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**MINUTES**

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**of the  
20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

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**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**June 22-24, 2000  
Northville, Michigan**

## **OFFICERS OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**MODERATOR:**

Mr. John M. Graham, III  
Smith, Shaw & Maddox, LLP  
Suntrust Bank Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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**STATED CLERK:**

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Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
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**STATED CLERK-ELECT:**

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

**PLEASE ADDRESS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

The Reverend Mr. Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk  
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Livonia, Michigan 48154

**NEXT MEETING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Greenwood Community Church  
5600 East Belleview Avenue  
Greenwood Village, CO 80111  
June 21-23, 2001

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**MINUTES**

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**of the**

**20th General Assembly**

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**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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*For Such a Time As This*

Matthew 5: 14-16



## FOREWORD

The five sections of this volume are as follows:

**JOURNAL:** the minutes of the daily sessions of the Assembly. Though the Journal does not contain the documents that appear in the second section (Appendices), it does contain the recommendations made in those documents. Those recommendations appear in the Journal at the point where they were considered. For ease of reference and cross-reference, the Journal is divided into articles. An index of this section appears at the end of the Journal. The reports of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly committees are included at the end of the Journal section.

**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:** The members of the permanent committees of the Assembly are listed in this section. As a directory of the churches, ministers and presbytery officers is published separately, they are no longer included in these minutes.

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

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

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## Moderator, 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

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John Meredith Graham, III was elected Moderator of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

A ruling elder ordained in 1977 at First Presbyterian Church in Rome, Georgia, John came to the Lord in 1976 during a lay renewal held at First Presbyterian, under the leadership of the late Dr. Andrew Jumper. John is a Sunday school teacher and participates in the church's Men's Prayer Breakfast, Men's Accountability Group and Promise Keepers. His responsibilities on Session have included the Advisory Committee, Christian Growth and Nurture Committee, Young Adult Ministries, Prayer Ministries, and Search Committee for the Director of Ministry to Families and Children. He currently serves on the Pastors Advisory Committee, the Search Committee and Prayer Ministry. John serves the General Assembly as a member of the permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications.



A graduate of Washington and Lee University and the University of Virginia, John is a partner in the law firm of Smith, Shaw & Maddox. Areas of practice include Fiduciary Law, Trust, Estates and Federal and State Taxation, as well as Transactional Law and special litigation involving trusts and estates. John's professional responsibilities include being a member of the Rome and Georgia Bar Associations, member and past president of the Fiduciary Law Section of the Georgia Bar Association, member of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Director of Sun Trust Bank and Trustee of Darlington School.

John has been honored as Rome (Floyd County) Young Man of the Year, and was one of Five Outstanding Young Men of Georgia (Georgia Jaycees). He also participated in Leadership Georgia.

John and his wife, Frances Ann Daniel Graham, have been married 37 years and are the parents of John M. Graham, IV, Mather D. Graham, and Robert B. Graham. They have five precious grandchildren with a sixth expected in December. John also enjoys tennis, reading, writing, and traveling.

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## Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk

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Reverend Michael Glodo was elected Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. At the end of 2000, the incumbent Stated Clerk, Dr. Edward Davis, will retire after 20 years of service in that office.

Reverend Glodo is a native of southern Illinois, who moved to St. Louis after graduating from the University of Illinois (Urbana) with a B.S. in Accountancy. It was in St. Louis where he joined Central Presbyterian Church in 1980, being ordained a deacon in 1983. Mike's early professional life was spent as a CPA both in public and private accounting. At Central, he would eventually join the staff in its college and singles ministry while completing his M.Div. at Covenant Theological Seminary. He also served as business manager and secretary-treasurer in the founding year of Lay Renewal Ministries.



Ordained in 1987, Reverend Glodo was Assistant Pastor of Sutter Presbyterian Church until 1989 when he also received a Th.M. in Old Testament from Covenant Seminary.

After completing his residency for a Ph.D. in Hermeneutics and Biblical Interpretation at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Reverend Glodo was invited to join the newly established Orlando campus of Reformed Theological Seminary to teach Old Testament and serve as Dean of Students. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate and has divided his teaching time between Old Testament and preaching for the past several years.

Active on the General Assembly level, Reverend Glodo has been a recording clerk during the General Assembly, and currently serves on the permanent Theology Committee and the Ad Interim Committee on "The Essentials" and the *Westminster Confession*. Published works include such subjects as postmodernism and biblical interpretation, worship and the doctrine of the church. His *Living Pictures of the People of God* is forthcoming from Christian Focus Publications.

Reverend Glodo and his wife, Vicki, are the parents of Rachel, 10 and Samuel, 3. Mrs. Glodo is an experienced school teacher who enjoys teaching science. Besides serving with her husband in previous parish ministries, Mrs. Glodo has worked for a number of years helping to prepare wives of seminarians for ministry.

## MODERATORS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Assembly	Year	Name	Presbytery	Place of Assembly
1 <sup>st</sup>	1981	Rev. Calvin Gray	Midwest	Livonia, Michigan
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1982	Elder Irvin Rinehart	West	Aurora, Colorado
3 <sup>rd</sup>	1983	Dr. James Van Dyke	Southeast	St. Louis, Missouri
4 <sup>th</sup>	1984	Elder Donald Harms	Midwest	Jackson, Mississippi
5 <sup>th</sup>	1985	Rev. James Morrison	East	Aurora, Colorado
6 <sup>th</sup>	1986	Elder Roger Vonder Bruegge	Central South	Livonia, Michigan
7 <sup>th</sup>	1987	Dr. E. Perry Mobley	Southeast	Rome, Georgia
8 <sup>th</sup>	1988	Elder Richard Heidtman	Midwest	Englewood, Colorado
9 <sup>th</sup>	1989	Dr. Andrew Jumper	Central South	St. Louis, Missouri
10 <sup>th</sup>	1990	Elder James Rimmel	Allegheny	Bethesda, Maryland
11 <sup>th</sup>	1991	Dr. William Flannagan	Central South	Livonia, Michigan
12 <sup>th</sup>	1992	Elder John Adamson	Central South	Memphis, Tennessee
13 <sup>th</sup>	1993	Dr. W. Graham Smith	East	Aurora, Colorado
14 <sup>th</sup>	1994	Elder William Johns	Southeast	Pompano Beach, Florida
15 <sup>th</sup>	1995	Rev. Wayne Hoffman	Mid-America	Charlotte, North Carolina
16 <sup>th</sup>	1996	Elder Claude Russell	West	Englewood, Colorado
17 <sup>th</sup>	1997	Dr. Richard Little	Mid-Atlantic	St. Louis, Missouri
18 <sup>th</sup>	1998	Elder Alan Smith	East	Highlands Ranch, Colorado
19 <sup>th</sup>	1999	Dr. James McGuire	Midwest	Rome, Georgia
20 <sup>th</sup>	2000	Elder John M. Graham, III	Southeast	Northville, Michigan

## STATED CLERKS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Years		Presbytery of Origin
1981-2000	Dr. L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk Emeritus	Midwest
2001-	Reverend Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk	Florida

## TRUSTEES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

<i>Class of 2003</i>		
Dr. Bill Hyer Christ Church EPC 3120 Highway 81 North Anderson, SC 29621 864/226-2979	Elder Knox Sherer 101 Sandymeade Ct. Matthews, NC 28105 704/569-0002	Elder Virginia Patterson 414-3 Cromwell Circle Bartlett, IL 60103 630/483-3829
<i>Class of 2002</i>		
Elder John Adamson Second Presbyterian 4055 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38111 901/454-0034	Dr. Willard Davis 1760 Montrovia Street Palm Bay, Florida 407/953-6548	Rev. Harold K. Polk, Jr. Calvary Presbyterian Church 6100 Richfield Road Flint, MI 48506 810/736-4100
<i>Class of 2001</i>		
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MINUTES  
of the  
20<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JOURNAL

Minutes - Thursday morning

First Session  
June 22, 2000

20-1 MORNING WORSHIP

Worship began at 8:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville, Michigan. Moderator Jimmy McGuire, opened the service with prayer after opening music *Just A Little Talk with Jesus* sung by the Ward Men's Chorus. Following congregational singing and a responsive reading, the Ward Men's Chorus sang *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. Rev. Mark Jumper led in a season of prayer and introduced Stated Clerk Edward Davis who preached from Esther 4:14 on the theme *For Such A Time As This*.

*For Such a Time As This*  
Dr. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk  
Thursday, June 22, 2000

In the opening worship service of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, preaching is typically the pleasure and privilege of the host pastor of the church in which the assembly is convening. And I have this privilege of opening God's Word in my heart to you only by the insistent request of this church's pastor, Dr. McGuire, to whom I am indebted for this privilege.

Would you turn with me please to the Book of Esther. In your pew Bibles it's page 354. My readings will skim the book. We're beginning in the first chapter, the first verse. Our text ultimately arises out of the fourth chapter the fourteenth verse so if you get lost in the process, just stay in chapter 4 and we'll ultimately come back to you as we think together on the subject, "For Such a Time As This." This is the Word of God. Listen to it.

*This is what happened during the time of Xerxes, the Xerxes who ruled 127 provinces stretching from India to Cush. At that time King Xerxes reigned from his royal throne in the citadel of Susa, and in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his nobles and officials. The military leaders of Persia and Media, the princes and nobles of the provinces were present.*

*For a full 180 days he displayed the vast wealth of his kingdom and the splendor and glory of his majesty. When these days were over, the king gave a banquet lasting seven days. On the seventh day he commanded the seven eunuchs who served him to bring before him Queen Vashti in order to display her beauty. Queen Vashti refused to come. Then the king became furious and burned with anger. He spoke with the wise men who understood the times and were closest to the king who said to him, "Therefore if it pleases the king let him issue a royal decree that Vashti is never again to enter the presence of the king. Also let the king give her royal position to someone else who is better than she."*

*Then the king's personal attendants proposed, "Let the search be made for a beautiful young virgin for the king." Now there was in the citadel of Susa a Jew of the tribe of Benjamin named Mordecai who had been carried into the exile from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. And Mordecai had a cousin by the name of Hadassah whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features.*

*Esther had not revealed her nationality and family background because Mordecai had forbidden her to do so. Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women so he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen.*

*And after these events, King Xerxes honored Haman, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than all the other nobles, but Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. When Haman saw that Mordecai*

would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed and scattered among the people in all the provinces of your kingdom whose customs are different from all other people and who do not obey the king's law. If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them." And the king said to Haman, "Do with the people as you please." Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews.

When Mordecai learned of all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes and went out into the city, wailing loudly and bitterly. Then Esther summoned one of the king's eunuchs assigned to attend her and ordered him to find out what was troubling Mordecai and why. And Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him. He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation. He told him to urge Esther to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people. And he went back to Esther and she instructed him to say to Mordecai, "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king without being summoned, the king has but one law: that he be put to death. The only exception to this is for the king to extend the gold scepter to him and spare his life." When Esther's words were reported back to Mordecai, he sent back to her this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone will escape. For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. When this is done I will go to the king even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

On the third day Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the palace in front of the king's hall. When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you." Queen Esther answered, "If I have found favor with you, O king, and if it pleases your majesty, grant me my life and spare my people. For I and my people have been sold for destruction and slaughter and annihilation." King Xerxes asked Queen Esther, "Who is he? Where is the man who has dared to do such a thing?" Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this vile Haman." The king said, "Hang him." So they hanged Haman on the gallows he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king's fury subsided.

Esther again pleaded with the king, "If it pleases the king and if he regards me with favor, let an order be written overruling the dispatches that Haman wrote to destroy the Jews in all the king's provinces. For how can I bear to see the destruction of my family?" The king replied, "Now write another decree in the king's name on behalf of the Jews." The king's edict granted the Jews in every city the right to assemble and protect themselves. For the Jews it was a time of happiness and joy, gladness and honor."

I want to begin by suggesting, as we think upon our textual context and thought without lifting it unduly out of its historical context, that we think on the question, "May it be that God has brought you to this royal position," Mordecai said to Esther, "for such a time as this?" And our question, as we enter the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our life together as a people, is the question, Is it indeed true that God, by his grace, has brought us to this time and this place for a very special purpose? I would suggest to you that we are not here, and have not been here these 20 years, by accident but rather by the sovereign providence of our Lord. Twenty years ago in this church, in a General Assembly convened following several preceding convocations in the city of St. Louis, approximately 12 churches representing 10,000 people, and about 75 ruling elders and teaching elders came together and constituted in that first assembly a family of God known as the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

And here we are today, beginning our 20<sup>th</sup> year of celebration which will span yet another Assembly. You know, in the scriptures there are at least two major words of great interest for the word "time." They are the words "chronos" and "kairos." History is suggested as being the succession of moments. But kairos in the Old Testament (we find it more than 300 times in the Septuagint) indicates a special time and place in which from God to his people and into the created order, there is a special movement and visitation of God which is decisive, special and unique. Out of our textual context this morning, that is, with Esther and Mordecai of old, the Jewish people of the southern kingdom had been carried into exile by Nebuchadnezzar. Two portions of the kingdom in captivity had been enabled under Zerubbabel and Ezra to return to Judah and Jerusalem and rebuild, but there were still those, the Diaspora, who lived in what was now the Persian empire. Mordecai and young Esther and other Jews were part of the exilic community who continued living in that great empire. God's community, his people, were about to go through the hideous conspiracy and the political machinations of a man by the name of Haman and were under an edict to be exterminated. To be killed. To be rubbed out. To be eliminated. The king had not realized the extent of the conspiracy, and edicts had gone out that this strange people spread across the provinces of the empire were at some

subsequent point to be eliminated in whatever way was seen fit. Into that very special moment of history of God's people came a *kairos* moment. Now, I am fully aware those of you who know and have studied the Old Testament very well, that irrespective of the high regard the Book of Esther holds in the Jewish community and understandably so, there is no formal recognition or identification of God in the Book of Esther. But those of you who understand the canon and the work of the Spirit of God in forming the canon at least as understood in most of our Reformation tradition, know that we believe that the canon (the old, the new and every part of it), is what it is and where it is by the work of the Holy Spirit. That the inspiration of God's Spirit upon the written words delivered however God so ordains is the criteria of canonicity, and we accept Esther as part of God's divine and infallible Word. It's a story of providential and sovereign deliverance. It's a reminder to us as God's people even in our day, that the Lord of history is also the sovereign in every regard of our well being, of our comings and goings, of the vicissitudes that may confront us. He is God almighty who made both heaven and earth and this beautiful creation as fallen as it may be, and we are his people—even we who stand in the covenantal tradition of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Reformers. We are who we are and we stand where we stand not by accident but by the divine sovereign call of a provident God. And I would dare to say there is, however modest it may be, an analogy to be understood in God's ways and God's dealings making of this family of churches defined by those common spiritual biblical values which we share and are bonded together, if you will permit me the indulgence of Jonathan Edwards' favorite phrase, in "the effectuality of the Holy Spirit." If Jonathan Edwards bothers you (and I trust he doesn't), then substitute the word "fellowship" for "effectuality." But the word "effectuality" is great for a sermon.

But God, 20 years ago, moved upon a small group of people, many of whom are in his glory today so that you and I might be here today. When we look at the Book of Esther, it's fascinating to be reminded by those little providential reminders. Humanly speaking we might call them the ironies of God's providence that saved God's people and set the stage for deliverance: The queen's deposition and the identification of a young, heretofore unknown, Hebrew stepchild of a Jew from the tribe of Benjamin by the name of Mordecai. Her selection out of many others, her being identified as queen and accepted when the urgency was there for her to approach the king, her being accepted by his grace into his presence that she might speak forth the word that needed to be heard irrespective of the potential cost that she knew she might pay; if I perish, so be it, I will perish. And yet the king's graciousness, even in the land of the Medes and Persians and all that meant for the laws of that day, was to issue an edict that overrode the preceding edict in a marvelous way. These were not accidents, folks. These were the divine acts of an intervening God in a *kairos* moment in which God moved into the plane of human history to do something special and unique that would remind people that above all else, they were the people of God, the family of God. Twenty years ago God called us into this family. And in those early years the story could be told of many delightful ironies of providence. Some of you may not like that contract, but that's okay. We'll get by with it. Men and women were used in significant ways to bring us into this family.

There are four observations I would like to make out of this text, out of the understanding that as it was in Esther and Mordecai's historical time, when the word of God came to her through him and said, "Who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"

Keep that question before us and never presume that what we are today, or have been by God's providential sovereignty and graciousness, is that which we will always and automatically be. But rather we are reminded that as we walk as a people by faith we will increasingly become what God wants us to be only if we are faithful. And that faithfulness, if nothing else in American Presbyterian history teaches us, should not be taken for granted. But there came to that little group of pilgrims in the late 70s and early 80s through a variety of means, a conclusion. And the conclusion, if you will permit a roughly stated phrase, was "Enough is enough." Enough is enough. That was a *kairos* moment. Let me make four observations about what it meant to say "enough is enough" at that time.

The first observation is this. Because we ask the question, enough is enough of what? I would say to you it was the erosion of the uncompromising fidelity to the infallible authority of God's word. Enough is enough. We had seen the authority of that word severely compromised. We had been reminded by the prophets within the Christian community that God is not silent and God does not stutter. And we recognized that in the community in which some of us were a part the God who does not stutter had a people who did. Enough is enough. We recognized that in the gentle erosion of the authority of an infallible word of God there is ultimately an erosion of the Christology that makes us who we are. We recognized that with the erosion of the authority of God's word and the impact on the Christology that is the historic backbone of the body of Christ, there is ultimately an erosion of the Gospel, the compromising of the unequivocal testimony of scripture that under no other name than the name of Jesus Christ are men and women to be saved and brought into his kingdom. Enough is enough.

The second observation from that *kairos* moment out of which we've come is this: there was the erosion of freedom of conscience. Some of you here this morning lived through (as you did the Mansfield Kaseman issue that speaks to point one) the implications of the Kenyon case. This purported to say that the larger church in matters that

are secondary to the fundamental truths of the confessions and creeds that we own, can be trusted, and the freedom given to God's people to sovereignly ascertain the will of God's Spirit for them as a people. We did not need to be told to elect to office any particular class, origin, or race needed by God's people. Nor on the other hand, when we began to look around and realize there was no room at the inn outside the Big Inn at that point, did we need to be told that we shouldn't have the freedom to make that choice if that was the will of God's people in any given time and place. This was the erosion of freedom of conscience, the ability to let the main things be the main things and to let secondary things be secondary and to believe that the Spirit of God will be faithful to the sessions, presbyteries and the assembly of our family of churches.

The third observation was that there seemed to be a growing unwillingness to be fully Trinitarian: to not only happily affirm the Father and the Son but also the reality of the Holy Spirit. To affirm the presence and vitality of the Holy Spirit and his power, his giftedness, his calling, his fruitfulness. To recognize that we didn't have to grapple with the issues of enthusiasm of the Azusa Street movement or extremities such as that insofar as our tradition is concerned. But we needed to have both the freedom and the conviction to affirm that God is three in one, fully Trinitarian, and that the Holy Spirit is God with us wanting to bless and empower and endure us. This is a kairos moment - the anointing, the pouring forth and the empowerment of the Spirit of God in freedom upon his people. So we recognize that we chose, and needed to choose, and saw it in a fresh and new way that there is a wonderful life of abundant living in the Spirit, not only in the scriptures but also in our predecessors—great persons of faith who have preceded us—in John Calvin and John Knox, in Richard Baxter, Jonathan Edwards. The effectuality of the Holy Spirit.

Last, the fourth observation that came to us in that kairos moment and which we carry with us, was the recognition of our failure at times, even as evangelicals and faithful to our confessions, to practice God's truth in the graciousness of his love. You will remember, those of you who were here twenty years ago, that Francis Schaeffer ministered to us and reminded us of the message of one of his little books that God's family lives out its lives as God's people before a watching world. And they not only need to see and hear divine truth, but they need to see and experience God's divine love. We heard him remind us, as one who stood in the tradition of the 20s and 30s, although the Machen controversy and those who gave much in those years (himself included) to hold forth the truth of the word of God, at times it was done without the love that it warranted. And so we were reminded that we hold forth the truth, and need to hold forth the truth, before a watching world with great, great love.

The baton is passing from a first generation to the second. This is a kairos moment. The issues may change but the fundamental principles that affirm that the absence of divine truth and divine love and the reality of a Trinitarian God are realities to which we must never slip and principles from which we must never move. The issues will change. The Mansfield Kasemans will die and go on to their eternal assessment. Many of the rest of us have gone, or will go in the years ahead. But the issues of faith and conscience and fidelity and confidence and empowerment and love will continue the need of the family of God until the Lord returns. The specific issues are changing but the fundamental principal issues are not. Twenty years ago we didn't have to struggle with what we have to today - issues of abortion, euthanasia, and biological determinism. We did not have to struggle at that time with the issue of same-sex marriages, but today we do. But the faithfulness that God brought us to out of that kairos moment and spoke to us of, is the faithfulness that he calls us to reaffirm today. Let the word go forth to the world that knows us, that the baton is being passed to a new, spiritually vital, faithful generation. Let the word go forth that God is continuing to bless us mightily. Let the word go forth that we intend to remain faithful to the infallible authority of his word, to the fullness of his Son, to the reality of the outpouring and empowerment and life that is in his Spirit. Let no one question us on that. Let the word also go forth that God has richly blessed us with wonderful resources. These past years it's been my privilege to move across the face of other Christian kingdom organizations and to be involved to some extent in some of them. Let me say to you that in that broad exposure, which has been a privilege, there's no body, no family of God that I'm aware of that has any greater men and women endowed with the Holy Spirit than we do. These men and women who occupy pulpits can turn this culture and nation around. When churches are so vital with the life of the Spirit the watching world has to sit up and take notice. This is the heritage God has given us. And in this kairos moment, as we celebrate not only God's faithfulness to us in the past, let us celebrate the expectations that he wants to give us for the future. Let's be happy and joyful and, with Mordecai of old after God had delivered his people through the faithfulness of Esther, proclaim to a watching world the reality of who we are as a family. And as that reality is proclaimed, like God's people of old in Persia, may there be times of great joy and great happiness and great celebration because God, once again, wants to visit us. Let us pray.

Our Father and our God, we would not dare to simply celebrate the past, as important as it is. As we convene these days, by your Spirit may we enjoy the present through the presence of your Spirit. But, O God, as you in your sovereign and providential way pass this legacy of your grace onto others, may we celebrate that with great expectation also. Fill our hearts with great joy and happiness that the God whom we love and serve who is from



everlasting to everlasting is ever ready and willing to revisit his people. And, O Lord, we look for that divine moment. These things we pray in your name and for the glory of your son. Amen.

Rev. McGuire introduced the EPC missionaries present, noting thanks to Women's Ministries whose Faith Focus project raised the funds necessary to bring them home for this Assembly. This Assembly begins a yearlong celebration as the EPC begins its 20<sup>th</sup> year as a church family.

MISSIONARY	LOCATION
Antonucci, Rob & Iris	US/Muslim World
Barany, Dick & Linda	Kenya
Burns, Dan & Catherine	Kazakhstan
Clark, Dan & Jan	England/Muslim World
Creech, Chuck & Kim	Argentina
Haines, John & Margy	France
Halbedl, Randy and Martha	Malaysia
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, Mart & Michelle	Central Asia
Livingstone, Greg & Sally	England/Muslim World
Massey, Kundan & Iqbal	US/Muslim World
McCurry, John & Carlene	US/Muslim World
Meeks, Chris & Gina	Argentina
Meyer, Ross & Sandy	Argentina
Mindling, Tim & Karen	Central Asia
Mitchell, Tim & Kim	East Asia
North, Tim	Middle East
Robles, Marcelo & Miriam	Argentina
Rowen, Sam	US/East Asia
Singh, Juan & Adriana	US/Hispanic
White, Allen & Pat	Kazakhstan
Young, Jonathan & Fozia	Russia

The Moderator offered special prayer for the families of Rev. Graham Smith and Rev. Bartlett Hess, both of whom have gone to be with the Lord this year. The service closed with a benediction by Rev. McGuire.

## 20-2 CONVENING OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was called to order with prayer at 10:10 a.m. by the Moderator, Rev. Jimmy McGuire.

### Opening Prayer

*Holy Father, thank you for the grace you have poured out on our lives, lavished on us in Jesus Christ. Let us not forget every hour we are here, no matter what matter engages our brains that we are the children of God and to act like it. Lord, grant us this grace. We don't want to bring disfavor on you or criticism by the watching*

*world. Help us, Lord, to treat each other as more worthy than ourselves and that is not natural. Grant us the Spirit, Lord, in Jesus name. Amen*

**ON MOTION** Elder Frank Johnson, Rev. Bob Garment and Rev. Russ Ragon were elected as Recording Clerks.

David Satterthwaite, Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee, opened his report with prayer. Mr. Satterthwaite welcomed the Assembly and made various announcements concerning facilities and arrangements.

**20-3 DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND ASSEMBLY ENROLLMENT**

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

<b>PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH</b>			
<u>City</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Birmingham AL	Redeemer		Lee Kizer
Montgomery, AL	Grace	Ted Hailes	Bud Brainerd
		Howard Upchurch	
Anna, IL	First	Jim Harris	Steve Wilkinson
		Joe Plemmon	Ron Cox
Alexandria, LA	Grace	Merrill Blackburn	David Moncla
Houma, LA	First		David Herbertson
Opelousas, LA	Grace Covenant		Richard Gordon
Zachary, LA	Zachary		Gordon Calbreath
Brandon, MS	Lakeside	Morton Bradley	Greg Anthony
		Bill Holmes	Jim Blaha
		Melvin Smith	
Columbus, MS	Covenant		Bob Wilbur
Laurel, MS	Westminster	Al Moore	Russell Loudon
Louisville, MS	Louisville	Gloria Joiner	Chris Kiepe
Meridian, MS	First	Jim Cantey	David Todd
West Point, MS	First		Waring Porter
Cape Girardeau, MS	Christ		Art Hunt
Collierville, TN	St. Patrick	Wallace Madewell	Jim Holland
		James Nelson	
Cordova, TN	Hope	Richard Day	Craig Strickland
		Gregory Ward	Steve Bristol
Memphis, TN	Second	John Adamson	Rocky Anthony
		Will Albritton	Charles Jacob
		Wilton Hazelwood	Ron Sadlow
		Jim Hunter	Sanders Willson
		Hawley Ingram, Jr.	
		Milton Knowlton	
		Arnold Lindseth, Jr.	
		Jim McCormick	
		Traverse Read, III	

Carrollton, TX	CrossPointe	David Shira	Rhett Payne, III
Elysian Fields, TX	Golden Rule		Gene Huntzinger
Houston, TX	Christ	Charles Haden	Ron Horgan
			John Crimmins
Katy, TX	City of Refuge	Dan Tidwell	Rufus Smith, IV
	Cornerstone		Brian Land
			Buck Oliphant
Marshall, TX	EPC	Orin Littlejohn	
		Hillard Strong	
San Antonio, TX	Hope		Tom Masterson
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			
			Dan Burns
			Bill Hampton
			Brian Hill
			David Keyser
			Ron Pierce
			Juan Singh

## PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Ministers
Bethesda, MD	Fourth	Richard Bowman Charles Brady Robert Giles John Hocker Kent Talbert Marty West	Robert Norris
Dundalk, MD	Dundalk		Paul Brown
Voorhees, NJ	Ashland	Frank Johnson William Walker	James Bates Ian Lamont
Duanesburg, NY	Princeton	Doug Knapp, Sr.	Gary Westra
Montgomery, NY	Goodwill	Richard DeKay Joseph Slesinski, III	John Torres
Butler, PA	Calvary	Donald Puller	Mike Winship
New Castle, PA	New Covenant	Alan Enos Richard Hite	George Yates
Pittsburgh, PA	New Hope		Rodger Woodworth
Wexford, PA	North Park	Bill Gross Mark Sharpnack	Rick Stauffer
Alexandria, VA	Faith	Zelda Artz Jerry Hulick Alan Smith Steele Stewart, Jr.	Neil Smith
Montclair, VA	Montclair	James Musick	
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			
			Richard Barany
			Scott Janney
			Glenn Marshall
			Sam Rowen

Nancy Stewart

**PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA**

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Ministers
Brooksville	Faith	Karl Baldner Scott Knight Robert Lloyd Donald Nelson Keith Parkhill Felix Sharpe	Ron DiNunzio
Defuniak Springs	Glendale	JunEllen Ray W.A. Ray	Chris Talley
Ft. Pierce Homestead	Trinity First	Connie Jennings Joyce Hickson-Szten	Bob Garment Bob Hess
Oviedo	Cypress Pointe		Dan Lacich
Plant City	EPC	Larry Doak Anne Litzenberger Thom Schultz Patrick Stottlemeyer	Don Mason
Pompano Beach	New Covenant	Doug Balch Gerry Hittenberger Johnny Hosford Jose Rojas Deborah Toombs	Jim Letizia
Tampa	University	Richard Elm Frank Mathias	Woody Johnson

*Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:*

Bruce Gimbel  
Michael Glodo  
Mark Jumper

**PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA**

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Ministers
Alton, IL	Trinity Fellowship		David Baer
Warrenville, IL	Immanuel	James Mann Carolyn Nystrom Virginia Patterson David van Vuuren	Charles Gosling
Des Moines, IA	Westkirk		Wayne Hoffman
Overland Park, KS	Covenant Chapel		Brad Buescher Tom Ryan
Columbia, MO	The Crossing		Dave Cover
Bridgeton, MO	Sutter	Stan Davis	
Kirkwood, MO	Greentree	Tom Sturgeon Jeff Peters	
Lee's Summit, MO	Lakeland		Dan Wilburn
St. Louis, MO	Central	Dexter Kuhlman Bill Meeks	Doug Graham Barney Heyward

	Emmanuel	Gerald Selle	Brad Werner
Warrenton, MO	Good Shepherd		Charles Plant
Waukesha, WI	Highview	David Block William Irwin Wendy Walker	Dennis Henn
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			Craig Babb Chris Meeks

## PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Ministers
Burgaw, NC	New Covenant		Steve Keller
Cary, NC	Fellowship of Christ	Cliff Jones Bob Mathews	David McLean
Charlotte, NC	Covenant		Jimmy Carr Grady Davidson Steve Jessen
	Forest Hill	Ben Brown Tim Jordan Charles Overstreet Knox Sherer	Mike Boulware David Chadwick Robbi Fischer Jeffrey Park David Ruff Percy Burns
	St. Giles	Rister Jenkins John Wohlfarth	
Cornelius, NC	Lake Forest Comm.		Michael Moses
Highlands, NC	Community	William Hornsby	
Lewisville, NC	River Oaks	Frank Carter	David Beaty
Southern Pines, NC	Christ Fellowship	John Rudd	Don Hardman
Wilmington, NC	Myrtle Grove	Bill Blackley Jack Loflin Don Phillips Tony Register	Ken Burbridge James Glasgow Bryan Slater
Winston-Salem, NC	Reynolda	Bob Roach Rudy Rogers John Sherard Frances Wall James Wall Henry Phelps	Alan Wright
Anderson, SC	Christ		Bill Hyer Adger McKay Dick Robinson Travis Martin
Florence, SC	Trinity		James Brown, Jr.
Gaffney, SC	Overbrook	David Rilling	Dan Gilbert
Chesapeake, VA	Abundant Life Bridgeway		Richard Vroon Don Neighbours
Fredericksburg, VA	Grace		Bruce Anderson
Virginia Beach, VA	Kempsville	John Allman Chuck Laird	Nate Atwood

		Ken Millice Lew Mix	Richard Kidd Langdon Montgomery Jeff Chadwick
Bluefield, WV	Westminster	Steve Ferris Tim Probert Jim Thomason	
Cross Lanes, WV	Perrow	Dwight Coston John Young	
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			Chuck Creech Don Fortson, III Dick Little Jack Maxwell Perry Mobley Howard Shockley Peter Stam

**PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST**

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Ministers
Auburn, IN	St. Andrew	Charlotte Beatty Richard Beatty Frederick Conrad Steve Eckert Gary Henderson	
Columbia City, IN	Trinity	Diana Behrens Hal McCrum	
Ann Arbor, MI	Covenant Knox	Robert Wood Tom Crane Bob Lorey Joan Merritt Bill Painter	Mark Vanderput Mike Frison Paul Rettew
Brighton, MI	Cornerstone	Kevin Alder John Barber Lorelei Mah James Walker	Richard Alberta Brian Tweedie
Clarkston, MI Detroit, MI Farmington Hills, MI	North Oaks Military Avenue Grace Chapel	Bill Bumford Jack Ficara Ron Schwedland Stan Sherman	Steve Brown Randy Brown Tony DeOrio
Flint, MI	Mercy Calvary	Leroy Cole David Crothers Jerald Dosh Jim Freel Dick Heidtman Gerald Streichert	Robert Miller Harold Polk, Jr. Craig Vanbiber

	Peace	Fred Herwaldt	David Galbraith
		Jacob Schlieger	
Harrison Twp., MI	Knox	Dick Connell	Chris Gibson
		Palmer Heenan	Wayne Uppendahl
		Richard Wells	
Lake City, MI	Lake City	Richard Young	Don Van Dyke
Lake Orion, MI	Faith	Thomas Henson	Jerry Brundle
Mt. Pleasant, MI	Mt. Pleasant		Jamie Cupschalk
			Scott McKee
Northville, MI	Ward	John Baird	David Brown
		Millie Dreisbach	Neil Ellison
		Ron Edmonds	Michael Gatliff
		Ron Grant	Phil Linton
		Al Guilstorf	James McGuire
		Don Harms	John Quigley
		Greg Hemingway	Doug Walker
		Norm Jackson	Dan Ytterock
		Bob Julin	
		Barbara Mansfield	
		Bob Marlow	
		Richard Martin	
		Bob McLean	
		George Oliver	
		David Wood	
		Alvin Woods	
Oscoda, MI	Grace		Phillip Burch
Owosso, MI	Community	Ron DeHaas	Don Galardi
		Russ Wing	
Oxford, MI	New Hope	Donald Bugg	Doug Thompson
Plymouth, MI	Trinity	Ross Case	Bill Moore
		Edward Halash	
		Charles Talbot, Jr.	
Pontiac, MI	Oakland Avenue	Howard Webb	Tom Dages
South Lyon, MI	Fellowship	Bob Barnhart	Mark Hudson
		Gordon Kummer	
		Linda Kummer	
Trenton, MI	First	Ray Sawmiller	Duane Armistead
			Ian Leslie
Youngstown, OH	Tabernacle	Michael Owen	Gary Koerth
		Jim Rimmel	
		Earl Runcan	
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			Malcolm Brown
			Edward Davis
			Glen Francis
			Kurt Gebhard
			Don Giesmann

Stephen Kelley  
 Jim Killgore  
 Ed McCallum  
 William Meyer  
 Tim Mindling  
 Doug Sherman  
 George Woodcock

**PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTHEAST**

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Ministers
Rome, GA	First	Hugh Burnes John Graham, III Bill Johns Leonard Pilgrim Barry Smith John Ward, Sr.	Bill Flannagan Scott Jackson
Denniston, KY	Flatrock		Glenn Ferrell
Erlanger, KY	New Beginning	Ramona Hockema	Steve Riser
Asheville, NC	Grace!		Bill Lindner, Jr.
Franklin, NC	Grace		Tom Musselman
Highlands, NC	Community	Robert Eager	Steve Kerhoulas
Plumtree, NC	Plumtree	Terry Edwards	
Chattanooga, TN	Brainerd	William Johnson John Perry	David Wahlstedt Allen Wallace
	Lookout Valley	George Schneider	Russ Ragon Bill Sharp
Knoxville, TN	Christ		Tommy Jordan Julian Reese
	Faith		Jack Piers
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>			George Callahan Jim Van Dyke

**PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS**

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Ministers
Buenos Aires	La Mision de la IEP Temperley		Marcelo Robles Julio Lopez Jorge Lumsden
	Olivos		Aldo Fontao

**PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST**

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Ministers
Phoenix, AZ	Morningside		Bob Barrett
Folsom, CA	Faith		John Cedar
San Diego	Covenant	Chuck Hill	David Fenska
San Jacinto, CA	Valley Community		Dean Wolf
San Ramon, CA	San Ramon	Ken Jones	Ed Blake
Santa Maria, CA	Santa Maria	Evelyn Cisney	Tom Pitman
Aurora, CO	Covenant		Marc Huebl



	Faith		Doug Klein Cooper McWhirter
Denver, CO Englewood, CO	New Community Cherry Creek	Mike Sadler Jan Bole Jon Greeneisen Al Johnson Candace McCune Colleen Rinehart Irvin Rinehart Ken Roberts	Brett Garretson Marty Martin Don Sweeting
	Greenwood	Claudia Davidge Hugh Smith	Tom Melton
Golden, CO Highlands Ranch, CO	Lookout Mountain Cherry Hills	Gary Fields	Peter Hielt Jim Dixon John Patterson Ramona Spilman
Lakewood, CO	Bear Creek	Ted Brandsma	Jim Coleman Bruce Spear
Parker, CO Leoti, KS Redmond, WA	Parker Christ Covenant Northwest	Brad Bossio Jon Brooks	Erik Ohman David Brogren Ed Randal
Renton, WA <i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery:</i>	First		Jeff Jeremiah Greg Livingstone Bill Read Brad Strait Brad Yorton

**Excused:** Written requests to be excused were received from: Rev. Stephen Crotts (Myrtle Grove, Wilmington, NC), Rev. Dennis Flach (New Covenant, Natchez, MS), Rev. David Flaig (Bear Creek EPC, Lakewood, CO), Rev. Patrick Kendall (Hope, Cordova, TN), Rev. Joe Renfro (Faith, Lavonia, GA), Rev. Miguel Robles (Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina), Rev. Wayne Wood (Cregmore, Columbia, SC)

<b>Final Enrollment:</b>	Ruling Elders: 207	
	Teaching Elders: <u>210</u>	Number of churches represented at this
	Total Commissioners: 417	Assembly: 129 (65%)
Observers and Women's Ministries:	<u>253</u>	
	Total Registrations: 670	

#### 20-4 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

**ON MOTION** the docket was adopted as follows:

**DOCKET**  
**Thursday, June 22, 2000**

First Session

- 8:30 A.M. Opening worship service (Sanctuary)
- Dr. Jimmy McGuire, presiding
  - Dr. Edward Davis, preaching
  - Introduction of missionaries
- 9:30 Assembly convenes (Sanctuary)
- Opening session. Constituting prayer. Election of Recording Clerks. Local arrangements and announcements. Call for quorum. Docket.
  - Election of 20th General Assembly Moderator. Passing of the gavel.
  - The Moderator's Reflections
  - Partial report of the Nominating Committee
  - Ratification vote on descending overtures. Adoption of 19th General Assembly (1999) 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 (Knox Hall; ticket required)  
EPC Small Group Network lunch (Ward, Room E-503)
- 12:00 Pastors' Wives Luncheon and Fellowship
- Dr. Florence Littauer, speaker

Second Session

- 1:30-5:00 Standing committees meet (Room Assignments)
- 2:00-4:30 Women's Ministries Presentation (Ward, Chapel)  
Pastors' Wives Sharing and Prayer
- 5:00-7:00 Newly Ordained Ministers Dinner  
Chaplains Dinner (Ward, Room 309)
- 7:30 Evening Worship Service
- Dr. Jimmy McGuire, presiding
  - Dr. David Chadwick, preaching
  - Investiture of 20th Assembly Moderator
- 9:00 Refreshments and Exhibits

**20-5 EMERITUS STATUS TO BE CONFERRED ON STATED CLERK**

The Moderator addressed the Assembly to nominate Rev. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk to emeritus status upon his retirement at the end of 2000. The Assembly honored the Stated Clerk with a standing ovation.

**ON MOTION** that the Assembly shall confer on Stated Clerk Edward Davis, effective upon his retirement, the honored distinction of Emeritus as allowed in G.15-5D.

**20-6 ELECTION OF 20<sup>th</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR**

Elder John Sherard Chairman of the Nominating Committee introduced Rev. James Van Dyke First, Rome, GA) to present the nomination for Moderator of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Dr. Van Dyke placed the name of Elder John Graham from First Presbyterian, Rome, in nomination for Moderator of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

**ON MOTION** Elder John Graham was elected Moderator of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The newly elected Moderator introduced his wife, Frances, and offered personal comments as he accepted the position of Moderator. Rev. Bill Flannagan offered prayer for the new Moderator and his wife.

## 20-7 THE MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

The Retiring Moderator, Rev. Jimmy McGuire, offered reflections on his year of ministry as Moderator of the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

### Moderator's Address

Dr. Jimmy McGuire

### Moderator, 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Lucy and I want to thank you for a great year. I had no idea what this office really entailed nor the sacrifice or the blessing it would bring, and it has been both of those. I have a gracious church with a staff that filled in and was able to carry on when I was not there, which is kind of scary. It lets you know how careful you must be to keep living or maybe they won't notice.

In the providence of God we were able to visit every presbytery and Brazil where there is a grand Presbyterian church in fellowship with us. We visited St. Andrews Presbytery in Argentina where there is an equally grand cluster of our people who will soon form their own denomination. I discovered a fine spirit of unity and cooperation. It was good for me to be broadened by my experience with you. I thank God for it, and so does Lucy.

We found that the marks of the Church are alive among us, which has to be the work of the Spirit. There's the right preaching of the Word, the right observing of the sacraments, the practicing of biblical discipline and maintaining loving fellowship. These are the marks of the people of God. We were encouraged as we moved around. When you just stay in your local church you lose sight of the fact that there is a larger church out there. We thank you for teaching us about the love of God in the hard practice of being the Church. It is not easy, but God has given grace.

