 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 to God's redemptive acts, culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

Statement of Purpose

Ephesians 4:12 “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for 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. Membership

The membership of Women’s Ministries shall be open to all women of the church.

Article IV. Leadership

The leadership of Women’s Ministries shall be members of the local church.

Leadership shall be structured according to the needs and preferences of the local church.

Examples are: **1.** A Coordinator serving over committees such as Spiritual Nurture, Missions, Special Events, Service. **2.** President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Program Chairmen. **3.** Director of Women’s Ministries in conjunction with a Coordinating Council initiating and overseeing the various ministries of a larger church.

Article V. Denomination Representation and Participation

Churches shall encourage women to participate in presbytery and national programming including retreats, General Assemblies, and national conferences to build and enrich connectional relationships.

Article VI: Relationships

Women’s Ministries shall be under the jurisdiction of the local church session.

Women’s Ministries will maintain a relationship of mutual support and concern with the EPC at the presbytery and General Assembly levels.

Article VII: Finances

The local work of Women’s Ministries may be financed through regular pledges, voluntary offerings, church budget, and/or fundraising as approved by the session.

Article VIII: Meetings

Meetings may be scheduled as desired and needed by the women of the individual congregations.

Article IX: Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting of the Permanent Committee on Women's Ministries. It will then be submitted for approval at General Assembly.

Article X: Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority in matters not addressed in this constitution.

*Proposed revision by the Women's Permanent Committee,
February, 1999*

Previous Constitution for EPC Women's Ministries

Article I. Name (No change)

Article II (No change)

Article III (No change)

Article IV. The officers of Women's Ministries shall be members of the local church. (no change)

****The officers of WM may be designated according to the needs of the local church. Suggestions are: President, Vice-President (one or more), Secretary (one or more), Treasurer, and Historian/Parliamentarian. The following program chairmen are suggested: Spiritual Nurture, Leadership development, Community Outreach, Christian Values, (issues of the day) and Mission Coordinator. (Change this portion to revised proposal IV.)*

***Delete Article V. Representative to Women's Presbytery Representative Council**

Each shall be encouraged to have representation 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.

Rationale: All of Article V is outdated with reference to the uniform guidelines adopted by the 18th General Assembly and the schedule of national conferences which have been held bi-annually from their inception.

***Delete 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.

Rationale: This is implied in the "Suggestions" of Article IV, revised, and spelled out in more detail in the WM Handbook.

Add: Article V. Denomination Representation and Participation (see newly proposed copy Article V)

Rationale: This broadens the basis of support mentioned in Article V that was deleted. (see above.)

Article VI. No change (formerly Article VII Relationships)

Article VII. No change (formerly original Article VIII Finances)

Article VIII. No change (formerly IX, on scheduling meetings)

Article IX. Amendments (formerly Article X in WM Constitution)

This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been submitted at least two weeks in advance. (~~delete this section and add proposed revision- IX~~).

Rationale: This does not give the actual process for amendment that committees must use and language is unclear.

Article XI. Parliamentary Authority (no change)

Adopted by the 8th General Assembly, June 1988

WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT



Bern Draper, Chairman



*Dick Oestreicher,
Director*

The World Outreach Committee has met in three stated meetings since the 18th General Assembly: September 10-12, 1998; January 14-16, 1999; and March 18-19, 1999. Members of the World Outreach Committee include:

RE Bern Draper, Chairman	TE William Meyer
RE John Haase	RE Vern Porter
TE Todd Hahn	RE Brette Rash
RE Robert Healy	TE Sam Rowen
RE Hawley Ingram	

The World Outreach Committee is your arm in reaching out to the world. We seek to carry out the plans and mandates you have given us through the General Assembly. The stated mission goal you have given us is "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."

EPC Missionaries

In fulfilling our responsibility, we have been overseeing the missionaries under our care. They are:

<u>Missionary</u>	<u>Location</u>
Antonucci, Rob & Iris	Central Asia
Barany, Dick & Linda	Kenya
Burns, Dan & Catherine	Kazakhstan
Clark, Dan & Jan	England/Muslim World
Fain, John & Dawn	US/International
Foote, Jim & Sally	Siberia
Haines, John & Margy	France
Hamd, Robert & Joyce	Middle East
Hampton, Bill & Janie	Kazakhstan
Kelley, Stephen & Belinda	England/Muslim World
Killgore, Jim & Grace	Central Asia
Kisch, Lorraine	Arab Gulf

Klakulak, Matt & Michelle	Central Asia
Livingstone, Greg & Sally	England/Muslim World
Massey, Kundan & Iqbal	US/Muslim World
McCurry, John & Carlene	Arab Gulf
Meeks, Chris & Gina	Argentina
Mindling, Tim & Karen	Central Asia
Mitchell, Tim & Kim	East Asia
Muir, Phil & Margaret	US/International
North, Tim	Middle East
Robles, Marcelo	Argentina
Robles, Miguel & Azucena	Argentina
Rowen, Sam & Ruth	US/East Asia
Sparling, Bud & Carol	US/International
Walker, Dave & Deb	Japan
Young, Jonathan & Fozia	Russia

We are pleased to announce the following candidates were approved as World Outreach missionaries since the 18th General Assembly:

Singh, Juan & Adriana—US Hispanic
White, Allen & Pat—Kazakhstan

Leroy and Kathy Padgett have resigned from World Outreach. They will continue sponsoring short-term trips to Mexico using their home church as their base. Mary Combs had to resign before reaching our Muslim field because of serious health problems.

Approved Candidates

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.

- *Robert and Amy Bayles* are approved candidates interested in serving under cooperative agreement with Arab World Ministries. They are currently pastoring a church plant (West Highlands Presbyterian) in Lenexa, Kansas and hope to continue church planting among Muslims in Spain.
- *Chuck and Kim Creech* are approved candidates interested in serving in Argentina as church planters. They are members of Trinity Presbyterian in Florence, South Carolina.
- *Steve and Madeline Grossman* are awaiting assignment to serve under cooperative agreement with Arab World Ministries among Muslims in France. They are members of Fourth Presbyterian in Bethesda, Maryland.
- *Jeffrey Juday* has been received as an approved candidate interested in serving under cooperative agreement with Frontiers on a church planting team among Muslims in the Middle East. He is a member of Cornerstone Presbyterian in Brighton, Michigan, and a candidate for ordination in the Midwest Presbytery.
- *Ross and Sandy Meyer* have been received as approved candidates interested in serving on a church planting team in Argentina. They are members of Myrtle Grove Presbyterian in Myrtle Grove, North Carolina.

- *Juan and Adriana Singh* have been received as approved candidates interested in planting a Hispanic church in Jackson, Mississippi. They are members of La Mision in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Juan is a candidate for ordination in the Central South Presbytery.
- Two additional couples and one single woman have expressed interest in working under World Outreach. Their application papers are under review.

Fields of Service

- *Kazakhstan:* The church in Almagul, a suburb of Almaty, continues to grow under the blessing of God. They completed their building this year under the leadership of Dan and Catherine Burns and Bill and Janie Hampton. One group has become the nucleus of a new congregation. Another group of Kazakh people will probably begin another church within a year or two. The congregation has many small groups which meet for youth, ladies and men's meetings; English; evangelism training; and leader development. The Burns family will return to Almaty this fall and will be joined by the Whites, who will assist in small group leadership.
- *Argentina:* We may reach our goal of assisting our brethren in Argentina to establish a national Presbyterian denomination in the year 2001. Miguel and Azucena Robles continue working to bring revitalization to the Belgrano Church. Marcelo Robles will complete work on his dissertation this summer and will lead the team of himself and Chris & Gina Meeks in the Lomas church plant. A Brazilian missionary from our friends in the IPB is helping to start another church. Three couples are in the application process, which leads us to thank the Lord for the potential of a second team in Buenos Aires, perhaps in late 2000.
- *Muslim Field:* We continue to pursue developing Turkey as our Muslim field. God seems to have led us to a national work with which we may be able to partner. Mary Combs is not able to fulfill our plans to serve there due to health reasons. Pray with us for a team leader and team members for Turkey.
- *Siberia:* We have not been able to recruit a church planter from the US or Russia to help us fulfill our goal of establishing a Reformed church in Tyumen. We are assessing the future and scaling back our plans.
- *Ethnic Ministry:* Juan and Adriana Singh will be our newest missionaries, coming aboard from Argentina for a short term to plant a Hispanic church in Jackson, Mississippi. Please take time to meet them at this Assembly. They and their two daughters are a delightful family.

Missionary care and development is part of the WOC responsibility. Another part is helping EPC respond to the challenge of the world around us. Some of the directions these opportunities have taken us follow:

- The 5th Conference for WO Missionaries took place just prior to this GA. In addition to training and spiritual nourishment, this event helps build a sense of family and belonging among our EPC missionaries.
- The Lord has provided a fine new assistant to the WO Director in Miriam Seaver, from Covenant Presbyterian in Ann Arbor. She fulfills the job admirably.
- The 1998 Vision Trip to Argentina was very successful. This year's Vision Trip is to Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Kazakhstan, seeing the work of God in three stages of development.

- Missionary support continues to grow every year. With another \$32,000, support income would be over 1 million. Total giving including projects was \$1,229,608, another increase over a year ago.
- Missionaries serving under cooperative agreements with evangelical agencies give us access to Muslim work in Europe, the Middle East, Russia, Central and East Asia, a vast span of influence for the Lord in the Muslim block nations.
- Our Benevolence Askings continue to take us to many points of the globe.

Recommendations

1. That the *World Outreach Missions Manual*, section 410.1 *Continuing Education*, be amended by substituting the proposed two paragraphs for the present first paragraph.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>410.1 Continuing Education</p> <p>World Outreach shall allow career missionaries \$350 per year to be used for continuing education (in addition to language study). Unused portions may accumulate to a maximum of \$3,500. This money shall come from their support account and shall be paid them in addition to salary. Any such program of continuing education must be approved by the World Outreach office.</p> <p>Increments shall be computed as of January 1 of each year. The first such deduction shall be made for a missionary only after he or she has been on the field for at least six months during the previous year, has previous service as a teaching elder of the EPC or is required to have continuing education to retain professional certification.</p>	<p>410.1 Continuing Education</p> <p>World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation.</p> <p>Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.</p> <p>Increments shall be computed as of January 1 of each year. The first such deduction shall be made for a missionary only after he or she has been on the field for at least six months during the previous year, has previous service as a teaching elder of the EPC or is required to have continuing education to retain professional certification.</p>

Rationale:

- a) Study leave was originally set at \$350 when World Outreach began 17 years ago and has never been increased.
- b) \$800 approximates the cost of one course at seminaries normally used by EPC ministers.
- c) Overseas WO personnel do not have the opportunity to hear special GA speakers or go to the conferences which many EPC pastors are able to attend.
- d) Some EPC pastors are encouraged to attend special conferences out of the regular church budget, rather than using their study leave allocation.
- e) WO missionaries are accountable to the WO Director and request a particular study leave program and receive prior approval prior to using the funds and the time.

- f) The \$800 amount is consistent with EPC church practice among those which do grant their pastors a study leave.
2. That the *World Outreach Missions Manual*, section 403.1 *Medical Insurance* be amended by substituting the proposed first paragraph for the present first paragraph.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>403.1 Medical Insurance</p> <p>All missionaries shall be required to have comprehensive medical coverage, long term disability and limited life insurance. Ordinarily this will be provided through the EPC plan.</p> <p>Missionaries working with cooperative agencies may choose either that agency's plan or the EPC Group Insurance Plan. In some situations, however, medical coverage of missionaries, in unique situations, may dictate its need of an alternative plan. In these instances, WOC may approve that medical coverage which is most appropriate.</p>	<p>403.1 Medical Insurance</p> <p>All missionaries shall be required to have comprehensive medical coverage and limited life insurance. Missionaries serving exclusively with WO will receive the EPC insurance package, which also includes long-term disability insurance.</p> <p>Missionaries working with cooperative agencies may choose either that agency's plan or the EPC Group Insurance Plan. In some situations, however, medical coverage of missionaries, in unique situations, may dictate its need of an alternative plan. In these instances, WOC may approve that medical coverage which is most appropriate.</p>

3. That the *World Outreach Missions Manual*, section 201.2, *Application Procedures*, be amended by adding the proposed paragraph as section F.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><i>No section 201.2.F currently exists.</i></p>	<p>F. All missionary candidates shall participate in a Cross-Cultural Church Planting Assessment Center as part of the missionary selection process.</p>

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Bern Draper, Chairman
May 1999



Richard Oestreicher, Director

"Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done ... Tell of His wonderful acts." Psalm 105:1-2

PART III
DOCUMENTS

Rules for Assembly

As amended through the 19th 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 practical. Any Presbytery or church of Presbytery that desires to entertain the General Assembly shall forward an invitation to the Stated Clerk no later than three years before the preceding Assembly. If two or more Presbyteries or churches submit invitations to host the General Assembly for the same year, the Committee on Administration will submit a recommendation to the General Assembly naming the host church or Presbytery. The Committee on Administration will make its recommendation based on the following criteria:
 - a. Capability to host, i.e., availability of housing, costs, travel arrangements, committee meeting rooms, availability of food service for breaks and meals, space for exhibitors and General Assembly staff, and local transportation.
 - b. Priority will be given to the Presbytery or church which has never hosted a General Assembly or which hosted General Assembly the greatest number of years ago.

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, inter-church 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 thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received by the Stated Clerk less than thirty (30) 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 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. Student & Young Adult Ministries - concerning ministries for youth and college age people 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 no later than 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 list of all items referred to and considered by the committee;
 - A statement of all issues discussed;
 - 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:
- Proofed and signed by chairman of committee and thereafter given to Stated Clerk for permanent record;
 - 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:
- the constitutional standards of the church, as to substance of the action recorded;
 - 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:
- 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.
 - 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:
- Notations shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery without being read to the Assembly or recorded in its **Minutes**.
 - 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 and 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 and 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.16-16A).
 10. Minutes must reflect an annual review of sessional records.
 11. Minutes must reflect establishing, dissolving, dividing, uniting, receiving, and dismissing of churches (G.16-16E).
 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

8-1 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 Student & Young Adult 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. Committee on World Outreach
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. Committee on National Outreach
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. Committee on Women's Ministries
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. Committee on Christian Education & Publications
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 composed 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. Recommendations from Sessions or Presbyteries shall be forwarded to the Committee no later than March 31 of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination form shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.
3. To name from the Commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.
4. The Committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.

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 (2/3) vote of the total enrollment of the Commissioners. A motion to amend is debatable. A motion to suspend is not debatable.

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"Uniform Procedures on Candidacy, Licensure, and Ordination" Amended in "Terms of Call" by adding provision for ordained career missionaries	99-09	19, 25
World Outreach Committee established	82-13	22
World Outreach Manual, Part I adopted	83-13	22
World Outreach Manual, Part II, adopted	84-15	23
World Outreach Manual, Part III, adopted	86-22	23
World Outreach presbytery committees, formation urged	92-11	24
World Outreach Master Plan approved	88-13	23
Churches asked to distribute to members	96-18	25

FRATERNAL MATTERS

Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church fraternal relationship approved	85-10	27
More extensive relationships with ARP approved	89-19	28
Statement of Commitment, EPC & ARP	91-10	28
Geneva Statement, EPC & ARP	92-01	28
Yearly exchange of fraternal delegates approved	92-02	28
Christian Reformed Church fraternal relationship approved	87-10	27
More extensive relationships with CRC approved	89-19	28
Definitions of fraternal relationship approved	84-06	26
	88-14	27
Family conference with ARP to be explored	93-03	29
Fraternal Relations Committee established	83-17	26
Fraternal relationships with evangelical Reformed bodies to be pursued	82-11	26
Fraternal relationships with Presbyterian groups to be pursued	85-11	27
Fraternal relationships encouraged with some denominations outside the Reformed tradition	96-04	29
National Association of Evangelicals, application made	81-07	26
EPC churches encouraged to participate in NAE	97-05	29
NAE Director Billy Melvin extended thanks for 28 years of service	94-02	29
North American Presbyterian & Reformed Council (NAPARC)		
Membership to be pursued	87-09	27
Dialogue to become member to continue	89-21	28
Response on Holy Spirit and charismatic gifts	92-16	29
Membership application to be continued	94-04	29
PC(USA) requested to rescind charges against EPC (1988)	88-16	27
Presbyterian Church in Ireland, relationship to be pursued and explored	94-03	29
Protest lodged with WARC against PC(USA) action (1988)	88-18	27
Puerto Rico, fraternal relations established with Association of the Charismatic Presbyterian Churches of Puerto Rico	94-01	29
Reformed Church in America and Presbyterian Church in America to be studied for fraternal relationship	89-20	28
Solicitation of churches for denominational affiliation, policy	88-15	27
Statement on handling interdenominational and other disputes	88-17	27
World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC)		
Application for membership endorsed	84-05	26
Strengthen relationships with member denominations	89-21	28
FRC to explore membership in alternate organizations	94-05	29
World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF), application for membership endorsed	86-16	27

World Fellowship of Reformed Churches, application for membership endorsed 97-04 29

FISCAL MATTERS

Administrative fees for WOC missionaries readjusted	98-09	33
Adoption of "benevolence giving goals" for congregations	87-20	31
Calendar year shall be fiscal year	82-08	30
Christmas offering approved	85-08	31, 4, 16
Church Loan Fund to be established	83-11	30
Church Loan Fund - presbytery repayment guarantee	90-10	32
Church Loan Fund criterion on fee rates amended	94-13	33
Fiscal policy defined	83-08	30
Interest, principles on lending money	90-12	32
Medical Benevolence Trust promotion approved	90-16	33
Financial eligibility increased	97-07	33
Ministerial Endowment Fund approved	84-15	31
Pension Plan administrative expenses funded by Administration Budget	89-05	31
Per member asking set at \$5	81-09	30
Per member asking raised to \$\$	83-08	30
Per member asking raised to \$10	89-18	31
Per member asking raised to \$12	92-23	33
Per member asking raised to \$15	94-14	33
Per member asking raised to \$18	97-06	33
Planned giving program commended to the churches	98-13	34
Reflections funding or subscription program to be designed	95-08	33, 37
Scholarship matching fund program endorsed for Erskine College and Seminary	95-11	33
Solicitation policy set for church planting projects	92-21	33
Special offerings: materials to be sent five weeks prior to projected date	95-01	33, 37
Staff development funded by benevolence giving	85-07	31
Student & Young Adult Ministries directed to contact the churches for support of their benevolence askings	97-20	33
Women's Ministries "Second Mile Giving"	86-07	31
Women's Ministries half-time Director funded through Faith Focus	90-01	31
Youth Director (half-time) funded through benevolence giving	90-02	31

PROGRAM MATTERS

Abortion, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	34
Position Paper adopted	86-20	34
Aging, Task Force recommendations	86-08	34
AIDS/HIV, Position Paper adopted	94-20	37
Bethany Christian Services, agency approved	89-16	35
Booklets on baptism and the Reformed faith endorsed	88-24	35
Capital Punishment, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	34
Preliminary Position Paper rescinded	95-12	37
Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, a resource	88-19	35
Children's Catechism (modern version) endorsed	88-20	35
Christian Education Resource Network to be established	89-17	35
Christian Education Task Force to be formed to evaluate curricula according to EPC standards	95-09	37
Christian Education Committee excused from further work on LiFE Curriculum	97-18	39
Civil Disobedience, Pastoral Letter approved	96-09	38
Introductory paragraphs adopted	97-13	38
Conference (biannual) approved for ministers young in the ministry	88-23	35
Covenanting between presbyteries and colleges approved	88-06	35
Culture and the church: Theology Committee to study	97-14	38
Curricula distinctly Reformed to be recommended to the churches	90-04	36
Curriculum publishers consistent with EPC beliefs endorsed	88-22	35

Disney Company, Spirit led response to	96-06	38
Divorce and Remarriage, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	94-21	37
Family conference with ARP to be explored	93-03	36
Holy Spirit, Position Paper adopted	86-21	34
Homosexuality, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	34
Position Paper adopted	86-20	34
Replacement Position Paper adopted	94-20	37
Hotels - policy where pornographic movies are shown	87-05	34
Lay Renewal Ministries approved as resource	88-21	35
Men's ministry, formation to be considered	97-17	39
Mission experiences, short term, endorsed for senior high students	90-03	35
New members curriculum for adults and youth to be developed	90-05	36
Officer Training Program approved	87-04	34
Officer Training Manual endorsed	92-05	36
Ordination of Women, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	34
Position Paper adopted	86-20	34
Organ Donation and Transplantation, pastoral letter adopted	96-10	38
"Partial Birth Abortion Ban" opposed	96-05	37
Pioneer Clubs, relationship endorsed	97-19	39
Pornography, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	88-27	35
Problems of Suffering, Death, and Dying, Position Paper adopted	95-14	37
Promise Keepers program endorsed	95-20	37
Reading list approved for candidates approaching ordination	93-18	36
Reflections funding or subscription program to be designed	95-08	33, 37
Regional Pastor, joint project approved	92-17	36
Retreat and camping facility to be researched	92-04	36
Research set aside until funds are available	94-10	36
Screening procedures for child care workers approved	94-11	36
Secret Fraternal Organizations, Pastoral Letter Regarding Criteria for Evaluating Membership, adopted	95-13	37
Sonlife Strategy model approved for youth ministries	88-26	35
Sowing/Reaping planned giving program endorsed	98-13	39
Special offerings: materials to be sent five weeks prior to projected date	95-01	33, 37
Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee		
Asked to provide direction to the churches	96-08	38
Authorized to investigate formation of committee for Single Adult Ministry	97-21	39
Committee directed to encourage support of SYAM through benevolent giving	97-20	39
Subcommittees on Evangelism and Caring established	92-20	36
Value of Human Life, Preliminary Position Paper adopted	84-14	34
Position Paper adopted	87-21	34
Westminster Confession of Faith Commentary endorsed	92-06	36
Westminster Catechism, resources for teaching children and youth	93-04	36
Women's Ministries Committee formation encouraged for presbyteries	93-16	36
Women's Ministries Constitution for local churches adopted	88-28	35
Women's Ministries guidelines for presbytery organizations adopted	98-14	39
Women's Ministries reporting to church sessions encouraged	97-16	39
Youth Ministries to research retreat/camping facilities	92-04	36
Youth Ministries Committee changes name to Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee	96-15	38
Youth Speakers Bureau approved	88-25	36
Youth summer conference concept adopted	86-09	34

BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS

Group Insurance Plan		
Administration placed under Board of Pension & Benefits	90-08	42
	91-01	42
Adopted children to be covered when custody begins	94-07	44
Approved for ministers	82-10	40
Benefit Services vendor for plan administration	96-02	44
Biofeedback, coverage for, excluded	99-02	45
Carrier changed to Provident for health and life coverage	87-19	41
CHAMPUS participants exempted	87-15	41
Claims must be submitted within 12 months of date of service to be paid	99-01	45
Conversion option eliminated	95-04	44
Dependents of retired and disabled employees may be covered by medical plan	94-08	44
Deductibles for medical coverage		
reduced	90-15	42
increased	99-04	45
"Disabled employee," category created and defined	92-28	43
Eligibility for medical coverage extended	90-17	42, 17
Enrollment for churches of record 12/21/93 may be reconsidered	94-09	44
Exceptions to required participation	88-08	41, 17
	88-09	41
Expenses for insurance allocated on percentage basis	83-19	40
Extended health coverage for 3 months after termination	93-02	43
Geographical 3-tier system for premiums begun	89-14	42
"Gratitude Gift" offering approved	87-14	41, 17
Immunizations, coverage for eligible dependent children	95-03	44
Insurance Plan mandatory for ministers in EPC churches	81-06	14, 40
Life insurance cap increased to \$50,000	97-03	45, 18
Long term disability cap raised to \$40,000	86-18	40
Mammogram paid at 80%	97-02	45
Medical Benevolence Fund approved	89-15	42, 17
Medical Benevolence Trust approved in concept	90-16	42
Medical Benevolence Fund document adopted	92-29	43
Medical Benevolence Fund eligibility increased to \$25,000	97-07	45
Medicare: Board to determine cost of medical coverage		
for Plan participants not covered by Medicare	94-06	44
Ministerial Vocation Committee to solicit bids for better insurance coverage	83-18	40
Missionaries in cooperative agreement may choose EPC insurance plan or sending agency's plan	93-13	43, 18
National (world outreach) pastors not required to participate in EPC Pension Plan	93-14	44, 18
Organ transplants, coverage defined	92-25	43
Pancreas added to list of covered organ transplants	95-05	44
Participation of at least 80% of each church staff encouraged for Group Insurance Plan	88-10	41
Pre-existing conditions clause amended	87-16	41
Premium structure for medical plan revised to four categories	95-06	44
Prescription drugs, coverage amended	99-03	45
Procedures for diagnostic tests covered at 80% are added	92-27	43
Radial keratotomy, coverage for, excluded	87-17	41
Retired persons eligible to participate in medical plan	86-19	40
"Retiree" redefined	91-02	43
Second surgical opinion requirement eliminated	92-26	43
Self-funded plan by The Travelers approved	84-08	40
Skilled nursing facility benefit defined	99-05	44
Sleep disorders, coverage for, excluded	99-02	45
Social Security, medical plan excludes persons who have opted out	95-02	44, 18

Terms of call for ministers to include EPC insurance plan	81-04	40
To include 18% benefit for insurance and pension	81-05	40
Vendor for life and disability insurance changed	96-03	45
Pension Plan		
Pension Plan adopted	89-02	41
Administrative expenses funded by Administration Budget	89-05	42
Adoption Agreements accepted from churches	89-04	42
Enrollment period extended	92-19	43
Enrollment, for churches of record 12/31/93	94-09	44
Board of Reference formation approved	89-06	42
Board of Reference eliminated	95-07	44
Board of Pension & Benefits, removal from office	89-03	42
Group Insurance Plan, Pension Board oversees	90-08	42
	91-01	42
Housing allowance, retirement pension may be applied	96-17	45, 18
Preferred Provider Organization to be offered under medical plan	98-01	45
Restated Pension Plan adopted	93-01	43
Retirement age defined as 59 1/2	92-24	43
TSA program approved and participation urged	87-12	41
Vendors for benefit and pension plans:		
COA may authorize	96-01	44

A Digest of the
ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 1981-1999

"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**, 1-18)
- 81-13 The *Book of Discipline* is adopted provisionally. (**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, 6-69) *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)
- 87-06 The Assembly establishes a new permanent Committee on Youth Ministries with responsibility for conference ministries, youth curriculum resourcing, youth ministry resources, and other youth related concerns for grades 7-12. Committee to have two ministers and four ruling elders. (**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, Appendix E)).
- 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, Appendix I)

- 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)
- 96-17 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).
- 98-16 Search Process for Stated Clerk, Position Description and Time Line for Selection of New Stated Clerk are adopted. (**Minutes** 18-39)

CONFESSONAL MATTERS

- 81-01 *The Essentials of the Faith* is adopted. Its purpose 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, 1-17, Appendix III) (*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 of the Faith*, 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)

- 39-01 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)
- 98-02 That Assembly adopts a report entitled, "Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to

the 17th General Assembly Instructions Regarding 'The Essentials' and the Westminster Confession." (**Minutes** 18-25)

99-07 The Assembly strongly exhorts churches to diligently train officers and ordinands in the essential tenets of the Reformed faith and recommends that sessions and presbyteries familiarize themselves with the "Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the Seventeenth General Assembly Instructions Regarding 'The Essentials' and the *Westminster Confession*" and use such works as R.C. Sproul's *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Tyndale House, 1998 paper). (**Minutes**, 19-27)

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 goals for their meetings the following:

- To develop fellowship and support for pastors and elders;
- To share resources with other churches;
- 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:

- Presbytery of the Midwest consists of the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri.
- 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, Appendix E)

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, Appendix E)

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 1-65 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} Trousdale, 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)
- 98-03 The Assembly instructs all Presbyteries to use the forms included as attachments to the *EPC Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committee* (Third Edition) both as a check list of proper procedure and as a way of recording that required actions have been taken. (**Minutes** 18-29)
- 98-04 The Assembly instructs all Presbyteries to review the style of their minutes to insure that a basic understanding of the actions taken by the Presbytery can be obtained from the body of the minutes, *per se*, without reference to any attachments. (**Minutes** 18-29)
- 98-05 The Assembly instructs all Presbyteries to supply the Presbytery Review Committee with certified copies of the pages of their minutes subject to review as they appear in the official minute books of the Presbytery at least five weeks prior to the meeting date of the next General Assembly. (**Minutes** 18-29)
- 98-15 The Assembly approves the following addition to the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*:
Presbyteries shall perform a background investigation on all individuals seeking

candidacy or membership in their Presbytery. This investigation of public records shall include at least a verification of social security number, criminal history and motor vehicle driving history. Also, as part of the reception process, references must be checked. (Minutes, 18-41)

- 99-13 The Assembly redraws the common boundaries of the Mid-America and Midwest Presbyteries so that the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin are moved from the Midwest Presbytery to the Mid-America Presbytery (Minutes, 19-46)

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.

Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic

service are limited to the standard three years accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.

Cf. Act 94-25. 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) The 19th General Assembly further amended this document in #5, "Terms of Call," by adding provision for career missionaries. (Minutes, 19-31)

- 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, Appendix I)
- 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:
- the need for pastoral development in study leave;
 - the need for quality content in the study leave;
 - 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) (*The 14th General Assembly amended this document by dropping the provision for licensure. Minutes, 14-37*)
- 84-03 General Assembly approves for printing the proposed *Manual for Candidates for the Gospel Ministries*. (Minutes, 4-23, p. 16)
- 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, p. 16)
- 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; also p. 124)
- 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)

- 98-03 The Assembly instructs all Presbyteries to use the forms included as attachments to the *EPC Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committee* (Third Edition) both as a check list of proper procedure and as a way of recording that required actions have been taken. (Minutes 18-29)
- 98-15 The Assembly approves the following addition to the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*:
 Presbyteries shall perform a background investigation on all individuals seeking candidacy or membership in their Presbytery. This investigation of public records shall include at least a verification of social security number, criminal history and motor vehicle driving history. Also, as part of the reception process, references must be checked. (Minutes, 18-41)
- 99-09 The Assembly amends Act of the Assembly 82-07 (Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination) in #5 "Terms of Call," by adding the following:
 Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.
 The Assembly also amends the World Outreach Manual so that the same provision applies to non-ordained World Outreach missionaries serving overseas. (Minutes, 19-31)
- 99-10 The Assembly sustains an opinion of the Permanent Judicial Commission regarding the status of ministers who are missionaries serving totally under the auspices of the EPC and ministers serving in an administrative capacity in one of the courts of the church (G.10-3). Ministers serving in such capacities should be classified as ministers with calls, not as ministers serving out-of-bounds. (Minutes, 19-40)
- 99-11 The Assembly adopts guidelines regarding the possibilities of legal liabilities of ministers serving out of bounds:
- a. They cannot act as an agent of the EPC in the legal sense;
 - b. They will not be subject to the supervision of the EPC with respect to time, place or many of ministry. Accountability to the EPC relates solely to spiritual and ecclesiastical matters. Eligibility to claim any tax benefits of privileges may be jeopardized if any of the following apply:
 1. The calling agency did not arrange with the EPC for the minister's services;
 2. The minister performs services for the calling agency that other employees of the calling agency who are not ministers are performing;
 3. The minister performs the same services before and after obtaining permission from the EPC to labor out of bounds. (Minutes, 19-45)
- 99-12 The Assembly adopts guidelines for EPC military chaplains leading worship with other faith groups:
 "While our chaplains are encouraged to exercise their ministry in the Armed forces with the maximum of collegiality in cooperation with persons of varying beliefs, the EPC does not approve joint leadership of a worship service with persons representing faith groups outside the historic Christian tradition, as defined by the Apostles' Creed. (Minutes, 19-45)

NATIONAL OUTREACH

- 2-03 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, Appendix E)
- 2-12 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)
- 3-11 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) (*The 6th General Assembly established a new Church Loan Fund. Cf. Act 86-12*)
- 6-12 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)
- 6-23 The Assembly adopts a "Provisional Master Plan for Church Development" (**Minutes**, 6-64; page 115ff).
- 8-12 Assembly endorses the concept of an assessment process designed to identify gifted persons called and qualified for church planting. (**Minutes**, 8-31)
- 9-09 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)
- 9-10 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)
- 9-11 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**, 9-48)
- 9-12 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)

- 17-25 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)
- 17-26 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)
- 17-27 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)
- 18-10 Oversight of ethnic ministries is assigned to the World Outreach Committee, while oversight of urban ministries is assigned to the National Outreach Committee. (Minutes 18-39, p. 38)
- 18-11 The Assembly adopts the 1998 National Outreach Master Plan. (Minutes, 18-41)
- 18-12 The Alpha program as a resource for evangelism is endorsed. (Minutes 18-41)

WORLD OUTREACH

- 2-13 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, Appendix F) (*Committee was expanded by 3 members at the 3rd General Assembly. Minutes 3-53*)
- 3-13 *World Outreach Manual, Part I (Theology and Practice of Missions)* is adopted by the Assembly. (Minutes, 3-46)
- 3-16 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) (*The 18th General Assembly assigned oversight of urban ministries to the National Outreach Committee. Minutes, 18-39; Act 98-17*)
- 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)
- 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)
- 98-06 The General Assembly adopted the Turkish people group as an EPC Muslim field, with focus on the nation of Turkey. (**Minutes** 18-37)
- 98-07 Cooperative agreement is approved with the English Language Institute of China (ELIC). (**Minutes** 18-37)
- 98-08 Cooperative agreement is approved with the Jian Hua Foundation. (**Minutes** 18-37).
- 98-09 A new monthly fee schedule for administration costs for World Outreach missionaries is adopted:
 - EPC missionaries (married): \$300; EPC single, \$150;
 - Cooperative agreement missionaries, (married), \$200; Cooperative, single: \$100.
 Fees to be deducted from support account of each WOC missionary unit. Amount will be adjusted annually in accordance with Consumer Price Index. (**Minutes** 18-37)
- 98-10 Oversight of ethnic ministries is assigned to the World Outreach Committee, while oversight of urban ministries is assigned to the National Outreach Committee. (**Minutes** 18-39)
- 99-09 The Assembly amends Act of the Assembly 82-07 (Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination) in #5 “Terms of Call,” by adding the following:

Ordained World Outreach career missionaries serving abroad shall be allowed to accumulate their study leave and funding for four years to be used in their fifth year in a program of study under the supervision of the World Outreach Director. Those in domestic service are limited to the standard three years accumulation. Career missionaries shall be allowed \$800 per year for study leave.