There are several issues sweeping our denomination, some of which we will address today. The relationship of "The Essentials of Our Faith" to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* is a major issue. Affordable major medical coverage might be more on people's minds than the *Essential/Westminster* Confession debate. The planting of new churches, and the matter of women in ministry are also issues that are alive with us today. Of them all, the first two create the most discussion: major medical and the Essentials. On planting churches we all agree. The last one, women in ministry (particularly as teaching elders), we have, so far, refused to allow to become a separating issue. On the Essentials issue, we have an *ad interim* committee that will bring a recommendation to the 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly. I am extremely encouraged by the work of the Spirit among the 18 people on that committee, two from every presbytery. We see the answers, we believe, and Tuesday of this week the leading of the Spirit became evident to us all. It was one of those *kairos* moments in life when you say "the Spirit of God is in this." It's not just us cranking out some thoughts. We will have a report for you at the 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly. And let us hope that Christ returns first!

On the major medical issue, we know in the end we will find the best and most agreeable way to offer affordable quality care for all of us. On the planting of new churches, every presbytery and several individual churches are pressing to make things happen. And with the leadership of presbyteries from within and Bill Meyer from the National Outreach office, we are seeing paydays. We must do that. That's the lifeblood of the church, the next generation, raising up new churches.

The final issue, the ordination of women as teaching elders, is focused at presbytery level. There's no discussion about what local churches can do, but there are tensions on the presbytery level where the authority to ordain teaching elders resides and must reside. Some churches choose to ordain women; some do not. Some presbyteries seem closed to women as teaching elders while others are open. What if you are in a church that believes calling women as teaching elders is improper and yet you are in a presbytery which ordains women? What if you are in a church that believes it should call a woman as a teaching elder and yet you are in a presbytery that won't let you do that? A large part of the resolution of that issue lies in our understanding of God's leading through the jointly made decisions of presbytery. God leads through corporate decision-making, we say. And so that's the first thing in each of our spirits that says we are where we are by the hand of God. There is a submission to the brothers that is required unless you don't believe that and then you don't want to be Presbyterian. You just want to be independent. We love you but we can never satisfy all your needs, no matter which side you are on. But as I said, we've decided thus far we will not allow that to divide us as we submit ourselves to one another in the Lord.

But there's another part of that not to be left unsaid: Are you able to allow that another church in your presbytery just might be led of God to accomplish its particular mission in a different way from yours? And are you open to granting that church the freedom to pursue that mission with your love? This question applies equally both to those who believe in ordination of women and those who do not. Now, this issue has practical implications which is why it matters. Some want to support new church plants that have only men ruling and teaching elders and some want to support new church plants that allow women as ruling and teaching elders. So you see the rub. The question for presbyteries to answer is how can our churches walk together in this matter and give real support to each other in planting new churches that may not look like us? How do I rise to that occasion to support my neighbor who wants a church to look different from how we want ours to look? We are one family. We need to figure out how to answer that. I don't have the answer but I know it's there. Remember, the EPC has determined constitutionally that women's ordination is non-essential. My plea is for vigilance to keep it so. In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity. To God be the glory.

**20-8 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Elder John Sherard, chairman, opened the report with prayer. The chairman noted that all pre-registered commissioners have been assigned to standing 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). The chairman called the Assembly's attention to the slate of nominations for permanent committees in the Commissioner's Handbook.

**20-9 RATIFICATION VOTE ON DESCENDING OVERTURES**

The Stated Clerk offered prayer and reviewed the procedures for ratification of descending overtures. Three descending overtures were referred to the presbyteries. **Overtures 99-A** and **99-C** received the required support of the presbyteries; **Overture 99-B** did not. (For vote of the presbyteries, see p. 187ff).

**Overture 99-A**

Shall the *Book of Government*, §10-3C, be amended in the second sentence by adding the word "geographical" between the words "the" and "bounds"? The section would then read (proposed addition underlined):

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>10-3C Evangelist:</b> A Minister may be called by a Presbytery, by some other court, or by some organization to serve as an evangelist. The Presbytery of which the Minister is a member may commission the Minister to share the Gospel and to administer the sacraments outside the bounds of the Presbytery in other parts of the Church or the world. An Evangelist called as missionary shall always have as his primary duty the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. When a Presbytery calls an Evangelist as Church Planter, it may entrust to that person the responsibility to develop churches, to conduct preparational meetings of such churches, and to oversee the required</p>	<p><b>10-3C Evangelist:</b> A Minister may be called by a Presbytery, by some other court, or by some organization to serve as an evangelist. The Presbytery of which the Minister is a member may commission the Minister to share the Gospel and to administer the sacraments outside the <u>geographical</u> bounds of the Presbytery in other parts of the Church or the world. An Evangelist called as missionary shall always have as his primary duty the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. When a Presbytery calls an Evangelist as Church Planter, it may entrust to that person the responsibility to develop churches, to conduct preparational meetings of such churches, and to oversee the required</p>

preparation of Elders and Deacons. Those special powers given to the Evangelist shall be specified by the Presbytery in writing. That person may be given the power to receive and dismiss members.	preparation of Elders and Deacons. Those special powers given to the Evangelist shall be specified by the Presbytery in writing. That person may be given the power to receive and dismiss members.
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ON MOTION Descending Overture 99-A was ratified.

#### Overture 99-C

Shall the *Book of Government*, §15, be amended as follows:

1. 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.
2. 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.*
3. Create a new section G.15-10.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>15-8</b> Removal of a Minister to Inactive Status: A Minister may, for reasons deemed valid, request the Presbytery to be placed on Inactive Status. If the Presbytery concurs, the Minister shall be placed on such status. All rights and privileges granted by ordination are temporarily set aside, including the right to vote and participate in the meetings of Presbytery. However, the name of the Minister shall be carried on the Inactive Status Roll of Presbytery. After at least one year, the Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to Active Status. The Presbytery, after careful deliberation, may do so provided the Minister has a valid call that Presbytery approves or provided the Minister is being transferred to another Presbytery in order to receive a call.</p> <p>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</p>	<p><b>15-8</b> Removal of a Minister to Inactive Status: A Minister may, for reasons deemed valid, request the Presbytery to be placed on Inactive Status. If the Presbytery concurs, the Minister shall be placed on such status. All rights and privileges granted by ordination are temporarily set aside, including the right to vote and participate in the meetings of Presbytery. However, the name of the Minister shall be carried on the Inactive Status Roll of Presbytery. After at least one year, the Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to Active Status. The Presbytery, after careful deliberation, may do so provided the Minister has a valid call that Presbytery approves or provided the Minister is being transferred to another Presbytery in order to receive a call.</p> <p>When the Minister <u>who is not retired</u> 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</p>

<p>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>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 <u>who is not retired</u> 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><b>15-9</b> 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 should be conducted, either at the meeting of Presbytery or at the place of service of the retiring Minister. Ordinarily, a Presbytery shall appoint a special Commission to conduct this service and a record of it inserted in the minutes of 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><i>(No section 15-10 currently exists.)</i></p>	<p><b>15-9</b> 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 should be conducted, either at the meeting of Presbytery or at the place of service of the retiring Minister. Ordinarily, a Presbytery shall appoint a special Commission to conduct this service and a record of it inserted in the minutes of Presbytery. <del>A Minister who is so retired remains a full member of Presbytery. Membership may be transferred to another Presbytery.</del> 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><b>15-10</b> 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</p>

	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.
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ON MOTION Descending Overture 99-C was ratified.

#### 20-10 RECEPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly were received. Adoption of the Minutes will be accomplished by the Committee on Administration as allowed in *Robert's Rules of Order*. The Stated Clerk asked that additions or corrections to this document be forwarded to the General Assembly Office no later than September 1, 2000.

#### 20-11 REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Dr. Davis opened his report with prayer. He introduced the standing committee chairman and clerks for this Assembly, and gave instructions on the review and control process.

Committee	Chairman	Clerk
Administration	Elder Don Harms	Elder Connie Jennings
Christian Education	Rev. Alan Wright	Elder Barbara Mansfield
Fraternal Relations	Rev. Dan Gilbert	
Memorials & Appreciation	Rev. Bill Read	
Ministerial Vocation	Rev. Howard Shockley	Rev. Doug Thompson
National Outreach	Rev. Tom Ryan	RE Gerry Hittenberger
Overtures & Resolutions	<i>No Overtures &amp; Resolutions Committee this Assembly</i>	
Student & Young Adults	Rev. Tom Dages	Rev. Bucky Brown
Theology	Elder Carolyn Nystrom	Rev. Chris Kiepe
Women's Ministries	Elder Joan Merritt	Elder Millie Driesbach
World Outreach	Rev. Erik Ohman	Rev. Ron Cox

He referred to his written report, citing figures for active membership and internal growth as well as baptisms and Sunday school enrollment. Fifty percent of our churches reflect a membership of 100 or less. It remains difficult for churches of less than 100 members to meet their obligations and experience growth, and more difficult still in smaller communities.

The Stated Clerk discussed denominational giving. In 1999, our churches gave an average of \$45.96 per member toward the administrative budgets and benevolence askings in addition to World Outreach missionary support. He challenged the churches to step up to the financial support needed to more satisfactorily operate the Assembly office. Though the Assembly, at the outset, declared the General Assembly Office would be "lean," the Stated Clerk declared that "we have been too lean for too long."

On behalf of the General Assembly, the Stated Clerk has asked the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Moderator to represent the EPC at the Amsterdam 2000 convocation this summer. The Stated Clerk also implored the Assembly to understand and respond to the challenge to develop executive leadership at the presbytery level and to become more serious about the ongoing mission of the church. Until the presbyteries have executive leadership, it is not likely they will be able to accomplish their goals. (See pp. 324-334 for full Report of the Stated Clerk.)

## 20-12 MATTERS RECEIVED AND REFERRED

### COMMUNICATIONS

- **Communication 00-1** from General Assembly Moderator Jimmy McGuire, dated June 2000. Re: Nomination to the Board of Pension and Benefits, to the Nominating Committee Classes of 2001 and 2002, and the 2001 Nominating Committee Chairman.  
*Referred to the Floor (p. 63)*
- **Communication 00-2** from Rev. Davi Gomes dated February 16, 2000. Re: Thanks and acknowledgment of completion of EPC's financial obligation for doctoral studies.  
*Received as information*
- **Communication 00-3** from Pioneer Clubs' President, Judy Bryson, dated October 26, 2000. Re: Annual report of Pioneer Clubs.  
*Referred to the Committee on Christian Education & Publications (p. 61)*
- **Communication 00-4** from Rev. Stephen Crofts, pastor of Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, NC, dated April 4, 2000. Re: offer to host General Assembly in 2002.  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 57)*
- **Communication 00-5** from Pamela J. Barden, Vice President of World Relief, dated May 3, 2000. Re: EPC benevolence to earthquake relief in Turkey.  
*Received as information*
- **Communication 00-6** from David Brugger, Director, Manager of Member Certification, ECFA dated December 13, 1999. Re: ECFA Annual Membership Review and Member Profile.  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 69)*
- **Communication 00-7** from Dr. William Flannagan, Chairman, Stated Clerk Search Committee, dated November 2, 1999. Re: Progress report on the committee's work.  
*Received as information*
- **Communication 00-8** from Dr. Daniel L. Erickson, Executive Director, National Coalition of Men's Ministries, dated January 7, 2000. Re: Review of NCMM's annual work for 1999.  
*Referred to the Committee on Christian Education & Publications (p. 73)*
- **Communication 00-9** News Release. Re: Appointment of Rev. Jeffrey Chadwick as EPC World Outreach Director.  
*Received as information (p. 54)*



- **Communication 00-10** from James A. Edgren, Executive Director of Commission on Chaplains of the National Association of Evangelicals, dated March 1, 2000. Re: Annual report. *Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 73)*
- **Communication 00-11** from William Moore, Chairman, Committee on Ministerial Vocation, dated June 5, 2000. Re: Resolution concerning ministers' participation in Social Security. *Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 73)*
- **Communication 00-12** from Orin Littlejohn, Chairman, Board of Pension and Benefits, dated June 5, 2000. Re: Resolution concerning ministers' participation in Social Security. *Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 73)*
- **Communication 00-13** from the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Rome dated June 8, 2000 nominating John Graham, III as Moderator of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. *Received as information*
- **Communication 00-14** from Rev. Guilhermino Cunha, Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Brazil, dated May 24, 2000 concerning its partnership agreement with the EPC. *Referred to the Committee on Fraternal Relations (p. 42)*
- **Communication 00-15** from Brad Winsted, Director of Children's Ministry International concerning its catechetical materials. *Referred to the Committee on Christian Education & Publications (p. 61)*

ON MOTION all Communications were referred as noted.

#### OVERTURES

- **Overture 00-A** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic to amend the *Book of Discipline* changing the process of receiving and investigating charges. *Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)*
- **Overture 00-B** from the Presbytery of the Central South concerning enforcement of *Acts of Assembly* 81-06. *Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 49)*
- **Overture 00-C** from the Presbytery of the West to place responsibility for health insurance at the presbytery level. *Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 49)*

ON MOTION all Overtures were referred as noted.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### From the Committee on Administration

- **Recommendation #1**  
That the Proposed 2001 Administration Budget for \$1,094,000 be adopted. *Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 54)*

- **Recommendation #2**  
That the 2000 Administration Budget be adjusted to incorporate:  
(a) the call for the new Stated Clerk, (\$14,500 compensation; \$8,000 moving expenses);  
(b) new World Outreach Director (\$25,000);  
(c) Staff insurance, pension, expenses allowances and taxes related to the two new staff members (\$16,160); and  
(d) additional funding for publishing Reflections magazine (\$5,000) so that the 2000 Administration Budget is increased from \$1,088,000 to \$1,156,660;  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 55)*
  
- **Recommendation #3**  
That the General Assembly approve a mid-year benevolence asking of \$25,000 for Reflections magazine in 2000 so that the 2000 Benevolence Askings are increased from \$464,000 to \$489,000.  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 55)*
  
- **Recommendation #4**  
That the Proposed 2001 Benevolence Askings Budget for \$610,000 be adopted.  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 55)*
  
- **Recommendation #5**  
That the 2000 Thanksgiving Offering be designated for National Outreach, and that its proceeds be used to support the Appalachian Project as the initiation of NOC's Home Missions program.  
  
Grounds: This will enable the NOC to establish a strong foundation for the Home Mission program in Appalachia.  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 55)*
  
- **Recommendation #6**  
That the General Assembly receive the report of the 2001 Committee (Vision 21 booklet) as information, and instruct the Office of the Stated Clerk and the Committee on Administration to elicit responses from the presbyteries and to bring the final report to the 21st General Assembly for action.  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 55)*
  
- **Recommendation #7**  
That the invitation of Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee to host General Assembly be accepted for the 24th (2004) Assembly.  
*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 73)*

**From the Committee on Christian Education & Publications**

- **Recommendation #8**  
That the General Assembly endorse the Children's Catechism lessons of Children's Ministry International, in our churches.  
*Referred to the Committee on Christian Education & Publications (p. 60)*
  
- **Recommendation #9**  
That John Sartelle's *Infant Baptism* be endorsed by the General Assembly for use in the

churches, alongside the late Francis Schaeffer's booklet *Baptism*, previously endorsed by General Assembly.

*Referred to the Committee on Christian Education & Publications (p. 73)*

**From the Committee on Ministerial Vocation**

• **Recommendation #10**

That *Book of Government* §11-6 be amended by striking the word "ordinarily" in the second sentence and ending the paragraph after the second sentence.

<b>Present wording</b>	<b>Proposed wording</b>
<p><b>G.11-6</b> A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. Ordinarily, an Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor. However, if by a three-fourths vote of the Church Session, request is made to Presbytery through the Ministerial Committee for an exclusion, the Presbytery may approve the Search Committee of the congregation to nominate the Associate to the congregation as Pastor.</p>	<p><b>G.11-6</b> A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. <del>Ordinarily</del> An Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor.</p>

Grounds:

1. Most Reformed bodies prohibit the possibility of succession.
2. Although there are occasional apparent exceptions, the General Assembly Office is aware of numerous situations in which the possibility of succession has resulted in turbulence, unrest, conflict or disruption within congregations.
3. Some have suggested that prohibiting succession binds the Spirit in his work of calling to ministry. However, the fact that the Holy Spirit works through the orderly processes of our church courts is a basic principle of our constitutional system of church governance.
4. Scripture affirms that God does not author confusion (1 Cor. 14). In our experience, the possibility of succession from within is more likely to generate unrest conflict and discord than it is the peace, unity and purity of the church.

*Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 73)*

• **Recommendation #11**

That upon ratification of the amendment to G.11-6, the prohibition of succession shall not apply to persons serving as associate pastors for a period of five years after the amendment is adopted.

Grounds: Though succession is not encouraged, this exception clause provides a gentle time of transition so that any present plans for succession might not be disrupted.

*Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 74)*

- **Recommendation #12**

That the *Book of Government* §11-13 be amended by substituting the word "shall" for "may."

Present wording	Proposed wording
11-13 In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person may request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere. (§15-8).	11-13 In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person may shall request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere. (§15-8).

*Grounds:* Making inactive status mandatory rather than voluntary appropriately limits Presbytery's legal exposure for ministry exercised by one of its members but not sanctioned by the Presbytery. *Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 74)*

- **Recommendation #13**

That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be revised on the following pages:

- Page 24 - background check
- Page 28 - termination of candidacy
- Page 47 - when the pastor intends to resign
- Page 55 - Regarding out of bounds principles
- Attachment 7 - Session Endorsement Form

*Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 75)*

- **Recommendation #14**

That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be amended to include the following new forms for use by the Presbyteries: (Cf. p. 225ff.)

- Advisor's Report
- Preliminary Questionnaire
- Checklist for Evaluation of Candidate for Gospel Ministry
- Reference Check
- Items sent and received
- Statement of Faith
- Statement of Faith, part 2
- Termination of Candidacy
- Service of Ordination and/or Installation
- Annual Report on Ministers of the Word
- Church Information Form

*Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 75)*

- **Recommendation #15**

That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be amended to include the following advisory papers: (Cf. pp.236ff.)

- Study leave
- Sabbaticals
- Performance Reviews

*Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 76)*

- **Recommendation #16**  
That the Assembly approve the following substitutions to forms in the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*:
  - a. Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery
  - b. Terms of Call for Out of Bounds Ministers
  - c. Personal Information Form

*Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 76)*
- **Recommendation #17**  
That the Assembly adopt the proposed advisory letter regarding ministers' participation in Social Security and Medicare (**Communication #00-11**, p. 174 ).  
*Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 76)*
- **Recommendation #18**  
That *Book of Government* §5-1 and §5-2 be amended by substitution as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>5-1</b> Presbytery has the exclusive right to organize, dissolve, dismiss or to receive from some other body a particular Church. While a Church Session has the duty and right to establish missions of the congregation or initiate extension work, this should be done always in consultation with the Presbytery. However, to organize into a particular Church is a right reserved to the Presbytery.</p>	<p><b>5-1</b> Presbytery has the exclusive right to organize, dissolve, dismiss or to receive from some other body a particular Church. While a Church Session has the duty and right to establish missions of the congregation or initiate extension work, this should be done always in <u>consultation cooperation</u> with the Presbytery. <u>Such cooperation includes informing Presbytery as early as possible of Session's intent and proposed location for a mission church (G. 16-16.E).</u> However, to organize into a particular church is a right reserved to the Presbytery.</p>
<p><b>5-2 The development of a mission church:</b> A mission church consists of a number of professing Christians, with their children, associated together for divine worship and godly living, agreeable to the Scriptures, and submitting to the lawful government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p>	<p><b>5-2 The development of a mission church:</b> A mission church consists of a number of professing Christians, with their children, associated together for divine worship and godly living, agreeable to the Scriptures, and submitting to the lawful government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p>

<p>The mission church, because of its transitional nature, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances, and at its own discretion, Presbytery shall provide for such government in one of several ways:</p> <p>A. Appoint an Evangelist as prescribed in 10-3C of the <i>Book of Government</i> and entrust appropriate powers to that person.</p> <p>B. Cooperate with the Session of a particular church in arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church. The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.</p> <p>C. Appoint a commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church.</p> <p>At the discretion of the temporary governing body, members may be received into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9. These persons then become confirmed or baptized members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Mission churches shall maintain membership rolls in the same manner as, but separate from other particular churches.</p> <p>Mission churches and their members shall have the right of judicial process to the court having oversight of their temporary governing body. It is the further intention of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that mission churches enjoy the same status as particular churches in relationship to civil government.</p>	<p><u>A mission church is distinguished from a particular church in that it has no permanent governing body, and thus must be governed or supervised by others. However, its goal is to mature and be organized as a particular church as soon as this can be done in good order.</u></p> <p><u>A <b>Governance:</b></u> The mission church, because of its transitional nature, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances, and at its own discretion, <u>Presbytery government shall be provided for such government in by one of several ways means:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Presbytery may</u> appoint an Evangelist as prescribed in 10-3C of the <i>Book of Government</i> and entrust appropriate powers to that person.</li> <li>• <u>Cooperate with</u> The Session of a particular church in <u>arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church</u>. The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.</li> <li>• <u>Presbytery or Session may</u> appoint a <u>mission church</u> commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church.</li> </ul> <p><b>B. Membership:</b> <u>At the discretion of the temporary governing body,</u> Members may shall be received into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9. These persons then become confirmed or baptized members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Mission churches shall maintain membership rolls in the same manner as, but separate from other particular churches.</p> <p>Mission churches and their members shall have the right of judicial process to the court having oversight of their temporary governing body. It is the further intention of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that mission churches enjoy the same status as particular churches in relationship to civil government.</p>
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Grounds: Experience in planting churches has shown that this section of the *Book of Government* needs greater clarity. The proposed substitution clarifies the nature of cooperation expected between sessions and presbyteries and the different means by which mission churches are governed. The substitution also clarifies the necessity and means by which membership rolls in mission churches are kept. *Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 44)*

**From the Committee on National Outreach**

• **Recommendation #19**

That the **National Outreach Master Plan** be amended by adding the following:

**"Strategic Area #5 HOME MISSIONS:** To enable workers to present the love of Christ to English-speaking people groups in the USA, unreached by the established church.

Objectives:

1. To identify unreached English-speaking people groups in the USA needing Christ's love;
2. To find and nurture qualified missionaries who will live with these groups;
3. To assist these workers in securing funds for their ministries;
4. To work toward establishing churches among these people groups, or if not possible, to link them with existing churches.

Grounds: Many people within the United States are unserved (or underserved) by the established church, e.g., Native Americans, migrant workers, rural and urban poor, handicapped individuals, families of recent immigrants, homeless people, substance abusers, prison and jail inmates and their families. This will enable NOC to call Home Missionaries to minister to these people and to enable these Home Missionaries to raise necessary support from our congregations. *Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 50)*

• **Recommendation #20**

In response to the 19th General Assembly's instruction to the National Outreach Committee "to propose a plan for funding church planting," that the following Plan for Funding Church Planting be approved:

1. A 3-year campaign to raise \$750,000 will be started January 1, 2001.
2. Contributions to the Fund will be sought from presbyteries, churches and individuals.
3. The Fund will be used as follows:
  - Two-thirds for church/presbytery/NOC partner projects;
  - One-third for NOC-initiated projects.
4. Church planters of NOC-approved projects will be required to raise 50% of their compensation package for a period of three years. (Part of this may be accomplished by being a bi-vocational church planter.)

Grounds: The \$750,000 is approximately double what has been received through the Church Planting and Key City Benevolence Askings. The Committee believes that with a broad-based campaign that encourages grass roots church planting as well as NOC initiated plants, the church-at-large will respond. Furthermore, when church planters participate in the fund-raising effort, several things will occur:

- They become more fiscally aware;
- Supporting churches identify more closely with people;

- The planter's commitment and aggressiveness is demonstrated.

*Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 51)*

**From the Nominating Committee**

- **Recommendation #21**

That the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* in §10-4.2 to change "March 31" to "April 30" so that the section reads as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
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 shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.	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 <del>March 31</del> April 30 of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.

Grounds: This change would permit receiving information from presbyteries that meet in April that are pertinent to the June General Assembly.

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)*

- **Recommendation #22**

That the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* in Section 10-4.4 to change "April" to "May" so that the section reads as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
4. The Committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.	4. The Committee shall meet in <del>April</del> May each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees

Grounds: This change would permit receiving information from presbyteries that meet in April that are pertinent to the June General Assembly. Also, an April Nominating Committee meeting conflicts with a number of these April presbytery meetings.

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)*

**From the Committee on Student & Young Adult Ministries**

- **Recommendation #23**

That the General Assembly endorse the Student & Young Adult Ministries Youth Curriculum for use in church membership programs for youth and young adults.

Grounds: Student & Young Adult Ministries has received numerous inquiries from churches for youth membership material. After extensive review of existing curricula, it was determined that the development of such material would be a valuable asset to EPC congregations and a



worthwhile undertaking. A great challenge for the church in every age is to pass on the life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus in a way that is both powerful and meaningful to the next generation. Teens and young adults must be nurtured in their understanding of the great truths of the Christian faith. This curriculum is offered as one possible part in the process of accomplishing that vital goal.

*Referred to the Committee on Student & Young Adult Ministries (p. 61)*

#### From the Committee on Theology

- **Recommendation #24**

Due to the scope of the issue, the lack of significant disagreement within the EPC on these matters, the degree to which our standards and existing position papers address the subject, the abundant resources already available, we hereby request to be relieved of the general assignment of developing position papers on marriage and the family.

Grounds: Because our assignment does not focus on a particular problem or problems and because the subject matter is extremely broad, we have found it difficult to provide a response that would add anything beyond the vast amounts of excellent material available in the broader evangelical community.

*Referred to the Committee on Theology (p. 65)*

- **Recommendation #25**

That the letter (**Communication 00-16**) on Reformed theology from the Moderator and Stated Clerk (p. 183) be endorsed for distribution to the churches.

*Referred to the Committee on Theology (p. 66)*

#### From the Committee on World Outreach

- **Recommendation #26**

That the **World Outreach Master Plan** be revised and adopted as presented (*cf. p.359ff*).

Grounds:

- Values: To modify value statements to more accurately reflect WOC positions and commitments.
- Goals & objectives: Original goals & objectives were stated for 1998 and 2001. The new document presents goals for 2002 and 2005.
- EPC Fields: To position Muslim ministry first priority in our major defining document as it is in actuality.
- Strategic Opportunities: To place East Asia (China) more substantially in our goals, and to add overseas international church planting and development as a new field focus.
- Mission Education: To state new goals as a result of progress on past goal statements.

*Referred to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 52)*

- **Recommendation #27**

That the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended in section 302.3C by deleting item 6, "Studies in Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments," and renumbering the present 7 to 6.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>302.3C</b> The WOC covenants with the Mission Evangelist to provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;</li> <li>2. Studies in Presbyterian government and order;</li> <li>3. Bible studies in Old and New Testament and homiletics;</li> <li>4. Studies in pastoral work;</li> <li>5. Studies in church planting and church growth;</li> <li>6. Studies in Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;</li> <li>7. Other such courses as the WOC may feel are essential of helpful.</li> </ol>	<p><b>302.3C</b> The WOC covenants with the Mission Evangelist to provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;</li> <li>2. Studies in Presbyterian government and order;</li> <li>3. Bible studies in Old and New Testament and homiletics;</li> <li>4. Studies in pastoral work;</li> <li>5. Studies in church planting and church growth;</li> <li>6. <del>Studies in Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;</del></li> <li>6. Other such courses as the WOC may feel are essential of helpful.</li> </ol>

*Grounds:* Everything listed in item 6 is covered in item #1 "A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments."

*Referred to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 52)*

• **Recommendation #28**

"That the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended in the third sentence of section **400.10 Vehicles** by increasing the amount of the standard vehicle allowance from \$14,000 to \$18,000."

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>400.10 Vehicles</b> World Outreach includes a standard vehicle in the terms of call for career missionaries serving and residing overseas. The assets for such vehicles are for use on the field as well as during Home Service. The initial vehicle will be included in outgoing costs of \$14,000, or an amount approved by the World Outreach Director. The initial amount of the vehicle will be held in escrow until the actual purchase of the vehicle. Twenty percent of the cost of the replacement vehicle will be put into the annual terms of call and set aside for future purchase. Vehicle registration and insurance will be in the name of the missionary and operational costs will be</p>	<p><b>400.10 Vehicles</b> World Outreach includes a standard vehicle in the terms of call for career missionaries serving and residing overseas. The assets for such vehicles are for use on the field as well as during Home Service. The initial vehicle will be included in outgoing costs of \$14,000 \$18,000, or an amount approved by the World Outreach Director. The initial amount of the vehicle will be held in escrow until the actual purchase of the vehicle. Twenty per-cent of the cost of the replacement vehicle will be put into the annual terms of call and set aside for future purchase. Vehicle registration and insurance will be in the name of the missionary and operational costs will be assumed by</p>

assumed by the missionary.	the missionary.
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**Grounds:** The \$14,000 allowance was established in January, 1995. This increase adjusts for vehicle price increases in the intervening years. The monthly vehicle escrow amount would increase from \$233 to \$300. *Referred to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 53)*

- **Recommendation #29**

That the **World Outreach Missions Manual** be amended by adding a section **301.5 Provisional Presbytery Formation**.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<i>No section 301.5 currently exists.</i>	<b>301.5 Provisional Presbytery Formation</b> When the WOC believes the work is ready for establishment of a provisional presbytery, it will request the GA to appoint a commission entrusted with all the powers necessary to do so (G.16-26B).

**Grounds:** This specifies the procedure to be following in establishing a provisional presbytery where there is no indigenous court with the power to ordain ministers, organize and receive particular churches, and establish presbyteries. This procedure accords with the standards set forth in the *Book of Order* and the precedent established in receiving Argentine churches and ministers into the EPC in 1987.

*Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 56)*

- **Recommendation #30**

That the **World Outreach Missions Manual** be amended by adding a section **304.5 Extended Home Service**.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<i>No Section 304.5 currently exists.</i>	<b>303.5 Extended Home Service</b> At the end of the normal home service, the WOC may grant, with justification, an extension of home service not to exceed one year.

**Grounds:** At present, World Outreach has no clear statement about the length of home service or how it might be extended before a missionary is placed on leave of absence. This policy would require the missionary to request the extension of home service, indicating a reason for the request. The WOC would then act on that request. This is in line with other missions agency policies. *Referred to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 53)*

**ON MOTION** referrals for Recommendations 1-30 were adopted as noted.

### Procedural Recommendations

- **Recommendation #31**

"That the Assembly grant five (5) minutes of Assembly docket time for *Reflections* editor, Lucy McGuire, to discuss the magazine and its web site and to encourage greater participation in and distribution of the magazine." *Referred to the Floor*

- **Recommendation #32**  
“That the Assembly grant five (5) minutes of Assembly docket time for Dr. Daniel Erickson, Executive Director of National Coalition of Men's Ministries to bring a report to the Assembly.” *Referred to the Floor*
- **Recommendation #33**  
“That Dr. Robert Pitman of Knox Fellowship be granted five (5) minutes of Assembly docket time to address the Assembly.” *Referred to the Floor*

ON MOTION Procedural Recommendations 31-33 were adopted.

**From the Committee on Presbytery Review**

- **Recommendation #34:**  
That the Assembly refer the minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (Section 19) to the Presbytery of the Central South for correction. *Referred to the floor (p. 66)*
- **Recommendation #35**  
“Because corrections noted in Presbytery's responses to exceptions issued by the 19th Assembly were not spread in the certified minutes as indicated, the 20th General Assembly instructs the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the East to include the corrections in the minutes of the Fall 2000 meeting.” *Referred to the floor (p.66)*
- **Recommendation #36**  
“That the 20th General Assembly instruct the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida to submit the relevant section of minutes (all sections following 26.24) to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly by July 31, 2000.” *Referred to the floor (p. 66)*
- **Recommendation #37**  
“That the Assembly instruct the Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-America to forward a certified copy of the rewritten and approved minutes of the Aug. 6, 1999 called meeting to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly by July 31, 2000.” *Referred to the floor (p. 66)*
- **Recommendation #38**  
“Because corrections noted in Presbytery's responses to exceptions issued by the 19th Assembly were not included in the certified minutes of the 48th Stated Meeting as indicated, the 20th General Assembly instructs the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Southeast to include the corrections in the minutes of the Fall 2000 meeting.” *Referred to the floor (p. 67)*
- **Recommendation #39**  
“That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South be approved with the following exceptions:
  1. 47.07 (Stated Clerk Report): Required forms for minutes of Commissions to ordain/ install are not used (see Attachment 14, *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*) (Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
  2. System of reporting attendance is inadequate (*Rules for Assembly* §8-11.G-1);

- categories of Teaching and Ruling Elder are not used; 2) discrepancies between names listed as unexcused and the number listed as unexcused; 3) 47th stated meeting has no names of ruling elders present.
3. No record of disposition of Exceptions to Minutes from 19th General Assembly (*Rules for Assembly*, §8-11E).
  4. 47.23: Ministerial Committee report is incomplete. No record of status prior to change of call, no terms of call summaries or forms.
  5. Called meeting of 8/28/99: Attendance does not contain excused or unexcused absences (*Rules for Assembly* §8.11.G-1)
  6. Attachment 6 for the 48th stated meeting is missing from the certified copies. The Clerk is instructed to forward the attachment to the Office of the Stated Clerk no later than July 31, 2000.
  7. 48.22: Insufficient information in minutes to determine if actions taken conform to constitutional standards: 1) status of Dr. Overton prior to being "reestablished" is not indicated; 2) no record present of actions to dissolve pastoral relationship of Christ EPC and Rev. Petterson; 3) no basis cited for moving Rev. Roberts to inactive roll; 4) no record present of actions taken to dismiss Rev. Roberts as Assistant Pastor; 5) no record that Allan Thompson is ordained; 6) no record of actions taken to dissolve pastoral relationship of Rev. Werner and Marshall EPC.
  8. Signatures are missing from copies of certified minutes submitted for review (minutes of stated meetings and commission reports). The Clerk is instructed to submit copies of completed signature pages to the Office of the Stated Clerk by July 31, 2000.
  9. 48: Attachment 9 (second page, section E): Administrative Commission acted unconstitutionally to restrict whom a congregation could elect as its own officers, thereby violating the rights of Crossroads Community Church held in perpetuity (G.17-5; 7-2). This action is remanded to Presbytery for correction.
  10. 49.19: No terms of call form included for Ron Horgan or Frank Varro.
  11. 49 (attachment 7): Terms of call for W.T. Permenter are out of order. A call as pastor has no definite period of time. There is no provision for 2 weeks of study leave.

*Referred to the floor (p. 67)*

• **Recommendation #40**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the East be approved with the following exceptions:

1. Appendices referred to in Minutes of the 55th stated meeting are missing. The Clerk is instructed to forward Appendices to the Office of the Stated Clerk by July 31, 2000.
2. 55.E.2: No advisor appointed for Candidates Gray and O'Connell.
3. The certified minutes of 55th, 56th and 57th stated meetings are not signed.
4. 56.F.1: No record of written exam for Frank Young or of his signing the Ministerial Obligation (G. 13-2, 16-16L, Acts of the Assembly §98-.03).
5. Responses to exceptions in a letter from the Clerk (spreading information in the October 2, 1999 minutes) have not been fulfilled. Presbytery of the East is directed to include the required information in the minutes of the Fall 2000 meeting.
6. Appendices referred to in minutes of the 56th Stated Meeting are not included in the certified copies. Clerk is instructed to forward these Appendices to the Office of the Stated Clerk by July 31, 2000.

*Referred to the floor (p. 68)*

- **Recommendation #41**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of Florida be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 27:16 Presbytery has no constitutional authority to divest Richard Adelman without censure without using disciplinary procedures in the *Book of Discipline*.
2. Record of the 28th stated meeting appears to be inaccurate. Provisional Minutes of the 28th stated meeting have significant differences from the certified copies, yet there is no record of corrections at the 29th stated meeting.
3. 28:14: Ministerial Committee report is missing in the certified minutes. Presbytery is directed to correct the minutes and forward corrections to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following their Fall 2000 meeting.
4. 28:15: Judicial Committee report is missing in the certified minutes. Presbytery is directed to correct the minutes and forward corrections to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following their Fall 2000 meeting.
5. Session Review Committee report is missing, including admonishment of Dan Lacich. Presbytery is directed to correct the minutes and forward corrections to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following their Fall 2000 meeting.
6. 28:14: The Presbytery appears to have ordained Jonathan Tagg improperly, without having official terms of call forms in hand (Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
7. General: Permanent record lacks signatures.
8. 29:14: Presbytery has no constitutional authority to divest Michael Eubanks of office without censure. Presbytery took action based on a misstatement of fact: "The EPC does not transfer to non-reformed denominations." There is no such constitutional prohibition. Neither is there a constitutional provision for a *de facto* renunciation of jurisdiction. This matter is referred to the Presbytery of Florida for reconsideration.
9. Ministerial Committee did not make the required annual report on the work of Ministers of the Word (G.16-27.A-1). This requirement is not fulfilled by reporting changes in terms of call (G.16-27.A-8). *Referred to the floor(p. 68)*

- **Recommendation #42**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 24.03, 25.03: No record of unexcused absences (*Rules for Assembly* §8-11, G-1)
2. 25.04: No copy of rewritten minutes included in certified copy.
3. 25.19.1: No record of actions taken to dissolve the pastoral relationship of Mark Quay and New Harvest Community Church.
4. 25.20.4: No service of appreciation and thanksgiving was conducted upon the retirement of Paul Westberg (G.15-9).
5. 25.20.7: There is no office of co-pastor in the EPC (Acts of the Assembly §85-05).
6. 25.20.09: Call and terms of call forms for David Baer as evangelist were not used. Powers of evangelist were not specified (G.10-3C).
7. 25.20.10: Required forms for minutes of commission to ordain/install have not been used (Attachment 14, *Procedure Manual*) (Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
8. 25.20.10: No record that Presbytery approved new call or terms of call for Corbett Heimburger.
9. 25.21: A ruling elder was assigned as advisor for candidates. *Book of Government* requires a teaching elder (G.12.2-D).

10. 26.16: Required forms for minutes of commission to ordain/install have not been used (Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
11. 26.16.01: Required forms for minutes of commission to ordain/install have not been used (Acts of the Assembly §90-03).
12. 26.16.03: No call or terms of call for Charles Plant were approved by Presbytery.
13. 26.16.05: Minutes do not indicate that proper steps for receiving a church from another body or independence have been followed: installation of pastor, election or recognition of officers, reception of members (G.5-4).
14. 26.16.07: Minutes do not indicate that membership of Greentree Community Church was received according to G.5-3 B.
15. 26.16.12: Minutes do not contain required out of bounds call forms (Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
16. 26.16.14: Presbytery acted unconstitutionally to set aside the term limit requirement of officers. It is the right of the congregation, not the presbytery to determine if it has lifetime officers or to have limited terms (G.15-6). The issue is remanded to the Presbytery of Mid-America for correction. *Referred to the floor (p. 69)*

- **Recommendation #43**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 32.02: Forest Hill is authorized to have 8 ruling elder commissioners but 10 are registered.
2. 32.27: The pension for Robert Buchanan is below the 10% minimum requirement.
3. 32.27.M: Required out of bounds call form is omitted for Doug Murphy (Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
4. 32.31: Presbytery appointed a commission, but no members are named.
5. 7C: Excused and unexcused absences are not recorded (*Rules of Assembly* §8-11.G-1).
6. 7C.07.E: Call and terms of call for Jeff Parks not approved by Presbytery. No definite period of time for service is specified (G.16-27.A-6). *Referred to the floor (p. 69)*

- **Recommendation #44**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest be approved with the following exceptions:

1. P. 265: Pension for Bill Meyer is below the 10% minimum (Acts of the Assembly §81-05).
2. P. 266: Call to Larry Schmoekel is out of order. There is no constitutional provision for a 2-year out of bounds call. Out of bounds calls are approved annually (G.10-3F).
3. P. 266: No summary of terms of call or terms of call form included in the minutes (Schmoekel, Quigley) (Acts of Assembly §89-03).
4. Pp. 271- 272: No summary of terms of call or terms of call form for Duane Armistead and Dan Ytterock included in the certified copy of the minutes.
5. Pp. 276, 279: No advisor appointed for Jeff Juday or Tim McCracken (G.12-2D).
6. P. 279: Terms of call for Doug Thompson are missing. If a call changes there must be new terms of call (the call comes from a different body even if the numbers are the same).
7. P. 280: The call to Bob Stauffer is unclear (no agency specified). No terms of call appear in the minutes. There is no record of church or Presbytery actions to dissolve Bob Stauffer's pastoral relationship with Tabernacle EPC.
8. P. 280: Terms of call for Ron Amos are missing.

9. Pp. 281-282: Members of a dissolved church were not commended to another congregation by the Presbytery (G.5-5).
10. P. 284: No indication that the required 10-day notice was given for a called meeting.
11. 83-8 A: Commission reports are missing.
12. 83-11: No advisor appointed for Tim Brown.
13. 83-13: Call and terms of call for Jamie Cupschalk was approved, but no record of his prior status, no record that he was examined and approved for ordination.
14. 83-13: Call and terms of call for Craig VanBiber was approved, but no record of his prior status, no indication that he was examined and no record of signing the Ministerial Obligation.
15. 85-12: (Note: this should be numbered 84-12.) No out of bounds call or terms of call form included for Kurt Gebhard.
16. 85-12: (Note: this should be numbered 84-12.) No record of previous status of David Hicks or dissolution of his call.
17. 85-12: (Note: this should be numbered 84-12.) No terms of call summary or forms included in minutes for Missionaries Stephen Kelley, Jim Killgore, Tim Mindling and David Walker. *Referred to the floor (p. 70)*

• **Recommendation #45**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 47:11, 28, 29, 30: Reports not begun with prayer.
2. 47:12: Service of appreciation and thanksgiving not conducted for either William Gainey or Richard Schussler (G.15-9)
3. 47:12 (4): Four teaching elders removed from roll with no indication for constitutional provisions for removal.
4. 47:12: No advisor appointed for Thomas Covington.
5. 47, Attachment C/1: Terms of call forms for William Swafford are inadequate.
6. 47:19: People who are not members of the court (Martha Roden) cannot make motions.
7. 47:28: Ministerial Committee report did not begin with prayer.
8. 47th Stated Meeting: Attachments C, D and E lack signatures.
9. 48, Attachment C: No definite period of time is part of the call as Assistant Pastor for John Piers (G.11-7). Terms of call form is incomplete.
10. 47, 48, 49: Signature of Moderator is missing. *Referred to the floor (p. 70)*

• **Recommendation #46**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of St. Andrews be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 55.4.2.4 and 55.4.3.1.2: An important *Book of Government* distinction between committees and commissions is blurred. The Presbytery is instructed to take note of G.16.26.A and 16.26.B and make this distinction clear in the future.
2. Translations of the 54th and 53rd Stated Meetings were not submitted. The Stated Clerk is instructed to submit those minutes by Dec. 31, 2000.

*Referred to the floor (p. 71)*

• **Recommendation #47**

That the minutes of the Presbytery of the West be approved without exceptions.

*Referred to the floor (p. 71)*



- **Recommendation #48**

That the following standardization method of numbering sections and subsections of the Presbytery minutes be approved: Each main section should identify the number of the meeting and the section, i.e., 76-10 identifies the 76th Stated Meeting, 10th section. Letter or number subsections as appropriate (e.g., 76-10 A.1).

Grounds: This will insure that all Presbyteries use the same format, making it easier to identify and refer to specific actions. *Referred to the floor (p. 71)*

- **Recommendation #49**

That the following standardized method of reporting attendance be initiated in all Presbyteries:

Active in EPC Church:

<b>Church</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>RE</b>
Faith EPC	Dr. John Blank (Present) Rev. John Bold (Unexcused)	Sam Underline (Excused) Frank Italics (Present)

*[Followed by all EPC Churches]*

**Out of Bounds**

Name of TE (present, excused, unexcused)

**Evangelists**

Name of TE (present, excused, unexcused)

*[Followed by all other categories]*

*[Followed by visitors]*

Grounds: *Rules for Assembly* §§8-11G require this reporting and this is a convenient and clear method to standardize the process. *Referred to the floor (p. 71)*

- **Recommendation #50**

That the following checklists be used by all Presbyteries (see attachments Cf pp. 316-323\_):

- Examination of candidates to come under care of Presbytery (Attachment #1)
- Examination of a candidate for ordination (Attachment #2)
- Examination of an ordained minister transferring to a Presbytery (Attachment #3)
- Examination of an ordained minister coming from another denomination from within the Reformed family (Attachment #4).
- Examination of an ordained minister coming from any other tradition (Attachment #5)
- Appointing commissions (Attachment #6)
- Special called meetings (Attachment #7)
- Dissolution of a pastoral relationship (Attachment #8)

Grounds: Following a checklist will insure that all required actions have been taken and using the standard format will insure proper reporting of actions taken. *Referred to the floor (p. 72)*

- **Recommendation #51**

That the following standardized method be used by all Presbyteries to show that corrections to exceptions and notations to Presbytery Minutes have been made:

In a subsequent set of minutes under the heading "Errata" make reference to the minutes to be corrected and then show the correction being made.

Example:

76-10 Errata

76-10A Make the following correction to exceptions reported by the Presbytery Review Committee:

A.1 Exception 1 [quote it]

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

A.2 Exception 2 (quote it)

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

76-10B Make the following correction to notations reported by the Presbytery Review Committee:

B.1 Notation 1 (quote it)

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

B.2 Notation 2 (quote it)

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

Grounds: Once minutes have been approved and placed in a Presbytery's permanent record they may not be altered. This provides a clear, standardized method to make necessary changes to approved minutes. *Referred to the floor (p. 72)*

• **Recommendation #52**

That guidance from the Office of the Stated Clerk be given to the Presbyteries on the following issues:

- Financial reporting in presbytery minutes
- Use of attachments in presbytery minutes, addressing the inconsistency in Acts of the Assembly §89-03 and §89-04.
- Annual reporting on the work of Ministers of the Word and changes in terms of call (G.16-27.A-1, 8)

Grounds: The Presbytery Review Committee observed wide variation in practice and thoroughness in these matters. *Referred to the floor (p. 73)*

**ON MOTION** Recommendations 34-52 were referred as noted.

The Stated Clerk introduced representatives from newly received Evangelical Presbyterian Churches. The Moderator officially welcomed the new churches and their representatives and offered prayer for them:

Hope Church, San Antonio, TX  
St. Andrews Church, Jackson, MS  
Midtown Church, Memphis, TN  
Jacob's Well, Kansas City, MO  
Good Shepherd Community,  
Warrenton, MO

Warehouse 242, Charlotte, NC  
North Grove EPC, Wilmington, NC  
New Covenant Church, Burgaw, NC  
Peace Presbyterian Church, Flint, MI  
New Heart Community, Muskegon, MI  
The Crossing, Columbia, MO

**20-13 FACE TO FACE OPPORTUNITIES**

The Moderator gave instructions for churches to communicate their need for staff positions. Representatives of the following churches addressed the Assembly with their staffing needs.

<b>Church</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Position</b>
Westminster EPC	Bluefield WV	Pastor
St. Giles EPC	Charlotte, NC	Assistant Pastor
Church Plant	Carbondale, IL	Church Planter
Cornerstone Community	Denver, CO	Assistant Pastor
New Covenant	Tucson, AZ	Pastor
Grace Community	Sun City West, AZ	Pastor
Chapel at Beaver Creek	Vail, CO	Pastor
St. Andrews EPC	Auburn, IN	Pastor
Reynolda EPC	Winston Salem, NC	Children's Ministries Director
Tabernacle EPC	Youngstown, OH	Pastor
		Children's Ministries Director
Plumtree EPC	Plumtree, NC	Pastor
Perrow EPC	Cross Lanes, WV	Pastor
Westminster	Bluefield, WV	Pastor
First Presbyterian	Trenton, MI	Assistant Pastor for Youth
Brooksville, FL	Jericho Road Ministries	Resident Director
Second Presbyterian	Memphis, TN	Youth Pastor
		Young Couples Pastor
		College Ministry Pastor
Fellowship EPC	S. Lyon, MI	Assistant Pastor
Trinity EPC	Plymouth, MI	Director of Children's Ministries

Following announcements the Moderator adjourned the First Session with prayer at 12:10 P.M.

**MINUTES - THURSDAY AFTERNOON**

**Second Session**  
**June 22, 2000**

**20-14 STANDING COMMITTEES MEET**

The standing committees of the General Assembly met from 1:30 - 5:00 p.m.

**20-15 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Assembly convened at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Ward Presbyterian Church. The Contemporary Worship Band played *For Such A Time As This*. The congregation was called to worship by the host pastor Dr. Jimmy McGuire. The anthem *Crown Him Lord of All* was sung by the Ward Chancel Choir after which the congregation entered into a season of prayer. The Dr. Edward Davis presided over the service of investiture for the new Moderator, Elder John Graham. Among the tokens of office conferred were the Moderator's stole and cross. Following the investiture service, Elder John Adamson, 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly Moderator, presented the Stated Clerk and his wife, Barbara, with a gift from the larger church family in recognition of his years of faithful service. The Word of God was read from Matthew 5:13-16. Keynote speaker, Dr. David Chadwick, preached on the

theme of *The World Into Which The Light Has Come*. Following a song of commitment, the new Moderator closed the service with a benediction.

MINUTES - FRIDAY MORNING

Third Session  
June 23, 2000

20-16 MODERATORS' SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND PRAYER

Elder John Adamson (Moderator 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) opened the service and made announcements. The congregation joined in singing praises after which Moderator John Graham read the Word of God from Revelation 5. Rev. Jimmy McGuire (Moderator, 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) preached on the theme of *The Ascension*. Rev. Richard Little (Moderator 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly) and Rev. McGuire led the service of communion. Ruling elders from the host church served the elements, after which the Assembly entered a season of intercessory prayer. The service was concluded with a benediction by Rev. William Flannagan (Moderator 11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly).

20-17 CONVENING OF THIRD SESSION & ADOPTION OF DOCKET

Moderator John Graham called the business session to order with prayer at 10:35 a.m. Prayer was offered by the Moderator. David Satterthwaite made various announcements concerning facilities and local arrangements.

ON MOTION the docket was adopted as presented.

DOCKET  
Friday, June 23, 2000

Third Session

- |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7:00        | Assembly committees reconvene                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 8:30-9:45   | Moderator's Service of Communion and Prayer (Worship Center)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 9:45-10:15  | Break and Exhibits                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 10:30-12:00 | Business Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening Prayer</li><li>• Adoption of the day's docket</li><li>• Local Arrangements and announcements</li><li>• Introduction of fraternal delegates</li><li>• Report of Fraternal Relations Committee</li><li>• Report of Women's Ministries Committee</li><li>• Second reading of nominations</li><li>• Report of National Outreach Committee</li></ul> |
| 12:00-1:30  | Luncheon for commissioners, observers and guests (Knox Hall; ticket req.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 12:00-2:30  | Women's Ministries Luncheon (Laurel Manor; ticket required) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speaker: Dr. Florence Littauer</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Fourth Session

- |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1:45-5:00 | Business Session (Worship Center) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Report of the Board of Pension &amp; Benefits (Special order - 1:50 p.m.)</li><li>• Partial Report of Administration Committee (if requested)</li><li>• Matters pending from Third Session</li><li>• Report of World Outreach Committee</li><li>• Final Report of Administration Committee</li><li>• Report of Christian Education &amp; Publications Committee</li></ul> |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

5:00-7:30  
7:30

• Report of Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee  
Dinner  
Worship Service (Worship Center)

## 20-18 INTRODUCTION OF FRATERNAL GUESTS

The Stated Clerk welcomed representatives from various denominations and ministries and each brought greetings to the Assembly. **Dr. David Englehard**, General Secretary of the Christian Reformed Church, summarized some of the key decisions made at their recent Synod meeting, including the matter of women as elders, an issue which has generated ongoing discussion for the past five years. **Rev. Jim Corbitt**, Director of Outreach, North America (Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church), reminded the Assembly of the Geneva Statement, a working fraternal agreement for ministry between our two denominations as well as our joint Assessment Center for Church Planting. He noted that the ARP has also has a continuing discussion on women in ministry, particularly as deacons. The Moderator led the court in prayer for our sister denominations.

**Dr. Robert Pitman**, Founder and President of Knox Fellowship, spoke to the Assembly, noting that two EPC ministers, Dr. Richard Little and Dr. Duane Armistead, are part of the founding of Knox Fellowship. The purpose of Knox is to assist churches in evangelism so that in 5 years a church will grow by 30% in membership. He said that when the Spirit of God is present in the Church, there is a yearning for prayer, a hunger for the scriptures, a freedom for sacrifice, a burden for the lost and an exercise of spiritual gifts. The Stated Clerk led the court in prayer for Dr. Pitman and Knox Fellowship. **Mr. Robert Millard** Regional Director of Development of King College, then brought greetings on behalf of the college, noting that he recognized EPC members who are now graduates, trustees and members of the board of King College. The Moderator offered prayer for Mr. Millard and the ministry of King College.

## 20-19 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The chairman, Elder Joan Merritt, opened the report with prayer. *(See page 99 for complete report of the standing committee.)*

### A. Business Referred to Committee

1. Minutes of the permanent committee of October 25-26, 1999 and March 21-22, 2000

### B. Recommendations

1. The minutes were reviewed and approved, with notations to be sent to the permanent committee.

The committee commended the members of the permanent committee for their outstanding work this year and especially noted the four years of faithful service by Anne Blackley, retiring Women's Ministries Committee chairman. Vicki Oliver will assume that position. Jan Juday, former Director of Women's Ministries, was praised for her years of leadership to Women's Ministries and commended to her new ministry at her home church, Cornerstone EPC in Brighton, Michigan.

Anne Blackley then presented Jan Juday with a plaque honoring her work as Director of Women's Ministries. The plaque read "With loving appreciation to Jan Juday for her service to the Evangelical Presbyterian church as Director of Women's Ministries. ... *A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Proverbs 31:30*"

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

**20-20 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS**

Rev. Daniel Gilbert, chairman, opened the report with prayer. (See page 84 for complete report of the standing committee.)

A. Business Referred to the Committee:

1. **Communication #00-14**
2. The report of the permanent Fraternal Relations Committee  
(No written committee minutes were submitted for review.)

B. Recommendations:

1. "That the Committee on Administration (COA) continue the relationship as outlined in **Communication #00-14** with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB)."

Grounds: This will serve to continue and enhance our existing relationship with the IPB. Adopted

2. "That the Assembly accept the verbal report of Rev. Ed Randal in lieu of a written report from the permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations."

Grounds: A written report was unavailable due to the death of chairman, Rev. Graham Smith. Adopted

The standing committee, having received and welcomed fraternal delegates from the Christian Reformed Church (Dr. David Engelhard) and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (Rev. Jim Corbitt) offered the following recommendations.

3. "That the Assembly direct the permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations to explore further relationships with the CRC similar to the ARP and the Geneva Statement."

Grounds: The committee believed that working on a similar statement with the CRC would develop a greater working relationship to further the Gospel. Adopted

4. "That the Assembly direct the permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations to strengthen our relationship with the ARP." Adopted

5. "That the Assembly direct the Committee on Fraternal Relations develop a list of colleges and seminaries of the ARP and the CRC."

Grounds: To strengthen fraternal relationships with the two denominations and to provide a resource for presbyteries and families to assist them in their selection of schools for their children. Adopted

The standing committee received a report from Rev. Dan Burns, EPC missionary in Kazakhstan, and as a result offered the following recommendation:

6. "That the Assembly direct the Fraternal Relations Committee to work with World

Outreach to facilitate the development of the plans found in the *World Outreach Manual*, §301.5, to establish a new presbytery in Kazakhstan.”

Adopted

The chairman reminded the Assembly of the need for mutual prayer and support among brothers and sisters in other denominations for the furtherance of the gospel in our respective locations.

The Assembly extended thanks and appreciation to the family of Dr. Graham Smith, chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee at the time of his death, for all that he meant to the Committee on Fraternal Relations and also to the EPC and the entire family of God.

**ON MOTION** the report as a whole was adopted.

The Stated Clerk, as a point of personal privilege, addressed a question from Rev. Bob Barrett regarding the curricula of the Christian Reformed Church and whether such meets our expectations. The Stated Clerk reminded the Assembly that implicit in the responsibility of raising such concerns should be the willingness to convey those concerns in writing to the permanent committee which has to do with the matter referenced. This is a way of keeping good faith with sister churches and approved agencies.

**20-21 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.**

Elder John Sherard, chairman, opened the report with prayer. He then presented the slate of nominations for permanent committees for the second reading as follows:

**COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**

Class of 2003      Elder Knox Sherer (Mid-Atlantic)  
                            Rev. Bill Hyer (Mid-Atlantic)  
                            Elder Virginia Patterson (Mid-America)

**COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS**

Class of 2003      Cheryl Curtis (Mid-America)  
                            Elder Dan Tidwell (Central South)  
Class of 2001      Elder Ted Brandsma (West)

**COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS**

Class of 2003      Rev. Perry Mobley (Mid-Atlantic)  
                            Elder Steele Stewart (East)  
Class of 2002      Rev. Russ Ragon (Southeast)

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION**

Class of 2003      Elder Jim Cantey (Central South)  
                            Rev. Art Hunt (Central South)

**COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH**

Class of 2003      Rev. Ron DiNunzio (Florida)  
                            Elder Charles Overstreet (Mid-Atlantic)  
                            Rev. Marty Martin (West)

**COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW**

Class of 2003      Elder Buck Russell (West)

**COMMITTEE ON STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES**

- Class of 2003 Rev. Brian Land (Central South)  
Elder Reg Smith (Southeast)
- Class of 2001 Fred Albaugh (Midwest)

**COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY**

- Class of 2003 Elder Charles Haden (Central South)  
Rev. Tom Ricks (Mid-America)
- Class of 2002 Rev. Donald Sweeting (West)

**COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

- Class of 2003 Wendy Johnson (East)  
Margaret Donato (Central South)
- Class of 2002 Karen Vogler (Mid-America)

**COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH**

- Class of 2003 Elder Howard Hjelm (East)  
Rev. Sam Rowen (East)  
Elder Bern Draper (West)
- Class of 2002 Rev. Ed Randal (West)

**BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS**

- Class of 2003 Elder Milton Knowlton (Central South)  
Elder Bill Johns (Southeast)

**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

- Class of 2003 Elder Charles Talbot (Midwest)  
Rev. Don Mason (Florida)  
Elder Dave Shira (Central South)

**20-22 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH**

The report was opened with prayer by the chairman, Rev. Tom Ryan. *(See page 90 for complete report of the standing committee.)*

**A. Business Referred to Committee**

1. **Recommendation #18**
2. **Recommendation #19**
3. **Recommendation #20**
4. **Minutes** of the permanent committee September 30-October 2, 1999 and March 16-18, 2000

**B. Recommendations**

1. That **Recommendation #18** "That *Book of Government* §5-1 and §5-2 be amended by substitution (cf. pp. 25-27)" be further amended as follows and adopted as amended. The sections were considered separately:
  - 5-1 change "should" to "shall";  
delete "always";  
delete underlined sentence. \_\_\_Adopted
  - 5-2 Following "A. Governance" replace proposed paragraph with the original paragraph. \_\_\_Adopted



Following "**B. Membership**" substitute the following wording for the first sentence:  
 "The temporary governing body shall receive members into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9."  
Adopted

Add: **C. Minutes** [bold face]

"The temporary governing body of the mission church shall record and submit its minutes to the Presbytery for review in the same manner as a particular church."  
Adopted

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>5-1 Presbytery has the exclusive right to organize, dissolve, dismiss or to receive from some other body a particular Church. While a Church Session has the duty and right to establish missions of the congregation or initiate extension work, this should be done always in consultation with the Presbytery. However, to organize into a particular Church is a right reserved to the Presbytery.</p>	<p>5-1 Presbytery has the exclusive right to organize, dissolve, dismiss or to receive from some other body a particular Church. While a Church Session has the duty and right to establish missions of the congregation or initiate extension work, this shall be done always in <del>consultation</del> <u>cooperation</u> with the Presbytery. <del>Such cooperation includes informing Presbytery as early as possible of Session's intent and proposed location for a mission church (G-16-16.E).</del></p> <p>However, to organize into a particular church is a right reserved to the Presbytery.</p>
<p>5-2 <b>The development of a mission church:</b> A mission church consists of a number of professing Christians, with their children, associated together for divine worship and godly living, agreeable to the Scriptures, and submitting to the lawful government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p>	<p>5-2 <b>The development of a mission church:</b> A mission church consists of a number of professing Christians, with their children, associated together for divine worship and godly living, agreeable to the Scriptures, and submitting to the lawful government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p> <p>A mission church is distinguished from a particular church in that it has no permanent governing body, and thus must be governed or supervised by others. However, its goal is to mature and be organized as a particular church as soon as this can be done in good order.</p>
<p>The mission church, because of its transitional nature, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances, and at its own discretion, Presbytery shall provide for such</p>	<p><b>A. Governance:</b> <u>The mission church, because of its transitional nature, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances, and at its own discretion, Presbytery shall</u></p>

<p>government in one of several ways:</p> <p>A. Appoint an Evangelist as prescribed in 10-3C of the <i>Book of Government</i> and entrust appropriate powers to that person.</p> <p>B. Cooperate with the Session of a particular church in arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church. The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.</p> <p>C. Appoint a commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church.</p> <p>At the discretion of the temporary governing body, members may be received into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9. These persons then become confirmed or baptized members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Mission churches shall maintain membership rolls in the same manner as, but separate from other particular churches.</p> <p>Mission churches and their members shall have the right of judicial process to the court having oversight of their temporary governing body. It is the further intention of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that mission churches enjoy the same status as particular churches in relationship to civil government.</p>	<p><u>provide for such government in one of several ways:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>1. Presbytery may</u> appoint an Evangelist as prescribed in 10-3C of the <i>Book of Government</i> and entrust appropriate powers to that person.</li> <li><u>2. Cooperate with</u> The Session of a particular church <u>in arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church.</u> The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.</li> <li><u>3. Presbytery or Session may</u> appoint a commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church.</li> </ol> <p><b>B. Membership:</b> <u>At the discretion of the temporary governing body, members may be received into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9. The temporary governing body shall receive members into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9.</u> These persons then become confirmed or baptized members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Mission churches shall maintain membership rolls in the same manner as, but separate from, other particular churches.</p> <p>Mission churches and their members shall have the right of judicial process to the court having oversight of their temporary governing body. It is the further intention of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that mission churches enjoy the same status as particular churches in relationship to civil government.</p> <p><b>C. Minutes</b> The temporary governing body of the mission church shall record and submit its minutes to the Presbytery for review in the same manner as a particular church.</p>
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Grounds: Experience in planting churches has shown that this section of the *Book of Government* needs greater clarity. The proposed substitution clarifies the nature of cooperation expected between Sessions and Presbyteries and the different means by which mission churches are governed. The substitution also clarifies the necessity and means by which membership rolls in mission churches are kept.

Following the adoption of the amendments to **Recommendation #18**, the Report of the Committee on National Outreach was suspended to accommodate the lunch schedule. Final consideration of Recommendation #18 was postponed until the Fourth Session (Friday afternoon). Report of National Outreach Committee continues on page 50.

#### 20-23 ADJOURNMENT FOR LUNCH

The court was dismissed with prayer by the Moderator.

### MINUTES - FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Fourth Session  
June 23, 2000

#### 20-24 ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The Assembly reconvened with prayer at 1:55 P.M.

#### 20-25 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PENSION & BENEFITS

The chairman, Elder Orin Littlejohn, opened the report with prayer. (See pages 134-140 for full report of the Board of Pension and Benefits.)

**ON MOTION** the Administration Committee was granted permission to give a partial report in conjunction with the report of the Board of Pension and Benefits on Overtures 00-B and 00-C. (Cf. *Rules for Assembly*, 8-10.)

A representative of Fidelity Investments, Ms. Diane Bolden, made a brief presentation on the benefits of the EPC Pension Plan including use of the Net Benefits features of the Fidelity Internet site. The Plan has made some significant changes this year, with additional opportunities for investment. There is a greater variety of funds and on-line investing is now an option.

Elder Littlejohn summarized the state of the medical insurance plan, reiterating the reasons for the 49% increase in premium in January and noting that the problems which generated this increase are now under control. Claims rose from an average of \$1,792,454 annually for the years of 1995-98 to a cost of \$2,659,769 for 1999. This represents an increase of \$867,000. Without a premium adjustment, the medical reserve funds decreased from approximately \$2,000,000 to \$830,000, both in principle and the interest income derived from such.

The Board has taken a number of steps to correct and strengthen our Plan.

- 1) We have contracted with a new third party administrator (TPA).
- 2) We have negotiated for a new Stop Loss Insurance carrier, again at a savings as compared to our previous coverage.
- 3) A prescription card is now included which saves both the participant and the Plan a significant amount of money.
- 4) We have instituted an annual review process whereby the adequacy of our medical

reserves shall be evaluated and unwise erosion of such fund precluded.

Other suggestions considered by the board include:

- 1) a change to a fully insured plan;
- 2) regionalization of the insurance coverage allowing each presbytery to provide for the medical insurance of their pastors and employees;
- 3) enforcing complete compliance or participation in our plan, and
- 4) merely keeping the plan as is or decrease benefits.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the Medical Plan be amended to cover home health care services when provided within 7 days following discharge from a hospital and for a cause related to the cause of the hospital confinement.

Grounds: This provision is intended to limit unnecessary care. Most plan documents contain this provision and specify "within 7 days following hospital discharge." Home health care services should have provision similar to those for services rendered by a skilled nursing facility. \_\_\_ *Adopted*

2. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" any medical, hospital, surgical or loss of time benefits resulting from an automobile accident.

Grounds: This exclusion, as well as those included in Recommendations 3-9 below clarify medical necessity and eliminate unjustified charges, thereby limiting Plan liability. They are common exclusions in group health plans. \_\_\_ *Not Adopted*

3. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" conditions arising from or caused by illegal use of narcotics or use of hallucinogens in any forms. \_\_\_ *Not Adopted*

4. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges in connection with weekend hospital admissions unless deemed medically necessary or unless surgery is performed on the date of admission. \_\_\_ *Adopted*

5. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges made in connection with any surrogate parenting arrangement. \_\_\_ *Adopted*

6. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges for completing a claim form. \_\_\_ *Adopted*

7. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges made for professional services of a resident physician or intern. \_\_\_ *Adopted*

8. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges made in connection with surgery rendered to accomplish sex reassignment (sex change) or for complications arising out of such procedure. \_\_\_ *Adopted*

9. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" services or supplies rendered during any period in which the covered employee or covered dependent is not under the

continuing care of a physician.

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

- 10. That the Medical Plan be amended to limit coverage of pregnancy expense to the employee or spouse. \_\_\_ *Not Adopted*
- 12. That the Medical Plan be amended to add, under "Organ and Tissue Transplants" coverage of expenses attributed to a donor if the recipient is not a covered person.

Grounds: If a covered person volunteers to donate an organ to another person not covered by the EPC Plan, and the recipient's covered benefits do not provide donor coverage, the Plan should specify what, if any, benefits will be paid by the EPC Plan on behalf of the donor.

The chairman asked the Assembly not to consider this recommendation at this time because the present wording is confusing and needs to be further clarified by the Board.

\_\_\_ *Not considered*

- 13. That the Medical Plan be amended to include prescription coverage for Viagra, with a maximum of six pills per month reimbursed under the Plan. \_\_\_ *Adopted*
- 14. That the Medical Plan be amended to remove the exclusion for prescription coverage of birth control pills. \_\_\_ *Adopted*
- 15. "The Board further recommends that its advisory letter (**Communication 00-12**, p. 175) on Social Security participation be adopted." \_\_\_ *Adopted*

The report of the Board of Pension and Benefits was suspended to allow a partial report from the Committee on Administration relative to the insurance issue.

**20-26 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**

Elder Donald Harms, chairman, opened with prayer. He stated that the standing Administration Committee had reviewed **Overtures 00-B** and **00-C** relative to the medical insurance plan. The consensus was that there were not enough hard facts before the Assembly nor a sufficient analysis of our insured population to make a decision on either overture at this time. The recommendation of the standing committee, therefore, was as follows:

"That the General Assembly

- a. Add four non-voting members to the Board of Pension & Benefits for one year as an investigatory subcommittee. Said members to be chosen by the Moderator to reflect various viewpoints; and
- b. That the subcommittee meet with the Board at its regular meetings.
- c. That the subcommittee investigate:
  - 1) The viability of the current plan;
  - 2) The viability of a fully insured denominational plan;
  - 3) The viability of requiring individual churches/presbyteries to go to their own plans;
  - 4) The total impact (plan provisions/financial) on individual churches of eliminating the denominational plan.
- d. That the subcommittee report its findings to the General Assembly in 2001.

- e. That the subcommittee be authorized to expend up to \$15,000 from the insurance administration budget for an outside national insurance consultant.
- f. The consideration of **Overtures 00-B & 00-C** be postponed for one year.

Motion was made to amend article "d." by adding the following provisions:

- 1) Following each of the interim meetings of the subcommittee with Board of Pension and Benefits, a written report of their work in as much detail as possible will be disseminated to the presbyteries through the sessions, presbytery clerks and ministerial committees.
- 2) All financial and demographic information of the medical insurance plan (sanitized of personal identifying information) shall be available to each Presbytery upon written request.
- 3) A full written report of the final findings and recommendations of the subcommittee shall be provided to the presbyteries at least 60 days prior to 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2001) with all relevant data and background materials made available to the recipients.

Adopted

**ON MOTION** to adopt the recommendation as amended.

**ON MOTION** the report of the Committee on Pension and Benefits, including the partial report of the Administration Committee, were adopted.

**20-27 NEW GENEVA PROGRAM**

Rev. Ian Lamont was asked to call the Assembly's attention to the New Geneva Seminary in Colorado Springs, Colorado and to speak a few words about its program.

**20-28 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH (continued)**

The chairman, Rev. Tom Ryan, continued the report opening with prayer. The Assembly resumed consideration of **Recommendation #18** (p. 47).

**ON MOTION** Recommendation #18 was adopted as amended.

2. That **Recommendation #19** be adopted "That the **National Outreach Master Plan** be amended by adding the following:

**"Strategic Area #5 HOME MISSIONS:** To enable workers to present the love of Christ to English-speaking people groups in the USA, unreached by the established church.

Objectives:

1. To identify unreached English-speaking people groups in the USA needing Christ's love;
2. To find and nurture qualified missionaries who will live with these groups;
3. To assist these workers in securing funds for their ministries;
4. To work toward establishing churches among these people groups, or if not possible, to link them with existing churches."

Grounds: Many people within the United States are unserved (or underserved) by the established church, e.g., Native Americans, migrant workers, rural and urban poor, handicapped individuals, families of recent immigrants, homeless people, substance abusers, prison and jail inmates and their families. This will enable NOC to call Home Missionaries to minister to these people and to enable these Home Missionaries to raise necessary support from our congregations.

The standing committee recommended amending **Recommendation #19** with the following changes, and to adopt as amended:

- Following "Strategic Area #5 Home Missions," replace the first word "To" with the following words: "In partnership, cooperation with, and/or at the request of Presbytery, we will" (enable etc.) so that the section would read as follows:

**"Strategic Area #5 HOME MISSIONS: In partnership, cooperation with, and/or at the request of Presbytery, we will enable workers to present the love of Christ to English-speaking people groups in the USA, unreached by the established church."**

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

3. That **Recommendation #20** "that in response to the 19th General Assembly's instruction to the National Outreach Committee 'to propose a plan for funding church planting,' that the following Plan for Funding Church Planting be approved:
  1. A 3-year campaign to raise \$750,000 will be started January 1, 2001.
  2. Contributions to the Fund will be sought from presbyteries, churches and individuals.
  3. The Fund will be used as follows:
    - Two-thirds for church/presbytery/NOC partner projects;
    - One-third for NOC-initiated projects.
  4. Church planters of NOC-approved projects will be required to raise 50% of their compensation package for a period of three years. (Part of this may be accomplished by being a bi-vocational church planter.)"

Grounds: The \$750,000 is approximately double what has been received through the Church Planting and Key City Benevolence Askings. The NOC believes that with a broad-based campaign that encourages grass roots church planting as well as NOC-initiated plants, the church-at-large will respond. Furthermore, when church planters participate in the fund-raising effort, several things will occur:

- They become more fiscally aware;
- Supporting churches identify more closely with people;
- The planter's commitment and aggressiveness is demonstrated.

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

5. The minutes of the permanent committee were approved with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

The standing committee commended the permanent National Outreach Committee for the quality of their minutes and their hard work this past year.

**ON MOTION** the report as a whole was adopted.

## 20-29 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

The chairman, Rev. Eric Ohman, opened the report with prayer. (See page 100 for complete report of the standing committee.)

## A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Recommendation # 26**
2. **Recommendation # 27**
3. **Recommendation # 28**
4. **Recommendation # 30**
5. **Communication # 00-9**
6. **Minutes** of the permanent committee dated June 23, 1999; September 9-11, 1999; January 20-22, 2000; March 23-25, 2000

## B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #26** "that the **World Outreach Master Plan** be revised and adopted as presented (cf. pp. 359-362)."

Grounds:

- Values: To modify value statements to more accurately reflect WOC positions and commitments.
- Goals & Objectives: Original goals & objectives were stated for 1998 and 2001. The new document presents goals for 2002 and 2005.
- EPC Fields: To position Muslim ministry first priority in our major defining document as it is in actuality.
- Strategic Opportunities: To place East Asia (China) more substantially in our goals, and to add overseas international church planting and development as a new field focus.
- Mission Education: To state new goals as a result of progress on past goal statements.

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

2. That **Recommendation #27** "that the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended in Section 302.3C by deleting item 6, *Studies in Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments*, and renumbering the present 7 to 6" be adopted.

<u>Present wording</u>	<u>Proposed wording</u>
<p><b>302.3C</b> The WOC covenants with the Mission Evangelist to provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;</li> <li>2. Studies in Presbyterian government and order;</li> <li>3. Bible studies in Old and New Testament and homiletics;</li> <li>4. Studies in pastoral work;</li> <li>5. Studies in church planting and church growth;</li> <li>6. Studies in Reformed essentials and</li> </ol>	<p><b>302.3C</b> The WOC covenants with the Mission Evangelist to provide the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;</li> <li>2. Studies in Presbyterian government and order;</li> <li>3. Bible studies in Old and New Testament and homiletics;</li> <li>4. Studies in pastoral work;</li> <li>5. Studies in church planting and church growth;</li> <li><del>6. Studies in Reformed essentials and</del></li> </ol>



tradition including the sacraments; 7. Other such courses as the WOC may feel are essential or helpful.	tradition including the sacraments; 6. Other such courses as the WOC may feel are essential or helpful.
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Grounds: Everything listed in item 6 is covered in item 1 "A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments." Adopted

3. That **Recommendation #28** "that the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended in the third sentence of section **400.10 Vehicles** by increasing the amount of the standard vehicle allowance from \$14,000 to \$18,000" be adopted.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>400.10 Vehicles</b> World Outreach includes a standard vehicle in the terms of call for career missionaries serving and residing overseas. The assets for such vehicles are for use on the field as well as during Home Service. The initial vehicle will be included in outgoing costs of \$14,000, or an amount approved by the World Outreach Director. The initial amount of the vehicle will be held in escrow until the actual purchase of the vehicle. Twenty percent of the cost of the replacement vehicle will be put into the annual terms of call and set aside for future purchase. Vehicle registration and insurance will be in the name of the missionary and operational costs will be assumed by the missionary.</p>	<p><b>400.10 Vehicles</b> World Outreach includes a standard vehicle in the terms of call for career missionaries serving and residing overseas. The assets for such vehicles are for use on the field as well as during Home Service. The initial vehicle will be included in outgoing costs of \$14,000 \$18,000, or an amount approved by the World Outreach Director. The initial amount of the vehicle will be held in escrow until the actual purchase of the vehicle. Twenty percent of the cost of the replacement vehicle will be put into the annual terms of call and set aside for future purchase. Vehicle registration and insurance will be in the name of the missionary and operational costs will be assumed by the missionary.</p>

Grounds: The \$14,000 allowance was established in January, 1995. This increase adjusts for vehicle price increases in the intervening years. The monthly vehicle escrow amount would increase from \$233 to \$300. Adopted

4. That **Recommendation #30** "that the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended by adding a section **304.5 Extended Home Service**" be adopted.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<i>No Section 304.5 currently exists.</i>	<p><b>304.5 Extended Home Service</b> At the end of the normal home service, the WOC may grant, with justification, an extension of home service not to exceed one year.</p>

Grounds: At present, World Outreach has no clear statement about the length of home service or how it might be extended before a missionary is placed on leave of absence. This policy would require the missionary to request the extension of home service, indicat-

ing a reason for the request. The WOC would then act on that request. This is in line with other missions agency policies. Adopted

5. That **Communication 00-9** be received as information. Adopted
6. The minutes of the permanent committee were approved with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

The standing committee affirmed the outstanding values, commitments, and work of the World Outreach Committee. God's blessing to each servant dedicated both to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and expanding His Church.

**ON MOTION** the report as a whole was adopted.

#### 20-30 **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Rev. Sam Rowan presented a plaque to retiring World Outreach Director Dick Oestreicher in recognition of his service to the denomination. The inscription read: "With loving appreciation to Richard Oestreicher for his service to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as Director of World Outreach. *Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Mark 16:15.*" Elder John Ward then offered prayer for the Oestreicher family on behalf of the court.

#### 20-31 **FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**

Elder Donald Harms, chairman, opened the report with prayer. (*See page 80 for complete report of the standing committee.*)

##### A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Recommendation #1**
2. **Recommendation #2**
3. **Recommendation #3**
4. **Recommendation #4**
5. **Recommendation #5**
6. **Recommendation #6**
7. **Recommendation #7**
8. **Recommendation #21**
9. **Recommendation #22**
10. **Recommendation #29**
11. **Overture #00-A**
12. **Overture #00-B**
13. **Overture #00-C**
14. **Communication #00-4**
15. **Communication #00-6**
16. **Minutes** of the permanent committee of November 4-5, 1999 and April 6-7, 2000

##### B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #1** "that the Proposed 2001 Administration Budget for

\$1,094,000 be adopted.”

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

2. That **Recommendation #2** “that the 2000 Administration Budget be adjusted to incorporate (a) the call for the new Stated Clerk, (\$14,500 compensation; \$8,000 moving expenses); (b) new World Outreach Director (\$25,000); (c) Staff insurance, pension, expenses allowances and taxes related to the two new staff members (\$16,160); and (d) additional funding for publishing *Reflections* magazine (\$5,000) so that the 2000 Administration Budget is increased from \$1,088,000 to \$1,156,660.”

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

3. That **Recommendation #3** “that the General Assembly approve a mid-year benevolence asking of \$25,000 for *Reflections* magazine in 2000 so that the 2000 Benevolence Askings are increased from \$464,000 to \$489,000.”

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

4. That **Recommendation #4** “that the Proposed 2001 Benevolence Askings Budget for \$595,000 be adopted.”

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

[Stated Clerk's note: The 2001 Benevolence Askings Budget as presented to the Assembly for \$610,000 included a \$15,000 adjustment to the 2000 benevolence for Women's Ministries Faith Focus. The 2000 Benevolence Askings, in fact, already included funding for that project, making the aforementioned \$15,000 asking unnecessary. Therefore, the total of the 2001 Benevolence Askings is reduced by \$15,000 to \$595,000.]

5. That **Recommendation #5** “that the 2000 Thanksgiving Offering be designated for National Outreach, and that its proceeds be used to support the Appalachian Project as the initiation of NOC's Home Missions program.”

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

6. That **Recommendation #6** “that the General Assembly receive the report of the 2001 Committee (Vision 21 booklet) as information, and instruct the Office of the Stated Clerk and the Committee on Administration to elicit responses from the presbyteries and to bring the final report to the 21st General Assembly for action” be amended by substituting the words “endorse conceptually” for the word “receive” and adding a new paragraph: “We commend the tremendous amount of work and dedication of the 2001 Committee. We are deeply grateful for the long hours of creative, imaginative and long range direction this committee provided us in this excellent plan.” and adopted as amended.

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

7. That **Recommendation #7** “that the invitation of Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee to host General Assembly be accepted for the 24th (2004) Assembly.”

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

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8. That **Recommendation #21** “that the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* in Section 10-4.2 to change “March 31” to “April 30” so that the section reads as follows:

<b>Present wording</b>	<b>Proposed wording</b>
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 <u>March 31</u> of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.	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 <del>March 31</del> <u>April 30</u> of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.

*Adopted*

9. That **Recommendation #22** “that the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* in Section 10-4.4 to change “April” to “May” so that the section reads as follows:

<b>Present wording</b>	<b>Proposed wording</b>
4. The Committee shall meet in April each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.	4. The Committee shall meet in <del>April</del> <u>May</u> each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.

*Adopted*

10. That **Recommendation #29** “that the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended by adding a section **301.5 Provisional Presbytery Formation**” not be adopted.

<b>Present wording</b>	<b>Proposed wording</b>
<i>No section 301.5 currently exists.</i>	<b>301.5 Provisional Presbytery Formation</b> When the WOC believes the work is ready for establishment of a provisional presbytery, it will request the GA to appoint a commission entrusted with all the powers necessary to do so (G.16-26B)

Grounds: Concern was stated that the entire General Assembly be involved in the process of establishing a presbytery. A process for establishing a presbytery already exists in the *Book of Government*. During the discussion on **Recommendation #29**, the Moderator ruled that the recommendation from the standing Committee on Fraternal Relations on the matter of establishing a presbytery in Kazakhstan was not acted upon properly by the Assembly. (See §20-20B.6, p. 42)

*Adopted*

11. That **Overture 00-A** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic (p. 184) to amend the

*Book of Discipline* in Section 6-1 not be adopted.

1. To amend **6-1B**, the first sentence, with the inclusion of the italicized phrase "with attached supporting evidence" so that the sentence reads:  
"No investigation against an accused offender shall be commenced unless some person files a written charge, *with attached supporting evidence*, with the Clerk of the court, ...etc."
2. To amend **6-1B** by adding the following italicized sentences to the end of the section:  
*The Clerk shall determine and be satisfied that the person(s) bringing a charge have followed Scriptural procedure required under Matthew 18:15-16, I Timothy 5:19 and Galatians 6:1. The Clerk shall then notify the Moderator of the court that a charge has been properly filed against a member of the court."*
3. To amend **6-1C** by adding the following italicized words, so that the section now reads:  
*C. Investigative Committee*  
*Upon notification by the Clerk that a formal charge has been duly received against a member of the court, the Moderator shall appoint an investigative committee to serve as a find of fact, which shall report its findings to the court with its recommendations. The committee shall have no authority to act for the court other than as an investigative body. Should a formal charge be filed against an officer of the court, the court as a whole shall receive the charge and elect the investigative committee.*
4. To amend **1-6**, sentence beginning "No charge involving a personal offense will be received..." by changing the phrase "to the court" to read "*to the Clerk of the court*."  
Grounds: The standing committee reviewed the recommendations from the Permanent Judicial Commission not to adopt this overture and concurred.