The Assembly also amends the World Outreach Manual so that the same provision applies to non-ordained World Outreach missionaries serving overseas. (**Minutes**, 19-31)

- 99-10 The Assembly sustains the opinion of the Permanent Judicial Commission regarding the status of ministers who are missionaries serving totally under the auspices of the EPC and ministers serving in an administrative capacity in one of the courts of the church (G.10-3). Ministers serving in such capacities should be classified as ministers with calls, not as ministers serving out-of-bounds. (**Minutes**, 19-40)

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, Appendix K)
- 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)
- 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 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.

- 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 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 (1 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)
- 98-09 A new monthly fee schedule for administration costs for World Outreach missionaries is adopted:
- EPC missionaries (married): \$300; EPC single, \$150;
 - Cooperative agreement missionaries, (married), \$200; Cooperative, single: \$100.
- Fees to be deducted from support account of each WOC missionary unit. Amount will be adjusted annually in accordance with Consumer Price Index. (**Minutes** 18-37)

- 98-13 The Sowing/Reaping Planned Giving Program and information commending such is endorsed for distribution to the churches for review and consideration. (**Minutes** 18-39)

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, Homosexuality, and The Ordination of Women 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 our 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)
- 98-12 The Alpha program as a resource for evangelism is endorsed. (Minutes 18-41)
- 98-13 The Sowing/Reaping Planned Giving Program and information commending such is endorsed for distribution to the churches for review and consideration. (Minutes 18-39)
- 98-14 The Assembly adopts the following set of guidelines for Presbytery Women's Ministries:

Guidelines

- Each Presbytery Women's Ministry Committee shall be made up of 6 or more women who represent the spectrum of presbytery churches.
- Pastors' wives shall be represented on the committee if possible.
- Women shall serve a 3-year term. A second 3-year term is allowed, but a woman may not serve more than two consecutive terms.
- Nominations for the committee may be submitted to the Presbytery Nominating Committee in two ways:
 1. The Session of each individual church may submit names.
 2. The current committee may submit names.
- Prior to a woman's name being submitted to the Nominating Committee, her pastor and/or Session shall be contacted for approval. Following this approval, she may be asked if she is willing to serve.

- The Presbytery Women's Ministry Committee members shall elect a chairman, who shall attend the General Council of the Presbytery. (She may or may not have a vote depending on the presbytery, but will be able to keep the council abreast of Women's Ministries' concerns, and vice versa.) (**Minutes**, 18-42)

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, Appendix I-8).
- 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 Medical Plan 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 Fund with the understanding that the actual Fund Agreement would be presented to the 11th Assembly. Approval to begin promotion of the Fund is given (**Minutes**, 10-39).
- 90-17 The Group Insurance Medical Plan 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 Insurance 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 Insurance 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 Insurance 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 Insurance 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 (**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 Medical Plan shall provide benefits for adopted children at the time effective custody takes place. **(Minutes, 14-22)**
- 94-08 The Group Insurance Medical 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 Insurance 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 Medical Plan 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 Insurance 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 Insurance 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 Medical Plan 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)
- 98-01 The Assembly approves the provision of a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) for the medical portion of the Group Insurance Plan. (Minutes, 18-19)
- 99-01 The Assembly amends the Group Insurance Medical Plan to require that claims be submitted within twelve months of the date of service. Claims submitted after twelve months of date of service will not be paid. (Minutes, 19-20)
- 99-02 The Assembly amends the Group Insurance Medical Plan by adding sleep disorders and biofeedback to the list of exclusions. (Minutes, 19-20)
- 99-03 The Assembly amends coverage for prescription in the Group Insurance Medical Plan to:
80% of the cost of generic drugs;
50% for name brand drugs unless a suitable generic is not available;
Subject to deductibles and co-insurance. (Minutes, 19-20)
- 99-04 The Assembly amends the Group Insurance Medical Plan by increasing the deductible to \$250 per employee, \$500 per employee and spouse, and \$750 per family for PPO network providers. The Assembly also amends Group Insurance Medical Plan by increasing the deductible to \$300 per person, \$600 per employee and spouse, and \$900 per family for non-network (PPO) providers. (Minutes, 19-20)
- 99-05 The Assembly amends the Skilled Nursing Facilities Benefits in the Group Insurance Medical Plan to cover 90% of reasonable and customary charges in the PPO network and 80% out of network. Confinement in a skilled nursing facility is limited to 60 days per calendar year with a *per diem* limit of \$150, provided that a physician determines that the covered person requires skilled nursing care and prior authorization from the Plan has been obtained. (Minutes, 19-20)

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-chariman 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.



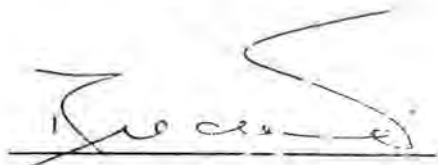
Rev. Andrew A. Jumper
Chairman



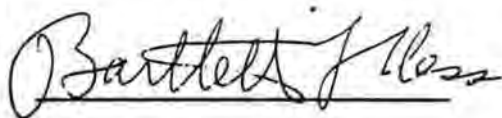
Rev. Boanerges Ribeiro
Chairman



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. English Language Institute of China
3. Frontiers
4. Interserve
5. Jian Hua Foundation
6. Logoi
7. Middle East Media
8. Missionary Internship
9. Overseas Crusades
10. Overseas Missionary Fellowship
11. Pioneers
12. Send International
13. SERVE
14. United World Mission
15. World Impact
16. Wycliffe Bible Translators
17. 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.

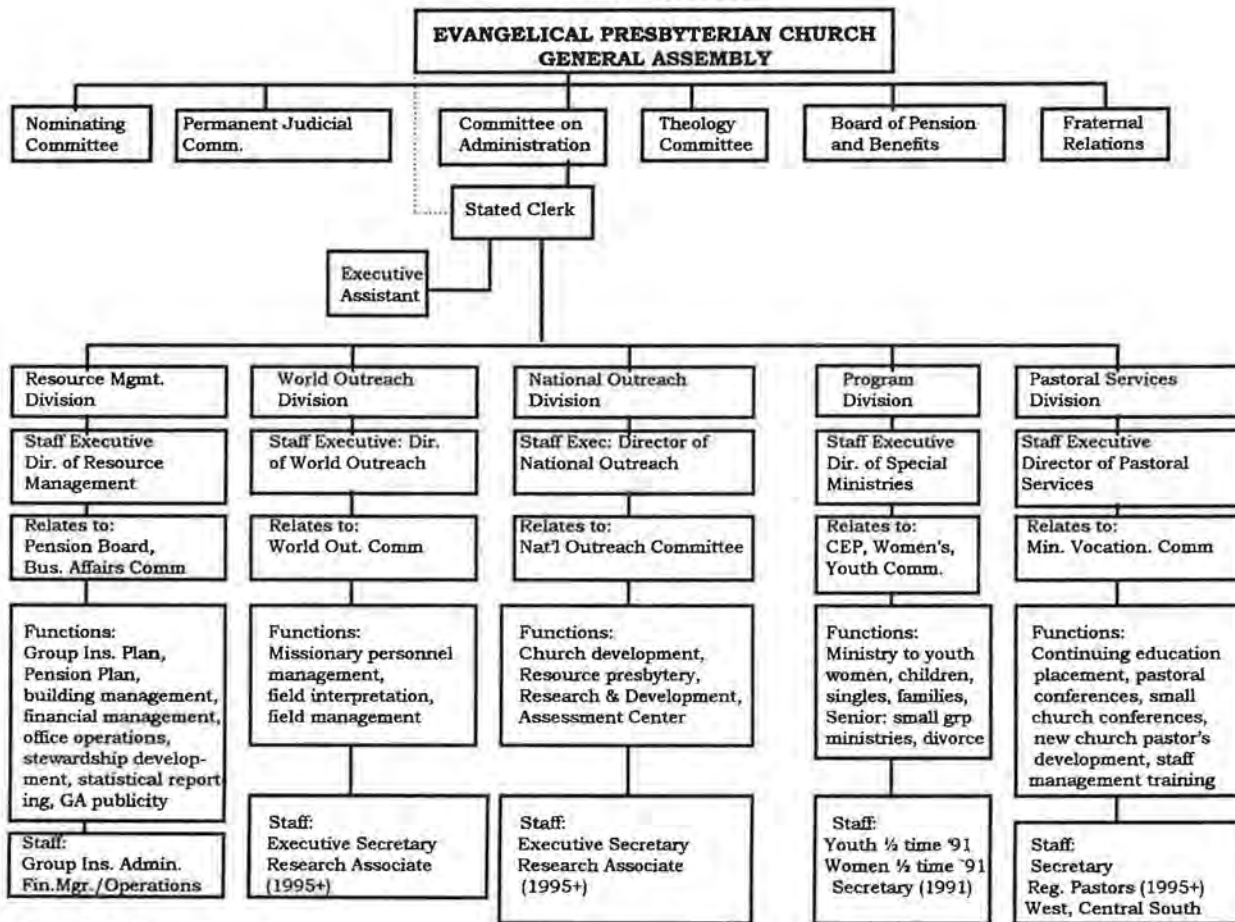
GOAL #11: To help ministers make a more objective assessment of their calling, gifts and effectiveness in ministry in light of their ordination vows.

Objectives:

- 11.1 Identify credible assessment resources readily available for persons in Christian vocations.

DOCUMENTS

DESIGN FOR 2001



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

MASTER PLAN FOR NATIONAL OUTREACH (1998)

MISSION: *To labor with God to build a multiplying movement of growing churches. (Psalm 127:1)*

Our mission can only be carried out by God's supernatural power as we express our dependence on Him through prayer and His Word.

KEY STRATEGIC AREA #1: *To equip and empower people to plant churches and effectively fulfill the Great Commission.*

Strategic objectives:

1. To develop pastors with a Reformed commitment and the giftedness to plant churches.
2. To see that all church planting candidates are qualified through an effective church planting assessment center.
3. To be a resource to presbyteries in the church planting process.
4. To plant vibrant churches that will reproduce themselves.

KEY STRATEGIC AREA #2: *To provide presbyteries and congregations the necessary resources to positively impact church vitality.*

Strategic objectives:

1. To identify EPC churches which are most likely to benefit from a church vitality process.
2. To resource churches, in consultation with presbyteries, in developing a master plan that identifies mission, vision, goals and objectives.
3. To identify appropriate resources and materials that will aid churches in enhancing vitality.

KEY STRATEGIC AREA #3: *To equip and encourage churches to effectively reach their communities with the Gospel.*

Strategic objectives:

1. To understand how God is at work in the United States.
2. To equip the church with a Reformed understanding of evangelism as key to successful proclamation of the Gospel.
3. To provide our churches with effective resources that will allow them to share their faith with the lost.