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

12. **Overture 00-B** and **Overture 00-C** were considered previously (cf. §20-26, p. 49).
13. That **Communication 00-4** from Reverend Stephen Crotts, pastor of Myrtle Grove EPC be accepted not to hold the 2002 General Assembly in Wilmington, N.C. because of limited hospitality resources; and that the COA be directed to find a replacement location as soon as possible.  
\_\_\_ *Adopted*
14. **Communication 00-6** was received as information.
15. Minutes of the permanent committee were adopted with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

At the request of the committee the Moderator approved fifteen minutes of docket time Saturday morning for a presentation on Vision 21 (cf. *Rules for Assembly*, 8-7).

As a point of personal privilege, Rev. William Flannagan made a note of appreciation for the healthy debate on the medical insurance issue.

**ON MOTION** the report was adopted as a whole.

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer at 5:04 p.m.

**20-32 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE**

The Assembly convened at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Ward Presbyterian Church. The Ward Orchestra played *King of Kings*. Following announcements, the congregation was called to worship by the host pastor, Rev. Jimmy McGuire. The anthem *Lost In The Night* was sung by the Ward Chancel Choir after which Mr. Richard Oestreicher led in a commissioning service for new missionaries. The Stated Clerk, Rev. Edward Davis, presented Retiring Moderator Jimmy McGuire with the tokens of his office (a lapel pin modeled after the Moderator's cross and a commemorative plaque) and the thanks of the court. Following congregational singing and a season of prayer, Rev. Michael Glodo read from Matthew 5:13-16 and preached on the theme of "The Light Which Has Come Into the World." Rev. Jeff Chadwick closed the service with a benediction after the closing hymn.

**MINUTES - SATURDAY MORNING**

**Fifth Session  
June 24, 2000**

**20-33 ASSEMBLY RECONVENED**

Moderator John Graham called the Assembly to order at 9:10 a.m. with prayer.

**20-34 REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Rev. William Flannagan, chairman opened his report with prayer. The Committee placed in nomination for Stated Clerk-Elect, the name of Rev. Michael Glodo. Seconding speeches were made by Rev. Robert Hess (Homestead, FL) and Rev. James Van Dyke (Rome, GA).

**ON MOTION** Rev. Michael Glodo was elected Stated Clerk-Elect of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Glodo, his wife Vicki and their children, Rachel and Samuel, were introduced. Prayer was offered by the Moderator.

**ON MOTION** the Search Committee for Stated Clerk was dismissed with the thanks of the Assembly, and the report as a whole was adopted.

**20-35 MORNING WORSHIP**

Following announcements, Rev. Douglas Walker called the Assembly to worship. The Assembly sang *The Servant Song*. Following the invocation, and a responsive reading, Rev. James Van Dyke read from Mark 3:6-15 and preached on the theme "A Blueprint For The Church." The Assembly sang *In Christ There Is No East or West* (stanzas 1 and 2) and proceeded to the service of installation for the Stated Clerk-Elect. The service concluded with the singing of *In Christ There Is No East or West* (stanzas 3-4) and a

benediction by the Stated Clerk-Elect, Rev. Michael Glodo.

## 20-36 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

The Assembly reconvened at 9:30 A.M. with prayer. Elder Ron DeHaas led the Assembly in prayer for the Student & Young Adult Ministries Appalachian Project going on as the Assembly met. The Moderator made a point of personal privilege to ask forgiveness of any person who may have been offended during the insurance discussion on Friday afternoon and offered prayer.

**ON MOTION** the docket was adopted as follows.

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>Saturday, June 24, 2000</b>	
<b><u>Fifth Session</u></b>	
8:00	Business Session (Worship Center) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Stated Clerk. Opening prayer.</li> <li>• Report of the Stated Clerk Search Committee</li> </ul>
8:30-9:15	Morning Worship (Worship Center) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Jim Van Dyke, Speaker</li> </ul>
9:30-12:30	Business Session (Worship Center) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the Docket. Final enrollment. Local arrangements announcements. Ministry reports: WOC, SYAM, NOC (at the discretion of the Moderator).</li> <li>• Matters carried over from Fourth Session               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vision 21 Report.</li> <li>2. Report of Christian Education &amp; Publications.</li> <li>3. Report of Student &amp; Young Adult Ministries</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Final Report of Nominating Committee and Elections</li> <li>• Report of Permanent Judicial Commission</li> <li>• Report of Theology Committee</li> <li>• Report of Presbytery Review Committee</li> <li>• Report of Ministerial Vocation Committee</li> <li>• Report of Memorials &amp; Appreciation Committee</li> </ul>
12:30	Concluding worship (Worship Center)
12:45	Box Lunch (Knox Hall)

## 20-37 MATTERS CARRIED OVER FROM FOURTH SESSION

Elder Bill Johns opened the report with prayer and presented the 2001 Committee Report contained in the booklet, *Vision 21* (pp. 108ff). He reviewed the eight key assumptions to which the EPC is committed, who we are as a denominational family, and what core values we hold. Elder Virginia Patterson continued, reporting the five target categories, and summarized where we aim to go in missions development, leadership development, congregational development and organization development. The 2001 Committee's prayer is "that the Assembly will receive our work and commit this denomination to a vigorous plan of action for the glory of God."

The Moderator appointed to the subcommittee to review the EPC Group Insurance options the following four members: Elder Jerry Hulick (East), Elder Jon Brooks (West), Elder

**20-38 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS**

The chairman, Rev. Alan Wright, opened the report with prayer. (See page 82 for complete report of the standing committee.)

Lucy McGuire, editor of *Reflections* magazine, was given the floor to report on *Reflections* magazine. She opened with prayer. Mrs. McGuire presented a verbal and graphical report on the work, plans and financial support for our EPC denominational magazine. *Reflections* now has a website: EPC-reflections.com. She encouraged commissioners to pick up the latest copy, available throughout the church, and asked the churches to distribute the magazine to all the families in their congregations. Financial support of the magazine is crucial to its continuation.

The Stated Clerk took the podium to exhort commissioners to encourage their churches to financially support the magazine. \$25,000 is still needed for this year and an additional \$50,000 in 2001. The budget items approved at this Assembly do not cover the entire costs of publishing.

Dr. Dan Erickson, Executive Director, National Coalition of Men's Ministries, was given the floor. He emphasized the decline in male participation in the larger church and the need for intentional men's ministries. He exhorted the Assembly to reach men and develop a disciple-making ministry, because by reaching men, entire families will be reached. Too many men in America do not consider church relevant today. It is time to make an intentional bid to reach these men. Dr. Erickson asked the presbyteries to appoint representatives to work with NCM.

The chairman, Rev. Alan Wright, then moved to the main Report of the Christian Education & Publications Committee.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. **Recommendation # 8**
2. **Recommendation # 9**
3. **Communication #3**
4. **Communication #8**
5. **Communication #15**
6. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications dated September 24-25, 1999 and March 10-11, 2000

B. Recommendations:

1. That **Recommendation #8** "that the General Assembly endorse the Children's Catechism lessons of Children's Ministries International, in our churches" be adopted.  
Grounds: Some of our most elementary theological beliefs are formed very early in childhood, Children's Ministries International has developed a unique visual way of presenting the children's catechism to young children. Several churches in the EPC family have found it to be very effective and helpful in establishing faith in their young children. Adopted
2. That **Recommendation #9** "that John Sartelle's *Infant Baptism* be endorsed by the



General Assembly for use in the churches, alongside the late Francis Schaeffer's booklet *Baptism*, previously endorsed by General Assembly" be adopted.

Grounds: John Sartelle's booklet titled *Infant Baptism* like Francis Schaeffer's *Baptism*, provides a succinct and readable statement of the biblical basis for the practice of infant baptism. In addition, Sartelle's booklet contains wise pastoral counsel and a helpful question and answer section making it a useful resource alongside Schaeffer's booklet.

\_\_\_ *Adopted*

3. That **Communication #00-3** (Judy Bryson, president of Pioneer Clubs), **Communication #00-8** (Dr. Daniel Erickson, National Coalition of Men's Ministries) and **Communication #00-15** (Mr. Brad Winsted, Director of Children's Ministries International) be received as information. \_\_\_ *Adopted*
4. The minutes of the permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications were reviewed, with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

The permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications was commended for their outstanding work over the past year as well as recognition of and appreciation for the *Reflections* publication.

**ON MOTION** the report as a whole was adopted.

#### 20-39 **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES**

The report was opened with prayer by the chairman, Rev. Tom Dages. (*See page 95 for complete report of the standing committee.*)

##### A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. **Recommendation #23**
2. **Minutes** of the permanent committee of October 1-2, 1999 and March 3-4, 2000

##### B. Recommendations:

1. That **Recommendation #23** "that the General Assembly endorse the Student and Young Adult Ministries Youth Curriculum for use in church membership programs for youth and young adults" be amended by adding the words "as a working draft" after the word "Curriculum" and adopted as amended.

Grounds: Student & Young Adult Ministries has received numerous inquiries from churches for youth membership material. After extensive review of existing curricula, it was determined that the development of such material would be a valuable asset to EPC congregations and a worthwhile undertaking. A great challenge for the church in every age is to pass on the life changing message of the gospel of Jesus in a way that is both powerful and meaningful to the next generation. Teens and young adults must be nurtured in their understanding of the great truths of the Christian faith. This curriculum is offered as one possible part in the process of accomplishing that vital goal. The standing committee believed the Curriculum to be an excellent tool but that

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by adding the words "as a working draft" to the recommendation, the book can be further fine-tuned and revised as necessary. Adopted

2. The minutes of the permanent committee were adopted with notations to be forwarded to the permanent committee.

The committee commended the permanent committee for their outstanding work, including their pioneering work on the Youth Membership Curriculum. We also wish to thank Rev. Rick Stauffer for his leadership as chairman of the permanent committee during the past four and a half years, and Bob Watson for his service as interim SYAM Director.

**ON MOTION** the report as a whole was adopted.

**20-40 RECOGNITION OF CHAPLAINS**

The Moderator recognized chaplains present and led the Assembly in prayer for them.

**20-41 FINAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTIONS**

The chairman, Elder John Sherard, opened the report with prayer. He presented the slate of nominations for permanent committees for its final reading and elections:

**COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**

Class of 2003	Elder Knox Sherer (Mid-Atlantic)
	Rev. Bill Hyer (Mid-Atlantic)
	Elder Virginia Patterson (Mid-America)

**COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS**

Class of 2003	Cher Curtis (Mid-America)
	Elder Dan Tidwell (Central South)
Class of 2001	Elder Ted Brandsma (West)

**COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS**

Class of 2003	Rev. Perry Mobley (Mid-Atlantic)
	Elder Steele Stewart (East)
Class of 2002	Rev. Russ Ragon (Southeast)

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION**

Class of 2003	Elder Jim Cantey (Central South)
	Rev. Art Hunt (Central South)

**COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH**

Class of 2003	Rev. Ron DiNunzio (Florida)
	Elder Charles Overstreet (Mid-Atlantic)
	Rev. Marty Martin (West)

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**COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW**

Class of 2003                      Elder Buck Russell (West)

**COMMITTEE ON STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES**

Class of 2003                      Rev. Bryan Land (Central South)

Elder Reg Smith (Southeast)

Class of 2001                      Elder Fred Albaugh (Midwest)

**COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY**

Class of 2003                      Elder Charles Haden (Central South)

Elder Tom Ricks (Mid-America)

Class of 2002                      Rev. Donald Sweeting (West)

**COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

Class of 2003                      Wendy Johnson (East)

Margaret Donato (Central South)

Class of 2002                      Karen Vogler (Mid-America)

**COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH**

Class of 2003                      Elder Howard Hjelm (East)

Rev. Sam Rowen (East)

Elder Bern Draper (West)

Class of 2002                      Rev. Ed Randal (West)

**BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS**

Class of 2003                      Elder Milton Knowlton (Central South)

Elder Bill Johns (Southeast)

**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

Class of 2003                      Elder Charles Talbot (Midwest)

Rev. Don Mason (Florida)

Elder Dave Shira (Central South)

**ON MOTION** the slate of nominees was elected as presented.

**ON MOTION** the report as a whole was adopted.

**20-42 MODERATORIAL NOMINATIONS**

The Moderator presented the nominations from the Retiring Moderator as follows (cf.

**Communication 00-1**):

- Board of Pension & Benefits Chairman: Elder Orin Littlejohn

**ON MOTION** Elder Orin Littlejohn was elected as chairman of the Board of Pension & Benefits

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- Nominating Committee
  - Class of 2003 Elder Candace McCune (West)  
Rev. Ron Odum (Southeast)  
Elder Allen Roes (Mid-Atlantic)
  - Class of 2001 Elder W.A. Ray (Florida)

Elder Candace McCune graciously declined nomination since she was just appointed to serve on the Ad Interim Committee on Insurance. She nominated **Elder Jan Bole (West)** for the Class of 2002 in her place.

**ON MOTION** the slate for the Committee on Nominations was elected as amended.

- The Retiring Moderator, Rev. Jimmy McGuire, appointed Elder Richard Heidtman (Midwest) as the Nominating Committee chairman.

**20-43 REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

Elder Jim Rimmel, moderator of the PJC, opened the report with prayer. (*See pp. 264-268 for complete report of the PJC.*)

Recommendation:

1. That the PJC forms (pages 269-292 ) be adopted as a whole for inclusion in the *Book of Discipline*.

Grounds: Any recommended changes, corrections or improvements can be made at future date, if needed. Adopted

The PJC reviewed recommendations (#10, #12 and #18) to amend the *Book of Order*.

1. Re: **Recommendation #10** (p. 73), the PJC finds that there is "no incompatibility noted with other provisions of the *Book of Order*."
2. Re: **Recommendation 12** (p. 74) , the PJC finds that there is "no incompatibility noted with other provisions of the *Book of Order*."
3. Re: **Recommendation 18** (p. 44):  
**5-1** It was noted that the added sentence beginning "Such cooperation..." for a mission church (G.16-16,E) seemed to be limiting and too narrow to be appropriate for the *Book of Order*.

PJC recommended that the sentence ought to be removed from the proposed change to the *Book of Order*. No issue was noted concerning the substitution of G.5-2A. It was noted that the proposed reference to a "temporary system of government" failed to emphasize that the ultimate authority for establishing new churches lay with the Presbytery (G.5-1 16-16.E). The new provisions 1, 1, and 3 should reference this understanding.

**5-2B** The proposed section, by deleting the reference to "the temporary governing body,"

gives the impression that a session will receive the new members. Chapter 9 reference only refers to Sessions. PJC recommended that the reference to "temporary governing body" be reinstated to the proposed change.

The above concerns were communicated to the standing National Outreach Committee by Elder Jim Rimmel and Elder Don Mason. The standing committee took action to address these concerns so that Recommendation 18 met constitutional and clarity standards.

4. That the Assembly adopt the provisional opinion of the Stated Clerk, that the Presbytery of Mid-America acted constitutionally (G. 13-5) in receiving Rev. David Baer into its membership (p. 293). \_\_\_Adopted

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

#### 20-44 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

The chairman, Elder Carolyn Nystrom, opened the report with prayer. (*See page 97 for complete report of the standing committee.*)

##### A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Recommendation # 24**
2. **Recommendation #25**

##### B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #24** that "Due to the scope of the issue, the lack of significant disagreement within the EPC on these matters, the degree to which our standards and existing position papers address the subject the abundant resources already available, we hereby request to be relieved of the general assignment of developing position papers on marriage and the family" be adopted.

Grounds: Because our assignment does not focus on a particular problem or problems and because the subject matter is extremely broad, we have found it difficult to provide a response that would add anything beyond the vast amounts of excellent material available in the broader Evangelical community.

The standing committee offered the following recommendation:

"That the General Assembly ask the permanent Committee on Theology to take up the following project:

*In the light of the growing cultural confusion on the nature and value of marriage, for example, living together without the benefit of a marriage commitment, gender issue, etc., we request the permanent Theology Committee to write a position paper on the sanctity of marriage beginning as a creation ordinance and developing a biblical view of marriage.* \_\_\_Adopted

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2. That **Recommendation #25** "That the letter on Reformed theology from the Moderator and Stated Clerk be endorsed for distribution to the churches" be amended by adding "that this letter be sent to pastors and Clerks of Session, and that the input from the Theology Committee be attached to this letter" and adopted as amended. Adopted

The committee commended the members of the permanent Theology Committee for their work this year, particularly for the survey conducted on how we are training our elders.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

**20-45 MINISTRY REPORTS: WORLD OUTREACH AND NATIONAL OUTREACH**

Mr. Dick Oestreicher, Director of World Outreach, opened with prayer and reviewed the work of World Outreach over the past year. Mr. Oestreicher thanked the Women's Ministries Committee for its Faith Focus work to raise the funds needed to bring missionaries home to be part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Missionaries present were recognized and introduced, with a brief word about their service and ministries.

Rev. Bill Meyer, Director of National Outreach, opened with prayer and reviewed the work of National Outreach. He introduced Rev. Glenn Ferrell, National Outreach's first home missionary, ministering in the Appalachian Mountains in Kentucky. He encouraged the Assembly to report back to their churches that this Assembly's theme was to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. If we are about the Lord's business, He will take care of everything else.

**20-46 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW**

For medical reasons, the chairman, Elder Buck Russell, was unable to attend the Assembly. In his absence, Rev. George Woodcock, chairman *pro-tem*, reported on behalf of the committee, opening with prayer and commending the faithful work of the presbytery stated clerks.

Recommendations #34-37 were presented for consideration as a whole.

1. **Recommendation #34:** That the Assembly refer the minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (section 19) to the Presbytery of the Central South for correction.
2. **Recommendation #35:** Because corrections noted in Presbytery's responses to exceptions issued by the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly were not spread in the certified minutes as indicated, the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly instructs the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the East to include the corrections in the minutes of the Fall 2000 meeting.
3. **Recommendation #36:** That the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly instruct the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida to submit the relevant section of minutes (all sections following 26.24) to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly by July 31, 2000.
4. **Recommendation #37:** That the Assembly instruct the Clerk of the Presbytery of the Mid-

America to forward a certified copy of the rewritten and approved minutes of the Aug. 6, 1999 called meeting to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly by July 31, 2000.

**ON MOTION** Recommendations 34-37 were adopted.

5. **Recommendation #38** was deleted as it was presented an error.
6. **Recommendation #39:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South be approved with the following exceptions:
  - 47.07 (Stated Clerk Report): Required forms for minutes of Commissions to ordain/install are not used (see Attachment 14, *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*) (Acts of the Assembly, §98-03).
  - System of reporting attendance is inadequate (*Rules for Assembly* 8.11.G.1); categories of Teaching and Ruling Elder are not used, 2) discrepancies between names listed as unexcused and the number listed as unexcused, 3) 47<sup>th</sup> stated meeting has no names of ruling elders present.
  - No record of disposition of Exceptions to Minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (*Rules for Assembly*, §8-11F)
  - 47.23: Ministerial Committee report is incomplete. No record of status prior to change of call, no terms of call summaries or forms.
  - Called meeting 8/28/99: Attendance does not contain excused or unexcused absences (*Rules for Assembly* 8-11.G.1)
  - Attachment 6 for the 48<sup>th</sup> stated meeting is missing from the certified copies. The Clerk is instructed to forward the attachment to the Office of the Stated Clerk no later than July 31, 2000.
  - 48.22: Insufficient information in minutes to determine if actions taken conform to constitutional standards: 1) status of Dr. Overton prior to being "reestablished" is not indicated; 2) no record present of actions to dissolve pastoral relationship of Christ EPC and Rev. Petterson; 3) no basis cited for moving Rev. Roberts to inactive roll; 4) no record present of actions taken to dismiss Rev. Roberts as Assistant Pastor; 5) no record that Allan Thompson is ordained; 6) no record of actions taken to dissolve pastoral relationship of Rev. Werner and Marshall EPC.
  - Signatures are missing from copies of certified minutes submitted for review (minutes of stated meetings and commission reports). The Clerk is instructed to submit copies of completed signature pages to the Office of the Stated Clerk by July 31, 2000.
  - 48: Attachment 9 (second page, section E): Administrative Commission acted unconstitutionally to restrict whom a congregation could elect as its own officers, thereby violating the rights of Crossroads Community Church held in perpetuity (G.17-5; 7-2). This action is remanded to Presbytery for correction.
  - 49.19: No terms of call form included for Ron Horgan or Frank Varro.
  - 49 (attachment 7) – Terms of call for W.T. Permenter are out of order. A call as pastor has no definite period of time. There is no provision for 2 weeks of study leave.

7. **Recommendation #40:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the East be approved with the following exceptions:
- Appendices referred to in Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting are missing. The Clerk is instructed to forward Appendices to the Office of the Stated Clerk by July 31, 2000.
  - 55.E.2: No advisor appointed for Candidates Gray and O'Connell.
  - Minutes of certified minutes of 55<sup>th</sup>, 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> stated meetings are not signed.
  - 56.F.1: No record of written exam for Frank Young or signing the Ministerial Obligation (G. 13-2, 16-16.L, Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
  - Responses to exceptions in a letter from the Clerk (spreading information in the October 2, 1999 minutes) have not been fulfilled. Presbytery of the East is directed to include the required information in the minutes of the Fall 2000 meeting.
  - Appendices referred to in minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> stated meeting are not included in the certified copies. Clerk is instructed to forward these Appendices to the Office of the Stated Clerk by July 31, 2000.
8. **Recommendation #41:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of Florida be approved with the following exceptions:
- 27:16 – Presbytery has no constitutional authority to divest Richard Adelman without censure without using disciplinary procedures in the *Book of Discipline*.
  - Record of the 28<sup>th</sup> stated meeting appears to be inaccurate. Provisional Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> stated meeting have significant differences from the certified copies, yet there is no record of corrections at the 29<sup>th</sup> stated meeting.
  - 28:14 – Ministerial Committee report is missing in the certified minutes. Presbytery is directed to correct the minutes and forward corrections to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following their Fall 2000 meeting.
  - 28:15 – Judicial Committee report is missing in the certified minutes. Presbytery is directed to correct the minutes and forward corrections to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following their Fall 2000 meeting.
  - Session Review Committee report is missing, including admonishment of Dan Lacich. Presbytery is directed to correct the minutes and forward corrections to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following their Fall 2000 meeting.
  - 28:14 – The Presbytery appears to have ordained Jonathan Tagg improperly, without having official terms of call forms in hand (*Acts of the Assembly* §98-03).
  - General: Permanent record lacks signatures.
  - 29:14 – Presbytery has no constitutional authority to divest Michael Eubanks of office without censure. Presbytery took action based on a misstatement of fact: “The EPC does not transfer to non-reformed denominations.” There is no such constitutional prohibition. Neither is there a constitutional provision for a *de facto* renunciation of jurisdiction. This matter is referred to the Presbytery of Florida for reconsideration.
  - Ministerial Committee did not make the required annual report on the work of Ministers of the Word (G.16-27.A.1). This requirement is not fulfilled by reporting changes in terms of call (G.16-27.A. 8).



9. **Recommendation #42:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved with the following exceptions:
- 24.03, 25.03: No record of unexcused absences (*Rules for Assembly* §8-11, G.1)
  - 25.04: No copy of rewritten minutes included in certified copy.
  - 25.19.1: No record of actions taken to dissolve the pastoral relationship of Mark Quay and New Harvest Community Church.
  - 25.20.4: No service of appreciation and thanksgiving was conducted upon the retirement of Paul Westberg (G.15-9).
  - 25.20.7: There is no office of co-pastor in the EPC (Acts of the Assembly §85-05).
  - 25.20.09: Call and terms of call for David Baer as evangelist were not used. Powers of evangelist were not specified (G.10-3.C).
  - 25.20.10: Required forms for minutes of commission to ordain/install have not been used (Attachment 14, *Procedure Manual*) (Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
  - 25.20.10: No record that Presbytery approved new call or terms of call for Corbett Heimburger.
  - 25.21: A ruling elder was assigned as advisor for candidates. *Book of Government* requires a teaching elder (G.12-2.D).
  - 26.16: Required forms for minutes of commission to ordain/install have not been used (Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
  - 26.16.01: Required forms for minutes of commission to ordain/install have not been used (Acts of the Assembly §90-03).
  - 26.16.03: No call or terms of call form for Charles Plant were approved by Presbytery.
  - 26.16.05: Minutes do not indicate that proper steps for receiving a church from another body or independence have been followed: installation of pastor, election or recognition of officers, reception of members (G.5-4).
  - 26.16.07: Minutes do not indicate that membership of Greentree Community Church was received according to G.5-3.B.
  - 26.16.12: Minutes do not contain required out of bounds call forms (Acts of Assembly §98-03).
  - 26.16.14: Presbytery acted unconstitutionally to set aside the term limit requirement of officers. It is the right of the congregation, not the presbytery to determine if it has lifetime officers or to have limited terms (G.15-6). The issue is remanded to the Presbytery of Mid-America for correction.
10. **Recommendation #43:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic be approved with the following exceptions:
- 32.02: Forest Hill is authorized to have 8 ruling elder commissioners but 10 are registered.
  - 32.27: The pension for Robert Buchanan is below the 10% minimum requirement.
  - 32.27.M: Required out of bounds call form is omitted for Doug Murphy (Acts of the Assembly §98-03).
  - 32.31: Presbytery appointed a commission, but no members are named.
  - 7C: Excused and unexcused absences are not recorded (*Rules of Assembly* §8.11G-1).

- 7C.07.E: Call and terms of call for Jeff Parks not approved by Presbytery. No definite period of time for service is specified (G.16-27A-6).
11. **Recommendation #44:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest be approved with the following exceptions:
- P. 265: Pension for Bill Meyer is below the 10% minimum (Acts of the Assembly §81-05).
  - P. 266: Call to Larry Schmoekel is out of order. There is no constitutional provision for a 2 year out of bounds call. Out of bounds calls are approved annually (G.10-3.F).
  - P. 266: No summary of terms of call or terms of call form included in the minutes (Schmoekel, Quigley) (Acts of Assembly 89-03).
  - Pp. 271 – 272: No summary of terms of call or terms of call form for Duane Armistead and Daniel Ytterock included in the certified copy of the minutes.
  - Pp. 276, 279: No advisor appointed for Jeff Juday or Tim McCracken (G.12-2.D).
  - P. 279: Terms of call for Doug Thompson are missing. If a call changes there must be new terms of call (the call comes from a different body even if the numbers are the same).
  - P. 280: The call to Bob Stauffer is unclear (no agency specified). No terms of call appear in the minutes. There is no record of church or Presbytery actions to dissolve Bob Stauffer's pastoral relationship with Tabernacle EPC.
  - P. 280: Terms of call for Ron Amos are missing.
  - Pp. 281-282: Members of a dissolved church were not commended to another congregation by the Presbytery (G.5-5).
  - P. 284: No indication that the required 10-day notice was given for a called meeting.
  - 83-8 A: Commission reports are missing.
  - 83-11: No advisor appointed for Tim Brown.
  - 83-13: Call and terms of call for Jamie Cupschalk was approved, but no record of his prior status, no record that he was examined and approved for ordination.
  - 83-13: Call and terms of call for Craig VanBiber was approved, but no record of his prior status, no indication that he was examined and no record of signing the Ministerial Obligation.
  - 85-12: (Note: this should be numbered 84-12.) No out of bounds call or terms of call form included for Kurt Gebhard.
  - 85-12: (Note: this should be numbered 84-12.) No record of previous status of David Hicks or dissolution of his call.
  - 85-12: (Note: this should be numbered 84-12.) No terms of call summary or forms included in minutes for missionaries Stephen Kelley, Jim Killgore, Tim Mindling and David Walker.
12. **Recommendation #45:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved with the following exceptions:
- 47:11, 28, 29, 30: Reports not begun with prayer.
  - 47:12: Service of appreciation and thanksgiving not conducted for either Bill Gainey

or Richard Schussler (G.15-9)

- 47:12 (4): Four teaching elders removed from roll with no indication for constitutional provisions for removal.
  - 47:12: No advisor appointed for Thomas Covington.
  - 47, Attachment C/1: Terms of call forms for William Swafford are inadequate.
  - 47:19: People who are not members of the court (Martha Roden) cannot make motions.
  - 47:28: Ministerial Committee report did not begin with prayer.  
47<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting: Attachments C, D and E lack signatures.
  - 48, Attachment C: No definite period of time is part of the call as Assistant Pastor for John Piers (G.11-7). Terms of call form is incomplete.
  - 47, 48, 49: Signature of Moderator is missing.
13. **Recommendation #46:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of St. Andrews be approved with the following exceptions:
- 55.4.2.4 and 55.4.3.1.2: An important *Book of Government* distinction between committees and commissions is blurred. The Presbytery is instructed to take note of G.16.26.A and 16.26.B and make this distinction clear in the future.
  - Translations of the 54<sup>th</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meetings were not submitted. The Stated Clerk is instructed to submit those minutes by Dec. 31, 2000.
14. **Recommendation #47:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the West be approved without exceptions.

**ON MOTION** Recommendations #39-47 were adopted.

15. **Recommendation #48:** That the following standardization method of numbering sections and subsections of the Presbytery Minutes be approved:

Each main section should identify the number of the meeting and the section, i.e., 76-10, identifies the 76<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> section. Letter or number subsections as appropriate (e.g., 76-10 A.1).

Grounds: This will insure that all Presbyteries use the same format, making it easier to identify and refer to specific actions.

16. **Recommendation #49:** That the following standardized method of reporting attendance be initiated in all Presbyteries:

Active in EPC Church:

Church

Faith EPC

TE

Dr. John Blank (Present)

Rev. John Bold (Unexcused)

RE

Sam Underline (Excused)

Frank Italics (Present)

*[Followed by all EPC Churches]*

Out of Bounds

Name of TE (present, excused, unexcused)

*Journal*

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Evangelists

Name of TE (present, excused, unexcused)

*[Followed by all other categories]*

*[Followed by visitors]*

Grounds: *Rules for Assembly* §8-11-G require this reporting and this is a convenient and clear method to standardize the process.

17. **Recommendation #50:** That the following checklists be used by all Presbyteries (see attachments pp. 316-323):
- Examination of candidates to come under care of Presbytery (Attachment #1)
  - Examination of a candidate for ordination (Attachment #2) amended to include exegesis paper requirement between items 3 and 4.
  - Examination of an ordained minister transferring to a Presbytery (Attachment #3)
  - Examination of an ordained minister coming from another denomination from within the Reformed family (Attachment #4).
  - Examination of an ordained minister coming from any other tradition (Attachment #5)
  - Appointing commissions (Attachment #6)
  - Special called meetings (Attachment #7)
  - Dissolution of a pastoral relationship (Attachment #8)

Grounds: Following a checklist will insure that all required actions have been taken and using the standard format will insure proper reporting of actions taken.

18. **Recommendation #51:** That the following standardized method be used by all Presbyteries to show that corrections to exceptions and notations to Presbytery minutes have been made:

In a subsequent set of minutes under the heading "Errata" make reference to the minutes to be corrected and then show the correction being made.

Example:

76-10 Errata

76-10A Make the following correction to exceptions reported by the Presbytery Review Committee:

A.1 Exception 1 (quote it)

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

A.2 Exception 2 (quote it)

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

76-10B Make the following correction to notations reported by the Presbytery Review Committee;

B.1 Notation 1 (quote it)

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

B.2 Notation 2 (quote it)

Response: \_\_\_\_\_

Grounds: Once minutes have been approved and placed in a Presbytery's permanent record they may not be altered. This provides a clear, standardized method to make necessary changes to approved minutes.

19. **Recommendation #52:** "That guidance from the Office of the Stated Clerk be given to the Presbyteries on the following issues:
- A. Financial reporting in Presbytery minutes
  - B. Use of attachments in Presbytery minutes, addressing the inconsistency in Acts of the Assembly 89-03 and 89-04.
  - C. Annual reporting on the work of Ministers of the Word and changes in terms of call (G. 16.27.A.1, 8)

Grounds: The Presbytery Review Committee observed wide variation in practice and thoroughness in these matters.

**ON MOTION** the report as a whole was adopted.

**20-47 MINISTRY REPORT: STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES**

Mr. Bob Watson, Interim Director of Student & Young Adult Ministries (SYAM) opened with prayer and reviewed the work of his department over the preceding year. He reminded the Assembly of the mission of SYAM: 1) growth in ministry opportunities; 2) offering resources; 3) offering ministry training, and 4) offering loving support. The Director presented a film clip highlighting SYAM's summer mission trips.

**20-48 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION**

The report was opened with prayer by Rev. Howard Shockley, chairman. *(See page 86 for complete report of the standing committee.)*

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Communication 00-10**
2. **Communication 00-11**
3. **Communication 00-12**
4. **Recommendation #10**
5. **Recommendation #11**
6. **Recommendation #12**
7. **Recommendation #13**
8. **Recommendation #14**
9. **Recommendation #15**
10. **Recommendation #16**
11. **Recommendation #17**
12. **Minutes** of the permanent committee dated November 18-29, 1999 and June 1-3, 2000.

B. Recommendations:

1. **Communications 00-10, 00-11 and 00-12** were received as information.
2. That **Recommendation #10** "That *Book of Government* §11-6 be amended by striking

the word "ordinarily" in the second sentence and ending the paragraph after the second sentence" not be adopted.

Present Wording	Proposed Wording
<b>G.11-6</b> A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. Ordinarily, an Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor. However, if by a three-fourths vote of the Church Session, request is made to Presbytery through the Ministerial Committee for an exclusion, the Presbytery may approve the Search Committee of the congregation to nominate the Associate to the congregation as Pastor.	<b>G.11-6</b> A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. Ordinarily An Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor.

Grounds: The standing committee felt that changing our present policy would not allow the freedom of the Holy Spirit to move in exceptional areas. Adopted

- That **Recommendation #11** "that upon ratification of the amendment to G.11-6, the prohibition of succession shall not apply to persons serving as associate pastors for a period of five years after the amendment is adopted" not be adopted.

Grounds: This recommendation is contingent upon the passage of Recommendation #10, which the Assembly did not adopt. Adopted

- That **Recommendation #12** "that the *Book of Government* §11-13 be amended by substituting the word "shall" for "may" as presented below not be adopted,"

Present Wording	Proposed Wording
<b>11-13</b> In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person may request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere. (Section 15-8).	<b>11-13</b> In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person <u>may shall</u> request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere. (Section 15-8).

but that the following amendment be substituted as §11-13: "In the event a Minister accepts a call disapproved by Presbytery, that person shall be placed in inactive status."

Grounds: The standing committee believed this strengthened and clarified the original intent of the recommendation. Adopted

5. That **Recommendation #13** "that the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be revised on the following pages:
- Page 24 - background check
  - Page 28 - termination of candidacy
  - Page 47 - when the pastor intends to resign
  - Page 55 - regarding out of bounds principle
  - Attachment 7 - Session Endorsement Form"

be amended by deleting Section C. "Missionaries and the Out of Bounds Status" under item "d." above and adopted as amended.

Grounds: Section C was deemed to have unclear and confusing language. Adopted

6. That **Recommendation #14** "that the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be amended to include the following new forms for use by the presbyteries: (Cf. pp 225ff)
- Advisor's Report
  - Preliminary Questionnaire
  - Checklist for Evaluation of Candidate for Gospel Ministry
  - Reference Check
  - Items Sent and Received
  - Statement of Faith
  - Statement of Faith, part 2
  - Termination of Candidacy
  - Service of Ordination and/or Installation
  - Annual Report on Ministers of the Word
  - Church Information Form\*
  - Attachments 1-5 and 8 (pp. 316-320, 323) from the PRC report

be amended in **form j.** "Annual Report on Ministers of the Word"

- by substituting for "Major Accomplishments" the question, "How have you seen the Spirit of God at work in your ministry this past year?"
- by adding question from G.14-1A.4 "Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the essentials of the faith, you will, on your own initiative, make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?" and adopted as amended.

Grounds: These additions would help strengthen the document.

Adopted

\*Note: **Form k** listed above was unavailable for review and the subject was therefore referred back to the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee.

**ON MOTION** Attachments 1-5 and Attachment 8 from the Presbytery Review Committee (pp. 316-320, 323) shall be added to the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*.

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7. That **Recommendation #15** "That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be amended to include the following advisory papers: (Cf. pp.236-248)
- Study leave
  - Sabbaticals
  - Performance Reviews\* (Draft, pp. 244-248)" be adopted. \_\_\_ *Adopted*  
*(\*Note: The draft of "Performance Reviews" is open for revision and will be brought to the 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly for approval.)*
8. That **Recommendation #16**, "That the Assembly approve the following substitutions to forms in the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*:
- Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery
  - Terms of Call for Out of Bounds Ministers
  - Personal Information Form"
- be amended by approving items **a and b** and referring item c (not available for review) back to the permanent committee for further work. \_\_\_ *Adopted*
9. That **Recommendation #17**, "that the Assembly adopt the proposed advisory letter regarding minister's participation in Social Security and Medicare (**Communication #00-11**, p. 174)" **not** be adopted, but that **Communication #00-12** (p. 175) from the Board of Pension and Benefits be adopted instead.
- Grounds: The committee felt the wording of this letter is more pastoral and preferable. \_\_\_ *Adopted*
10. The minutes of the permanent committee were reviewed and approved with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.

**ON MOTION** the report as a whole was adopted.

**20-49 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS AND APPRECIATION**

Rev. Bill Read, chairman, opened the report with prayer. This 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly remembers with profound gratitude the ministers and ruling elders who died during the past Assembly year. They are:

NAME	CHURCH & CITY/STATE	DATE OF DEATH	YEARS OF SERVICE
Elder Dick Abrams	Ward, Northville, MI	April 18, 2000	6
Elder Harold Adams	Ward, Northville, MI	May 6, 1999	30
Elder Richard C. Bollinger	Calvary EPC, Butler, PA	July 6, 1999	13
Elder Jorienus ("Joe") Brouwer	Bear Creek, Lakewood, CO	March 1, 2000	5
Elder James B. Chase, Sr.	Second, Memphis, TN	December 23, 1999	14
Elder William Cox	Oakland Ave., Pontiac, MI	April 8, 2000	6
Dr. James Emery	WOC Missionary, Spokane, WA	August 23, 1999	50



Elder Herman Farmer	Ward, Northville, MI	June 6, 1999	29
Elder Betty Grant	Belgrano, BA, Argentina	June 1, 2000	12
Elder Brian Harpst	Cherry Creek, Englewood, CO	October 6, 1999	3
Elder Richard Harris	Forest Hill, Charlotte, NC		
Rev. Robert Harvey	Immanuel, Warrenville, IL	April 10, 2000	24
Elder Norman Hayes	Tabernaclc, Youngstown, OH	November 18, 1999	6
Elder J.D. Heard	First, Waskom, TX	October 16, 1999	11
Dr. Bartlett L. Hess	Ward, Northville, MI	December 21, 1999	63
Elder John Hobbs	Myrtle Grove, Wilmington, NC	October 23, 1999	21
Elder Robert Lee	Calvary, Flint, MI	November 12, 1999	3
Elder Charles Longmire	Ward, Northville, MI	February 25, 2000	7
Elder Judge Drew Luten	Central, St. Louis, MO	February 18, 2000	6
Elder Edwin Maelzer	Faith Evan., Loveland, CO	September 22, 1999	3
Elder Stella Murdoch	City Church, BA, Argentina	May 26, 2000	14
Elder Orval Robb	Oakland Ave., Pontiac, MI	April 20, 2000	15
Elder Dewey Sanderson	Westminster, Laurel, MS	December 2, 1999	13
Elder Richard E. Shubert	Second, Memphis, TN	January 16, 2000	28
Dr. W. Graham Smith	Faith, Alexandria, VA	March 12, 2000	56
Elder Edward N. Stevenson	Second, Memphis, TN	April 4, 2000	12
Elder Lynn van der Harst	Ward, Northville, MI	April 14, 2000	11
Elder Joseph H. Wakefield	Second, Memphis, TN	August 15, 1999	30
Elder Joe Weatherill	Faith Evan., Loveland, CO	November 24, 1999	5
Elder David Williams	Second, Memphis, TN	October 6, 1999	10

How can we adequately thank Dr. Jimmy McGuire and the entire staff and congregation of Ward Church for all they have done to make this 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly such a memorable event? Time would not permit us to mention each person individually, however, we would especially like to mention David Satterthwaite and his capable and enthusiastic volunteers who greeted us, fed us, drove us around and cheerfully answered all our questions. In addition we want to remember and thank these committee leaders for their untiring efforts in all these areas:

John Baird, liaison	Jan Carlton, liaison
Jack Engebretson, liaison	Gerri Sutherland, liaison
Jeff Mosier, prayer	Cindy Ziemba, children's programs
Ken Casey, registration	Lucy McGuire, pastors' wives luncheon
Darlene Johnson, greeters	P.K. Fields, decorations
Dan Ytterock, youth programs	Vicki Oliver, Women's Ministries
Kerry Kukhahn, transportation	Kelly Perez, food service
Phil Linton, World Outreach	Jim Currie, hotel contracts
Dick Printy, audio-visual	Carolyn Printy and the library staff
Jean Wells, host homes	Barry McKenna, office support
Brett Barnes, room set-ups	Rebecca Doll, publicity

## Journal

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We want to thank Jerry Smith and the Chancel Choir, and accompanists for an outstanding service on Wednesday evening that truly inspired everyone present and set the tone for a spirit-filled assembly. Thanks to the special music groups who supported the services at various times through the week; the Ward Men's Chorus, Contemporary Worship Band, Contemporary Ensemble, Ward Orchestra and the Ward Women's Chorale. And, of course, a special thanks to the King's Brass for a truly inspirational concert on Wednesday night.

We appreciate the work of all the Moderators, the Assistant to the Stated Clerk, Rev. Ed McCallum, Marilyn Bartel, Recording Clerks Elder Frank Johnson, Rev. Bob Garment and Rev. Russ Ragon as well as speakers Dr. David Chadwick and Rev. Michael Glodo. Thanks also to the pre-assembly workshop leader Dr. Richard Swenson, to Mr. Knox Sherer for leading a pre-Assembly session for ruling elders, and Dr. Florence Littauer for her sharing at the Women's Ministries and Pastors' Wives Luncheons. 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 outstanding work they do the entire year.

Now Dr. Jimmy McGuire, you have been our friend as well as our Moderator for this past year. You and your wife, Lucy, have been with us at each of our presbyteries. You have spelled out our big 'fusses' and kept your sense of humor and you have done this so very carefully. We want to thank you for all of this.

Ed Davis, AT&T wants to thank you for all those hours you spent on the phone talking with us, counseling us and showing us what *Robert's Rules of Order* told us not to do. You've been at thousands of committee meetings, you have represented us so well at meetings with other denominations and fraternal organizations. Your spiritual leadership has guided this denomination to what it is today and you have set us on the path to an exciting future. And dear Barbara, we thank you for sharing Ed with us for all these years.

Finally, we want to thank our Lord, Jesus Christ for his gift of salvation so freely given by His grace and for his faithfulness to us as a body during this 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

**ON MOTION** the report as a whole was adopted.

Stated Clerk Edward Davis and his wife, Barbara, were then granted a point of personal privilege to address the Assembly, expressing their appreciation for all the years of caring and fellowship.

### 20-50 CLOSING WORSHIP AND ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly as the host pastor, Dr. Jimmy McGuire, led in worship and prayer. The 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly will convene June 21-23, 2001 at Greenwood Community Church in Englewood, Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,

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Edward Davis, Stated Clerk

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John Graham, III, Moderator

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**

20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Standing Committee

The meeting was opened with prayer by the chairman, Elder Don Harms on Thursday, June 22, 2000. Elder Connie Jennings served as committee clerk. The committee convened 3 times during the Assembly.

**A. Business Referred to Committee**

1. Recommendation #1
2. Recommendation #2
3. Recommendation #3
4. Recommendation #4
5. Recommendation #5
6. Recommendation #6
7. Recommendation #7
8. Recommendation #21
9. Recommendation #22
10. Recommendation #29
11. Overture #00-A
12. Overture #00-B
13. Overture #00-C
14. Communication #00-4
15. Communication #00-6
16. Minutes of the permanent committee Nov. 4-5, 1999 and Apr. 6-7, 2000.

**B. Recommendations**

1. Recommendation #1 be accepted as presented.
2. Recommendation #2 be accepted as presented.
3. Recommendation #3 be accepted as presented.
4. Recommendation #4 be accepted as presented.
5. Recommendation #5 be accepted as presented.
6. Recommendation #6 be accepted as presented.
7. Recommendation #7 be accepted as presented.
8. Recommendation #21 be accepted as presented.
9. Recommendation #22 be accepted as presented.
10. Recommendation #29 not be accepted as presented.
11. Overture #00-A not be accepted.
12. In lieu of Overture #00-B and Overture #00-C, the Standing Committee on Administration recommends that the General Assembly:
  - a) Add 4 non-voting members to the Board of Pensions for one year as an investigatory subcommittee. Said members to be chosen by the Moderator to reflect various viewpoints.
  - b) That the subcommittee meet with the Board of Pensions at its regular meetings.

- 
- c) That the subcommittee investigate:
    - 1) The viability of the current plan.
    - 2) The possibility of a fully insured denominational plan.
    - 3) The viability of requiring individual churches/presbyteries to go to their own plans.
    - 4) The total impact (plan provisions/financial) on individual churches of eliminating the denominational plan.
  - d) That the subcommittee report its findings to the General Assembly in 2001.
  - e) That the subcommittee be authorized to expend up to \$15,000 from the Insurance Admin budget for an Outside National Insurance Consultants.
  - f) The consideration of Overtures 00-B & 00-C be postponed for one year.
13. Recommendation that Communication #00-4 be accepted and that the COA be directed to find a replacement as soon as possible.

Concluding Remarks:

The committee wishes to commend the members of the permanent committee for their outstanding work this year.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elder Donald Harms  
Chairman

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Elder Connie Jennings  
Recording Clerk

**REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Standing Committee

The meeting was opened with prayer by the chairman, Rev. Alan Wright, on Thursday, June 22, 2000. The committee convened one time during the Assembly.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. Recommendation # 8
2. Recommendation # 9
3. Minutes of the permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications
4. Review of communications # 3, #8, #34A
5. Information Item
6. Information Item
7. Information Item
8. Information Item
9. Commendation

B. Recommendations:

- (1) Recommendation #8: "That the General Assembly endorse the Children's Catechism lessons of Children's Ministries International, in our churches" be adopted.

Grounds: Some of our most elementary theological beliefs are formed very early in childhood, Children's Ministries International has developed a unique visual way of presenting the children's catechism to young children. Several churches in the EPC family have used it and it is very effective and helpful in passing faith on to their young children.

- (2) Recommendation #9: That John Sartelle's *Infant Baptism* be endorsed by the General Assembly for use in the churches, alongside the late Francis Schaeffer's booklet *Baptism*, previously endorsed by General Assembly."

Grounds: John Sartelle's booklet titled *Infant Baptism* like Francis Schaeffer's *Baptism*, provides a succinct and readable statement of the biblical basis for the practice of infant baptism. In addition, Sartelle's booklet contains wise pastoral counsel and a helpful question and answer section making it a useful resource alongside Schaeffer's booklet.

- (3) Minutes of the permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publication were reviewed, accepted and endorsed.
- (4) Communications: Communication # 3, #8 and #34A were received by the standing committee. (#3 Re: Pioneer Clubs: #8 Re: National coalition of Men's Ministries: #34A Re: Children's Ministries International)

- 
- (5) Information Item: Pioneer Club representative Judy Bryson presented information about the Pioneer Clubs' program plans present and future. Prayer requests were shared and the standing committee members prayed for the ministry and requests of Pioneer Clubs.
  - (6) Information Item: Christian Reformed Church representative presented information on curriculum offerings available for children of all needs and catalogue material available for churches. Prayer was given for the work of the Christian Reformed Church in their development of Christian educational materials.
  - (7) Information Item: Bethany Christian Services representative presented information on the organizations' adoption program opportunities operating in the US and overseas. Prayer was given for this endorsed agency and the continuation of their work.
  - (8) Information Item: A report was given regarding the Small Group Ministries program and plans for the 2001 21st General Assembly pre-assembly conference on Small Group Ministries. Suggestions were given for inclusion of the breakout sessions planned for the pre-assembly conference.
  - (9) Commendation: The permanent committee of Christian Education and Publications was commended for their fine outstanding work over the past year. Recognition and appreciation of the *Reflections* publication was noted by standing committee members.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Alan Wright  
Chairman

Elder Barbara Mansfield  
Recording Clerk

**REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Standing Committee

Meeting opened with prayer and devotion on Psalm 133, on Thursday, June 22, 2000 at 1:30 p.m. by the chairman, Rev. Daniel Gilbert. Rev. Ronald DiNunzio was elected as recording clerk. The committee convened once during the Assembly.

A. Business Referred to the Committee:

1. Communication #00-14
2. Review of the Report of the Permanent Committee  
No written committee minutes were submitted for review.

B. Recommendations:

1. To recommend that the Committee on Administration (COA) continue the relationship as outlined in Communication #00-14 with the IPB – Presbyterian Church of Brazil.

Grounds: To continue and enhance our existing relationship with the IPB

2. To receive the verbal report of Rev. Ed Randal, member of the Permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations

Grounds: a written report was unavailable due to the death of Dr. Graham Smith.

C. New Business

3. Dr. David Engelhard, General Secretary of the Christian Reformed Church, was introduced to the committee and addressed it regarding the history of the CRC and their recent Synod Meeting. He then received and responded to questions regarding continuing relations with the EPC.

The standing committee **recommends** to the Committee on Fraternal Relations that it explore further relationships with the CRC similar to the ARP and the Geneva Statement, as found on page 169 of the Commissioner's Handbook.

Grounds: The committee believes that working on a similar statement with the CRC would develop a greater working relationship to further the Gospel.

4. Rev. Jim Corbitt, the representative from the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP) was introduced to the committee and addressed it regarding the history of the ARP and their most recent Assembly. He then received and responded to questions regarding continuing relations with the EPC.



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The standing committee **recommends** to the Committee on Fraternal Relations that it strengthen our relationship with the ARP.

5. The standing committee **recommends** to the Committee on Fraternal Relations that it develop a list of colleges and seminaries of the ARP and the CRC.

Grounds: To strengthen fraternal relationships with the two denominations and to provide a resource for presbyteries and families to aid them in their selection of schools for their children.

6. Committee received verbal report from Rev. Dan Burns regarding his work in Kazakhstan.

The standing committee **recommends** that the Committee on Fraternal Relations work with World Outreach to facilitate the development of the plans found in the World Outreach Manual, Paragraph 301.5 to establish a new presbytery in Kazakhstan.

Concluding Remarks:

The chairman reminded the committee of the need for mutual prayer and support among brothers and sisters in other denominations for the furtherance of the gospel in our respective locations.

The committee wishes to extend to the family of Dr. Graham Smith its heartfelt thanks for all that he meant, not only to the Committee on Fraternal Relations; but also to the EPC and the entire family of God. Our love and prayers are with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Daniel B. Gilbert  
Chairman

Rev. Ronald C. DiNunzio  
Recording Clerk

**REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE**

20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Standing Committee

The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Howard Shockley, Chairman on Thursday, June 22, 2000. Rev. Doug Thompson served as Committee Clerk. The committee convened two times during the Assembly.

A. Business referred to committee

1. Communication 00-10
2. Communication 00-11
3. Communication 00-12
4. Recommendation #10
5. Recommendation #11
6. Recommendation #12
7. Recommendation #13
8. Recommendation #14
9. Recommendation #15
10. Recommendation #16
11. Recommendation #17
12. Minutes of the permanent committee November 18-29, 1999 and June 1-3, 2000.

B. Recommendations

1. **Communications 00-10, 00-11, and 00-12** were received as information.
2. That **Recommendation #10** "That **Book of Government** §11-6 be amended by striking the word "ordinarily" in the second sentence and ending the paragraph after the second sentence" not be adopted.

<b>Present Wording</b>	<b>Proposed Wording</b>
G.11-6 A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. Ordinarily, an Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor. However, if by a three-fourths vote of the Church Session, request is made to Presbytery through the Ministerial Committee for an exclusion, the Presbytery may approve the Search Committee of the	G.11-6 A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. <del>Ordinarily</del> An Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor.

congregation to nominate the Associate to the congregation as Pastor.	
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Grounds:

The Standing Committee felt that changing our present policy would not allow the freedom of the Holy Spirit to move in exceptional areas.

3. That **Recommendation #11** "That upon ratification of the amendment to G.11-6, the prohibition of succession shall not apply to persons serving as associate pastors for a period of five years after the amendment is adopted" not be adopted.

Grounds: This recommendation is conditioned upon the passage of Recommendation #10, which the standing committee recommends the Assembly not adopt.

4. That **Recommendation #12** "That the **Book of Government** §11-13 be amended by substituting the word "shall" for "may" not be adopted as presented below,

<b>Present Wording</b>	<b>Proposed Wording</b>
11-13 In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person may request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere. (Section 15-8).	11-13 In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person <u>may shall</u> request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere. (Section 15-8).

but that the following be substituted for the proposed wording:

"In the event a Minister accepts a call disapproved by Presbytery, that person shall be placed on inactive status."

Grounds: The Committee believes this strengthens and clarifies the original intent of the recommendation.

5. That **Recommendation #13** "That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be revised on the following pages: (Cf. MVC-I, pp.178-182)
- Page 24 - background check
  - Page 28 - termination of candidacy
  - Page 47 - when the pastor intends to resign
  - Page 55 - regarding out of bounds principles
  - Attachment 7 - Session Endorsement Form"
- be amended by deleting Section C. "Missionaries and the Out of Bounds Status" under item "d." above (p, 181, Handbook) and adopted as amended.

Grounds: Section C was deemed to have unclear and confusing language.

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6. That **Recommendation #14** "That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be amended to include the following new forms for use by the Presbyteries: (Cf. pp. 183-193)
- Advisor's Report
  - Preliminary Questionnaire
  - Checklist for Evaluation of Candidate for Gospel Ministry
  - Reference Check
  - Items sent and received
  - Statement of Faith
  - Statement of Faith, part 2
  - Termination of Candidacy
  - Service of Ordination and/or Installation
  - Annual Report on Ministers of the Word
  - \*k. Church Information Form"

be amended in form j. "Annual Report on Ministers of the Word"

- by substituting for "Major Accomplishments" the question, "How have you seen the Spirit of God at work in your ministry this past year?"
  - by adding question from G. 14-1A.4 "Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with any of the essentials of the faith you will on your own initiative make known to your Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this ordination vow?"
- and adopted as amended?

Grounds: The Committee believes the additions would help strengthen the document.

\*Note: Form K listed here was unavailable for review and the subject was therefore referred back to the permanent MVC.

7. That **Recommendation #15** "That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be amended to include the following advisory papers: (Cf. pp. 194-207)
- Study leave
  - Sabbaticals
  - Performance Reviews (First Draft, Handbook pp. 202-207)" be adopted.
8. That **Recommendation #16**, "That the Assembly approve the following substitutions to forms in the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*:
- Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery
  - Terms of Call for Out of Bounds Ministers
  - Personal Information Form"
- be amended by approving items a and b (attached) and referring item c (not available for review) back to the permanent committee for further work.
9. That **Recommendation #17**, "That the Assembly adopt the proposed advisory letter regarding minister's participation in Social Security and Medicare (**Communication #00-12**, p. 27)" be

adopted.

Grounds: The Committee believes the wording of this letter is more pastoral and preferable.

10. The **minutes** of the permanent committee were reviewed and approved with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.

C. New Business

The Standing Committee commends the excellent work of the permanent committee and the three advisory papers offered for consideration.

The Standing Committee notes a degree of frustration in the tardiness of receiving (or not receiving at all) the Handbook, and strongly encourages the GA to send the Handbook out to commissioners by the stated deadline prior to General Assembly (*Rules, 7-1*).

Committee adjourned with prayer by the chairman.

Rev. Howard Shockley  
Chairman

Rev. Doug Thompson  
Recording Clerk

## REPORT OF THE NATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Standing Committee

The meeting was opened with prayer by the chairman, Rev. Tom Ryan, on Thursday, June 24, 2000. Elder Gerry Hittenberger served as committee clerk. The committee convened one time during the Assembly.

## A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. Recommendation #18
2. Recommendation #19
3. Recommendation #20
4. Minutes of the permanent committee September 30-October 2, 1999 and March 16-18, 2000

## B. Recommendations:

1. That **Recommendation #18** "That *Book of Government* §5-1 and §5-2 be amended by substitution as follows" be further amended and adopted as amended.

5-1 change "should" to "shall"; delete "always"; delete underlined sentence.

5-2 Following "A. Governance" replace proposed paragraph with the original paragraph.

Following "B. Membership" substitute the following wording for the first sentence:

"The temporary governing body shall receive members into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9.

Add: C. Minutes [bold face please]

The temporary governing body of the mission church shall record and submit its minutes to the Presbytery Review Committee in the same manner as a particular church.

Present wording	Proposed wording
5-1 Presbytery has the exclusive right to organize, dissolve, dismiss or to receive from some other body a particular Church. While a Church Session has the duty and right to establish missions of the congregation or initiate extension work, this should be done always in consultation with the Presbytery. However, to organize into a	5-1 Presbytery has the exclusive right to organize, dissolve, dismiss or to receive from some other body a particular Church. While a Church Session has the duty and right to establish missions of the congregation or initiate extension work, this should be done always in <u>consultation cooperation</u> with the Presbytery. <u>Such cooperation</u>

<p>particular Church is a right reserved to the Presbytery.</p> <p><b>5-2 The development of a mission church:</b> A mission church consists of a number of professing Christians, with their children, associated together for divine worship and godly living, agreeable to the Scriptures, and submitting to the lawful government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p> <p>The mission church, because of its transitional nature, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances, and at its own discretion, Presbytery shall provide for such government in one of several ways:</p> <p>A. Appoint an Evangelist as prescribed in 10-3C of the <b>Book of Government</b> and entrust appropriate powers to that person.</p> <p>B. Cooperate with the Session of a particular church in arranging a</p>	<p><u>includes informing Presbytery as early as possible of Session's intent and proposed location for a mission church (G.16-16.E).</u> However, to organize into a particular Church is a right reserved to the Presbytery.</p> <p><b>5-2 The development of a mission church:</b> A mission church consists of a number of professing Christians, with their children, associated together for divine worship and godly living, agreeable to the Scriptures, and submitting to the lawful government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p> <p>A mission church is distinguished from a particular church in that it has no permanent governing body, and thus must be governed or supervised by others. However, its goal is to mature and be organized as a particular church as soon as this can be done in good order.</p> <p><b>A. Governance:</b> The mission church, because of its transitional nature, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances, <del>and at its own discretion, Presbytery govern-</del> <u>ment shall be provided for such government in</u> by one of several ways <u>means:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Presbytery may</u> appoint an Evangelist as prescribed in 10-3C of the <b>Book of Government</b> and entrust appropriate powers to that person.</li> <li>2. <del>Cooperate with</del> The Session of a particular church in</li> </ol>
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mother-daughter relationship with a mission church. The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.

- C. Appoint a commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church.

At the discretion of the temporary governing body, members may be received into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9. These persons then become confirmed or baptized members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Mission churches shall maintain membership rolls in the same manner as, but separate from other particular churches.

Mission churches and their members shall have the right of judicial process to the court having oversight of their temporary governing body. It is the further intention of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that mission churches enjoy the same status as particular churches in relationship to civil government.

~~arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church. The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.~~

- 3. Presbytery or Session may appoint a commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church.

**B. Membership:** ~~At the discretion of the temporary governing body, Members may~~ shall be received into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9. These persons then become confirmed or baptized members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Mission churches shall maintain membership rolls in the same manner as, but separate from other particular churches.

Mission churches and their members shall have the right of judicial process to the court having oversight of their temporary governing body. It is the further intention of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that mission churches enjoy the same status as particular churches in relationship to civil government.

**C. Minutes**

The temporary governing body of the mission church shall record and submit its minutes to the Presbytery Review Committee in the same manner as a particular church.



Grounds: Experience in planting churches has shown that this section of the *Book of Government* needs greater clarity. The proposed substitution clarifies the nature of cooperation expected between Sessions and Presbyteries and the different means by which mission churches are governed. The substitution also clarifies the necessity and means by which membership rolls in mission churches are kept.

2. **Recommendation #19** "That the National Outreach Master Plan be amended by adding the following:

"The standing committee recommends acceptance of Recommendation #19 by the General Assembly with the following changes:

Following "Strategic Area #5 Home Missions," replace the word "To" with the following words: "In partnership, cooperation with, and/or at the request of Presbytery, we will" (enable etc.)

**"Strategic Area #5 HOME MISSIONS:** To enable workers to present the love of Christ to English-speaking people groups in the USA, unreached by the established church.

Objectives:

1. To identify unreached English-speaking people groups in the USA needing Christ's love;
2. To find and nurture qualified missionaries who will live with these groups;
3. To assist these workers in securing funds for their ministries;
4. To work toward establishing churches among these people groups, or if not possible, to link them with existing churches."

Grounds: Many people within the United States are unserved (or underserved) by the established church, e.g., Native Americans, migrant workers, rural and urban poor, handicapped individuals, families of recent immigrants, homeless people, substance abusers, prison and jail inmates and their families. This will enable NOC to call Home Missionaries to minister to these people and to enable these Home Missionaries to raise necessary support from our congregations.

3. **Recommendation #20**

That "In response to the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly's instruction to the National Outreach Committee "to propose a plan for funding church planting," that the following **Plan for Funding Church Planting** be approved:

1. A 3-year campaign to raise \$750,000 will be started January 1, 2001.
2. Contributions to the Fund will be sought from presbyteries, churches and individuals.
3. The Fund will be used as follows:
  - Two-thirds for church/presbytery/NOC partner projects;
  - One-third for NOC-initiated projects.
4. Church planters of NOC-approved projects will be required to raise 50% of their

*Journal*

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compensation package for a period of three years. (Part of this may be accomplished by being a bi-vocational church planter.)

**Grounds:** The \$750,000 is approximately double what has been received through the Church Planting and Key City Benevolence Askings. The Committee believes that with a broad-based campaign that encourages grass roots church planting as well as NOC initiated plants, the church-at-large will respond. Furthermore, when church planters participate in the fundraising effort, several things will occur:

- They become more fiscally aware;
- Supporting churches identify more closely with people,
- The planter's commitment and aggressiveness is demonstrated.

The standing committee approved the minutes of the permanent National Outreach Committee with minor notations and refers them back to the permanent committee.

The Committee wishes to commend the permanent National Outreach Committee for the quality of their minutes and their hard work this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Tom Ryan  
Chairman

Elder Gerry Hittenberger  
Recording Clerk

**REPORT OF THE STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES  
COMMITTEE**

20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Standing Committee

The meeting was opened with prayer by the chairman, Rev. Tom Dages on Thursday, June 22, 2000. Rev James Brown served as committee clerk. The committee convened once during the Assembly. A quorum was declared.

Robert Watson, Director of EPC Student and Young Adult Ministries, and Rev. Rick Stauffer, chairman of the permanent Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee, sented an excellent overview of this transition year. They were both enthusiastic about the genesis of the denomination's initial and renewed interest in youth ministry at the presbytery level as well as the 6.3% increase in recorded youth professions for Jesus Christ.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. Recommendation #23.
2. Minutes of the permanent committee of October 1-2, 1999 and March 3-4, 2000

B. Recommendations:

1. That Recommendation #23 "That the General Assembly endorse the Student and Young Adult Ministries Youth Curriculum for use in church membership programs for youth and young adults" be amended to include the words "as a working draft" and adopted as amended. The recommendation would then read:

"That the General Assembly endorse the Student and Young Adult Ministries Youth Curriculum as a working draft for use in church membership programs for youth and young adults."

Grounds: Student & Young Adult Ministries has received numerous inquiries from churches for youth membership material. After extensive review of existing curricula, it was determined that the development of such material would be a valuable asset to EPC congregations and a worthwhile undertaking. A great challenge for the church in every age is to pass on the life changing message of the gospel of Jesus in a way that is both powerful and meaningful to the next generation. Teens and young adults must be nurtured in their understanding of the great truths of the Christian faith. This curriculum is offered as one possible part in the process of accomplishing that vital goal.

2. **ON MOTION** to approve the permanent committee's minutes of 10/1-2/99 and 3/3-4/00 with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.

*Journal*

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The committee wishes to commend the members of the permanent committee for their outstanding work this year including their pioneering work on the Youth Membership Curriculum. We also wish to thank Rev. Rick Stauffer for his incredible leadership as chairman of the permanent committee during the past four and a half years and the great job Bob Watson has done during the transition time this past year.

The meeting closed in prayer by Rev. Don Galardi.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rev. Tom Dages  
Chairman

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Rev. James Brown  
Recording Clerk

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REPORT OF THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Standing Committee

The meeting was opened with prayer by the chairman, Elder Carolyn Nystrom, on Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2000. Rev. Chris Kiepe served as committee clerk. The committee convened 2 times during the Assembly.

Twenty-two were present, five were absent, and there were five observers.

Rev. Stephen Brown, Rev. David Keyser, and Rev. Don Sweeting were appointed to review the permanent Theology Committee minutes. The minutes were approved with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. Recommendation # 24
2. Recommendation #25

B. Recommendation #24

"Due to the scope of the issue, the lack of significant disagreement within the EPC on these matters, the degree to which our standards and existing position papers address the subject the abundant resources already available, we hereby request to be relieved of the general assignment of developing position papers on marriage and the family."

Grounds – Because our assignment does not focus on a particular problem or problems and because the subject matter is extremely broad, we have found it difficult to provide a response that would add anything beyond the vast amounts of excellent material available in the broader Evangelical community.

The committee suggests a similar but more specific project.

The standing Theology Committee recommends that the General Assembly ask the permanent Committee on Theology to take up the following project.

In the light of the growing cultural confusion on the nature and value of marriage, for example, living together without the benefit of a marriage commitment, gender issue, etc., we request the permanent Theology Committee to write a position paper on the sanctity of marriage beginning as a creation ordinance and developing a biblical view of marriage.

Motion passed.

The Theology Committee recessed at 3:15 after prayer because of the need for additional information. Therefore, the chairman scheduled the committee to reconvene at 7:30, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2000 in order to consider Recommendation #25.

The committee reconvened at 7:30, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2000. The meeting was opened with prayer by Knox Sherer.

**Recommendation #25**

"That the letter on Reformed theology from the Moderator and Stated Clerk be endorsed for distribution to the churches" be approved with the following amendment:

"That this letter be sent to pastors and Clerks of Session, and for pages 280-284c in Commissioners Handbook to be attached to this letter."

Motion passed.

Concluding Remarks:

The committee wishes to commend the members of the permanent Theology Committee for their work this past year, particularly, for the survey conducted concerning how we are training our elders.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Don Sweeting.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Elder Carolyn Nystrom  
Chairman Recording

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Rev. Chris Kiepe  
Clerk

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**REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE**

20th General Assembly  
Standing Committee

The chairman, Elder Joan Merritt opened the meeting with prayer on Thursday, June 22, 2000. Elder Millie Dreisbach served as committee clerk. The committee convened one time during the Assembly.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. Minutes of the permanent committee: October 25-26, 1999 March 21-22, 2000

B. Recommendations

1. The minutes were reviewed and approved, with notations to be sent to the permanent committee.

There was discussion in the Standing Committee regarding the possibility of having a full-time rather than a part-time Director of Women's Ministries.

Concluding Remarks:

"The committee wishes to commend the members of the permanent committee for their outstanding work this year... and draw particular note to the 4 years of faithful service by Anne Blackley as she retires as Women's Ministries permanent committee chairman Vicki Oliver, Ward EPC, will assume that position. We also thank Jan Juday for her years of leadership as Women's Ministries Director as she moves on to ministry in her home church, Cornerstone EPC in Brighton, Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Elder Joan Merritt  
Chairman

---

Elder Millie Dreisbach  
Recording Clerk

---

**REPORT OF THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

 20th General Assembly  
 Standing Committee

The meeting was opened in prayer by the chairman, Rev. Erik Ohman on Thursday, June 22, 2000. Rev. Ron Cox served as committee clerk. The committee convened one time during the Assembly.

**A. Business Referred to Committee**

1. Recommendation # 26
2. Recommendation # 27
3. Recommendation # 28
4. Recommendation # 30
5. Communication # 00-9
6. Minutes of the permanent committee dated June 23, 1999; September 9-11, 1999; January 20-22, 2000; March 23-25, 2000

**B. Recommendations**

1. That **Recommendation #26** "that the World Outreach Master Plan be revised and adopted as presented (cf. pp. 289ff),"

Grounds:

- Values: To modify value statements to more accurately reflect WOC positions and commitments.
- Goals & objectives: Original goals & objectives were stated for 1998 and 2001. The new document presents goals for 2002 and 2005.
- EPC Fields: To position Muslim ministry first priority in our major defining document as it is in actuality.
- Strategic Opportunities: To place East Asia (China) more substantially in our goals, and to add overseas international church planting and development as a new field focus.
- Mission Ed: To state new goals as a result of progress on past goal statements.

2. That **Recommendation #27** "that the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended in Section 302.3C by deleting item 6, *Studies in Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments*, and renumbering the present 7 to 6.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<b>302.3C</b> The WOC covenants with the Mission Evangelist to provide the following: 1. A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;	<b>302.3C</b> The WOC covenants with the Mission Evangelist to provide the following: 1. A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;



<p>2. Studies in Presbyterian government and order;</p> <p>3. Bible studies in Old and New Testament and homiletics;</p> <p>4. Studies in pastoral work;</p> <p>5. Studies in church planting and church growth;</p> <p>6. Studies in Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;</p> <p>7. Other such courses as the WOC may feel are essential of helpful.</p>	<p>2. Studies in Presbyterian government and order;</p> <p>3. Bible studies in Old and New Testament and homiletics;</p> <p>4. Studies in pastoral work;</p> <p>5. Studies in church planting and church growth;</p> <p><del>6. Studies in Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments;</del></p> <p>6. Other such courses as the WOC may feel are essential of helpful.</p>
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Grounds: Everything listed in item 6 is covered in item 1 "A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments."

3. That **Recommendation # 28** "that the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended in the third sentence of section 400.10 Vehicles by increasing the amount of the standard vehicle allowance from \$14,000 to \$18,000" as presented.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>400.10 Vehicles</b></p> <p>World Outreach includes a standard vehicle in the terms of call for career missionaries serving and residing overseas. The assets for such vehicles are for use on the field as well as during Home Service. The initial vehicle will be included in outgoing costs of <u>\$14,000</u>, or an amount approved by the World Outreach Director. The initial amount of the vehicle will be held in escrow until the actual purchase of the vehicle. Twenty percent of the cost of the replacement vehicle will be put into the annual terms of call and set aside for future purchase. Vehicle registration and insurance will be in the name of the missionary and operational costs will be assumed by the missionary.</p>	<p><b>400.10 Vehicles</b></p> <p>World Outreach includes a standard vehicle in the terms of call for career missionaries serving and residing overseas. The assets for such vehicles are for use on the field as well as during Home Service. The initial vehicle will be included in outgoing costs of \$14,000 \$18,000, or an amount approved by the World Outreach Director. The initial amount of the vehicle will be held in escrow until the actual purchase of the vehicle. Twenty percent of the cost of the replacement vehicle will be put into the annual terms of call and set aside for future purchase. Vehicle registration and insurance will be in the name of the missionary and operational costs will be assumed by the missionary.</p>

Grounds: The \$14,000 allowance was established in January, 1995. This increase adjusts for vehicle price increases in the intervening years. The *monthly* vehicle escrow amount would increase from \$233 to \$300.

Journal

4. That **Recommendation #30** “that the World Outreach Missions Manual be amended by adding a section 304.5 Extended Home Service” as presented.

<b>Present wording</b>	<b>Proposed wording</b>
<i>No Section 304.5 currently exists.</i>	<b>304.5 Extended Home Service</b> At the end of the normal home service, the WOC may grant, with justification, an extension of home service not to exceed one year.

Grounds: At present, World Outreach has no clear statement about the length of home service or how it might be extended before a missionary is placed on leave of absence. This policy would require the missionary to request the extension of home service, indicating a reason for the request. The WOC would then act on that request. This is in line with other missions agency policies.

5. Received **Communication 00-9** as information.
6. Reviewed and approved permanent Committee’s minutes with notations being forwarded to the permanent committee.

Concluding Remarks:

The assembly committee affirms the outstanding values, commitments, and work of the World Outreach Committee. God’s blessing to each servant dedicated both to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and expanding His Church.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Ohman and closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rev. Erik Ohman, Chairman

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Rev. Ron Cox, Recording Clerk

**PART II**  
**APPENDICES**



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## COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION REPORT

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The Committee on Administration (COA) convened for two stated meetings: November 4-5, 1999 and April 6-7, 2000. 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.

In addition to reports from the Moderator, Stated Clerk and Assembly staff, reports from the Executive, Finance, National Outreach, World Outreach Christian Education and Publications, Women's Ministries, Ministerial Vocation, Student and Young Adult Ministries, Fraternal Relations, Ad Interim and 2001 Committees were received and adopted.

- Approved the formation of a 5-member Search Committee for a Women's Ministries Director.
- Instructed Student and Young Adult Ministries Committee to develop the ministry to minors policy and report back to COA.
- Approved recommendation in 2001 Report that an *ad interim* committee be appointed to study development of a denominational foundation and report in 2001.
- Directed Finance Committee and Financial Manager to develop and implement an investment policy for all General Assembly administration funds and, if necessary, engage an investment counselor to assist the committee.
- Authorized Finance Committee to continue policy of securing regular insurance audit.
- Approved continued administration of Lenten Offering by Stated Clerk's Office.
- Approved frequent review (at least quarterly) of Knox, Medical Benevolence, Ministerial Endowment and Church Loan Funds by the Financial Manager, Stated Clerk and Finance Committee Chairman.
- Granted National Outreach Committee permission to host a church planter's supper at the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.
- Approved procedure whereby any proposed short term mission trips must first be evaluated and endorsed by the appropriate outreach committee.
- Approved the Advertising Policy for *Reflections* magazine and acknowledged the high quality and excellence achieved by the magazine.

- Received the report of the Women's Ministries Committee naming Dr. Florence Littauer as speaker for the 2000 Women's Luncheon and the designation of Faith Focus 2000 funds to provide five youth camps for the young people of Kazakhstan.
- Approved the speaker for Summer Jam 2000, the 2001 student mission trips to Argentina and SYAM's distribution of a Youth Membership Curriculum to the churches.
- Approved designation of newly elected Stated Clerk as denominational representative for 2000-2001 to the National Association of Evangelicals.
- Invited the St. Andrews Presbytery to propose an Argentina Relief Fund as part of the General Assembly benevolence askings.
- Conceptually endorsed the 2001 Strategic Plan and requests that the General Assembly receive the report as information at this time.
- Received the report from the Theology Committee addressing the matter of officer training and charged the Clerk and Moderator to draft a letter on the subject of officer training for eventual distribution to the churches.
- Approved designation of Moderator's Communion Offering to the Moderator's Scholarship Fund, a fund which assists pastors from smaller churches in financial need to attend General Assembly.
- Approved honoraria for General Assembly keynoters and pre-assembly workshop speaker.
- Approved invitation to Clive Calver, President of World Relief, to be keynote speaker for the 21<sup>st</sup> (2001) General Assembly.
- Approved the 2000-2002 calendar for permanent committees.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the Proposed 2001 Administration Budget of \$1,094,000 be approved.
2. That the 2000 Administration Budget be adjusted to incorporate
  - (a) the call for the new Stated Clerk, (\$14,500 compensation; \$8,000 moving expenses);
  - (b) new World Outreach Director (\$25,000);
  - (c) Staff insurance, pension, expenses allowances and taxes related to the two new staff members (\$16,160); and

(d) additional funding for publishing *Reflections* magazine (\$5,000) so that the 2000 Administration Budget is increased from \$1,088,000 to \$1,156,660.

3. That the General Assembly approve a mid-year benevolence asking of \$25,000 for *Reflections* magazine in 2000 so that the 2000 Benevolence Askings are increased from \$464,000 to \$469,000.
4. That the Proposed 2001 Benevolence Askings Budget for \$610,000 be adopted.
5. That the 2000 Thanksgiving Offering be designated for National Outreach, and that its proceeds be used to support the Appalachian Project as the initiation of NOC's Home Missions program.
6. That the General Assembly receive the report of the 2001 Committee (Vision 21 booklet) as information, and instruct the Office of the Stated Clerk and the Committee on Administration to elicit responses from the presbyteries and to bring the final report to the 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly for action.
7. That the invitation of Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee to host General Assembly be accepted for the 24<sup>th</sup> (2004) Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Smith, Chairman  
Committee on Administration

June, 2000

## VISION 21

### Report of the 2001 Committee

May 20, 2000

Dear Friends,

Vision 21 is the fulfillment of a mandate given the Committee on Administration by the General Assembly. That mandate recognized the need for "a strategic plan to set the vision, goals, and programs for the next several years."

In its wisdom, the Committee on Administration created the 2001 Committee. Bill Johns and Virginia Patterson have provided stellar leadership for the task group which has labored over three years.

The Committee on Administration now forwards **Vision 21** to the larger church, and specifically to the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The Assembly as a family of churches will be asked to reflect on the vision for the years ahead. The 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly, hopefully, will initiate implementation.

Your Moderator and Stated Clerk commend this work to your most serious consideration, being mindful that "without vision, the people perish!"

Your servants,

Dr. James McGuire  
Moderator, 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Dr. Edward Davis  
Stated Clerk



Dear Family Members,

March, 2000

Attached is the final report of the 2001 Committee for your reflection and thought.

The mandate of the 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly stated:

*"that the Assembly instruct the permanent Committee on Administration to develop a strategic plan to set forth the vision, goals and programs of the General Assembly for the next several years. This plan should include goals, programs, activities and priorities for the life of the plan. The proposed plan should be distributed to the presbytery level for information prior to the General Assembly."*

Accordingly, during 1996, the Committee on Administration put into motion this mandate to wit: A committee known as the 2001 Committee was formed to accomplish the '94 mandate. The committee, chaired by Bill Johns, was to be no larger than seven members. The following names were appointed: Wally Hostetter, Sam Jones, Carl Hassel, Virginia Patterson, Jerry Brundle and Joe Schluchter who subsequently resigned from the committee due to time constraints. The Stated Clerk, Ed Davis, resourced the committee.

As you will see from the following report, the Committee has met often and discussions have covered a wide range of topics, ideas and proposals. We would like for you to realize that the proposals attached are a distillation of many, many hours of discussion. To have included proposals reflecting the full scope of our meetings would have produced an unwieldy and unrealistic package that would have been difficult if not impossible for the Assembly to consider, given the time available.

The 2001 Committee, with great respect and admiration, recognizes the major contribution of our mentor and friend, Ed Davis, ex-officio member of the committee, for his historical and spiritual insights that proved to be of great value in our study and work.

We are grateful for the very significant educational and spiritual experience this work has provided each of us on the Committee and our prayer is that the Assembly will enthusiastically receive our work and commit this denomination to a vigorous plan of action for the glory of God.

Respectfully,

RE William Johns, Chair  
TE Jerry Brundle  
RE Carl Hassel  
TE Edward Davis

RE Virginia Patterson, Vice Chair  
TE Wally Hostetter, Secretary  
RE Sam Jones

**2001 Committee**

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## INTRODUCTION TO REPORT

This introduction summarizes what is included in each of the sections that will follow.

### **Planning Process**

This section summarizes the process we followed to complete this strategic plan, including specialists, focus, underlying assumptions, and our motivation to serve the entire church.

### **Key Assumptions**

There were many assumptions which directed our study, some were known and expressed, and others were not recognized during the course of our work. The eight key assumptions that had the greatest impact on the direction of our study and the conclusions are stated in this section.

### **Who We Are**

One of the primary tasks in a strategic planning effort is to determine the organizational identity, or what the organization wants to become. This section of the report contains the description of our self-identification. It consists of four parts: (1) **Identity**, who we say we are; (2) **Mission**, what we exist to accomplish; (3) **Vision**, what we would like to become and accomplish; and (4) **Core Values**, those values which define the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

### **Where We Are Going**

The heart of the strategic plan describes what the Evangelical Presbyterian Church should do, how to do it, and when it will be done. In this plan we identify goals (what the EPC should do), objectives (those quantifiable and measurable targets against which progress can be measured), and strategies (the specific steps to be taken to accomplish the objectives and goals).

### **Appendix**

The appendix contains more detailed and supportive material of the committee's work, including:

1. Office of the General Assembly Organization Chart, adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies.
2. Proposed revision of Design for 2001 Organizational Chart.
3. Position Description for the Stated Clerk (adopted by the 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)
4. Position Description for the Director of Congregational Ministries
5. Position Description for the Director of Stewardship
6. National Outreach Master Plan
7. World Outreach Master Plan

## PLANNING PROCESS

### Overview

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The development of this strategic plan involved considerable effort on the part of the committee, the Stated Clerk, the staff of the Office of the General Assembly, and other resources. The committee of six, plus the Stated Clerk, met on a regular basis for more than three and one-half years. All meetings began with devotions and prayer. We were acutely aware of our responsibility, and our very limited abilities to accomplish what was expected of us. Nevertheless, we believe our efforts were both guided and blessed by the Holy Spirit.

### Resource Specialists

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Because of the importance of this work to the future of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, we sought the best thinking and experience to assist us. Lyle Schaller, an internationally recognized expert on church growth and church strategy with other denominations, spent considerable time with the committee. He brought his experience to our discussions. His knowledge of the state of the church in today's changing world, and how the various denominations are seeking to cope with that change, was invaluable to us. In addition to Dr. Schaller, we benefited from the experiences of Rev. Leonard

Hoffman, General Secretary Emeritus of the Christian Reformed Church, and Dr. Charles Dunahoo, Coordinator of Christian Education and Publications of the Presbyterian Church in America.

The Stated Clerk, Edward Davis, provided considerable time, insight, and experience. We also had discussions with the directors of National Outreach, World Outreach, Women's Ministries, Single and Young Adult Ministries. In addition, we met with the chairman of the Task Force on Personnel and with the Office Location Sub-committee.

### Focus

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The focus was on the history of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church within the Church of Jesus Christ, its distinctives, and what we believe those distinctives should be in the future. Focusing on those things which make the EPC both similar and dissimilar to other denominations helped to identify and assess current issues in the larger church that may provide opportunities or obstacles to growth and unity in the years ahead.