KEY STRATEGIC AREA #4: *To transform urban centers by establishing churches and aiding existing urban ministries to impact their communities for Christ. Urban ministry is providing hope by turning our hearts and extending our hands to the poor in urban centers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

Strategic objectives:

1. To aid and assist existing urban ministries in whatever way possible.
2. To establish churches and ministries in urban centers in consultation with the presbyteries.
3. Develop and promote opportunities for racial reconciliation.

*Revised June, 1999
19th General Assembly*

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:

1. **Focusing** our passion on reaching people who have not yet responded to God's grace.ⁱⁱ
2. **Building** a structure for an enduring ministry that is consistent and reproducible.ⁱⁱⁱ
3. **Devoting** our primary energies to setting people free to plant churches and effectively fulfill the Great Commission.^{iv}
4. **Staying** on the cutting edge of cultural trends while discovering and offering the most effective ways to apply the Gospel to them.^v

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 3:20,21; 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.
- (II 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 DESCRIPTION FOR THE STATED CLERK

- I. Position Title: Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
- II. Date: January 1, 2001
- III. Position Summary: The Stated Clerk is responsible before God for the work of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Stated Clerk is chief administrative officer of the Office of the General Assembly.
- IV. Term: The Stated Clerk shall be elected by the General Assembly to serve for a definite period as constitutionally defined by the court.
- V. Duties:
 - A. The general duties and responsibilities of the Stated Clerk are set forth in the *Book of Order* and *Rules for Assembly*.
 - B. The Stated Clerk shall be responsible for interpreting all constitutional matters not specifically referred to a General Assembly committee, in which case the General Assembly, by its response to a committee report, will be the final interpreting authority.
 - C. The Stated Clerk shall record all Assembly transactions and preserve these records carefully, and in addition, grant extracts from them whenever properly required. Such extracts shall be evidence to any ecclesiastical court, and to every part of the church.
 - D. All notices required by civil and ecclesiastical law shall be prepared and forwarded by the Stated Clerk, who shall also take general charge of the corporate books and records.
 - E. The Stated Clerk shall sign such instruments as may be required and perform duties as may be assigned by the Committee on Administration or members of the corporation in General Assembly. The Stated Clerk shall assist the Moderator in the fulfillment of his office.
 - F. The Stated Clerk shall be responsible for the oversight of the Financial Manager who is the custodian of the funds and securities belonging to the Corporation. The Stated Clerk shall oversee the receipts deposits and disbursement of such funds by the Financial Manager as directed by the General Assembly. The Stated Clerk shall oversee the accurate accounting of the finances of the Corporation by the Financial Manager.
 - G. The Stated Clerk shall resource the work of each permanent committee in keeping with those tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly. Each committee which has its own staff executive shall be resourced by

that executive. The Stated Clerk is responsible for coordinating the utilization and distribution of the resources of the Corporation.

- H. The Stated Clerk shall be available as need warrants to represent the denomination to the general public and to the churches. Responsibility for official denominational correspondence with all fraternal persons and bodies shall be that of the Stated Clerk.

VI. Organizational Relationships:

- A. Responsible to: The Stated Clerk is responsible to the General Assembly through immediate accountability to the Committee on Administration.
- B. Responsible for: The Stated Clerk is responsible for all professional and clerical staff persons assigned to the Office of the General Assembly, and to coordinate the work of all.
- C. The Stated Clerk is responsible, through various committees and individuals for planning of goals and activities designed to carry out the mission of the denomination and achieve the results anticipated by the vision statement of the General Assembly.

VII. Evaluation:

The personnel committee of the Committee on Administration shall serve as an evaluation committee for the annual evaluation of the Stated Clerk, and review with the Stated Clerk the evaluation of the General Assembly staff. Committee will report annually to the Administration Committee.

The Evaluation Committee shall be enlarged every third year by two persons for that year only, coinciding with the year of the election of the Stated Clerk. This committee shall provide the Committee on Administration a comprehensive evaluation of the Stated Clerk. The Committee on Administration shall provide this evaluation and a nomination to the General Assembly.

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 connective 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.

**Suggested Constitution
For Local Church*
EPC Women's Ministries**

Article I: Name

This organization shall be known as:

Women's Ministries of _____ Church, Presbytery
of _____, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Article II: Faith and Purpose

We affirm our document, "*The Essentials of Our Faith*." The foundation paragraph of this document follows:

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 to God's redemptive acts, culminating in the incarnation of the Living Word, the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

Statement of Purpose

Ephesians 4:12 "For the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry, for edifying of the Body of Christ . . ."

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, develop and share their God-given gifts for works of service. Central to the purpose of 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.

Article III: Membership

The membership of Women's Ministries shall be open to all women of the church. No formal membership is necessarily required for participation.

Article IV: Leadership

The leadership of Women's Ministries shall be members of the local church. Leadership shall be structured according to the needs and preferences of the local church.

Examples may include but are not limited to: 1. A Coordinator serving over committees such as Spiritual Nurture, Missions, Special Events, Service. 2. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Program Chair. 3. Director of Women's

Ministries in conjunction with a Coordinating Council initiating and overseeing the various ministries of a larger church.

Article V: Denomination Representation and Participation

Local church Women's Ministries should encourage women to participate in presbytery and national program-ming including retreats, General Assemblies, and national conferences to build and enrich connectional relationships.

Article VI: Relationships

Local Women's Ministries shall be under the jurisdiction of the local church session.**

Article VII: Finances

The local work of Women's Ministries may be financed through regular pledges, voluntary offerings, church budget, and/or fundraising as approved by the session.

Article VIII: Meetings

Meetings may be scheduled as desired and needed.

Article IX: Amendments

This Constitution may be accepted, rescinded or amended by a simple majority of Women's Ministry participants who are also members of the local church.

Article X: Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority in matters not addressed in this constitution.

Footnotes:

* "Local church" refers to both the particular churches and mission churches.

** "Session" includes local church sessions and applicable governing body over mission churches.

*Revised
Adopted at 19th General Assembly
June, 1999*



Master Plan



**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 ACMC'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 one 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
Directory of Permanent Committees**

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Rev. Juan Jose Mejias, Stated Clerk
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Pcia, Buenos Aires, Argentina
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DIRECTORY OF THE CHURCHES AND MINISTERS (1999)

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Mr. Richard Oestreicher
Director of World Outreach

Miss Miriam Seaver
Executive Secretary, World Outreach

Mr. Bob Watson
Director of Student & Young Adult
Ministries

Mrs. Suzan Ferrell
Executive Secretary, SYAM

Mrs. Janet Bain
Benefits Administrator

Mrs. Annette Minard
Financial Manager

Mrs. Janet Juday
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New Harvest Community Church (mission)
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Reverend Mark Quay (Jani)
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DIRECTORY OF THE CHURCHES AND MINISTERS (1999)

Sutter Presbyterian Church
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Bridgeton, MO 63044
Reverend Bill McConkey (Hula)
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Christ Presbyterian Church
416 S. Kingshighway, Suite 3
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Reverend Art Hunt (Linda)
573/334-6292

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
17126 Old Manchester Road
Grover, MO 63040
Dr. Philip Douglass, Stated Supply (Rebecca)
314/458-2823

Greentree Community Church (mission)
11237 Manchester
Kirkwood, MO 63122-1122
Reverend Tom Ricks (Cindy)
314/909-9197

Lakeland Community Church (mission)
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Central Presbyterian Church
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St. Louis, MO 63105
Reverend Barney Hayward
Reverend Gerald Brundle (Barbara)
Dr. Corbett Heimbürger (Kathryn)
Reverend Brad Werner (Lillian)
314/727-2777 Fax: 314/854-0168

Offsite location:
7750 Clayton Road, Suite 102
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Ministers Laboring Out of Bounds
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Reverend David Lovell (Nancy)
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NEW JERSEY

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Reverend Robert Fischer (Janet)
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Reverend Bruce Harrington (Connie)
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revetm3@aol.com
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Kingsport, TN 37665
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Mt. Calvary Presbyterian Church
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Kingsport, TN 37664
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Reverend Tommy Jordan (Karen)
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Memphis, TN 38111
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Reverend Rocky Anthony (Tracy)
Reverend Ron Sadlow (Sarah)
Dr. Paul Swets (Janiece)
Reverend Bill McCutchen (Lisa)
Reverend Ed Bertalan (Joanne)
Reverend Jim Holland (Teri)
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VIRGINIA

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PART V
ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS
OF THE
CHURCHES

1998 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT-CENTRAL SOUTH PRESBYTERY

CENTRAL SOUTH CHURCHES	*Estimated mbrshp. LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	12/31/97 MEMBERSHIP	GAINS			LOSSES			12/31/98 MEMBERSHIP	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	S.S. ENROLLMENT	ADULT BAPTISM	INFANT BAPTISM	YOUTH PROFESSIONS
					OF FAITH	CERT	OTHER	CERT	DEATHS	OTHER						
1 Aboka Presbyterian Church	Aboka, TN	2	2	44	0	0	0	2	0	4	38	35	0	0	0	0
2 Christ EPC	Houston, TX	12	12	579	15	18	23	19	5	34	562	400	428	0	8	0
3 Christ Presbyterian Church	Cape Girardeau, MO	0	0	49	2	0	0	0	0	0	51	48	21	2	0	0
4 Church of the King	Corpus Christi, TX	5	5	40	0	3	0	0	0	0	43	75	41	0	2	0
5 City of Refuge*	Houston, TX										117					
6 Cornerstone EPC	Katy, TX	7	8	93	8	29	6	0	0	4	129	167	129	0	5	0
7 Covenant Presbyterian Church	Columbus, MS	2	0	43	0	1	0	2	2	0	41	35	29	1	2	1
8 CrossPointe Community Church	Carrollton, TX	5	0	108	6	7	12	4	0	0	131	160	83	4	4	2
9 Crossroads Community Church	Austin, TX	2	3	36	6	0	0	0	0	6	34	100	74	9	1	0
10 EPC of Marshall	Marshall, TX	6	6	245	0	0	8	0	1	7	244		105	0	3	0
11 First EPC	Anna, IL	8	15	182	0	2	5	0	1	0	187	189	209	0	1	1
12 First Presbyterian Church	Houma, LA	4	3	60	0	3	6	1	2	0	66	46	46	1	1	1
13 First Presbyterian Church	Meridian, MS	12		362	0	10	3	4	7	0	365	235		0	7	4
14 First Presbyterian Church	Weslcom, TX	4	0	39	1	0	0	5	2	0	29		27	0	0	0
15 First Presbyterian Church	West Point, MS	9	6	143	5	4	5	9	2	0	146	135	124	0	1	0
16 Golden Rule Presbyterian Church	Elyian Fields, TX	4	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	22	24	0	0	0
17 Grace Covenant*	Opelousas, LA										50					
18 Grace Presbyterian Church	Alexandria, LA	8	12	241	2	4	6	8	2	0	245	225	127	0	2	0
19 Grace Presbyterian Church	Montgomery, AL	5	0	99	0	9	2	22	1	0	83	85	81	1	1	1
20 Hope Presbyterian Church	Cordova, TN	15	67	1102	77	161	237	6	3	0	1565	2056	815	47	118	14
21 Lakeside Presbyterian Church	Orandon, MS	12	18	505	1	12	13	12	1	72	458	335	300	1	7	12
22 Louisville Presbyterian Church	Louisville, MS	5	3	35	1	2	5	0	1	0	42	50	43	1	2	2
23 New Covenant Presbyterian Church	Natchez, MS	0	0	24	0	10	4	0	0	0	41	50	39	0	0	3
24 Providence Presbyterian Church	Rowlett, TX	7	0	58	0	0	7	0	0	0	62	135	0	5	1	11
25 Redeemer EPC	Birmingham, AL	4	9	87	0	0	0	25	0	0	82	85	12	0	0	0
26 Second Presbyterian Church	Memphis	35	44	3197	20	68	72	63	40	0	3287	1306	2888	21	47	45
27 St. Patrick Presbyterian Church*	Collinsville										200					
28 Trinity Presbyterian (dissolved)	Mobile, AL	2	0	38	0	0	2	0	1	3	36	35	34	0	0	0
29 Tunica Presbyterian Church	Tunica	6	8	126	0	0	0	2	1	0	121	95	100	0	1	4
30 Westminster Presbyterian Church	Laurel	9	9	245	5	13	1	2	1	0	262	180	176	0	3	1
31 Zachary Presbyterian Church	Zachary	5	0	87	4	0	0	0	0	6	66	43	47	10	0	6
TOTAL		199	230	7891	153	356	419	186	73	136	8600	6327	6002	103	217	106