### **Underlying Assumptions**

There were a number of underlying assumptions that were made in conducting this work, most of which are reported elsewhere in this document. There are, however, two assumptions that have uniquely underscored our work from its inception. They are stated here because they set a tone for everything we have done. They are:

1. A primary role of the Office of the General Assembly will increasingly be to resource presbyteries and congregations.
2. The EPC motto, "In Essentials, Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty; In All Things, Charity," continues to reflect the value placed on the unity of our family of churches, while enjoying diversity in the non-essential areas of theology and ecclesiology, all sustained and balanced by our love for the Lord and for one another.

### **Motivation**

Our motivation was to serve the entire denomination and all of its parts. It is our hope and prayer that this work, in its entirety, will provide a basis for planning, action, and ministry that will maximize the growth and ministry of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the proclamation of the gospel around the world.

## KEY ASSUMPTIONS

### The Evangelical Presbyterian Church:

1. Is unique within the family of Presbyterian and Reformed churches, and therefore has a purpose in remaining independent from other denominations.
2. Is a family of churches, defined by shared core values, and bonded by the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
3. Having a Presbyterian form of government, is an organization, interdependent in its parts and mutually accountable. It is, therefore, not an association, movement, or a network. The three organizational entities—congregations, presbyteries, and General Assembly—are mutually accountable.
4. Believes the middle governing body, the presbytery, is essential to historical Presbyterianism, but presbyteries need to become increasingly effective, relevant, and helpful in the life and mission of the church.
5. Is committed to the unchanging truth of God's Word. We will seek to be relevant to the culture in our presentation of the gospel and in our worship, and we will share the gospel of Christ in its historic truth with faithfulness, clarity, and love.
6. Is a confessional church, utilizing the Westminster Standards to describe the system of doctrine taught in Scripture.
7. Is committed to extending the gospel of Christ in and around the world, requiring a growing number of churches, growing congregations, and greater outreach.
8. Is committed to church planting and church revitalization as a mandate which belongs to all its parts without reservation.

## WHO WE ARE

### Identity

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a family of churches, essentially Reformed and Presbyterian, defined by shared core values and bonded by the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

### Mission

To be a people of God living and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ so that lives and cultures are transformed.

*"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9)*

### Vision

We envision a family of 350 churches, by 2010, whose 120,000 members comprise Evangelical Presbyterian congregations in 40 states, and who are faithfully proclaiming the Gospel in accordance with Reformed distinctiveness.

### Core Values

The following core values have been prayerfully selected from among many acceptable values as those which best represent what the Evangelical Presbyterian Church values as being essential to its existence. These values are listed in alphabetical order as each is equally valuable to the life of our church.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church values:

- Biblical Authority  
Biblical authority as the final authority.
- Confessional/Theological  
A confessional system of belief that is consistent with the theological positions of the Reformed faith and true to the historical tenets of the Christian faith.
- Educated Leadership  
A biblically educated leadership among all believers in our family of churches.
- Evangelism/Missions  
Evangelism as our mission locally, nationally, and internationally.
- Family/Community  
Our family of churches as best expressing the community of faith intrinsic to the Body of Christ.
- Growth/Church Planting  
A growing church, spiritually and numerically, which is accomplished through church planting and congregational development.
- Prayer  
Prayer as the expression of our life in the Spirit and as our primary act of dependence upon God.
- Presbyterian in Government  
The Presbyterian form of government as the means of governance given our church through which the call of God is best accomplished.

## WHERE WE ARE GOING

### TARGET CATEGORIES

Achievement of the following goals within these target categories will be some measure of the progress toward fulfilling the mission and vision of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

#### Family Development

##### Goal:

To encourage and mobilize the individual parts of the body to minister to one another and the larger family, and to encourage those congregations blessed with abundant resources to reach out to those congregations whose needs are great. (I Timothy 5:8)

##### Objectives:

1. Establish a "Helping Churches Network" constituted of member churches in defined regions, not confined to Presbytery boundaries, whose commitment is to share their resources and experiences in meaningful ways to the extended family.
    - a. Conduct "Pastors' Conferences" bi-annually (2003)
      - Share experiences for mutual inspiration and edification
      - Establish an encouragement network
      - Increase fellowship
      - Identify and educate in areas of ministry needs
    - b. Initiate "Teaching Conferences" (2002)
      - Meet identified needs through various topics
      - Explore the influence of trending
        - Train in ministry skills
  - c. Establish "Small Church Conferences" (2004)
    - Establish a network
    - Resource for ministry
  - d. Identify churches to host Pastors in Residence (PIR) ministries (2004)
2. Mobilize a family-wide prayer ministry.
    - Establish an internet prayer chain (2001)
    - Develop a web site for prayer (2001)
    - Appoint a prayer coordinator for each General Assembly (2000)
  3. Encourage the continuing development of the ministers' wives fellowship.
    - Continue development of the coordinating team for the fellowship (2000)
    - Expand the on-line ministry network (2000)



## **Mission Development**

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### Goal:

To actively extend the kingdom by the presence of the church in cultures, people groups, and places where God gifts the family of churches with vision and opportunity.

### Objectives:

1. Implement the **World Outreach Master Plan** as the expressed will of the church. (See appendix)

- Develop the financial base for the world mission program.
- Develop personnel pool for potential missionary appointment.
- Mobilize mission minded laity for world deployment.
- Generate a fresh wave of passion in the family for worldwide missions.

2. Implement the **National Outreach Master Plan** as the expressed will of the Church. (See appendix.)

- Build a base of pastors and churches who are passionately committed to church planting.

- Provide a forum for vision casting and networking to accelerate church planting (2001).
- Develop the financial base for the national missions program.

3. Increase the total number of churches by 6% annually.

- Challenge each church of 500+ members to plant/mother a new church within the next five years (2005).
- Challenge each Presbytery to plant a new church within three years (2004).
- Welcome churches seeking affiliation with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

4. Increase church membership/attendance by 5% annually.

- Challenge each congregation to encourage membership and provide appropriate instruction.
- Encourage each congregation to provide an assimilation process whereby they introduce the distinctives of the particular church family and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- Challenge each congregation to aggressively reach out to the unchurched.

## **Leadership Development**

### Goal:

To train, mobilize, and nurture the human resources God has given the family for the growth and maturity of the church.

*"And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ."*  
(Ephesians 4:11-12)

### Objectives:

1. Establish a Ministerial Candidates Assessment Center in partnership with the Ministerial Vocation Committee (2003).
2. Develop and maintain a Ministry Resource Network in partnership with the MVC.
  - Establish a mentoring program for pastors (2002).
  - Develop an interim minister roster and pool (2001).
  - Identify a team of experts who are gifted and skilled to minister to pastors (2001).
  - Develop a program to provide internships for college age, seminarians, and second career candidates (2003) .
  - Create a program to provide nurture, care, and professional development of pastors (2003).
  - Provide opportunities for educational development (2001).
  - Provide a Web based information center (2002).
3. Challenge presbyteries to recognize the value of full-time executive leadership and to plan for its implementation.
  - Identify a presbytery willing to engage in a pilot program.
  - Define models for presbyteries to study and consider.

## **Congregational Development**

### Goal:

To provide resources and services to the presbyteries and churches, to offer encouragement, training, and other helps, in conjunction with the presbyteries, that the whole church may be effective in its total ministry.  
(G. 16-22, I)

### Objectives:

1. Provide congregations with those services and resources that will enhance their life and ministry.
  - Resource congregations in their various areas of ministry.
  - Make available an on-line resource library.
  - Provide leadership training.
2. Encourage leadership development.
  - Develop and/or offer officer training courses.
  - Offer regional leadership training seminars in cooperation with the Helping Churches Network.

## **Organizational Development**

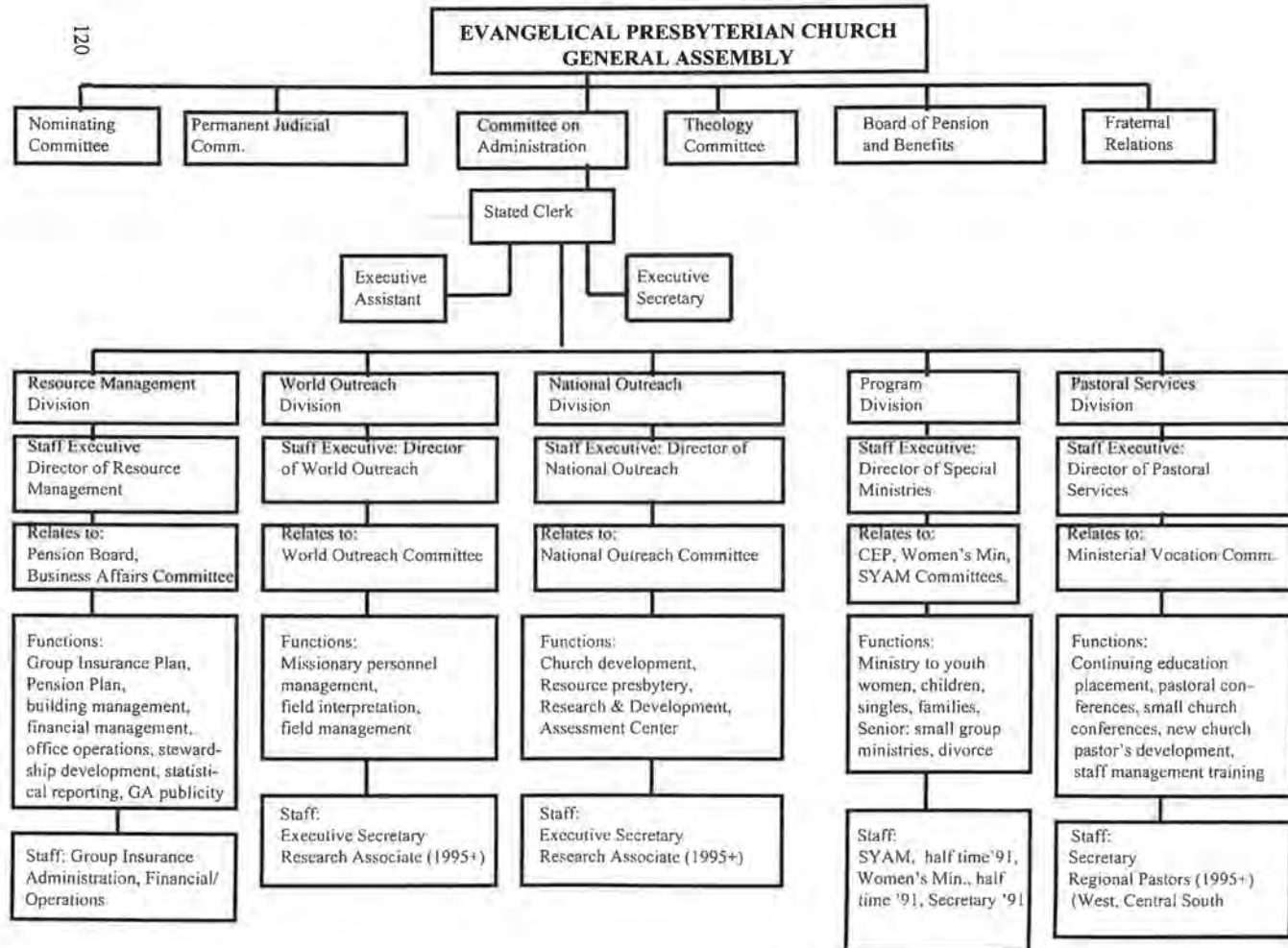
### Goal:

To develop the Office of The General Assembly as a resource and service center, increasingly responsive to local congregations, whereby needful experience and resources are available to facilitate the accomplishment of each congregation's mission and programs.

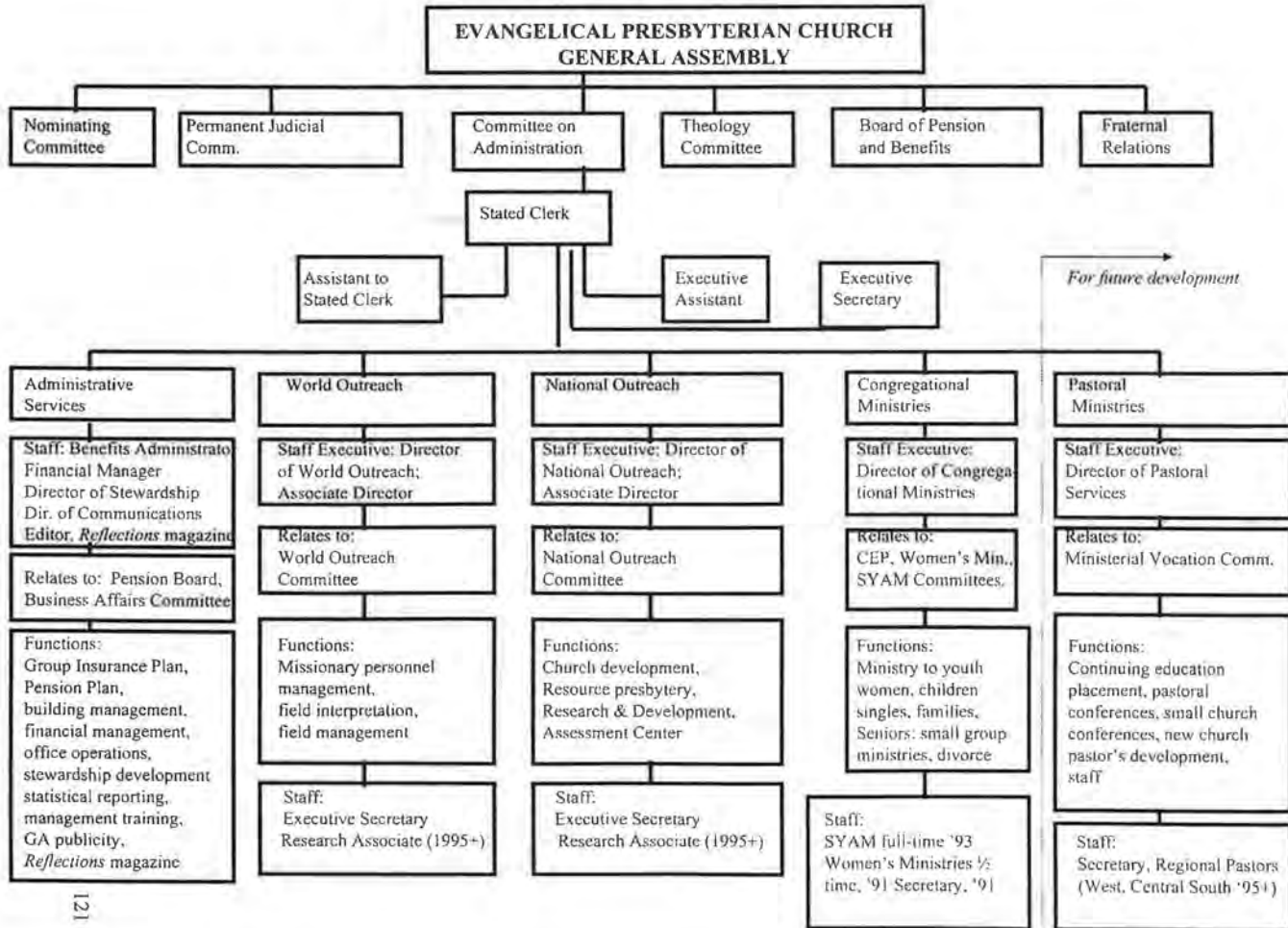
### Objectives:

1. Establish a Congregational Ministries Division.
  - Position Description approved by 2001 General Assembly (See appendix.)
  - COA to develop funding plan for approval by 2001 General Assembly
  - Leadership in place (2002)
2. Establish a Stewardship Department. Position Description approved by 2001 General Assembly. (See appendix.)
  - COA develop funding plan for approval by 2001 General Assembly
  - Leadership in place (2002)
3. Enhance the work of WOC and NOC.
  - Provide associate support in each department
  - COA develop funding plan for approval by 2002 General Assembly
  - Leadership in place (2003)
4. Establish an Evangelical Presbyterian Foundation.
  - Appoint Ad Interim Committee (2001) to study and report to General Assembly (2002)

DESIGN FOR 2001 (Adopted 1990)



DESIGN FOR 2001 (Proposed)



## **STATED CLERK POSITION DESCRIPTION**

- 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 constitution-al 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 that 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.

## **DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES POSITION DESCRIPTION**

- I. Position Title: Director of Congregational Ministries
- II. Date: To be determined
- III. Position Summary:  
The Director of Congregational Ministries is responsible for the planning, administration, and execution of all activities related to the General Assembly's role in supporting and resourcing the ministries of the congregations of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in order that they might more effectively accomplish their programmatic missions. The division, which the Director of Congregational Ministries oversees, is one of support, service, and assistance, not one of compliance or regulation.
- IV. Term:  
The Director of Congregational Ministries shall serve a three-year term which is renewable. The Director will receive an annual performance review and a corresponding annual compensation review.
- V. Duties:
- A. Recruit, train, and supervise personnel within the Division of Congregational Ministries (DCM).
  - B. Oversee the preparation of the annual DCM budget, in compliance with direction from the Stated Clerk and the COA, and ensure fiscal accountability of the Division.
  - C. Develop a strategic plan and a vision for the programs and ministries of DCM, consistent with the core values, plans, directions, and resources of the GA.
  - D. Develop and provide services to the congregations of the EPC that have real value to those congregations, and which serve to strengthen the family relationships.
  - E. To develop a vision for educational ministries in the EPC, as well as a strategy to implement that vision, in all the congregations who choose to adopt that vision.
  - F. Resource EPC congregations in their various areas of ministry: children, youth, women's and men's ministries, special ministries, and leadership training.



- G. To evaluate educational and other resources, and to make these evaluations and resources available to the congregations.
- H. Design, prepare, and conduct leadership training and other seminars.
- I. Relate to EPC publications that are directed to the congregations.
- J. Communicate the purposes and capabilities of the DCM to the congregations of the EPC
- K. Participate with the church at large and other reformed bodies in the areas of Christian education and congregational ministries, including attendance at national conferences, conventions, and seminars.
- L. Develop a resource library, both physical and on-line, for the benefit of congregations.
- M. Make use of the latest computer and network technology to deliver resources and assistance to congregations at the lowest possible cost.
- N. Fulfill a collegial leadership role at the OGA in conjunction with the directors of the other divisions and with the Stated Clerk.
- O. Participate on various committees and task forces, as requested by and/or approved by the Stated Clerk.

VI. Organizational Relationships:

- A. Responsible to: The Director of Congregational Ministries is responsible to the Committee on Administration through immediate accountability to the Stated Clerk.
- B. Responsible for: The Director of Congregational Ministries is responsible for all professional and clerical personnel within the CMD, including the Director of Women's Ministries and the Director of Student and Young Adult Ministries.
- C. Coordinates with: The Director of Congregational Ministries coordinates with the directors of all other divisions, and with any other ministries, bodies or persons as directed by the Stated Clerk.

## **DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP**

- I. Position Title: Director of Stewardship
- II. Date: To Be Determined
- III. Position Summary:  
The Director of Stewardship is responsible for developing a comprehensive stewardship/fundraising program for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. This responsibility includes establishing goals, objectives, and implementation activities for helping to accomplish the funding goals approved by the General Assembly.
- IV. Term:  
The Director of Stewardship shall serve a three-year term, which is renewable. The Director will receive an annual performance review and a corresponding annual compensation review.
- V. Duties:
1. Develop a long-range plan for effective functioning of a comprehensive stewardship/fundraising program, including annual contributions and deferred giving.
  2. Keep up with trends in the fundraising field and be knowledgeable of laws applicable to charitable giving.
  3. Oversee the preparation of an annual budget, in compliance with direction from the COA and the Stated Clerk, and ensure fiscal accountability.
  4. Recruit, train, and supervise any support staff assigned.
  5. Identify and evaluate donor prospects—individuals, corporations, foundations.
  6. Cultivate donors.
  7. Develop an educational program for EPC members that enables them to plan through insurance, securities, and other assets to aid them and the denomination with future resources.
  8. Promote the biblical concept of stewardship among sessions and presbyteries as a means of providing the necessary resources for the expansion of the work of the church.

9. Be available to sessions and presbyteries in communicating stewardship and planned giving opportunities.
10. Oversee gift processing.
11. Produce timely reports of gifts, donations, and statistical data as requested by the Stated Clerk and Finance Committee.
12. Participate on various committees and task forces, as requested by and/or approved by the Stated Clerk.
13. Fulfill a collegial leadership role at the OGA in conjunction with other staff, directors of other divisions, and the Stated Clerk.

VI. Organizational Relationships:

1. Responsible to:  
The Director of Stewardship is responsible to the Committee on Administration through the Stated Clerk.
2. Responsible for:  
Any assigned support staff.
3. Coordinates with:  
Directors and staff of other divisions and any other ministries, bodies or persons as directed by the Stated Clerk.

## NATIONAL OUTREACH MASTER PLAN

### **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**

#### **• Church Planting**

*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**

#### **• Church Vitality**

*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**

#### **• Evangelism**

*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**

##### **• Urban Ministry**

*To transform urban centers by establishing churches and aiding existing urban ministries to impact their communities for 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.

(6/98)

*(The addition of Key Strategic Area #5 "Home Missions" is being recommended to the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly)*

#### **Key Strategic Area #5**

##### **• Home Missions**

*To enable workers to present the love of Christ to English-speaking people in the USA, unreached by the established church.*

##### Strategic objectives:

1. To identify unreached people groups in the USA needing Christ's love.
2. To find and nurture qualified missionaries who will live and work with these groups.
3. To assist these workers in securing funds for their ministries.

## WORLD OUTREACH MASTER PLAN

### MISSION STATEMENT

The global mission of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is to establish the Church of Jesus Christ in those cultures and people groups where opportunity and our ability to respond intersect.

### VALUES

1. The Foundation of World Outreach is the written Word of God, the Westminster Confession and the Book of Order of the EPC.
2. We are committed to establish and develop indigenous reformed churches in each people group within its polity areas of the world.
3. We are committed to evangelism in both word and deed that results in church planting and eventual presbytery formation.
4. We are committed to encouraging the spiritual maturity of indigenous leadership and to affirm those means essential to such development.
5. We are building a partnership shaped from the collective support and giftedness of our members under the headship of Christ.
6. We are committed to mobilizing every member as the spiritual key to fulfilling our mission.
7. We are committed to partnering with other like-minded churches and organizations to demonstrate the unity of the Body of Christ.
8. We are committed to administering the resources entrusted to us in an efficient and effective manner with full accountability.
9. We are committed to being sensitive and responsive to the Holy Spirit's work throughout the world.
10. We are committed to pray for worldwide evangelization.
11. We will be faithful in proclaiming the Gospel to the nations until the Lord returns.

### STRATEGIC PLANNING

World Outreach is committed to develop its mission program with clear intention. We shall focus our mission on the Muslim World, Latin America, countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and North American ethnic and urban ministry.

## **GOAL STATEMENTS**

### **I. MISSION MINISTRIES:**

#### **A. Muslim World**

Goal: To establish a Christian presence in Muslim cultures and where possible to plant churches.

Objectives: 1998

1. Identify a Muslim field and establish a partnership agreement with an approved sending agency.
2. Utilize Arab World Ministries and Frontiers as our main cooperative agencies for EPC work in the Muslim world.

Objective: 2001

1. To deploy 10 EPC missionaries to the Muslim field.

#### **B. Argentina**

Goal: To establish an indigenous Presbyterian Church in Argentina, in consultation with the St. Andrews Presbytery in Buenos Aires.

Objectives: 1998

1. Identify and prioritize those areas in Argentina most appropriate for establishing at least two additional presbyteries.
2. Identify and help equip Argentine church planting personnel to work in the above areas.

3. Identify, train and send at least one missionary church-planting team.

#### **C. Eastern Europe/The Former Soviet Union (CIS Nations)**

Goal: To develop ways to proclaim the gospel, plant churches, and help build God's kingdom in the region.

Objectives: 1998:

1. To complete the team in Kazakhstan.
2. To identify an ordained church planter for Tyumen, Siberia.
3. To identify like-minded seminaries or institutes for indigenous leadership training.

Objectives: 2001

1. To plant three churches in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
2. To plant one church in Tyumen, Siberia.

#### **D. North American Ethnic and Urban Ministry**

Goal: To initiate ministry and to plant and develop churches in local ethnic and urban communities in partnership with EPC churches and/or presbyteries.

Objective: 1998

1. To support and assist Military Avenue Church in inner city Detroit and to use

this experience as a model for other urban areas.

2. To cooperate with EPC churches that desire to work together in ethnic or urban ministries.
3. To support with funds and short-term personnel the Appalachian Project in Kentucky, directed to evangelizing rural families.

Objective: 2001

To identify one urban ministry where a cluster of EPC churches are led to cooperate in fulfilling an ethnic or urban project.

**E. Bi-Vocational Opportunities**

Goal: To send spiritually gifted men and women to serve in restricted access nations, with primary purposes for evangelism, discipleship and church development within the context of business and professional assignments.

Objectives: 1998

1. To work with an approved agency to facilitate bi-vocational work in China.
2. WO will assist EPC churches to plan short-term bi-vocational mission in China.

**F. Relief and Development**

Goal: To minister in deed and word through emergency relief, especially in areas where EPC missionaries are serving.

Objective: 2001

To annually solicit our churches for a relief or development project.

**II. MISSION PARTNERSHIPS**

Goal: To develop partnerships with other evangelical Presbyterian denominations and reformed churches in North America and abroad, and with other compatible agencies.

**A. Brazil**

Objectives: 1998

1. To explore partnership with the IPB (Brazil) in consultation with St. Andrews Presbytery toward fulfilling the goal of establishing an indigenous Presbyterian Church in Argentina.
2. To restudy the Articles of Agreement (EPC/IPB) as to the most helpful relationship in ministry for both churches in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Objective: 2001

To complete Phase I of faculty development of the Andrew Jumper Graduate Center as a key to leadership development in the IPB (Brazil) and throughout Latin America.

**B. China Seminary Project**

Objective: 2001

To promote and support EPC's commitment to the China



Seminary Project that results in training pastors.

#### C. EPC Pastoral Network

Objective: 1998

To develop a network of EPC pastoral leadership that encourages dialogue with World Outreach regarding participation in EPC's missions goals and the local churches' vision for missions.

#### D. WFRC Partnership

Objective: 1998

Become a member of the World Fellowship of Reformed Churches to enhance EPC's work in Latin America.

### III. MISSION RESOURCES

#### A. Missions Education

Goal: To encourage and promote a mission vision for EPC, World Outreach shall nurture mission consciousness and excellence in EPC churches and presbyteries.

Objectives: 1998

1. WO will convene an annual missions consultation to provide vision and training to the EPC church family.
2. WO will be a resource to EPC churches in developing mission policies, training, and such information that will assist local churches in their missions programs.
3. WO shall schedule an annual vision trip for EPC pastors and church members desir-

ing missions exposure and participation in areas of EPC work.

#### B. Mission Personnel Development

Goal: To assist individuals in churches and presbyteries to adequately prepare for cross-cultural service and to provide pastoral care for those in mission service.

Objectives: 2001

1. To send 101 missionaries into mission service in EPC teams or through approved cooperative agencies. Thirty-five of these missionaries will be in EPC teams whose ultimate goal is to plant reformed churches.
2. To share a synopsis of the annual Uniform Missionary Evaluation with supporting churches.
3. To establish a network of mentors for seminarians interested in mission service.
4. To identify EPC pastors interested in forming a team to provide pastoral care to EPC foreign missionaries through field visitation on a regular basis.
5. To encourage short-term missionary service (one or two years) working alongside WO missionaries.

*(Note: The World Outreach Committee will bring recommendations to amend this Master Plan to the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.)*

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## BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS REPORT

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### **MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN**

The Board of Pension and Benefits has been very active this past year. As most of us are now fully aware, the premium cost of our medical insurance was increased by 49%. Several factors made this a necessity. The good news is that the problems which generated this change are now under control.

Over the past five years, there had been no increase in premiums for health insurance. In actuality, a decrease of 10% was granted two years ago but had to be recovered the following year. To decrease premium cost is virtually unheard of in the medical insurance field and costs of claims simply did not warrant such action.

During this period of time, the cost of claims rose from an average of \$1,792,454 annually for the years of 1995-98 to a claims cost of \$2,659,769 for 1999. This represents an increase of \$867,000. Without a premium adjustment, the medical reserve funds decreased from approximately \$2,000,000 to \$830,000 with both decrease in principle and the interest income derived from such.

For the first four months of this year the Plan has recognized an excess of \$3,811 of income over total expenses. In projecting this out for the balance of this year we anticipate the Plan will experience a healthy balance.

Included in claims paid through April 30, 2000 of \$982,594.71 was \$299,940.80 in claims for services incurred prior to November 15, 1999. Most of these should have been paid in the prior Plan year. Accordingly, only \$682,649.91 should be considered in evaluating Plan performance for the year 2000.

Premium income reported for the first four months is \$1,141,266. This is based on an average of 559 participants. Assuming this number remains about the same, we can anticipate average income of \$285,000 per month, total Plan income for the year approximating \$3,421,000.

We estimate claims will average \$185,000 per month for the remainder of the year. This is well below the year to date experience of \$245,648 per month. This differential is attributable to the payment of sizable 1999 claims in this Plan year. Included in the projected claims is the cost savings being realized from your discount drug cards. We anticipate total claims paid in 2000 will be \$2,562,595.

It appears the increase in premium to Plan participants beginning January 1, 2000 of approximately 49% will reverse the trend of losses in the previous two years. This increase is more than justified given the trend in the industry.

The Board went three years without an increase in premium. The next year they gave a 10% decrease in premiums which was almost unheard of in the medical insurance field. The following year it was necessary to reinstate that 10%, but this still amounted to five years without an increase in premiums for the health insurance.

The Board has taken a number of steps to correct our position.



*Orin Littlejohn*

- 1) We have contracted a new third party administrator (TPA).
- 2) We have negotiated for a new Stop Loss Insurance carrier, again at a savings as compared to our previous coverage.
- 3) You now have a Prescription Card which saves both you and the Plan a significant amount of money.
- 4) We have instituted an annual review process whereby the adequacy of our medical reserves shall be evaluated and unwise erosion of such fund precluded.

Other suggestions have been brought forward including (1) a change to a fully insured plan; (2) regionalization of the insurance coverage allowing each presbytery to provide for the medical insurance of their pastors and employees; (3) forcing complete compliance or participation in our plan, and (4) merely keeping the plan as is or decrease benefits. I would like to elaborate on these possibilities and update you on the efforts of your Board to try to provide the best medical insurance plan possible for our Church.

**Fully Insured:**

During the last six months, we have met with Blue Cross and Blue Shield representatives of Michigan. We found they could provide coverage for our church but only as long as a majority of our covered people were residents of Michigan. This almost definitely would require a change of carrier at some later date. We also found that their premiums had risen 48.7% in the last three years, and that their premium structure was considerably higher than ours when the benefits are the same as what we now have. On the positive side, the Blue Cross network would easily provide services to all of our people no matter where they live in this country.

**Regionalization:**

The second option could have some meaningful aspects when fully worked out. However, there may be definite drawbacks. Complete portability for our pastors is a concern. Ministers need to be able to move from presbytery to presbytery without any negative implications. If we regionalize our entire program into smaller units, if one person has a catastrophic illness or organ transplant, then fewer people would be paying premiums to cover the loss than if the entire church, nationally, were paying premiums to absorb the cost.

**Compliance:**

The next solution offered was to enforce participation by all pastors. This is a dilemma since there are so few ways to enforce this. One solution might be "bundling" all insurance and pension into one all-or-nothing package.

**Status Quo:**

The last possibility is keeping the program as it exists and to continue making those changes which will enhance the program. Decreasing benefits in our medical plan is not a preferred option. We have good people on the Board with a wide variety of experiences. All of us are open to helpful input from reliable sources.

With this intention in mind, the Board recommends the following **recommendations:**

1. That the Medical Plan be amended to cover home health care services when provided within 7 days following discharge from a hospital and for a cause related to the cause of the hospital confinement.

Grounds: This provision is intended to limit unnecessary care. Most plan documents contain this provision and specify "within 7 days following hospital discharge." Home health care services should have provision similar to those for services rendered by a skilled nursing facility.

2. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" any medical hospital surgical or loss of time benefits resulting from an automobile accident.

Grounds: If any coverage for auto accidents is offered, the Plan is the primary payer. The automobile insurance carrier should be the primary payer.

3. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" conditions arising from or caused by illegal use of narcotics or use of hallucinogens in any forms.
4. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges in connection with weekend hospital admissions unless deemed medically necessary or unless surgery is performed on the date of admission.
5. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges made in connection with any surrogate parenting arrangement.
6. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges for completing a claim form.
7. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges made for professional services of a resident physical or intern.
8. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" charges made in connection with surgery rendered to accomplish sex reassignment (sex change) nor for complications arising out of such procedure.
9. That the Medical Plan be amended to add to "Exclusions" services of supplies rendered during any period in which the covered employee or covered dependent is not under the continuing care of a physician.

Grounds: The exclusions above (Recommendations 3-10) clarify medical necessity, eliminate unjustified charges and are intended to limit Plan liability. They are common exclusions in group health plans.

10. That the Medical Plan be amended to limit coverage of pregnancy expense to the employee or spouse.

Grounds: Currently, dependent children of employees are covered the same as a spouse.

11. That the Medical Plan be amended to add under "Organ and issue transplants," coverage of expenses attributed to a donor if the recipient is not a covered person.

Grounds: If a covered person volunteers to donate an organ to another person not covered by the EPC Plan, and the recipient's covered benefits do not provide donor coverage, the Plan should specify what, if any, benefits will be paid by the EPC Plan on behalf of the donor

12. That the Medical Plan be amended to include prescription coverage for Viagra, with a maximum of six pills per month reimbursed under the Plan.
13. That the Medical Plan be amended to remove the exclusion for prescription coverage of birth control pills.

\*The Board will, if necessary, announce this Fall any increases which may be forecast for 2001. Any such increases, if required, will be increases comparable with the industry.

#### *PENSION PLAN*

The EPC Pension Plan has made some significant changes this year, with additional opportunities for investment. There are a greater variety of funds available, including some foreign investment possibilities. For those interested, on-line investing is now an option. A representative from Fidelity will present an explanation of these programs at the Assembly and will have a booth in the display area to allow you to actually make some simulated on-line investments as well as answer any questions you may have concerning this program.

14. The Board further recommends that its advisory letter (Communication 00-12, p. 27) on Social Security participation be adopted.

Respectfully submitted

Orin Littlejohn, Chairman

June, 2000

## MEDICAL RESERVE PORTFOLIO

Midwest Guaranty Bank (Claims Account)	\$	496
Merrill Lynch Claims (Deposit Account)		163,617
Merrill Lynch (Administration Account)		15,070
Merrill Lynch U.S. Treasuries		153,846
Vanguard Bond Index		9,270
Invesco Industrial Income		92,992
T. Rowe Price Equity Income		81,653
Lindner Dividend Fund		62,546
American Century		51,529
Baron Asset Fund		52,339
Janus Fund		77,587
Franklin Mutual Series Fund (Mutual Shares)		42,564
Vanguard Windsor II		79,787
Fidelity Puritan		45,067
Fidelity Convertible		53,088
Fidelity Contrafund		2,220
		<hr/>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>953,671</b>

jb/6/15/00

### **For Comparison:**

<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>5-21-98</b>	<b>\$1,918,496</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>12-8-98</b>	<b>\$1,625,212</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>4-1-99</b>	<b>\$1,366,502</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>6-23-99</b>	<b>\$1,210,420</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>8-23-99</b>	<b>\$1,215,431</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>9-7-99</b>	<b>\$1,031,256</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>9-23-99</b>	<b>\$1,017,244</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>9-28-99</b>	<b>\$1,004,365</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>10-18-99</b>	<b>\$ 936,846</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>11-4-99</b>	<b>\$ 854,763</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>3-2-00</b>	<b>\$1,033,198</b>
<b>Reserve Portfolio</b>	<b>4-27-00</b>	<b>\$ 903,271</b>

**Total Medical Reserves        \$ 956,671**

**Families with Medical Coverage        404**  
**Singles with Medical Coverage        177**  
**Total Employees                        581**

**(34 Retirees Covered)**

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**Claims Data**

**1992 Claims                        \$1,208,000**  
**1993 Claims                        \$1,400,000**  
**1994 Claims                        \$1,507,000**  
**1995 Claims                        \$1,987,335**  
**1996 Claims                        \$1,719,928**  
**1997 Claims                        \$1,468,401**  
**1998 Claims                        \$1,994,155**  
**1999 Claims                        \$2,560,015**

**6-15-00**

6-15-00

### PENSIONSTATS

126 Participating Churches  
538 Employees With Active Accounts  
45 Passive Accounts

**Total Plan Value:           \$21,212,857**

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Employer</u>
Puritan	105,895	753,107
Magellan	1,334,354	6,506,137
Contrafund	580,937	2,281,657
Growth & Income	719,248	5,004,300
Intermediate Bond	61,018	598,688
Asset Manager	222,857	1,783,924
Retired Government	302,548	958,187
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$3,326,857</b>	<b>\$17,886,000</b>

Current Fund Choices Are:   Fidelity Retirement Money Market, Intermediate Bond, Asset Manager, Puritan, Growth and Income, Magellan and Contrafund.

Available July 1, 2000:

Capital and Income  
Freedom Income  
Freedom 2000  
Freedom 2010  
Freedom 2020  
Freedom 2030  
Aggressive Growth  
Blue Chip Growth  
Dividend Growth

Equity-Income  
Fidelity Fund  
Spartan U.S. Equity Index  
Mid-Cap Stock  
Small Cap Selector  
Value  
Diversified International  
Overseas  
Worldwide



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the General Assembly of the  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets and changes in net assets arising from cash transactions of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Pension Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 1999 and 1998. 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, 1999 and 1998, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.



Karl L. Drake, PC  
Certified Public Accountant

February 24, 2000

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## PENSION PLAN

### STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998

	1999	1998
<b>ADDITIONS TO PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Contributions	\$ 1,908,012	\$ 1,718,108
Dividends and Interest	1,612,053	1,084,206
Transfers in	165,460	28,722
Gain in Market Value	1,007,009	2,065,892
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b>4,692,534</b>	<b>4,896,928</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS FROM PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Pension Payments	330,854	301,546
Account Fees	7,348	6,786
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>338,202</b>	<b>308,332</b>
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>4,354,332</b>	<b>4,588,596</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Investments - Beginning of Year	16,162,024	11,573,428
Cash and Investments - End of Year	<b>\$ 20,516,356</b>	<b>\$ 16,162,024</b>

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## PENSION PLAN

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998

#### **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).

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**PENSION PLAN**

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

**NOTE C - PLAN INVESTMENTS**

At December 31, 1999 and 1998, the Plan's assets were invested in Merrill Lynch and Fidelity investment accounts as follows. All assets are valued at market value.

	1999	1998
Merrill Lynch	\$ 36,394	\$ 35,685
Fidelity Money Market	1,676,995	1,021,973
Fidelity Asset Manager	2,109,024	1,691,141
Fidelity Intermediate Bond	687,705	694,634
Fidelity Growth & Income	5,534,573	4,970,375
Fidelity Contrafund	2,573,531	1,901,815
Fidelity Magellan	7,055,441	5,113,853
Fidelity Puritan	842,693	732,548
	<u>\$ 20,516,356</u>	<u>\$ 16,162,024</u>

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

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Horton, Michigan 49246

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Email: kdrake@voyager.net

**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, 1999 and 1998. 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, 1999 and 1998, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.