1988 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST

EAST	CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	12/31/87 MEMBERSHIP	GAINS			LOSSES			12/31/88 MEMBERSHIP	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	S.S. ENROLLMENT	ADULT BAPTISM	INFANT BAPTISM	YOUTH PROFESSIONS
						PROFESSION OF FAITH	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER						
1	Ashland EPC	Voorhees, NJ	12	7	436	16	0	0	15	4	11	422	285	187	3	13	10
2	Calvary Presbyterian Church	Butler, PA	8	10	141	3	0	0	4	8	7	121		24	1	0	4
3	Dundalk Presbyterian Church	Dundalk, MD	12	2	249	2	5	0	4	5	0	246	230	175	2	2	6
4	Faith Presbyterian Church	Alexandria, VA	14	14	257	2	10	18	21	3	8	265	274	91	9	4	11
5	Fourth Presbyterian Church	Bohemia, MD	24	24	2420	86	0	0	22	15	13	3493	1500	1550	4	35	37
6	Goodwill Presbyterian Church	Montgomery, NY	6	9	86	15	0	0	0	1	0	110	100	70	9	0	0
7	Montclair Community Church	Montclair, VA	3	5	25	0	7	4	37	0	0	37	50	50	0	0	1
8	New Covenant EPC	New Castle, PA	6	6	242	4	0	8	3	2	0	254	178	63	2	0	10
9	New Hope EPC	Pittsburgh, PA			61							31	115				
10	North Park EPC	Wexford, PA	6	14	422	4	0	34	0	3	10	432	479	300	3	7	0
11	Phocelown EPC	Duanesburg, NY	5	5	250	4	1	14	0	3	0	264	240	231	1	4	0
TOTAL			96	96	4599	136	23	78	87	44	49	4693	3440	2741	34	65	79

1998 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - FLORIDA PRESBYTERY

FLORIDA	*Estimated mbrshp.	GAINS						LOSSES				MEMBERSHIP	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH
		CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	12/31/97	PROFESSION	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS						
1	Abundant Life Presbyterian	Lake Mary, FL	2	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	25	10	0	0	0
2	Cypress Pointe E.P.C.*	Oviedo, FL			125							125					
3	EPC of Plant City	Plant City, FL	12	15	348	2	7	15	7	0	0	350	315	125	3	5	10
4	Faith EPC	Brooksville, FL	6	12	298	0	5	20	0	4	2	296	280	148	0	8	0
5	First Presbyterian Church	Homeside, FL	8	5	145	2	0	4	0	3	11	128	185	56	0	2	0
6	Glendale Presbyterian	DeFuniak Springs, FL	6	0	59	0	0	0	0	1	0	55	70	44	0	0	0
7	New Covenant E.P.C.	Porto Rico Beach, FL	12	14	613	19	14	44	7	3	79	615	450	415	29	7	5
8	The Cornerstone EPC	Daytona Beach, FL	2	5	138	1	0	10	2	1	0	146	80	0	1	0	0
9	Trinity EPC	Fl. Pierce, FL	6	0	129	0	0	7	3	0	2	92		0	0	2	0
10	University EPC	Tampa, FL	5	6	118	4	5	0	0	0	0	120	82	79	0	1	2
	TOTAL		60	57	1968	29	31	100	19	12	94	1963	1467	875	33	23	17

1998 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - MID-AMERICA PRESBYTERY

MID-AMERICA	*Estimated mbrshp.	GAINS									LOSSES				12/31/98	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH
		CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	MEMBERSHIP	PROFESSION	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER	MEMBERSHIP	ATTENDANCE						
1	Baldwin Community	Baldwin, IL	5	0	40	0	0	0	0	1	0	39	25	27	0	1	0	0		
2	Central Presbyterian	St. Louis, MO	27	36	2688	18	34	52	46	18	0	2693	1131	820	9	52	27	0		
3	Covenant Chapel	Leeward, KS	5	6	230	0	17	2	15	1	0	234	350	190	2	7	0	0		
4	Emmanuel Presbyterian	Grover, MO	5	3	54	0	6	15	2	0	0	67	75	52	0	1	3	0		
5	Grace EPC	Lawrence, KS	11	3	289	0	32	0	0	1	20	302	770	321	7	8	18	0		
6	Greentree Community*	St. Louis, MO			150							150								
7	Heartland Community	Overland Park, KS	4	0	528	0	0	0	10	0	0	565	1022	965	25	59	0	0		
8	Immanuel Presbyterian	Warrenville, IL	12	10	281	5	0	0	9	0	0	281	300	259	0	3	4	0		
9	Lakeland Community	Lees Summit, MO	0	0	10	9	0	13	0	0	0	36	175	52	22	0	8	0		
10	New Harvest Community	Baldwin, MO	2	6	48	2	2	0	0	0	0	48	70	49	0	6	0	0		
11	Sutter Presbyterian*	Bridgeton, MO			107							107								
12	Trinity Fellowship	Alton, IL										45	45	37	1	0	0	0		
13	West Highlands	Lawrence, KS	3	0	48	8	4	0	2	0	2	58	70	0	0	5	0	0		
14	West Kirk EPC	Des Moines, IA	12	11	295	0	15	12	0	6	0	305	181	0	1	6	0	0		
	TOTAL		86	75	4767	42	104	94	84	27	22	4902	4214	2872	67	148	56	0		

1988 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - MID-ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY

MID-ATLANTIC	*Estimated mbrshp					GAINS				LOSSES				12/31/88	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH
		ELDER	DEACON	MEMBERSHIP	12/31/87	PROFESSION	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER	MEMBERSHIP	ATTENDANCE						
CHURCHES	LOCATION					OF FAITH													
1	Abundant Life Church	Chesapeake, VA	5	0	71	10	0	19	6	0	0	90	160	57	15	0			5
2	Bethesda Presbyterian	Florence, SC	4	0	53	0	0	1	1	1	35	17	20	10	0	1			0
3	Bridleway EPC	Chesapeake, VA	3	0	63	5	21	0	1	0	5	83	65	0	0	0			0
4	Blunswick Presbyterian	Blunswick, NC	4	0	27	0	0	0	2	0	0	18	15	7	0	0			0
5	Christ Church EPC	Anderson, SC	5	2	100	1	9	1	0	0	1	110	170	155	4	1	0		0
6	Christ Fellowship	Southern Pines, NC	4	0	0	47	1	15	2	0	0	64	80	39	2	2	2		0
7	Cleveland Presbyterian	Abingdon, VA	3	0	47	0	1	0	0	1	0	47	35	37	0	0	0		0
8	Covenant Community	Charlotte, NC	4	0	56	2	0	0	0	0	7	51	85	45	2	2	2		2
9	Cramerton Presbyterian	Cramerton, NC	5	2	37	0	0	0	0	1	0	34	25	20	0	0	0		0
10	Cregmore Presbyterian	Columbia, SC	5	0	70	0	16	0	12	0	0	71	70	33	0	2	3		3
11	Emmanuel Church	Laurens, SC	3	2	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	30	25	0	0	0		0
12	Evangelical Presbyterian	Elkton, VA	8	0	133	7	8	7	6	0	0	140	135	137	4	4	6		6
13	Faith EPC	Roanoke, VA	2	0	35	0	0	0	5	0	12	18		16	0	0		0	
14	Fellowship of Christ	Cary, NC	7	7	134	8	2	0	2	0	0	144	250	82	3	10	2		2
15	First EPC Clover	Clover, SC	4	0	46	0	1	0	0	0	6	48	43	0	0	2		3	
16	Forest Hill Presbyterian	Charlotte, NC	20	19	1586	7	74	87	14	5	0	1579	1457	921	7	34	15		15
17	Forest Hills Presbyterian	Wilson, NC	6	0	76	3	4	0	5	2	0	68	60	24	6	1		3	
18	Grace Presbyterian*	Fredericksburg, VA			28							28							
19	Hope Church	Richmond, VA	0	0	0	0	39	4	0	0	0	43	250	105	0	5		0	
20	Kempsville Presbyterian	Virginia Beach, VA	12	21	1277	15	7	56	9	2	104	1235	1078	515	14	7		25	
21	Lake Forest Community*	Comellus, NC										100	261						
22	Lebanon Presbyterian	Greenwood, VA	4	5	65	0	4	4	3	0	6	75	80	66	0	3		13	
23	Lee Park Presbyterian	Monroe, NC	7	0	79	2	3	6	2	0	0	89	88	56	0	1		1	
24	Linwood Presbyterian	Gastonia, NC	5	0	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	64	40	12	0	0		0	
25	Myrtle Grove Presbyterian	Wilmington, NC	22	16	1392	11	53	55	12	6	12	1480	1200	715	18	8		27	
26	Northampton Presbyterian	Hampton, VA	9	0	101	4	0	0	6	0	0	97	40	43	0	1		0	
27	Overbrook Community	Gaffney, SC	3	5	85	0	6	16	3	0	1	101	95	90	0	5		0	
28	Penow Presbyterian	Cross Lanes, WV	9	11	327	6	2	13	4	4	5	343	360	267	2	3		7	
29	Reynolds Presbyterian	Winston-Salem, NC	19	18	899	10	46	25	19	4	3	888	675	370	8	10		20	
30	St. Giles Presbyterian	Charlotte, NC	6	7	327	2	13	8	14	0	0	320	257	91	5	0		0	
31	Trinity Presbyterian	Florence, SC	9	9	429	0	7	9	7	3	7	430	297	305	3	4		0	
32	Westminster Presbyterian	Bluefield, WV	15	12	494	1	6	5	18	6	1	471	290	137	3	4		3	
33	Woodside Presbyterian	Roanoke, VA	3	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	32	26	1	0		1	
	TOTAL		214	137	8168	141	327	331	193	35	207	8397	7703	4308	87	113		138	

1998 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - MID-ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY

	MID-ATLANTIC	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	Abundant Life, VA	12,984.00	279,852.00	21,608.00	242,466.00	0.00	0.00	6,250.00	19,283.00	301,488.00	267,979.00	46,473.00
2	Bethesda Presbyterian, SC	10,825.00	43,828.00	8,925.00	49,870.00	0.00		188.00		52,751.00	50,059.00	13,517.00
3	Bridgeway EPC, VA	0.00	76,580.45	19,661.00	92,618.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,588.00	95,221.45	94,206.00	1,015.45
4	Brunswick Presbyterian, NC	21,224.11	19,327.49	2,424.75	16,007.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,752.24	16,007.00	26,969.35
5	Christ Church EPC, SC	32,969.12	260,673.59	318.99	215,163.66	3,300.00	1,872.00	4,278.00	16,272.24	261,192.58	240,685.90	53,295.80
6	Christ Fellowship, NC	8,011.00	93,560.00	30,163.00	115,246.00	550.00	990.00	3,950.00	6,461.00	123,723.00	127,197.00	4,537.00
7	Cleveland Presbyterian, VA	27,967.00	25,926.00	1,229.00	27,839.00	705.00	846.00	0.00	0.00	27,155.00	29,390.00	25,632.00
8	Covenant Community, NC	12,035.70	80,803.43	71.41	72,617.84	775.00	522.00	1,914.50	9,146.58	90,874.84	84,975.92	7,934.62
9	Cramerton EPC, NC	2,774.96	50,969.57	10,093.35	52,592.76	996.00	600.00	2,595.00	0.00	61,062.92	56,783.76	7,054.12
10	Cragmoore Church, SC	4,347	120,679	31,764	116,410	1,167	1,167	0	29,397	152,443	148,140	8,649
11	Emmanuel Presbyterian, SC	739	23,416	0	21,800	893	0	0	0	23,416	22,493	1,864
12	EPC, Elkton VA	-5,411	153,906	137	115,526	3,100	2,800	4,500	4,607	154,043	130,533	18,099
13	Faith EPC, VA	45,208	23,851	232,716	59,655	275	525	11,325	6,382	256,599	78,463	223,315
14	Fellowship of Christ, NC	10,157	373,007	5,150	309,772	2,310	2,675	2,000	57,480	378,157	374,237	14,077
15	First EPC, SC	4,023	31,286	0	29,169	300	0	0	1,000	31,286	30,469	4,842
16	Forest Hill, Charlotte NC	627,431	3,603,647	2,195,839	2,854,626	28,650	31,505	22,500	104,371	5,799,486	5,016,230	610,897
17	Forest Hills Presbyterian, NC	919	75,135	0	81,587	1,200	2,400	2,511	4,375	75,135	72,073	3,961
18	Grace Presbyterian, VA						288	50				
19	Hope Church, VA	47,419	265,285	82,314	241,541	0	0	3,800	10,800	327,599	255,941	119,077
20	Kempsville, VA	101,376	1,798,320	508,202	2,172,217	16,000	14,000	9,403	134,929	2,306,522	2,346,549	61,349
21	Lake Forest, NC	0	64,687	49,288	88,459	0	0	1,250	4,000	113,975	93,709	20,266
22	Lebanon Presbyterian, VA	53,725	92,452	10,302	106,409	1,500	900	1,300	7,150	102,754	117,259	39,220
23	Lee Park, NC	1,884	52,330	0	37,454	0	1,200	99	0	52,330	38,763	15,461
24	Linwood Presbyterian, NC	651	45,797	6,300	49,958	135	450	1,118		52,097	51,861	1,297
25	Myrtle Grove Presbyterian, NC	584,811	2,337,379	244,737	2,617,314	28,000	37,000	8,368	164,883	2,582,116	2,855,366	311,501
26	Northampton Presbyterian, VA	22,916	86,411	3,368	75,404	0	1,818	2,796		89,779	80,018	32,677
27	Overbrook Community, SC	38,423	236,241	2,575	205,475	1,000	1,530	4,564	9,050	238,819	221,019	55,620
28	Parrow Presbyterian, WV	29,088	851,633	4,454	481,969	6,600	5,888	12,752	151,563	658,087	658,709	26,466
29	Reynolds Presbyterian, NC	330,421	1,090,103	284,460	1,112,451	13,600	11,400	5,703	186,230	1,344,563	1,329,384	345,600
30	St. Giles, NC	226,325	720,977	9,046	361,119	6,840	6,186	9,803	226,244	730,023	610,392	345,958
31	Trinity Presbyterian, SC	475,259	662,865	0	422,021	15,863	7,938	67,986	156,107	662,865	669,715	488,409
32	Westminster Presbyterian, WV	54,487	921,000	74,829	694,098	6,425	9,180	23,404	185,590	985,829	918,897	131,829
33	Woodside Presbyterian, VA	22,378	28,842	493	25,393	900	630	0	2,669	29,335	29,592	22,121
	TOTAL		14,111,101	3,757,862	12,902,520	140,984	144,308	207,760	1,480,096	17,878,963	17,849,507	

1998 STATISTICAL REPORT - MIDWEST PRESBYTERY

MIDWEST	CHURCHES	"Estimated mbrshp.		GAINS							LOSSES			12/31/98	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH
		LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	MEMBERSHIP	OF FAITH	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER	MEMBERSHIP	ATTENDANCE						
1	BayWind Christian	Navarre, MN					45	2	0	0	0	0	47	150	70	0	1	0	
2	Calvary Presbyterian	Flint, MI	13	21	632	10	3	7	0	9	2	643	384	198	8	17	13		
3	Community EPC	Owasso, MI	4	4	103	7	0	0	0	0	0	93	160	99	7	0	0		
4	Cornerstone EPC	Brighton, MI	15	45	1989	126	48	0	2	2	0	1268	1600	1425	66	35	9		
5	Covenant Presbyterian	Ann Arbor, MI	6	6	86	0	0	0	2	0	0	86	150	115	0	1	0		
6	East Crossing EPC	Madison, WI	5	0	47	5	0	0	2	0	0	51	60	39	0	2	0		
7	Faith EPC	Richmond, OH	9	9	113	1	0	3	0	0	0	117	150	76	2	2	0		
8	Faith EPC	Lake Orion, MI	10	0	288	3	16	41	0	0	31	317	815	266	19	14	0		
9	Fellowship EPC	South Lyon, MI	9	12	203	7	7	17	2	0	0	233	275	0	16	3	0		
10	First Presbyterian	Tranton, MI	12	34	824	2	9	24	4	7	41	804	500	240	2	16	0		
11	Grace Chapel	Farmington Hills, MI	10	19	392	8	16	11	16	3	167	241		221	1	4	0		
12	Grace Community *	Oscoda, MI										50							
13	Highview Evangelical	Waukegan, WI	9	0	85	0	4	0	2	0	4	83	100	63	8	2	0		
14	Hope Community	Mentor, OH	3	2	33	0	0	0	2	0	4	27	35	48	0	0	0		
15	Immanuel Presbyterian	Northville, MI	0	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	86	87	0	0	0		
16	Kensington Community	Troy, MI	6	0	691	86	72	0	0	0	0	851	3000	1142	42	4	0		
17	Knox Presbyterian	Harrison Twnshp, MI	12	0	566	14	2	2	4	1	16	575	450		0	11	10		
18	Knox Presbyterian	Ann Arbor, MI	9	13	314	10	19	22	4	0	0	362	600	410	4	13	1		
19	Lake City EPC	Lake City, MI	5	0	64	0	0	0	3	1	1	60	125	36	3	1	0		
20	Mercy Christian	Farmington Hills, MI				1	18					26					7		
21	Military Avenue EPC	Detroit, MI	3	10	82	4	1	0	0	2	1	84	150	41	2	1	0		
22	Mt. Pleasant Community	Mt. Pleasant, MI	9	9	295	0	0	19	0	1	11	302	308	290	2	4	0		
23	New Hope Church*	Lake Orion, MI										50	97						
24	North Oaks Community	Clarkston, MI	5	0	73	0	0	0	9	0	0	65	75	75	0	1	0		
25	Oakland Avenue EPC	Pontiac, MI	6	17	228	6	1	0	2	3	0	189	186	117	0	0	0		
26	St. Andrew EPC	Auburn, IN	9	9	145	5	26	18	3	0	0	195	179	195	5	7	5		
27	Stonebridge Church	Perrysburg, OH	5	0	23	0	14	3	0	0	4	36	75	56	0	0	0		
28	Tabernacle EPC	Youngstown, OH	12	20	485	31	0	0	3	3	0	503	495	277	6	8	13		
29	Trinity Evangelical Fellowship*	Newark, OH										150							
30	Trinity Presbyterian	Plymouth, MI	15	24	620	11	17	21	5	1	9	630	550	275	4	16	13		
31	Trinity Presbyterian	Columbia City, IN	12	12	116	0	3	2	4	1	0	116	115	65	1	3	0		
32	Ward Presbyterian	Northville, MI	33	260	4194	56	220	36	20	219	4195	3000	6206	22	39	0			
	TOTAL		247	526	11829	367	331	410	105	83	510	12503	14070	11993	214	205	71		

1998 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - SOUTHEAST PRESBYTERY

SOUTHEAST	CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	MEMBERSHIP	GAINS			LOSSES			12/31/98	MEMBERSHIP	WORSHIP*	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH
						PROFESSION	CERT	OTHER	CERT	DEATHS	OTHER							
1	Brainerd Presbyterian	Chattanooga, TN	10	19	505	5	24	25	9	7	6	548	315	223	3	15	4	
2	Christ Presbyterian*	Knoxville, TN										22						
3	Community Bible Church	Highlands, NC	9	0	168	17	0	0	2	1	0	162			70	2	0	
4	Cornerstone EPC	Franklin, NC	6	0	80	1	4	2	6	1	0	80	93	23	1	0	0	
5	Faith Presbyterian Church	Lavonia, GA	8	0	92	1	1	9	8	1	0	95	45	20	3	1	1	
6	First Presbyterian Church	Rome, GA	30	21	893	1	41	25	20	7	47	898	610	731	3	18	14	
7	Flatrock Covenant Pres.**	Danvers, KY										25						
8	Grace Community Pres.	Marietta, GA	7	5	72	0	1	0	4	0	0	69	45	17	0	1	0	
9	Grace Presbyterian Church	Franklin, NC	5	7	96	6	1	3	5	1	0	93	188	57	7	0	1	
10	Harvest Church	Asheville, NC	3	11	100	0	0	18	2	0	0	85	120	50	1	7	0	
11	Lookout Valley Presbyterian	Chattanooga, TN	5	6	99	3	6	0	0	4	0	106	75	97	4	0	4	
12	Lynn Garden Presbyterian	Kingsport, TN	7	3	90	0	0	5	0	0	0	85	75	60	0	0	0	
13	Mt. Calvary Presbyterian*	Kingsport, TN										50						
14	New Beginning E.P.C.	Erlanger, KY	6	6	87	0	2	6	13	4	0	62	55	35	0	4	0	
15	Northshore Community	Knoxville, TN	4	0	55	0	3	3	2	0	0	59	85	0	2	0	0	
16	Plumtree Presbyterian	Plumtree, NC	7	6	101	0	0	4	0	0	1	113	55	90	0	0	8	
17	Valleybrook Presbyterian	Hixson, TN	6	6	140	2	7	3	18	1	7	109	110	66	1	2	0	
TOTAL			111	90	2578	36	92	103	89	27	61	2681	1691	1499	27	48	33	

1998 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - ST. ANDREWS

ST. ANDREWS (Argentina)	CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDER'S	DEACONS	12/31/97 MEMBERSHIP	GAINS			LOSSES			12/31/98 MEMBERSHIP	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	S. S. ENROLLMENT	ADULT BAPTISM	INFANT BAPTISM	YOUTH PROFESSIONS
						PROFESSION OF FAITH	CERT	OTHER	CERT	DEATHS	OTHER						
1	Belgrano*	Buenos Aires, Arg										60	60				
2	City Church*	Buenos Aires, Arg										69	68				
3	Concepcion del Uruguay*	Entre Rios Province										50	50				
4	La Mision*	Buenos Aires, Arg	2									120	120				
5	Olivos	Buenos Aires, Arg	10		361	6	0	4	0	1	218	152	175		0	5	0
6	Quilmes*	Buenos Aires, Arg										40	40				
7	San Antonio de Padua*	Buenos Aires, Arg										40	40				
8	Temperley*	Buenos Aires, Arg										200	200				
TOTAL			12		361	6	0	4	0	1	218	731	754			5	0