Karl L. Drake, PC  
Certified Public Accountant

February 24, 2000

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN

### STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998

	<u>1999</u>	<u>1998</u>
<b>ADDITIONS TO PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Premiums	\$ 2,323,609	\$ 1,811,764
Dividends and Interest	81,962	117,941
Gain in Market Value	34,114	52,236
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS</b>	<b><u>2,439,685</u></b>	<b><u>1,981,941</u></b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS FROM PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:</b>		
Claims	2,443,402	2,038,020
Premiums	476,405	318,035
Administrative Expenses	43,506	78,624
<b>TOTAL DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b><u>2,963,313</u></b>	<b><u>2,434,679</u></b>
<b>INCREASE &lt;DECREASE&gt; IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>-523,628</b>	<b>-452,738</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Investments – Beginning of Year	<u>1,459,295</u>	<u>1,912,033</u>
Cash and Investments – End of Year	<b><u>\$ 935,667</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,459,295</u></b>

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998

#### 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).

**MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 1999 AND 1998**

**NOTE C - PLAN INVESTMENTS**

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

	1999	1998
Merrill Lynch	\$ 3,598	\$ 9,577
Merrill Lynch	189,092	536,015
Vanguard Bond Fund	9,145	8,969
Invesco Industrial	89,102	78,984
T. Rowe Price Equity	84,113	81,014
Lindner Dividend	63,614	57,828
Brandywine	---	44,910
Berger 100	---	26,343
Columbia Special	---	25,660
Robert Stephens Value	---	29,192
T. Rowe Price Science and Ind.	---	29,215
American Century	48,064	33,977
Baron Asset	47,476	40,828
Janus Fund	70,251	48,093
Mutual Series	41,587	36,877
Oakmark	---	41,600
Vanguard Windsor II	79,819	84,739
Fidelity Puritan	43,002	43,546
Fidelity Equity	---	42,979
Fidelity Convertible	56,680	37,090
Fidelity Contrafund	2,267	32,877
Standard Federal Bank	107,857	88,982
	<u>\$ 935,667</u>	<u>\$ 1,459,295</u>



## Evangelical Presbyterian Church

### PROPOSED 2000 ADMINISTRATION BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

	1999 Budget	1999 Actual	2000 Budget	2000 Adjustment	2000 Proposed Adjusted Budget
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>					
<b>Personnel Disbursements</b>					
Stated Clerk Salary	73,637	73,637	76,600		76,600
Stated Clerk Elect Compensatn			25,500	14,500	40,000
Stated Clerk Elect - Moving			10,000	8,000	18,000
Program Staff Salaries	280,000	252,169	252,200	25,000	277,200
Support Staff Salaries	93,417	73,133	123,200		123,200
Staff Insurance/Pension	83,000	70,214	90,000	9,450	99,450
Executive Expense Allowance	7,500	4,582	7,500	3,650	11,150
Staff Travel/Expenses	36,000	32,674	35,000		35,000
Executive Travel	30,000	22,037	29,000		29,000
Taxes/Workman's Comp	26,000	26,100	27,000	3,060	30,060
Officer/Director Liability	5,600	5,000	6,000		6,000
	635,154	559,546	682,000		745,660
<b>Administration Disbursements</b>					
Contingencies	4,000	16,727	5,000		5,000
Telephone	18,000	15,498	18,000		18,000
Office Supplies	10,000	8,126	9,000		9,000
Printing & Promotion	69,500	19,864	25,000		25,000
EPC Reflections		57,513	45,000	5,000	50,000
Postage	24,500	24,141	26,000		26,000
Technology Support	7,500	14,579	9,000		9,000
Financial Audit	4,000	3,300	3,500		3,500
Professional Fees	2,000	-	2,000		2,000
Miscellaneous	3,281	4,256	3,500		3,500
Office Development	7,500	19,048	7,500		7,500
Committee Travel/Expense	65,000	71,209	75,000		75,000
GA Administration	24,500	20,570	20,000		20,000
Staff Technical Training	2,000	195	2,000		2,000
Pension Fund Administration	6,000	6,175	6,000		6,000
Fraternal Relations	10,000	9,574	9,000		9,000
Presbytery Devel/Support	3,000	3,875	3,000		3,000
Leadership Development	1,000	1,054	500		500
Christian Ed/Resource	1,000	793	500		500
Buckingham Rent	75,600	90,137	114,000		114,000
Buckingham Utilities	7,875	6,092	8,000		8,000
Buckingham Maint/Insurance	11,000	11,601	13,000		13,000
Van Expense	2,000	1,252	1,500		1,500
	359,256	405,579	406,000		411,000
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>994,410</b>	<b>965,125</b>	<b>1,088,000</b>	<b>68,660</b>	<b>1,156,660</b>

# Evangelical Presbyterian Church

## 2001 PROPOSED ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

	1999 Budget	1999 Actual	2000 Budget	2001 Proposed
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>				
<b>Personnel Disbursements</b>				
Stated Clerk Salary	73,637	73,637	76,600	<u>80,000</u>
Stated Clerk Elect Compensati			25,500	<u>-</u>
Stated Clerk Elect - Moving			10,000	<u>-</u>
Program Staff Salaries	280,000	252,169	252,200	<u>286,000</u>
Support Staff Salaries	93,417	73,133	123,200	<u>105,000</u>
Staff Insurance/Pension	83,000	70,214	90,000	<u>90,600</u>
Executive Expense Allowance	7,500	4,582	7,500	<u>7,300</u>
Staff Travel/Expenses	36,000	32,674	35,000	<u>35,000</u>
Executive Travel	30,000	22,037	29,000	<u>25,000</u>
Taxes/Workman's Comp	26,000	26,100	27,000	<u>31,000</u>
Officer/Director Liability	<u>5,600</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>5,500</u>
	<b>635,154</b>	<b>559,546</b>	<b>682,000</b>	<b>665,400</b>
<b>Administration Disbursements</b>				
Contingencies	4,000	16,727	5,000	<u>5,000</u>
Telephone	18,000	15,498	18,000	<u>18,000</u>
Office Supplies	10,000	8,126	9,000	<u>9,000</u>
Printing & Promotion	69,500	19,864	70,000	<u>25,000</u>
EPC Reflections		57,513		<u>55,000</u>
Postage	24,500	24,141	26,000	<u>26,000</u>
Technology Support	7,500	14,579	9,000	<u>13,000</u>
Financial Audit	4,000	3,300	3,500	<u>3,500</u>
Professional Fees	2,000	-	2,000	<u>2,000</u>
Miscellaneous	3,281	4,256	3,500	<u>4,000</u>
Office Development	7,500	19,048	7,500	<u>7,500</u>
Committee Travel/Expense	65,000	71,209	75,000	<u>75,000</u>
CA Administration	24,500	20,570	20,000	<u>21,000</u>
Staff Technical Training	2,000	195	2,000	<u>3,000</u>
Pension Fund Administration	6,000	6,175	6,000	<u>6,500</u>
Fraternal Relations	10,000	9,574	9,000	<u>10,000</u>
Presbytery Devel/Support	3,000	3,875	3,000	<u>3,000</u>
Leadership Development	1,000	1,054	500	<u>1,000</u>
Christian Ed/Resource	1,000	793	500	<u>1,000</u>
Buckingham Rent	75,600	90,137	114,000	<u>116,000</u>
Buckingham Utilities	7,875	6,092	8,000	<u>8,000</u>
Buckingham Maint/Insurance	11,000	11,601	13,000	<u>14,600</u>
Van Expense	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,252</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	<b>359,256</b>	<b>405,579</b>	<b>406,000</b>	<b>428,600</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>994,410</b>	<b>965,125</b>	<b>1,088,000</b>	<b>1,094,000</b>

## 2001 PROPOSED BENEVOLENCE ASKINGS

<b>National Outreach</b>		
Church Loan Fund	25,000	
Military Avenue Church	30,000	
Church Planting	250,000	\$305,000
<b>Christian Education &amp; Publications</b>		
Reflections magazine	50,000	\$50,000
<b>Student &amp; Young Adult Ministries</b>		
New mission opportunities	10,000	
Small Church Networking	10,000	
Technology updating	5,000	\$25,000
<b>Women's Ministries-</b>		
2001 Faith Focus – International		
Women's Prayer Summit	40,000	
Per Woman Asking	25,000	\$65,000
<b>World Outreach</b>		
Argentina		
Field Development	7,500	
Leadership Development	5,000	
WO Church Planting	10,000	
National Church Development	10,000	
Brazil		
Edward Davis Library	5,000	
Western Asia		
Kazakhstan Team Development	7,500	
Turkey Team Development	7,500	
Eastern Asia		
China Seminaries	20,000	
China Field Development	2,000	
Chinese Study Bibles	7,500	
Ethnic and Urban Ministries		
Ethnic-Hispanic Project (MS)	15,000	
Missionary Projects	–	\$97,000
<b>Ministerial Vocation</b>		
Andrew Jumper Scholarship Fund	50,000	
Newly Ordained Ministers Dinner	3,000	\$53,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$595,000</b>

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## Christian Education & Publications Committee Report

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The Christian Education & Publications Committee met September 24-25, 1999 and March 10-11, 2000 at the General Assembly Offices in Livonia, Michigan. The committee also met by phone on March 23, 2000. Members of the committee are RE John Graham III (Southeast), Sandy Hazelwood (Central South), TE David Ruff (Mid-Atlantic), TE Bruce Spear, Chair (West), and TE David Todd (Central South). Elizabeth Hicks (Midwest) resigned from the committee in a letter to the March 10-11 meeting.

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



*Bruce Spear, Chairman*

*Reflections* magazine under the innovative leadership of Editor Lucy McGuire opened new avenues of interaction with its readership in the fulfillment of its stated purpose, to encourage people in their devotion to Christ and His Kingdom and to foster an awareness of what God is doing in the EPC family. A website is being developed to further enhance interaction between the magazine and its readership. Marilyn Bartel continues to very capably serve the *Reflections* News Editor.

The CE&P approved the concept of advertising in *Reflections* magazine not only as a source of revenue but also as an enhancement of the magazine. An Advertising Policy was adopted as well as the job description for an Advertising Director (a volunteer position).

The CE&P has felt that *Reflections* magazine has been seriously underfunded and has requested budgetary increases in 2000 and 2001 as well as inclusion in the benevolence askings for 2000 and 2001. These increases will allow the magazine as the house organ of the EPC to stay abreast of the changing world of publishing technology as well as enhance its appeal to its current and future readership.

The CE&P has laid plans for a one-day **pre-assembly workshop** with a focus on Congregational Ministries, with Dr. Leith Anderson as keynote speaker. The CE&P is working with the Student and Young Adult Ministries Committees to develop break out sessions featuring instructive presentations on various aspects of a church's ministry to its entire congregation.

**Overture 99-A** endorsing the development of a training video for use in EPC churches was considered. The CE&P reviewed a promotional video from a sister denomination as well as making inquiries into the cost of producing a similar instrument for the EPC. An attractive 10 minute video for use with new members and new church development would probably cost around \$30,000 to produce. The matter was referred to the COA for further guidance.

An **EPC Small Group Network** continues to grow under the leadership of CE&P committee member TE David Ruff. There will be a meeting of the ESGN at the 20<sup>th</sup> General

Assembly during the lunch hour on Thursday, June 22. An interactive ESGN website is being developed within the Forest Hill EPC website at minimal cost. This website will allow small group leaders around the denomination to exchange information and resources and enhance the development of a network of small group leaders in the EPC.

Plans for an **EPC Children's Ministry Network** continue as the CE&P gathers information about children's ministry directors in the EPC who would be willing to serve as resources to those beyond their own congregation.

The CE&P met with representatives of **Christian Reformed Publications** and developed a working agreement "to remit to the EPC 7% of all its fiscal year sales to EPC churches for the 1999-2000 fiscal year (7/99-6/00). Each fiscal year thereafter for the next three fiscal years, this percentage will increase by 1% per year." The CRC will be permitted to mail promotional materials to EPC churches. CRC Publications has also invited Kathy Brace of Knox Presbyterian Church (EPC) to serve as an EPC representative on their curriculum planning team.

The CE&P renewed the EPC's membership in the National Coalition of Men's Ministries for 2000 and recommends their leadership training conferences to all involved in men's ministry in the EPC.

Upon recommendation by the Standing Committee on CE&P at the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, the CE&P has arranged for the Larger Catechism to be included in all future editions of the EPC **Book of Order**. The CE&P has also arranged for many of the non-copyrighted EPC forms and documents to be made available to the denomination in electronic form.

The CE&P approved John Sartelle's *Infant Baptism* to be recommended by the EPC General Assembly office along with its present recommendation of the late Francis Schaeffer's booklet titled *Baptism*.

The CE&P elected TE David Ruff to serve as chair in the 2000-2001 term. The CE&P greatly appreciates the work of Ed McCallum as GA office resource to the committee.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That 5 minutes be granted early in the docket of the 20th General Assembly for *Reflections* Editor Lucy McGuire to give a state of the magazine/web site address and encourage greater participation in and distribution of the magazine.
2. That General Assembly endorse the Children's Catechism lessons of Children's Ministry, International in our churches.
3. The CE&P requests 5 minutes of General Assembly docket time for Dr. Daniel Erickson, Executive Director of National Coalition of Men's Ministries to bring a report.
4. That John Sartelle's *Infant Baptism* be endorsed by the General Assembly for use in the churches, alongside the late Francis Schaeffer's booklet titled *Baptism*, approved at a previous Assembly.

On behalf of the committee,

Bruce Spear, Chair  
Christian Education & Publications Committee

## CEP-1

### BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES REPORT TO THE 20<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Throughout His life on earth, Jesus proclaimed and lived the expectation of our heavenly father. His message was very clear:

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself."*

What a challenge...to us as a church and to us as individual Christians. With His guidance and grace, we can achieve a small beginning. Bethany is privileged to be one vehicle through which the church as a unified body and as individual Christians can fulfill our commitment to exemplify that love.

Bethany's mission statement commits us to "Manifest the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by protecting and enhancing the lives of children and families."

As Christians, we are the continued embodiment of Christ's love. When we care for others, Jesus is caring for them. When we proclaim His saving grace through our actions and words, we are sharing with others that their ultimate comfort and answer to life's challenges is coming to Him for rest.

Bethany's primary focus is on children and families. Our fervent commitment is to the protection of life prior to and following birth.

This past year the Lord gave us the privilege of ministering with you from 67 offices located throughout the United States and within 14 foreign countries. Through Bethany's efforts, 1,478 children joined their adoptive families. Over 11,000 young people living with unplanned pregnancies received counseling. An additional 10,000+ received Christian guidance counseling through our crisis pregnancy hotline (Bethany Lifeline). Each person whose life was touched through Bethany received the clear message that life is precious, that the child developing within the womb is a human life and that the lives of the children whom we parent are loved by the Lord.

Among the 1,478 children who joined their adoptive families were many whose lives were punctuated with unusual challenges and needs. Well over 500 were children who languished in foreign orphanages prior to Bethany's intervention. Over 200 were children who endured the terror of abuse at the hands of their birth family. Three hundred seventy-five (375) were children of color. All were children who are precious to our heavenly father. Their needs and, in some cases their pain, grieved Him. It was

Bethany's privilege to be a vessel through which the lives of these children were transformed.

Bethany is indeed an extension of the Christian body. We don't simply represent you. We are you! You are Bethany! Our ministry is a partnership. Together we fulfill our mission of love.

This partnership of love is expressed in multiple and unique ways. Members of our congregation serve as foster parents. Others adopt. Still others serve on our governing boards or as volunteers. You join us in prayer for those we serve and for those who serve. And you participate with your financial support...\$111,000 last year. Thank you for loving and caring with us.

As we enter this new year and this new millennium. Bethany will be confronted with many challenges and opportunities. We approach those opportunities with excitement and confidence. We will continue to develop additional branch office locations in order to more comprehensively protect the lives of children and families and to proclaim His love to them. We have just opened an office in Traverse City, Michigan, and within the year expect offices to begin in Orlando, Florida and Phoenix, Arizona. Likewise, the extension of Christian mercy through our International Program will continue to expand in locations and in numbers of people served. We will strengthen our Christ-centered love and message to them. We will continue to proclaim the importance of and will work to strengthen the Christian family.

Life is fast nowadays. Change happens quickly. Bethany is anticipating and is prepared to meet those challenges. We also, however, live within the assurance of the Lord's unchangeable love. And, we live His unchangeable expectation that we:

*"Love the Lord our God with all our heart, our soul, and our mind and that we love our neighbors as ourselves."*

With you, we eagerly look forward to practicing that love...in Jesus' name.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In camp this past summer, one of the activities included placing a small seed inside a lump of plaster of paris. Daily the campers looked to see what changes had occurred in their plaster rock formation.

At first, they just saw a small crack in the plaster. A few days later, they discovered the sprout of the seedling they had "planted" in their plaster rock. By the end of the week, the imbedded seed had grown significantly. Everyone marveled at the strength of that small seed.

This year, I think Pioneer Clubs has been like that small seed in the plaster of paris. Much of our energy and focus throughout the year was directed at a strategic planning effort.

We spent a significant amount of time reviewing our past and mapping out plans to ensure a strong future for the ministry of Pioneer Clubs. It was refreshing to recap the past and thank God for watering the small Pioneer Clubs seed that was planted over 60 years ago.

We reflected on how God's gracious hand has been guiding the ministry from the very beginning. We sought his continued guidance throughout our strategic planning process. And just like the seed in the plaster, we began to sense the promise of future fruit in our ministry.

The strategic planning process took place over an eight-month period of time. Each month, our planning team gathered to wrestle with another aspect of the plan.

One of the most significant undertakings in the first phase of the planning was the identification of our core values. These are the values that will drive our vision and our future. They are the philosophical yardstick against which our ministry will be measured. I want to share them with you.

We want the following values to guide us in everything we do:

**God-honoring:** This is the value we hold most dear. It is the thread that will be woven throughout our programs, curriculum, contacts, and all other aspects of our ministry. As we seek to honor God, we believe he will honor our work by fostering faith in the children and youth we seek to serve.

**Bible-based:** We embrace Scripture as God's Word and the authority for all aspects of life. It is the core of everything Pioneer Clubs does and the tool we use to introduce children to Jesus Christ and the gospel and to disciple them. A primary goal of our curriculum is to help children use, understand, and apply the Bible in daily life.

**Child-focused:** We believe that all children are important to God, and we desire to assist our partners in creating an exciting and relevant ministry to effectively communicate God's love to children and youth. Therefore, we will help create a safe atmosphere where children can meet Christ and choose to live for him.

**Holistic ministry:** We affirm that authentic Christianity touches every aspect of life. Our curriculum and ministry will be aimed at helping children and youth grow into godly men and women in all

ways—physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and spiritually.

**Excellence:** We strive for constant improvement in every aspect of ministry. We want our curriculum, communication, and training to be of the highest quality.

**People and relationships:** We are a relationship-oriented ministry. We recognize the significance of children building healthy relationships with adults, peers, and children of other ages in the context of the local church.

We greatly value the people we work with, both within the organization and our constituency at large, as God's creation with important gifts. In our contacts with others, we communicate respect by our courtesy and prompt fulfillment of commitments.

Through our curriculum, we encourage cooperation and gift enhancement. Our staff people will see how much we value them by our focus on personal and professional development.

**Christian community:** We believe that the church is God's community and the primary channel of his work on earth. We work through churches and other ministries to reach children and youth and to encourage them to get involved in a local church.

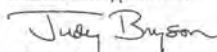
**Responsible stewardship:** We recognize that all we have comes from God. He is the source and owner of all the gifts, resources, and supporters we have. We are merely managers with the responsibility to wisely use all that we have to bring glory to God and expand the boundaries of his kingdom.

While these core values have historically been part of the Pioneer Clubs ethos, it was important for us to write them down and purposefully plan on how we would intentionally continue to live them out in the ministry. They are the "seeds in the plaster" we want to continue growing.

This annual report will update you on what happened during 1998-99. We praise the Lord for his blessing on the ministry of Pioneer Clubs this past year. And we are excited about the strategic planning seeds that have been imbedded into our goals for the future.

We want to continue serving God by helping children and youth make Christ Lord in every aspect of life. Thank you for your faithful part in that effort.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Judy Bryson  
President/CEO





## BOARD CHAIR'S REPORT

Recent reports from Littleton, Colorado, and Yugoslavia remind us of a world in which children are growing up without a sense of moral absolutes and in a world of chaos.

Christ said to the children to come to him, and he gathered them in his arms. How different than our world today.

At the same time Christ was blessing the children, he also said, "Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will not enter therein." At one point, I assumed that to mean with the simplicity and absolute faith of a child; but recently I learned that 85 percent of people who accept Christ as their Savior and Lord do so before age 14.

Pioneer Clubs excites me because we not only have an opportunity to demonstrate the loving and protective arms of Christ to children, but we also provide the influence which will bring a beneficial change in their lives for eternity.

Pioneer Clubs provides a Christ-centered program for children which extends the messages heard in church and at home. But for unchurched children, it often is their opportunity to hear about God and his love for them for the first time.

Many churches have found that when club provides love and nurture for an unchurched child, the child's family often follows them to church to obtain the same care as was given their child. No parent can resist the call to a church which provides a warm and loving atmosphere for his or her child or children.

Our goal remains the same as it was nearly 60 years ago when Pioneer Clubs started. We want to help children "put Christ in every aspect of life."

Today, the challenges of the television and computer are different than they were then, so we continue to seek new ways to capture and retain children's attention.

During this past year, our staff, selected board members, and others have—with God's help—searched for new ways to reach children. Our Guiding Coalition has produced a strategic plan for the new millennium.

After a lot of hard work and prayer, they have attempted to answer three basic questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to go?
- How will we get to the future?

As the year 2000 approaches, you will see the results of all the work that went into this strategic plan.

Today, you can see the beginning. Did you notice the new logo which is our first step into the future?

We on the Board feel the new logo exemplifies the new plan and image we have while retaining our mission—to serve God by assisting churches and other ministries in helping children and youth make Christ Lord in every aspect of life.

Today, we have good leadership, a sound financial condition, and a strategic plan. You will soon see the results of our plan in updated programs that are more tailored to meet the needs of children and the volunteers who lead them.

Our high quality club material will continue to provide educationally sound, Bible-based, Christ-centered programs for all age groups, not only in English, but in other tongues as well as we seek to broaden our ministry in the world.

I ask you to continue to pray for the Board of Directors and dedicated staff who daily, not only strive to provide you with the best club program for your church, but also pray for each child who attends one of our club or camp programs.

Support them also financially as they continue to meet the ever-changing tastes and interests which drive today's young people.

I thank God daily for the ministry of Pioneer Clubs and the thousands of dedicated volunteers in the 3,000-plus churches who regularly demonstrate Christ's arms of love and protection.

Together we can not only teach our children in the church about God's love, but through children we can reach families around the world who never knew him with that same love.

I pray that our many friends and supporters will understand that their dedication, prayers, and financial support are helping Pioneer Clubs teach children to put Christ in every aspect of life.



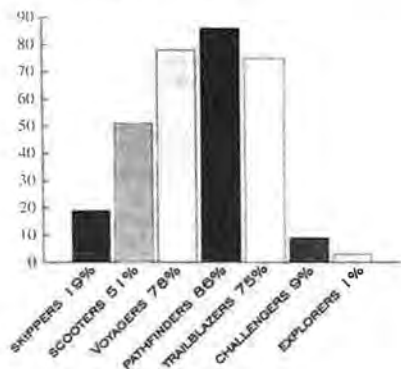
Bill and Donna Bond

## MINISTRY IMPACT...

### North American Statistics

	U.S.	CANADA
Churches	3,210	501
Clubs	10,189	1,906
Leaders	24,926	3,596
Children	119,745	18,714

### Churches Using Different Age-Levels



### Leadership Training

This year we conducted 17 Leadership Training Seminars across the country. In addition, over 2,700 training videos were distributed to Pioneer Clubs churches.

### Product Revisions

Revisions in our products centered on three areas—phase 2 of camp curriculum, Voyager (grades 1-2) curriculum, and Trailblazer (grades 5-7) curriculum.

Phase 2 of the three year cycle of camp curriculum followed the new curriculum plan that was implemented in phase 1. The new materials included camper and counselor materials for Pathfinders (grades 2-4), Trailblazers (grades 5-7), and Teens.

The Voyager and Trailblazer revision was designed to provide more elements to help leaders be successful in ministering to and meeting the needs of club members. It also included many changes in the activities and Bible Explorations to help keep club members' interest and excitement in club very high.

### New Logo Introduced

In January 1999, we introduced a new corporate look with a new logo designed by Dwight Wallis, a graphic designer from Wheaton.

The new logo consists of a stylized flame and book over the Pioneer Clubs name. The book represents the Bible, which is the foundation of our ministry. The flame is a symbol of our key verse from Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto path."



### Pioneer Clubs Around the World

The group we have been working with in Lithuania completed the translation of the Pioneer Clubs Urban Edition this year. They are now working to raise the funds to complete the printing of the materials. This is the same group that translated and began distributing our Scooter program two years ago.

Outside North America, Pioneer Clubs has English-speaking club programs in 17 countries. Three countries—Kenya, Korea, and Lithuania—have clubs using materials in their own language.

This year Pioneer Clubs Canada ministered to children in 501 churches.



### Kids for Kids Hike

The 2nd Annual Kids for Kids Hike raised over \$15,000 to help more kids experience Pioneer Clubs. More than 50 churches participated in the hike at various locations across the U.S.

At the hike sponsored by Pioneer Clubs' headquarters, about 150 kids, leaders, and parents hiked and enjoyed games and a hot dog lunch. They represented eight churches.



### Camp Cherith

Over 6,100 campers participated at our 20 Cherith® camps last summer. This was a healthy increase from the year before. Another area of growth that Cherith camps are seeing is in the number of campers participating in the Campers in Leadership Training (CLT) program.

The Association of Cherith Camps' Curriculum Committee worked with the Publications Division on two projects this year—Phase 2 of the camp curriculum revision and the revision of the CLT program.



### Denominational Endorsements

Pioneer Clubs continues to be the officially recognized club program of both the Presbyterian Church in America and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church denominations.

Over the years we have developed a healthy and growing relationship with these denominations through general assembly exhibits and representation at denomination-sponsored Christian education seminars.

We continue to work to develop ministry partnerships with other denominations.

### Scholarships

Pioneer Clubs awarded two college scholarships from the Virginia C. Patterson Continuing Education Fund to former Pioneer Clubs members. The recipients are: Erin Rogers, of Alpharetta, Georgia, who also attended Camp Cherith; and William D. Swenson, of Anaheim, California.



COMMUNICATION 00-1



# Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

June, 2000

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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:** Board of Pension and Benefits Chairman  
Elder Orin Littlejohn
- 2. Nominations:** Nominating Committee, Class of 2003  
Elder Candace McCune, Presbytery of the West  
Reverend Ron Odum, Presbytery of the Southeast  
Elder Allen Roes, Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic  
Nominating Committee, Class of 2001  
Elder W.A. Ray, Presbytery of Florida
- 3. Appointment:** 2001 Nominating Committee Chairman  
Elder Richard Heidtman, Presbytery of the Midwest

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,

Jimmy McGuire, Moderator  
19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## COMMUNICATION 00-2

**Rev. & Mrs. Davi Charles Gomes**

405 North Easton Road  
Willow Grove, PA 19090  
DCGomes@Prodigy.net

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February 16, 2000

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

Dear Dr. Davis:

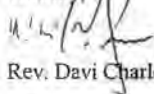
Thank you for your letter of January 31 with accompanied the final stipend. That last check came as an answer to prayer as it helped us with final expenses in preparation for our return to Brazil.

We will be leaving to Brazil on February 28, having already received word from Westminster that the dissertation has been approved. Furthermore, I was submitted on February 9 to a "lamellar corneal transplant" which seems to have been successful, restoring vision to my left eye.

This letter is to acknowledge, as requested, that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has completed its financial obligation with regard to my doctoral studies. I also want to reaffirm my deep gratitude for the partnership and underwriting of the EPC, and for your personal care and support shown on the occasions of our personal contact. The EPC has been a true instrument of God in making my doctoral studies possible. I pray that God will multiply your investment in me to the benefit of His Church.

I shall write again to inform you of my work in Brazil, and hopefully to send a copy of my dissertation to the EPC once we are settled in Brazil. For now be certain of my gratitude, together with Adriana, and of our prayers for your ministry.

Warmly,



Rev. Davi Charles Gomes

P.S.: Our temporary address in Brasil is:  
SQN 202, Bl. F, Apt. 502,  
CEP 70832-060, Brasilia, DF, Brasil  
Tel.: (61) 501-2367

## COMMUNICATION 00-3



October 26, 1999

Dr L Edward Davis  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
29140 Buckingham Avenue Suite 5  
Livonia MI 48154-4586

Dear Ed:

It's my pleasure to share with you Pioneer Clubs Annual Report. In it you'll read about the many accomplishments which marked the past year, including the development of a strategic plan which will take Pioneer Clubs into the next millennium.

Over a period of eight months, we sought God's guidance as we reviewed our past and mapped out plans to ensure a strong future. We identified core values and determined how to work them out in our ministry to children. The Annual Report will tell you more about these core values and how this plan will help us stay focused on helping children and youth make Christ Lord in every aspect of life.

You'll also read about the new materials we've developed for our camp curriculum, and about our Voyager (grades 1-2) and Trailblazer (grades 5-7) club curriculum revisions. We've added new games, international activities, and exciting new activity awards in subjects like astronomy, computers, and videography. Plan books have been updated, and now include additional resources that help leaders make the most of their club time.

It's been an exciting, rewarding year, and we rejoice in God's faithfulness to this ministry over the past 60 years. As a member of Pioneer Clubs Board of Reference, I know you'll identify strongly with the accomplishments described in this report. Your endorsement of Pioneer Clubs means a great deal to us. I want to thank you for your prayers and support. They are vital to our success.

Sincerely,

Judy Bryson  
President/CEO

P.S. Your name appears in our new introductory brochure. Please pass it along to someone in your circle of contacts who would benefit from beginning a club program in their church.

COMMUNICATION 00-4

*Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church*

800 PINER ROAD  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28409  
TELEPHONE: (910) 791-6179  
FAX: (910) 392-7196

Pastor  
REV. STEPHEN M. CROTTS  
Associate Pastors  
DR. JAMES M. GLASGOW  
REV. BRYAN A. SLATER  
REV. KENNETH L. BURBRIDGE  
Pastor Emeritus  
REV. HORACE H. HILTON

April 4, 2000

Dr. L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk  
Office of the General Assembly  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5  
Livonia, MI 48154-4572

Dear Ed:

Thank you for considering Myrtle Grove to host the 2002 General Assembly.

It is our understanding that other churches have offered to host this Assembly. Given the logistics of local transportation here, air line access, and the summer tourist trade at local hotels, we respectfully suggest that the 2002 Assembly be scheduled at another church.

If other churches are not an option, it is possible for Myrtle Grove to do it. However, it would be best if we could wait a couple of years. Wilmington continues to grow and with it, hopefully our resources for serving the General Assembly in the future.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Crotts



**WORLD RELIEF**

**COMMUNICATION 00-5**

May 3, 2000

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

Dear Ed,

What a delight to get back from my wanderings and find a note related to your recent gift of \$6,817.42. This is a great encouragement to us in this office, and I know it is even more encouraging to our staff in Turkey, who will be the beneficiaries of the generosity of the Evangelical Presbyterian churches.

I am so appreciative of the partnership we have with your family of churches. It was a delight for me to see you again receive an Open Hands plaque this year. I trust that the plaque, in some small way, conveys the depth of our gratitude for your faithful support.

With this gift, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has contributed \$35,121.95 for Turkey relief. This significant investment is not only meeting physical needs of earthquake victims, but it is also giving them a chance to see and hear of the love of Christ. God has opened doors for ministry as our workers have responded to the devastation from the August 1999 earthquake.

Again, thank you for your partnership, both personally and as a denomination. It is good to be part of the world Relief family and to know we are working together for His glory.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Barden  
Vice President, Resource Development

copy to: Arne Bergström





## Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

December 13, 1999

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

Dear Dr. Davis:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the 1999 Annual Membership Review (AMR) of Evangelical Presbyterian Church has been approved. The Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) appreciates your organization's ongoing commitment and adherence to the *ECFA Standards of Responsible Stewardship*.

1999 marks ECFA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We celebrate what God has done through the hundreds of diverse ministries ECFA represents, and we appreciate your participation in fulfilling our collective desire for integrity and accountability in ministry.

As your partner in communicating your accountability to the public and the excellence with which you conduct your ministry, ECFA will continue to publicize your membership through the ECFA Member List and Member Profile (enclosed), and the ECFA web site (<http://www.ecfa.org>). ECFA has also developed Public Service Announcements, which are being aired on Christian radio stations throughout the country, emphasizing the significance of the ECFA seal of approval for members.

The enclosed ECFA Member Profile of your organization contains information compiled from your AMR. Please let us know immediately if any corrections are necessary, as we want to reflect current and accurate information about your ministry.

We at ECFA value our relationship with your organization and applaud your continued dedication to honoring God as you "reach for the high calling of Jesus Christ." Please let us know how we may be of service to you. May God richly bless you and your ministry.

Sincerely,

David F. Brugger  
Manager of Member Certification

Enclosures

# Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

## Member Profile for:

P.O. Box 17456  
Washington, DC 20041-7456  
1(800)3BE-WISE www.ecfa.org



Organization: Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Address: 29140 Buckingham Ave., Suite 5, Livonia, MI 48154-4572  
Telephone: 734 261 2001  
Facsimile: 734 261 3282  
Web Page: www.epc.org  
Founded: 1981

CEO: Dr. L. Edward Davis  
Donor Contact: Dr. L. Edward Davis  
Member Since: October 1, 1985

### Ministry Description:

The EPC, established in 1981, is a conservative denomination of nine geographical presbyteries and 190 churches nationwide and in Argentina. Constituent membership is over 61,350. Planted firmly within the historic Reformed tradition and evangelical in spirit, the EPC places high priority on church planting and development and world missions. Based on the truth of Scripture and adhering to the Westminster Confession of Faith and its Book of Order, the EPC is committed to certain "essentials of the faith" while allowing freedom in the areas of nonessential doctrinal issues secondary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Financial Information:

<u>Fiscal Year End:</u>	<u>December 31, 1998</u>	<u>December 31, 1997</u>	<u>December 31, 1996</u>
<u>Income:</u>			
Total Income	\$5,212,899	\$4,739,903	\$4,575,053
Donated Income	\$4,874,251	\$4,396,457	\$4,323,733
<u>Expenses:</u>			
Program Services	\$4,419,916	\$3,598,850	\$3,762,018
General and Administrative	\$845,472	\$820,873	\$781,101
Fund Raising	\$16,511	\$15,880	\$10,414

### Other Names under which funds may be raised:

none

If you have specific questions about this ministry's program services, please call them directly at their telephone number listed above. If you desire more detailed financial information, write the ministry at their address and request a copy of their current audited financial statements. Please call ECFA with any questions concerning this organization's compliance with the ECFA Standards of Responsible Stewardship. For wise giving, always look for the ECFA seal.

COMMUNICATION 00-7  
**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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*William M. Flannagan*  
*Pastor*

Committee on Administration  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
29140 Buckingham Avenue  
Suite 5  
Livonia, Michigan 48154-4572

November 2, 1999

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This letter comes to you as a report from the Stated Clerk Search Committee for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The Search Committee was officially notified by the Stated Clerk in February of this year. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, a letter was mailed to each member announcing our first conference phone call meeting to be held on March 24<sup>th</sup>. Since that time we have had three conference phone call meetings and four all day meetings in Atlanta.

We have prayerfully approached the development of our process, materials and time schedule. We interviewed Mr. Bruce Dingman and Mr. Jon McRae (Christian Personnel Search Groups) to determine if we should hire such an organization to assist us in our search process. The committee decided that it was our responsibility to search within the EPC. If our search process did not produce a valid candidate we would then consider using an outside resource.

The committee has worked exceptionally well together in developing the following materials:

- Stated Clerk Introductory Statement
- Stated Clerk Qualification Statement
- Stated Clerk Position Description
- Search Committee Letters To Candidates (2)
- Search Committee Contact Process Recording
- Search Application Form(s)

The committee notified all EPC Teaching Elders, Church Sessions, Presbytery Clerks of our desire to solicit their prayers and recommendations for the position of Stated Clerk. In response to this letter we received 32 recommendations from across our denomination.

All of these nominees were contacted and five of the nominees expressed their desire to be considered for the position. Application Forms were mailed to each candidate. We are presently in the process of receiving those Application Forms and then sending Reference Forms to seven references listed by each candidate. As soon as all Application and Reference Forms are returned a copy of all forms will be mailed to each member of the Search Committee.



-2-


We hope to mail all of the materials to committee members by November 15<sup>th</sup>, and schedule a Conference Phone Meeting soon after Thanksgiving with the intention to have a committee meeting in Atlanta early in December.

We should have a much clearer direction by the time we evaluate the Application and Reference materials. One of our goals has been to reach this point in our process by the first of January.

We do request your prayers for the candidates and for the committee.

Should you have questions regarding the process or progress of the committee please do not hesitate to contact us.

Cordially,

  
William M. Flannagan  
Chairman  
Stated Clerk Search Committee

cc:

Stated Clerk Search Committee



## COMMUNICATION 00-8

January 7, 2000

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

Dear Ed:

Greetings and Happy New Millennium!

The Steering Committee and I would like to express our appreciate having you and your ministry as a member of the NCMM in 2000. We saw so many great things happen in 1999. Here are a few of the highlights:

### Steering Committee

**Pat Morley**  
Committee Chairman  
Men in the Home

**Allen Abbott**  
South American Conference  
of Church Men's Study

**Leonard Albert**  
Church of God

**Charles Brewster**  
Assemblies of God

**Paul Cole**  
Ultimate Men's Network

**Vince D'Acchioli**  
On Target Ministries

**Phil Downer**  
Christian Reformation's  
Committee

**Thomas Fritz**  
International Brotherhood

**Geoff Gorsuch**  
Kingston

**Larry Kreider**  
The Fellowship of Men

**Michael Spottsville**  
Phoenix Ministry

**Bob Serna**  
Honest Board 906

**Chris Van Brocklin**  
Evangelical Free  
Church of America

**E. Glenn Wagner**  
A Good

**Sid Woodruff**  
Southern Baptist

**Daniel L. Ericsson**  
National Conference of  
Men's Ministries  
Latter-day Apostles

- Membership grew from 25 to 77 representing almost half of the churches in America.
- Our first National Conference on Ministry to Men with almost 800 attendees from 41 denominations, 39 states and 5 countries.
- The NCMM National Leaders meeting with 100 in attendance representing 85 national ministries and a wonderful spirit of brotherhood, unity and mission.
- Strategic meetings with outstanding African American leadership to continue the commitment of the NCMM for ethnic diversity and relationships in every aspect of the coalition.
- We received grants totally over \$150,000.00 from 5 different funders.
- A task force developed an extensive master plan to develop an interactive web-site for ministry to men.
- A survey was designed to help the Pastor and church diagnosis the health of their ministry to men.
- The addition of two stipend staff positions, the National Director of Denominational and Ethnic Relations and the National Director of Para-church and Field Relations.
- Two National Conferences on Ministry to Men were scheduled for 2000, April 13-15 in Chicago and October 12-14 in Atlanta.
- A joint venture was begun on a book of how to minister most effectively with men in the local church.
- Cooperative efforts by the ministries of the NCMM to determine the distinctives of a healthy ministry to men in the local church.
- Began to gather the material from the NCMM to start a "Tape of the Month" to minister to men in areas of felt need.
- Members have agreed to begin a "Hall of Honor" for those who have represented outstanding service to ministry to men in America. This will be done at each of the National Conferences.
- The "Reach Three" outreach strategy has been fully adopted by at least eight denominations as a model that can effectively reach men.

P.O. Box 1300  
Lee's Summit, MO  
64063

(816) 554-7009  
Fax (816) 554-8186  
www.ncmm.org

A DISCIPLE MAKING MINISTRY TO MEN IN EVERY CHURCH

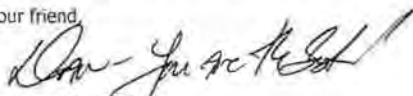
- Began the process of selecting and recruiting potential volunteer field representatives to help support the ministries of the NCMM and to expand the ministry to churches in states and regions.
- Adopted the Vision Statement "*A disciple-making ministry to men in every church in America.*"
- Began the process of establishing relational agreements with some outstanding mega churches in the U.S.
- The adoption of a bi-monthly prayer letter.

As you can see we have much to be thankful for. The staff and Steering Committee of the NCMM are committed to serve you and the men and churches of America. We desire ***together, to help the local church present every man in America with a credible offer of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, encourage them to pursue God and equip them for spiritual service in their home, church, workplace, community and world.***

This can only happen if you dedicate yourself and your ministry to this same commitment. As you think and pray about what God has for you in this new millennium think about a relationship with other men's ministries. We really can do more together than we can alone.

It would be our pleasure to help serve you and your ministry to men. I have enclosed information about the NCMM and a application. Hope you will join us! Do not hesitate to call on us at 816-554-7009 or toll free at 877-626-6266.

Your friend,



Dr. Daniel L. Erickson  
Executive Director

P.S. Consider the following:

- Let us know if you need any brochures for the upcoming National Conferences on Ministry to Men. (See enclosed Brochure)
- Begin to promote the 2000 Conferences by:
- Sending out a brochure to your leadership team and constituents with a letter of endorsement
- Have brochures available at your events and personally promote these conferences.
- Consider planning a meeting before or after a conference with your leadership team, and have them participate in the conferences.
- Provide information about the conferences on your web-site. We can furnish.
- Consider promoting the conferences in your ministry or denominational men's magazine or newsletter.

## Jeffrey Chadwick Appointed to be World Outreach Director

The Reverend Jeffrey Chadwick has been appointed by the Committee on Administration to be EPC World Outreach Director. He will succeed Richard Oestreicher, who retires on September 1, 2000, after serving six years as World Outreach Director.

Reverend Chadwick, a native of Silver Spring, Maryland, grew up in Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland. At East Carolina University, he was involved in leadership of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He also served four summers on the youth staff at Fourth and one year as youth director of a church in North Carolina. After he graduated with a B.A. in psychology, Jeff and his wife, Donna, served as house parents at a Christian boarding school until he began M.Div. studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Ordained in 1982, Reverend Chadwick pastored two Presbyterian churches in North Carolina until 1989. He then became senior pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bluefield, West Virginia, where he currently serves. He has completed his residency in the D.Min. program at Reformed Theological Seminary.

Active in the church's worldwide mission for over 20 years, Reverend Chadwick has organized mission conferences, led or participated in 14 short-term mission trips and been certified by Discover the World as a short-term team trainer. He is currently the World Outreach Chairman for the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic. He also serves on the General Assembly's permanent World Outreach Committee and has chaired the General Assembly World Outreach Standing Committee. He loves the ministry of World Outreach, prays diligently for our missionaries, and has visited several on the field.

Besides his service in missions, Reverend Chadwick has served as moderator of the former Presbytery of Allegheny and is a Mid-Atlantic Presbytery council member. He has also been president and secretary of the Bluefield Ministerial Association and is active in a variety of community organizations.

Reverend and Mrs. Chadwick have three children: Kelly, 20, Rusty, 18, and Katy, 13. Trained in early childhood education, Mrs. Chadwick mentors young mothers, does crisis pregnancy counseling and works with youth in worship leadership. She has participated in two international mission trips.