1998 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERY

ST ANDREWS, ARGENTINA		RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS							
	BEGINNING	TITHES &	OTHER	LOCAL	PER MEMBER	EPC	NON-EPC	TOTAL	TOTAL	ENDING		
CHURCHES	BALANCE	OFFERINGS	INCOME	CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	BENEVOLENCE	MISSIONS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE		
1 Belgrano												
2 Church of Olivos	28645	164837	1506	139876	0	0	21879	166343	161756	33232		
3 City Church												
4 La Mision						605	1875					
5 Mision Concepcion												
6 Quilmes												
7 San Antonia de Padua												
8 Temperly												
TOTAL		164837	1506	139876	0	605	1875	21879	166343	161756		

1998 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

WEST	CHURCHES	LOCATION	ELDERS	DEACONS	12/31/97			GAINS			LOSSES			12/31/98	WORSHIP	S.S.	ADULT	INFANT	YOUTH
					MEMBERSHIP	PROFESSION OF FAITH	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER	MEMBERSHIP	ATTENDANCE						
	1 Arvada Community Church	Arvada, CO											35	100					6
	2 Bear Creek EPC	Lakewood, CO	12	24	543	9	16	10	15	0	0		521	463	424	3	7		8
	3 Canyon Creek Community	Chandler, AZ	5	0	72	4	0	0	2	0	0		74	0	164	5	8		0
	4 Celebration Community*	Denver, CO											50						
	5 Cherry Creek Presbyterian	Englewood, CO	17	84	1061	16	0	70	0	8	26		1162	1050	434	9	15		18
	6 Cherry Hills Community	Highlands Ranch, CO	16	12	3718	87	112	253	113	4	151		3848	4250	1818	29	31		0
	7 Christ Covenant Church	Leoti, KS	6	0	80	5	0	0	0	0	0		85	99	79	0	2		0
	8 Christ Fellowship Church	Fl. Collins, CO	4	4	29	8	0	0	2	1	0		33	45	29	0	0		0
	9 Christ's Family Presbyterian	Chandler, AZ	0	0	49	0	5	2	4	1	4		47	40	29	0	1		0
	10 Clayton Community Church*	Clayton, CA											200						
	11 Clear View Community*	Buena Vista, CO											50						
	12 Cornerstone Community	Denver, CO	8	0	266	0	0	0	5	3	0		295	260	0	11	3		0
	13 Covenant Community Pres.	Aurora, CO	4	10	79	0	0	0	2	1	0		76	92	63	12	1		0
	14 Faith Evangelical Church	Loveland, CO	11	12	420	7	40	8	4	4	0		434	492	400	4	4		1
	15 Faith Evangelical Pres	Folsom, CA	3	0	35	4	0	0	0	1	0		38	48	35	0	1		0
	16 Faith Presbyterian Church	Aurora, CO	14	73	1028	49	0	0	15	5	68		1002	749	281	3	7		12
	17 First Evangelical Pres.	Renton, WA	15	19	586	17	9	12	12	6	0		598	650	338	7	10		2
	18 Grace Community Church	Sun City West, AZ											141	180					
	19 Greenwood Community	Englewood, CO	13	0	594	20	20	40	0	1	0		694	1100	0	0	0		0
	20 Lookout Mtn. Community	Golden, CO	6	16	402	5	2	66	0	1	42		429	800	452	10	15		0
	21 Morningside Presbyterian	Phoenix, AZ	6	12	140	4	0	0	5	2	0		137	80	42	0	1		0
	22 New Community Christian *	Denver, CO											100						
	23 New Covenant Church	Tucson, AZ	4	0	80	2	0	4	3	0	0		66	0	0	0	0		0
	24 Northwest EPC	Redmond, WA	6	0	45	1	0	11	2	0	0		55	115	162	1	5		0
	25 Parker Presbyterian Church	Parker, CO	9	22	296	14	13	23	4	0	0		342	495	247	1	3		0
	26 San Ramon Presbyterian	San Ramon, CA	9	15	294	16	53	82	16	2	0		429	450	195	9	8		2
	27 Saint Maria Community	Santa Maria, CA	3	6	91	3	0	4	0	0	0		103	58	30	0	1		4
	28 Thai Evangelical Pres.*	Bellflower, CA											45						
	29 Trinity EPC*	Liteton, CO											183						
	30 Valley Community Church	San Jacinto, CA	6	6	59	0	0	20	0	5	7		67	90	13	2	0		0
	31 West Bowles Community*	Littleton, CO											554						
	TOTAL		177	317	10000	233	270	654	205	45	338		11893	11701	5235	106	129		47

1996 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - WEST PRESBYTERY

WEST	CHURCHES	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	Arvada Community, CO											
2	Bear Creek, CO	16,348	987,159	7,296	636,252	5,500	11,363	7,275	136,976	994,455	797,368	213,435
3	Canyon Creek Community, AZ	28,140	265,503	0	290,685	0	0	0	550	265,503	291,215	2,428
4	Celebration Community, CO											
5	Cherry Creek Presbyterian, CO	1,877,143	2,139,202	323,311	1,956,390	8,000	18,100	31,765	199,250	2,462,513	2,213,505	2,126,151
6	Cherry Hills Community, CO	3,463,233	8,811,350	4,912,812	9,208,266	30,000	30,000	12,048	1,848,415	11,724,162	10,928,732	4,258,663
7	Christ Covenant Church, KS	14,195	167,564	129	78,457	1,000	1,350	0	5,520	167,693	84,327	97,561
8	Christ's Family Presbyterian, AZ	2,799	63,494	0	62,830	0	0	0	0	63,494	62,830	3,663
9	Christ Fellowship, CO	14,666	98,676	4,554	108,744	880	738	30	5,050	104,230	113,442	5,454
10	Clayton Community, CA											
11	Clear View Community, CO											
12	Cornerstone Community, CO	195,625	239,209	16,713	240,121	0	2,040	0	0	255,922	242,161	209,386
13	Covenant Community, CO	51,148	136,873	0	87,909	900	1,400	0	12,202	136,873	102,411	85,610
14	Faith Evangelical, CO	56,650	577,465	3,998	433,164	2,496	7,419	4,650	138,227	581,464	583,956	54,158
15	Faith Presbyterian, CA	8,600	101,064	0	76,936	725	675	1,160	6,790	101,064	86,286	23,376
16	Faith Presbyterian, CO	295,323	1,095,170	112,314	1,004,406	4,650	15,720	14,536	171,750	1,207,484	1,211,062	291,745
17	First EPC, WA	62,377	1,121,922	16,329	894,873	25,433	8,060	10,950	65,708	1,138,251	1,005,024	195,604
18	Grace Community, AZ											
19	Greenwood Community, CO	231,195	2,222,091	21,505	1,820,300	25,785	10,800	400	86,308	2,243,596	1,943,593	531,198
20	Lookout Mountain Community, CO	256,947	1,556,098	350,217	1,279,805	1,500	7,176	0	142,852	1,906,315	1,431,333	731,928
21	Morningside Presbyterian, AZ	1,303	138,572	29,716	109,181	2,500	60	1,980	39,758	168,288	153,479	16,112
22	New Community Christian, CO											
23	New Covenant, AZ	119,376	115,688	53,625	129,255	900	1,440	5,230	34,504	169,313	171,329	117,360
24	Northwest Presbyterian, WA	54,000	100,144	1,448	81,353	1,200	608	1,200	8,495	101,592	92,856	62,736
25	Parker Presbyterian, CO	342,533	144,200	0	270,395	0	5,454	7,600	0	144,200	283,449	203,264
26	San Ramon Presbyterian, CA	0	38,169	0	27,188	0	0	500	0	38,169	27,888	10,461
27	Santa Maria Community, CA	69,185	118,962	5,505	106,026	1,148	1,640	3,300	1,150	124,467	113,264	80,388
28	Thei EPC *, CA											
29	Trinity EPC, CO											
30	Valley Community, CA	6,808	52,032	5,872	54,294	300	990	300	300	57,904	56,184	8,528
31	West Bowles Community, CO											
	TOTAL		18,291,607	5,865,345	18,952,813	112,917	125,033	102,924	2,701,807	24,156,952	21,995,294	

1998 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - SUMMARY

Summary	GAINS						LOSSES				12/31/98 MEMBERSHIP	WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	S.S. ENROLLMENT	ADULT BAPTISM	INFANT BAPTISM	YOUTH PROFESSIONS
	ELDER	DEACON	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/97	OF FAITH	CERT.	OTHER	CERT.	DEATHS	OTHER							
Central South	195	230	7801	153	356	419	188	73	138	6800	6327	6002	103	217	198	
East	98	98	4599	136	23	78	87	44	49	4693	3440	2741	34	65	79	
Florida	60	57	1998	29	31	100	19	12	94	1963	1467	875	33	23	17	
Mid America	86	75	4767	42	104	94	84	27	22	4902	4214	2872	67	148	56	
Mid Atlantic	214	137	8188	141	327	331	153	35	207	8397	7703	4388	97	113	138	
Midwest	247	526	11829	387	331	410	105	53	510	12503	14070	11993	214	205	71	
Southeast	111	90	2578	36	82	103	89	27	51	2681	1881	1499	27	48	33	
St. Andrews	12	0	361	8	0	4	0	1	218	731	754	0	0	5	0	
West	177	317	10000	233	270	654	205	45	338	11893	11701	5235	106	129	47	
TOTAL	1,198	1,528	52,191	1,163	1,534	2,193	928	317	1,635	56,563	51,567	35,605	681	953	549	

1998 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - SUMMARY

SUMMARY	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS			PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS
	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	LOCAL PRESBYTERY	LOCAL PRESBYTERY					
Central South Presbytery	19,083,044	2,476,038	17,987,679	112,683	141,965	239,237	2,033,303	21,559,082	20,514,867	
Presbytery of the East	6,235,975	578,625	3,496,651	11,285	29,049	84,874	447,450	6,814,600	4,069,310	
Presbytery of Florida	2,934,222	334,927	2,841,099	30,717	19,641	49,775	161,334	3,269,150	3,102,566	
Mid-America Presbytery	7,764,052	1,305,295	9,349,448	73,098	70,390	80,172	484,660	9,069,347	10,057,768	
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery	14,111,101	3,767,862	12,902,520	140,984	144,306	207,760	1,480,096	17,878,963	14,875,667	
Midwest Presbytery	28,461,329	6,606,082	33,346,106	96,446	186,071	480,763	1,908,096	35,067,411	36,017,481	
Southeast Presbytery	4,904,162	501,805	4,364,964	111,511	40,576	53,783	336,996	5,405,967	4,907,829	
Presbytery of the West	18,291,607	5,865,345	18,952,613	112,917	125,033	102,924	2,701,807	24,156,952	21,995,294	
St Andrews Presbytery	164,837	1,506	139,876	0	605	1,875	21,879	166,343	161,756	
TOTAL	101,950,330	21,437,484	103,380,957	689,640	757,538	1,301,163	9,575,621	123,387,814	115,702,538	

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