**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 29140 BUCKINGHAM AVE., SUITE 5  
 LIVONIA MI 48154  
 PHONE: 734/261-2001 FAX: 734/261-3282  
 E-mail: EPCHURCH@AOL.COM

## COMMUNICATION 00-10

### COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 522, Washington, DC 20036

#### ANNUAL REPORT

1 March 2000

*"Not by Might, Nor by Power, But by My Spirit, Saith the Lord"*

The year 1999 was a year of challenge and opportunity for the Commission. As many of you know, we had voted two years ago to take a step of faith and tithed our income to support international efforts to establish or enhance chaplaincy ministry. 1998 saw the launching of the International Association of Evangelical Chaplains (IAEC) as a subsidiary ministry of the Commission. This past October we held our first international conference at Schloss Mittersill in Mittersill, Austria. The Lord blessed us with delegates from 15 nations and four continents. As a result of this conference, new efforts are underway to develop evangelical chaplain ministry in several third-world nations. This first year of the new century will see us moving forward with these initiatives. Much prayer will be required to see these efforts come to fruition. Future conferences will be held in the United States (2000), The Republic of Korea (2001), Latin America (2002) and Africa in 2003. Please pray for this work.

During 1999 we continued to process a large number of candidates for the military chaplaincies though we had fewer applicants for the VA chaplaincy. As I mentioned last year, we continue to attract candidates from independent churches who are joining the NAE and the Commission in order to support their candidates. Each year since 1997 we have processed more candidates for the chaplaincies than at any time since World War II. This year has been more of the same. We currently have over 70 men and women at various stages of preparation for the military or VA chaplaincies. They represent 18 of our regular member denominations and churches. Additionally each of our eight affiliate denominational members have processed an increasing number of candidates for the chaplaincies. Together we have placed over 25 new chaplains on active duty and in the reserve components of the three services during 1999.

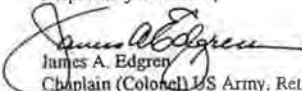
We are pleased once again to report that our chaplains continue to do well in terms of quality of ministry, and many hold very key leadership positions in each of the services. Unfortunately, the slight decline in the number of selections to the highest grades continues. We have been unable to determine precisely why this is so, but suspect that it is due to the aging of our Evangelical "force" combined with the smaller number of Evangelical Chaplains who entered the chaplaincy immediately after the Viet Nam war (1975-1980), thus reducing the pool of Evangelicals eligible for selection to the highest grades. Additionally, our limited success in placing chaplains on active duty in the early 80's contributes to this imbalance. But in the recent past, we have had more than our share of promotions to these grades, and if the larger numbers of chaplains we are now placing on active duty and in the reserves continue to do well, the future looks very bright indeed. Despite the continual "downsizing" of the military services, we are not only maintaining our numbers, but are actually increasing our percentage of the total chaplaincy. This serves to expand the outreach of the NAE within the government sector.

In February and September of 1999, I was again invited to present training on "Free Exercise of Religion" to US Forces Chaplains and Assistants in Korea, at the request of the Department of Defense. In December of 1999 we conducted our third annual training conference for newly appointed chaplains in connection with our annual Centurion weekend Retreat. Our chaplains received intensive training from a faculty of Evangelical Chaplaincy leaders. Dr. Hudson T. Armerding served as spiritual mentor to faculty and trainees alike.

Our Commission Resource Board continues to wrestle with contemporary issues facing our chaplains and the services. A series of papers, reports and recommendations issues from this advisory board each year. Meanwhile our chaplains continue to speak out forcefully on issues dear to the hearts of all Evangelicals - sometimes at a cost to their careers. We are pleased to report, however, that first and foremost, the Evangelical message is being faithfully proclaimed and soldiers, sailors, airmen & marines are turning to Christ. For this we give thanks.

Our Consolidated Financial Report for 1999 is on the reverse.

Respectfully submitted,

  
James A. Edgren  
Chaplain (Colonel) US Army, Retired  
Executive Director



**COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS  
1001 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, NW, SUITE 522  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036**

**Consolidated Financial Report  
(1 January - 31 December 1999)  
(Comparison - Budget to Actual)**

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>1999 Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
Endorsements and Fees	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,550.00	
Contributions/Dues			
Regular Member Denominations	15,000.00	12,650.00	
Associate Member Denominations	7,000.00	6,235.06	
Affiliate Member Denominations	8,000.00	7,750.00	
Active Duty Chaplains	15,000.00	14,822.00	
Designated Gifts (Retreat Fund)	5,000.00	4,000.00	
Other Gifts	4,000.00	8,150.00	
Miscellaneous Income	10,000.00	19,335.60	
Interest from Savings	1,000.00	-	(note 1)
Transfers from Savings			
	<u>\$67,000.00</u>	<u>\$76,492.66</u>	(note 2)
<u>Expenses</u>			
Personnel (Salaries, Taxes and Fees)	\$34,000.00	\$30,780.41	
Office Expenses			
Rent/Temp Office Space	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Postage	2,000.00	1,728.12	
Printing	2,000.00	1,431.32	
Telephone	2,000.00	1,821.52	
Supplies & Services	1,500.00	1,588.39	
Travel			
Commission Activities	8,000.00	5,856.54	(note 3)
Resource Board	3,000.00	1,141.00	
Promotion, Publicity, Conferences, Retreats	10,000.00	29,356.64	(note 3)
Capital Equipment Fund/Insurance	1,000.00	162.59	
Miscellaneous	<u>2,500.00</u>	<u>1,728.47</u>	(note 4)
	<u>\$67,000.00</u>	<u>\$76,595.00</u>	(note 5)

NOTES:

1. Interest income is not displayed since it is rolled over and added to investments. We currently have approximately \$25,000 in investments.
2. Cumulative income as of 31 Dec 99 was 14% above budget projections. This increase is due to a number of unbudgeted gifts from Air Force and Navy chapels & the DA Chaplains Fund. Additionally, retreat fees (which are offset by expenses) are included. Giving by Centurion Club members exceeded \$10,000 as of 31 Dec 99.
3. Expenses for the year were likewise 15% above budget projections. Travel expenses were below projections, but larger than expected. Conferences & Retreat expenses were offset by miscellaneous income and designated gifts. Expenses for special projects (for which income was received) accounted for the remaining miscellaneous (note 4) and program expense, also offset by miscellaneous income.
5. The heavy expenses we incur in December account for the increase over the budgeted amount. Our financial status remains sound at year's end.

COMMUNICATION 00-11



# Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 5, 2000

The 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
29140 Buckingham Avenue #5  
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The following represents an advisory letter from the Ministerial Vocation Committee:

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

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

WHEREAS, If an individual "opts-out" of Social Security coverage that person is unable to secure future Medicare basic coverage because the opt-out decision is irrevocable, and

WHEREAS, the IRS has provided a temporary window so that an opted-out individual can re-enter the Social Security and Medicare system by filing Form 2031 by April 15, 2002;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DOES NOT FORMALLY ENDORSE ANY MORAL OR RELIGIOUS BELIEF THAT WOULD PRECLUDE PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL SECURITY, NOT DOES IT DENY THE RIGHT OF ITS PASTORS TO SO REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE. THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOWEVER, DOES STRONGLY URGE ITS PASTORS TO BE AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE AND URGES PASTORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE PROGRAMS.

*Bill*  
William Moore,  
Chairman, Ministerial Vocation Committee



COMMUNICATION 00-12

*Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

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THE BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS  
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5 • Livonia, MI 48154  
(734) 261-2001 Fax (734) 261-3282

June 5, 2000

The 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
29140 Buckingham Avenue #5  
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The following represents an advisory letter from the Board of Pension and Benefits:

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

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

WHEREAS, if an individual "opts-out" of Social Security coverage that person is unable to secure future Medicare basic coverage because the opt-out decision is irrevocable, and

WHEREAS, the IRS has provided a temporary window so that an opted-out individual can re-enter the Social Security and Medicare system by filing Form 2031 by April 15, 2002;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH DOES NOT FORMALLY ENDORSE ANY MORAL OR RELIGIOUS BELIEF THAT WOULD PRECLUDE PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL SECURITY, NOT DOES IT DENY THE RIGHT OF ITS PASTORS TO SO REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE. THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HOWEVER, DOES STRONGLY URGE ITS PASTORS TO BE AWARE OF THE SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES OF NON-PARTICIPATION IN SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE.

Orin Littlejohn  
Chairman, Board of Pension and Benefits



COMMUNICATION 00-13

## *The First Presbyterian Church*

June 8, 2000

Dr. L. Edward Davis  
Stated Clerk of EPC  
Office of the General Assembly  
29140 Buckingham Avenue  
Suite 5  
Livonia, MI 48154-4586


Dear Ed,

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church takes great pleasure in unanimously approving the placing in nomination of Elder John Graham to serve as Moderator of the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

John's talents, abilities, and his deep love for Christ will enable him to serve admirably and well in this position. Our prayers will be with him.

Kindest regards,

The Session of the  
First Presbyterian Church

by:   
Clerk of the Session

WBP:bw



## COMMUNICATION 00-14

*Presbyterian Church of Brazil  
Rue Silva Garden, 23  
Centro - Rio de Janeiro RJ  
Brazil*

May 24, 2000

Greetings from the Presbyterian Church of Brazil to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

**A Past to Remember and a Future to Build Together:  
EPC - Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
IPB - Presbyterian Church of Brazil**

This is both a thank you letter and a challenge to you and to your church, before God.

### **A PAST TO REMEMBER**

1. Together EPC and IPB put together a Presbyterian Graduate Center in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Today with over 350 students, the Andrew Jumper Presbyterian Graduate Center, we will spread the Reformed influence to all of South America.
2. The Library of the Andrew Jumper Presbyterian Graduate Center is named after Dr. Edward Davis.
3. It is our aim to promote together the Bartlett Hess Theological Week every year and publish the Bartlett Hess Series both in Portuguese and in English.
4. Together we have worked in Africa, in the country of Ghana planting eleven churches in the Com tribes, among the Komkombas. In Angola, we have been helping with the support of a full-time Portuguese speaking professor in the Lubango Theological Seminary.
5. EPC and IPB together have organized churches and schools in Brazil and in Paraguay and many other projects mutually agreed upon and approved.

### **A FUTURE TO BUILD**

We look to the past with gratitude, to the present with faith and to the future with hope.

1. Missionary trips and youth exchange programs. The future is open before us.
2. Pastors and lay leaders exchange. The better we know each other the better we will be prepared to serve in the kingdom together.

3. Theological education. The Bartlett Hess Theological Week: the offer of scholarships in the Andrew Jumper Presbyterian Graduate Center for pastors of St. Andrews Presbytery in Argentina.
4. The challenge to plant churches together in Brazil and in the US among the Portuguese speaking communities.
5. To continue to work together in Africa and among the Muslims. As partner churches, each denomination will contribute 50% for each project approved.

Thank you brothers and sisters from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Lord has blessed us as sister denominations.

On behalf of all the Presbyterians in Brazil, it is my privilege to express to each and every one of you our deepest gratitude for what you have done for us and together what we have done for the Lord.

We challenge you all to pray and together let us be partners in the Lord. We are praying on your behalf. "The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest and he will send laborers to His harvest."

The harvest is His and He is the One we should pray to for laborers all the time, in all the places and for all circumstances.

Please receive our heartfelt thanks and pray for us as we pray for you. Let us join hands and serve together as partners 50% in each project we agree upon together for the Lord. He is Lord. We are servants.

Rev. Guilhermino Cunha/s  
Moderator of the Supreme Council  
Presbyterian Church of Brazil

PROPOSED ARTICLES OF PHASE II  
OF  
THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN EPC AND IPB  
First Draft

Original Articles and Principles of Faith, 1985-1999: totally reaffirmed

All the projects of Phase I should come to an end within three months and all eventual contributions which may be made by EPC churches to all or any of these projects will be deposited to IPB within 90 (ninety) days. In doing so Phase I will be totally concluded with our deepest and most sincere gratitude to God in the first place for allowing us to work together as sister denominations and to learn from each other how to do and not to do.

Let us together praise God for the Andrew Jumper Presbyterian Graduate Center, now with over 350 students, and now preparing to offer the Doctor of Ministry Program and soon the Doctor of Missiology program. We rejoice in the Lord.

On behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil as its president, I express our most sincere gratitude for all you have done on our behalf. God bless you all - EPC leadership, churches and pastors.

On behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Brazil as its president, I present to you our apologies and deepest regrets for our mistakes. Some projects should have had better results. It is a sign of our humanity and imperfection because of our fallen nature. We move to Phase II, knowing more about each other. We have far more reasons to be grateful than regrets to be sad about. Praise the Lord!

**Article I** – Areas of cooperation: prayer and intercession for one another, youth exchange program, short term missionary visits, pastors interchange, theological education through Bartlett Hess Theological Week, specific missionary projects, church planting in both countries, the exchange of fraternal delegates every two years.

**Article II** – Youth Exchange Program (short term): This exchange could be 10-20 days in duration and hosting would involve IPB families and young people from EPC in order to be exposed to IPB church programs, mission activities, social programs and the Brazilian culture. The visiting church will pay its travel expenses and the receiving church will offer housing, food and transportation. There will be a coordinator of such programs from each partner church and we agree to alternate countries on a yearly basis.

**Article III** – Youth Exchange Program (long term): This exchange would involve areas such as work programs (light) youth choirs and evangelistic teams, as well as learning the language of the host country while attending an educational institution.

**Article IV** – The following items must be agreed up before the exchange program is approved.

- Itinerary
- Educational arrangements (when needed)
- Expectations (in writing) from both the young person(s) and their host(s)

The visiting group will pay for its travel costs and the receiving church will offer housing, food and transportation while in the country according to the itinerary eventually approved.

**Article V** – Leadership Exchange: Pastor and Lay Leaders. Building on our desire to learn from one another and to bless one another, we agree on two additional areas of cooperation. Pastors and Lay Leaders Exchange and choir and music group visits. We believe such an exchange will prove to be a spiritually enriching experience not only for the participating pastor or lay leaders but also for their congregation and for both denominations.

- A) An exchange would consist of 10-30 days, allowing for observations, exchange of ideas, attending church meetings, and in some cases, preaching;
- B) Ideally, a pastor exchange or visit will involve both the pastor and his wife;
- C) The moderators from EPC will include one visit to IPB while visiting St. Andrews Presbytery in Argentina;
- D) The Moderator or someone from the Board of the IPB will be invited to visit the EPC as fraternal delegate for its General Assembly. The IPB will also invite a fraternal delegate from EPC for its National Executive annual Board meeting and for its Supreme Council every four years.
- E) All these exchanges must go through the church offices and through the Stated Clerk's supervision.
- F) The pastors and lay leaders exchange should always involve itinerary, translators when preaching/teaching is involved, and expectations (in writing) from the pastor and his wife and from the lay leader, ideally from the host congregation (its pastor).

**Article VI** – The choir and music group exchange program will follow the same pattern regarding hospitality. However, prior to any consideration of exchange, the Music Directors of both churches should receive audio tapes and/or videotapes from the choir or music group and be sure as music director that the style will be acceptable to his congregation. No offense, just caution..

**Article VII** – Theological Education: We will dedicate time and effort to organize, on a yearly basis, the Bartlett Hess Theological Week, preferably in the Andrew Jumper Graduate Center. The Bartlett Hess Theological Week could also take place in one of the other theology schools or seminary of IPB.



- A) EPC will agree with the Director of the Center on which prominent Reformed theologian shall be invited and also help to contact him or her;
- B) The IPB will offer housing, food and transportation while in Brazil for both the theologian and his wife;
- C) The EPC will cover travel expenses and the agreed upon fee (if such is required) will be paid 50% by each denomination.
- D) The texts of the series of lectures on a specific theme will be published both in Portuguese and in English and should be known as the Bartlett Hess Series. Each church will pay for its own edition.

**Article VIII** – Specific missionary projects should be examined and adopted by both denominations like the ones in Africa among Muslims, the teachers in the Lubango, Angola Seminary and other upon decision of the Joint Committee and always as partner churches, 50% each.

**Article IX** – Church Planting in the USA and in Brazil: This is a mutual agreement where each church will help the other begin new congregations in each other's land (in the case of the USA among the Portuguese-speaking communities). Every case should be considered as a project in itself and will include finances, timetable and expected results. Every project must have a beginning, clear steps and a target end.

- A) IPB will provide the recruitment, training (intensive, one month) and the assessment of the church plants;
- B) EPC will through its church planting division, indicate where in the States to plant a church and why. Providing the demographics that will help the church planter know how many and where to find the Portuguese speaking families if possible.
- C) The costs involved will be previously announced and approved by the Joint Committee case by case. And for every project, we agree that the cost will be 50% each.

**Article X** – The Joint Committee will continue its existence on the same basis. After each meeting the Committee itself decides where, when and why to meet. With God's help and for God's glory we will continue working together as partner churches.

This draft is to be a working document for the Joint Committee in its future meeting. If possible, I Brazil in the City of Guarapari between November 2 and 5. We will have a National Congress on Evangelism, Mission and Church Planting.

Are these dates convenient for your church? If not, do you have a better suggestion? Thank you.

Rev. Guilhermino Cunha/s  
Moderator, IPB

Elder Eduardo Lange  
President of the CRIE/IPB

COMMUNICATION 00-15

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL**

2368 Main St. Suite #3  
Tucker, GA 30084  
770-493-8952, FAX 770-493-8984  
email: childminint@cs.com  
web page: www.childministry.com

June 20, 2000

Mr. Ed McCallum, FAX 734-261-3282  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Committee on Christian Education

Dear Mr. McCallum and Commissioners,

Thank you for your interest in obtaining more information about Children's Ministry International (CMI). Last year we provided an exhibit and I gave a short presentation to the Christian Education Standing Committee at the EPC General Assembly in Rome, GA.

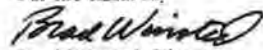
CMI produces catechetical material and training workshops for reformed and evangelical churches throughout the world. We are one of the officially approved vendors and suppliers of education materials for the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and Orthodox Presbyterian Church (OPC). We have provided instruction and programs to dependent children at regional missionary conferences for Mission to the World (PCA missionaries- for the past 15 years), Wycliffe Bible Translators (1988-Spain) and Frontiers (Middle East Regional Conference 1999). Numerous EPC Christian Education Programs are already using our materials.

Our material is distinctive: **non-consumable** (use it over and over again- some churches have been re-using it for over 10 years), **multi-sensory** (doctrine and Bible verse memory, songs, multi-colored flannel board visuals, review games, and crafts), **non-dated** (take as long as you need- nothing is stacking up behind you- our main goal is for the children to KNOW the Bible truths- not conform to any arbitrary schedule), and **non-graded** (ages 3 through 11 years old- we've even taught these materials to adults, it can easily be modified for any age group).

Please check out our web page at [www.childministry.com](http://www.childministry.com) or call us toll free (1-888-345-4264) for more information. We will be happy to assist any church in setting up a Children's Catechism Program. We do seminars all over the world. Can you imagine your covenant children actually knowing by memory the basic truths of Scripture and the supporting Bible verses. Yes, it can be done today.

CMI respectfully requests the EPC Christian Education Committee to officially endorse CMI as an approved supplier of educational materials for children. Thank you for your kind consideration.

For the children,

  
Brad Winsted, Director

COMMUNICATION 00- 16



# Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

June 23, 2000

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Session  
Evangelical Presbyterian Churches  
(merged mailing)

Dear Fellow Elders:

Greetings in the name of our precious Lord Jesus Christ. We extend to you our love on behalf of the General Assembly.

Recent studies within the Assembly's Committee on Theology and the Assembly staff indicate a serious deficiency in the training and development of officers and ordinands in the essential tenets of our Reformed standards. In the light of the Apostle Paul's pastoral admonition to Timothy and Titus to "appoint elders...commend and teach...guard what has been entrusted...encourage," we overture you to renew your commitment as a Session to remedy this shortcoming.

We petition you, as a Session, to give this matter and the attached materials your most serious attention, and to renew yourselves in a commitment that every elder and ordinand within your congregation shall be thoroughly prepared in heart and mind in biblical truth and most specifically, our Reformed standards of biblical truth. May our lives be well prepared to boldly proclaim the "faith once given" to the church,

Dr. Jimmy McGuire, Moderator  
19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Dr. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk

## OVERTURE 00-A

### PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC OVERTURE TO THE 20<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TO THE 20<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

**WHEREAS**, *Book of Discipline* 6-1A defines the duty of all church courts to exercise care and discretion in the investigation of reports concerning alleged offenses requiring discipline; and,

**WHEREAS**, the court must exercise utmost care and discretion in the initial stages of investigating reports of alleged offenses which could lead to an ecclesiastical judicial procedure; and,

**WHEREAS**, a degree of inexactitude exists in the wording of *Book of Discipline*, Chapter 6, "Procedures in Action for Discipline," specifically in a determination of what constitutes a report of alleged offenses requiring discipline of the court; and,

**WHEREAS**, the term "written charges" in 6-1B is *ambiguous* in that no clear definition is offered, nor is there a requirement for *sufficient supporting evidence* to be offered to lend credence to such charge(s); and,

**WHEREAS**, 6-1B (and 5-1A) requires that written charge(s) be filed with the Clerk of the court, and, upon such filing it is *presumed* that the Clerk shall communicate such charge(s) to the court as a whole without making any determination as to the soundness or credibility of the charge(s); and,

**WHEREAS**, for the sake of care, discretion, and the overall peace of the Church, there appears to be a need for an *intermediate procedural step* between the receipt of written charges by the Clerk of the court and the matter being communicated to the court as a whole;

**THEREFORE**, that the *Book of Discipline* 6-1 be amended as follows:

- 1) **AMEND 6-1B**, the first sentence, with the inclusion of the italicized phrase "with attached supporting evidence" so that the sentence reads

"No investigation against an accused offender shall be commenced unless some person files a written charge, *with attached supporting evidence*, with the Clerk of the court, . . .etc."

- 2) **AMEND 6-1B** by adding the following italicized sentences to the end of the section:

*"The Clerk shall determine and be satisfied that the person(s) bringing a charge have followed Scriptural procedure required under Matthew 18:15-16, 1 Timothy 5:19 and Galatians 6:1. The Clerk shall then notify the Moderator of the court that a charge has been properly filed against a member of the court."*

- 3) **AMEND 6-1C** by adding the following italicized words, so that the section now reads

*C. Investigative Committee*

*Upon notification by the Clerk that a formal charge has been duly received against a member of the court, the Moderator shall appoint an investigative committee to serve as a finder of fact, which shall report its findings to the court with its recommendations. The committee shall have no authority to act for the court other than as an investigative body. Should a formal charge be filed against an officer of the court, the court as a whole shall receive the charge and elect the investigative committee.*

- 4) **AMEND 1-6**, sentence beginning "No charge involving a personal offense will be received . . ." by changing the phrase "to the court" to read *"to the Clerk of the court."*

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

## OVERTURE 00-B

### OVERTURE TO THE TWENTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH [ADOPTED at the Spring Stated Meeting Saturday, April 29, 2000]

WHEREAS the Evangelical Presbyterian Church desires to have a program of benefits to provide a measure of financial security for its ministers and member churches. To satisfy this desire, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church established a fully insured plan of Group Life Insurance, a fully insured plan of Long Term Disability insurance and a partially Self Funded plan of Medical Benefits; and,

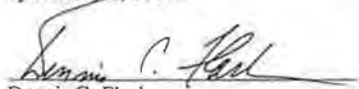
WHEREAS the order of the *General Assembly 81-06* "Denominational Group Insurance Plan providing health, disability and life coverage shall be mandatory for all ministers within member churches" has not been fully complied with thereby creating the potential for adverse selection against the plan i.e. Group Life, Long Term Disability and Medical Benefits; and,

WHEREAS noncompliance with *GA 81-06* would create a lack of contractual requirements for a percentage of participation in Group Life Insurance, Long Term Disability contract and Stop Loss Contract on the Medical Benefit Plan, thereby releasing the Insurance Carrier or Carriers of any contractual obligation to pay claims; and,

WHEREAS it is well known and accepted fact in the world of insurance and risk management that adverse selection has a detrimental effect on any program of Group insurance, and could result in its demise as it sets the plan on a self destruction course. Should noncompliance of *GA 81-06* be allowed to continue, all benefits (Life, Disability, Medical) currently in force will be in jeopardy from both noncompliance with contractual participation requirements and adverse selection; and,

WHEREAS those who have opted out of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church's Benefit Plan are in violation of both the *General Assembly order 81-06* and the *Book of Church Order* ordination vows,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the members of the Presbytery of the Central South Overture the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to instruct the *Permanent Committee On Administration* in concert with the *Board of Pension and Benefits* to bring all churches in compliance with Article of the *GA 81-06* ["Denominational Group Insurance providing health, disability and life coverage shall be mandatory for all ministers within member churches"] and the *Book of Order*. If the individual churches do not comply by January 1, 2001, the presbyteries, to which non-compliant churches belong, will pay the premium to re-enroll the ministers of non-compliant churches. Total compliance to be accomplished by January 1, 2001.



Dennis C. Flach  
Stated Clerk of the Central South Presbytery

## OVERTURE 00-C

### PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

4343 S. Buckley Rd. #220  
Aurora, CO 80015

Overture 6 May 2000

WHEREAS, the current self-insured medical insurance plan of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

- \* exists in an insurance world which is dramatically different from when it was first created and there now exist other viable medical coverage options which can better meet the needs of the participants and their churches,
- \* involves mandatory participation which has become a divisive issue for pastors within our denomination,
- \* is in fiscal crisis which has produced an alarming premium increase in an attempt to ensure the viability of the plan, and
- \* does not presently have sufficient member participation to sustain it for any appreciable length of time.

WHEREAS, a subcommittee of the Ministerial Committee of the Presbytery of the West has learned through consultation with health insurance professionals that

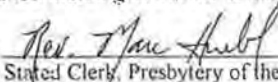
- \* small group reform laws both on a state and national level have made access to group health insurance available to groups of 2-50,
- \* state risk pools for the uninsurable are available in many states,
- \* premium subsidies can be provided by General Assembly or presbyteries in states which do not regulate premiums or which have unfavorable premium levels,
- \* insurance brokers familiar with a state's insurance laws and resources can be utilized to prevent any EPC pastor or staff presently covered from losing coverage in a transition to other health insurance coverage,
- \* the risk of larger, catastrophic claims can be better absorbed by other much larger insurance pools than the EPC plan is able to sustain, and
- \* the trend of associations similar in size and history to EPC's present self-insured plan indicate the EPC plan, by spreading very large claims over a relatively small population, is locked in a downward trend which will result in a bankrupt plan at some point. This is what the health insurance industry calls a "death spiral."

THEREFORE, the Presbytery of the West overtures the 2000 General Assembly to

- \* permit each presbytery to take the responsibility for development of medical health insurance coverage options, be it local church, regional, or other, for the pastors and staff of churches within that presbytery,
- \* accept the responsibility that none of its pastors and staff (including their families) currently on the EPC plan shall be left without medical insurance or expense coverage, and
- \* work with the presbyteries to develop a system for the EPC to provide assistance in premium subsidies or other financial support for the more costly health insurance options required in some cases.

**Motion was unanimously sustained by the Presbytery of the West to approve this overture to the 20th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church at its 60th stated meeting at Parker Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Parker, Colorado.**

Attest:

  
State Clerk, Presbytery of the West

Date:

5/6/00

**DESCENDING OVERTURES**  
Sent to the Presbyteries by order of the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

**OVERTURE 99-A**

Shall the *Book of Government*, §10-3F, be amended in the second sentence by adding the word “geographical” between the words “the” and “bounds”? The section would then read (proposed addition underlined):

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>10-3C Evangelist:</b> A Minister may be called by a Presbytery, by some other court, or by some organization to serve as an evangelist. The Presbytery of which the Minister is a member may commission the Minister to share the Gospel and to administer the sacraments outside the bounds of the Presbytery in other parts of the Church or the world. An Evangelist called as missionary shall always have as his primary duty the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. When a Presbytery calls an Evangelist as Church Planter, it may entrust to that person the responsibility to develop churches, to conduct preparational meetings of such churches, and to oversee the required preparation of Elders and Deacons. Those special powers given to the Evangelist shall be specified by the Presbytery in writing. That person may be given the power to receive and dismiss members.</p>	<p><b>10-3C Evangelist:</b> A Minister may be called by a Presbytery, by some other court, or by some organization to serve as an evangelist. The Presbytery of which the Minister is a member may commission the Minister to share the Gospel and to administer the sacraments outside the <u>geographical</u> bounds of the Presbytery in other parts of the Church or the world. An Evangelist called as missionary shall always have as his primary duty the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. When a Presbytery calls an Evangelist as Church Planter, it may entrust to that person the responsibility to develop churches, to conduct preparational meetings of such churches, and to oversee the required preparation of Elders and Deacons. Those special powers given to the Evangelist shall be specified by the Presbytery in writing. That person may be given the power to receive and dismiss members.</p>

Grounds: G.10-3C sets forth three situations in which a minister may be called as an evangelist: 1) as a conference/crusade evangelist 2) as a missionary serving overseas; 3) as a church planter within the US. The first portion of G.10-3C describes the case of the missionary serving overseas. The proposed change clarifies the intent of the paragraph as it relates primarily to the Evangelist/ Missionary. The amending language describes that situation in which an evangelist/misionary is obviously called to minister outside the geographical boundaries of the presbytery to which the missionary belongs.

*Origin of Overture: PJC*

	YES	NO
Central South	60	0
East	32	0
Florida	23	0
Mid-America	35	0
Mid-Atlantic	83	0
Midwest	70	2
Southeast	49	0
St. Andrews		
West	41	0

PASSED

## OVERTURE 99-B

Shall the *Book of Government*, §11-5F (pastor's terms of call), be amended by

1. adding as item #8, the following:  
     "Cost of pastor's attendance at Presbytery and General Assembly meetings" and
2. renumbering the current #8 as #9.

Present wording	Proposed wording
8. Others shall be stipulated, such as study leave (required), book allowance, etc.	8. Cost of pastor's attendance at Presbytery and General Assembly meetings
	9. Others shall be stipulated, such as study leave (required), book allowance, etc.

Grounds:

The Presbytery of the Southeast overtured the Assembly to amend this section to make provision in the terms of call for funds to cover costs of attendance at Presbytery and General Assembly. It noted that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a denomination in which full participation in the courts, as measured by attendance at the Presbytery and General Assembly meetings, gives greater expectation of the congregations being better informed on the issues facing Christians in general and the EPC in particular. The concept of connectionalism suffers when pastors are not able to attend meetings of the church and some pastors seldom or never attend. A number of EPC congregations are small in number of worshipers and some pastors in smaller churches with limited financial resources are not able to personally finance trips to Presbytery and General Assembly meetings.

*Origin of overture: Presbytery of the Southeast*

	YES	NO
Central South	60	0
East	32	0
Florida	1	22
Mid-America	34	1
Mid-Atlantic	0	82
Midwest	53	16
Southeast	49	0
St. Andrews		
West	4	37

**— FAILED**



## OVERTURE 99-C

Shall the *Book of Government*, §15, be amended as follows:

1. 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.
2. 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.*
3. Create a new section G.15-10.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>15-8</b> Removal of a Minister to Inactive Status: A Minister may, for reasons deemed valid, request the Presbytery to be placed on Inactive Status. If the Presbytery concurs, the Minister shall be placed on such status. All rights and privileges granted by ordination are temporarily set aside, including the right to vote and participate in the meetings of Presbytery. However, the name of the Minister shall be carried on the Inactive Status Roll of Presbytery. After at least one year, the Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to Active Status. The Presbytery, after careful deliberation, may do so provided the Minister has a valid call that Presbytery approves or provided the Minister is being transferred to another Presbytery in order to receive a call.</p> <p>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><b>15-8</b> Removal of a Minister to Inactive Status: A Minister may, for reasons deemed valid, request the Presbytery to be placed on Inactive Status. If the Presbytery concurs, the Minister shall be placed on such status. All rights and privileges granted by ordination are temporarily set aside, including the right to vote and participate in the meetings of Presbytery. However, the name of the Minister shall be carried on the Inactive Status Roll of Presbytery. After at least one year, the Minister may request Presbytery to be restored to Active Status. The Presbytery, after careful deliberation, may do so provided the Minister has a valid call that Presbytery approves or provided the Minister is being transferred to another Presbytery in order to receive a call.</p> <p>When the Minister <u>who is not retired</u> 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 <u>who is not retired</u> 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>

**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 should be conducted, either at the meeting of Presbytery or at the place of service of the retiring Minister. Ordinarily, a Presbytery shall appoint a special Commission to conduct this service and a record of it inserted in the minutes of 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.

*(No section 15-10 currently exists.)*

**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 should be conducted, either at the meeting of Presbytery or at the place of service of the retiring Minister. Ordinarily, a Presbytery shall appoint a special Commission to conduct this service and a record of it inserted in the minutes of 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.

**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.

Grounds:

As the *Book of Government* 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.

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.

Retired ministers not participating in presbytery maintain the authority to administer the 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.

G.15-8 adds the phrase "who is not retired" since a retired minister could remain inactive indefinitely without being removed from the membership of the presbytery.

*Origin of overture: Presbytery of Florida*

	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
Central South	60	0
East	32	0
Florida	22	0
Mid-America	35	0
Mid-Atlantic	80	0
Midwest	4	67
Southeast	49	0
St. Andrews		
West	37	0

***PASSED***



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

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Horton, Michigan 49246

(517) 563-8856 Phone / 563-2552 Fax  
Email: [kdrake@voyager.net](mailto: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, 1999, 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, 1999, 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 24, 2000

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 1999  
(With Comparative Totals for 1998)

### ASSETS

	1999	1998
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Equivalents:		
Unrestricted	\$ 1,254,990	\$ 2,427,369
Restricted	1,053,643	1,692,232
Investments:		
Unrestricted	622,182	337,625
Restricted	21,739,331	15,929,087
Accounts Receivable	4,491	1,023
Inventory	45,369	61,758
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>24,720,006</u>	<u>20,449,094</u>
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Furniture and Equipment	147,677	135,177
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-90,160	-86,274
<b>NET PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<u>57,517</u>	<u>48,903</u>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Notes Receivable	272,073	342,014
Deposits	6,129	6,129
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>	<u>278,202</u>	<u>348,143</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 25,055,725</u>	<u>\$ 20,846,140</u>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 33,852	\$ 6,944
Accrued Expenses	1,043	976
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>34,895</u>	<u>7,920</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	384,744	441,170
Temporarily Restricted	24,593,380	20,354,364
Permanently Restricted	42,706	42,686
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<u>25,020,830</u>	<u>20,838,220</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 25,055,725</u>	<u>\$ 20,846,140</u>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999  
(With Comparative Totals for 1998)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	1999 Total	1998 Total
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Contributions	\$ 810,427	\$ 2,501,380	\$ 20	\$ 3,311,827	\$ 3,028,255
Investment Income	96,877	2,782,873	---	2,879,750	3,448,738
Literature Sales	29,690	---	---	29,690	40,008
Program Income	32,984	4,397,081	---	4,430,065	3,585,352
Other Income	5,177	---	---	5,177	7,474
Assets Released					
From Restrictions	5,442,318	-5,442,318	---	---	---
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>6,417,473</b>	<b>4,239,016</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10,656,509</b>	<b>10,109,827</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Program Expenses	5,453,624	---	---	5,453,624	4,728,248
General & Admin.	1,000,411	---	---	1,000,411	845,472
Fund Raising	19,864	---	---	19,864	16,511
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>6,473,899</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>6,473,899</b>	<b>5,590,231</b>
<b>INCREASE &lt;DECREASE&gt; IN NET ASSETS</b>					
	-56,426	-4,239,016	20	4,182,610	4,519,596
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
BEGINNING OF YEAR	441,170	20,354,364	42,686	20,838,220	16,318,624
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
END OF YEAR	<b>\$ 384,744</b>	<b>\$ 24,593,380</b>	<b>\$ 42,706</b>	<b>\$ 25,020,830</b>	<b>\$ 20,838,220</b>

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999**  
**(With Comparative Totals for 1998)**

	PROGRAM SERVICES				
	Medical Ins. Plan	Pension	World Outreach	Church Assistance	Church Development
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	476,405	---	---	---	---
Claims	2,443,402	---	---	---	---
Administrative Expense	43,506	7,348	---	---	---
Pension Payments	---	330,854	---	---	---
Restricted Expenses	---	---	1,169,697	109,905	33,530
Technology Support	---	---	0	---	---
Literature	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 2,963,313</b>	<b>\$ 338,202</b>	<b>\$ 1,169,697</b>	<b>\$ 109,905</b>	<b>\$ 33,530</b>



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Special Projects	Church Loan	General and Administrative	Fund Raising	1999 Total	1998 Total
\$ ---	\$ ---	\$ 398,939	\$ ---	\$ 398,939	\$ 353,023
---	---	74,796	---	74,796	66,425
---	---	26,100	---	26,100	25,205
---	---	11,601	---	11,601	11,516
---	---	54,711	---	54,711	49,133
---	---	71,209	---	71,209	56,559
---	---	16,727	---	16,727	8,558
---	---	57,513	19,864	77,377	66,042
---	---	3,300	---	3,300	3,900
---	---	90,137	---	90,137	67,708
---	---	1,252	---	1,252	1,287
---	---	25,849	---	25,849	24,494
---	---	8,920	---	8,920	7,997
---	---	15,497	---	15,497	17,674
---	---	6,092	---	6,092	5,256
---	---	5,000	---	5,000	5,000
---	---	24,141	---	24,141	22,440
---	---	23,977	---	23,977	2,081
---	---	9,574	---	9,574	8,412
---	---	195	---	195	1,900
---	---	20,570	---	20,570	21,750
---	---	4,256	---	4,256	3,649
---	---	--	---	476,405	318,035
---	---	--	---	2,443,402	2,038,020
---	675	6,175	---	57,704	91,065
---	---	---	---	330,854	301,546
838,302	---	--	---	2,151,434	1,979,582
---	---	14,579	---	14,579	11,972
---	---	29,301	---	29,301	20,002
<b>\$ 838,302</b>	<b>\$ 675</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,411</b>	<b>\$ 19,864</b>	<b>\$ 6,473,899</b>	<b>\$ 5,590,231</b>

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999  
(With Comparative Totals for 1998)

	1999	1998
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 4,182,610	\$ 4,519,596
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	25,849	24,494
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease <Increase> in accounts receivable	-3,468	5,146
Decrease <Increase> in inventory	16,389	-22,102
Increase <Decrease> in accounts payable	26,908	-29,218
Increase <Decrease> in accrued liabilities	67	-172
Decrease <Increase> in notes receivable	69,941	49,583
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>4,318,296</u>	<u>4,547,327</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Sale <Purchase> of Fixed Assets	-34,463	-3,734
Sale <Purchase> of Investments	-6,094,801	-3,587,866
<b>NET CASH FLOWS FROM &lt;USED BY&gt; INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>-6,129,264</u>	<u>-3,591,600</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
<b>INCREASE &lt;DECREASE&gt; IN CASH</b>	-1,810,968	955,727
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	4,119,601	3,163,874
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 2,308,633</u>	<u>\$ 4,119,601</u>
<b>OTHER DISCLOSURES</b>		
Cash used for:		
Income taxes	—	—
Interest	—	—

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## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 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

### 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 1999 and 1998 totaled \$25,849 and \$24,49- 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, 1999, 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 Ashville EPC are included in the Church Loan Fund. Details of this account consist of the following:

	1999	1998
Ashville EPC	\$ ---	\$ 4,100
Heartland	---	14,583
Westkirk	11,250	15,834
Argentina	24,167	29,581
Faith EPC	24,583	29,167
North Park EPC	25,000	30,000
Elkton EPC	25,000	30,000
Tabernacle EPC	28,500	35,000
Cornerstone EPC	30,833	35,833
Christ Fellowship	30,657	35,833
Covenant Community	32,500	37,500
Covenant	39,583	44,583
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 272,073</b>	<b>\$ 342,014</b>

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE 4 - NET ASSET RESTRICTIONS

At December 31, 1999 and 1998, temporarily restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	1999	1998
World Outreach	\$ 1,211,386	\$ 901,482
Church Development	43,897	43,579
Church Loan	659,062	615,808
Programs	1,227,012	1,172,176
Medical Insurance Plan	935,667	1,459,295
Pension Plan	20,516,356	16,162,024
	<b>\$ 24,593,380</b>	<b>\$ 20,354,364</b>

At December 31, 1999 and 1998, permanently restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	1999	1998
Ministerial Endowment	<b>\$ 42,706</b>	<b>\$ 42,686</b>

### 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 1999 and 1998.

	1999	1998
Premiums Collected	\$ 2,323,609	\$ 1,811,764
Interest Income	81,962	117,941
Gain in Market Value	34,114	52,236
Premiums Paid	-476,405	-318,035
Claims Paid	-2,443,402	-2,038,020
Administrative Expense	-43,506	-78,624
	<b>\$ -523,628</b>	<b>\$ -452,738</b>

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 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 1999 and 1998 were \$40,113 and \$34,399 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.

Following is a summary of transactions for the pension plan for 1999 and 1998.

	1999	1998
Contributions	\$ 1,908,012	\$ 1,718,108
Dividends and Interest	1,612,053	1,084,206
Gain in Market Value	1,007,009	2,065,892
Transfers In	165,460	28,722
Pension Payments	-330,834	-301,546
Administrative Expense	-7,348	-6,786
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	<u>\$ 4,354,332</u>	<u>\$ 4,588,596</u>

### NOTE 7 - CHANGES TO PRIOR YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Certain 1998 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 was extended for three additional years, expiring January 31, 2001. Effective August 1, 1999, additional office space was leased, resulting in a new 5 year lease agreement being entered into. Monthly payments began at \$8,342 and increase annually. Total minimum lease payments are as follows:

2000	\$ 101,359
2001	104,406
2002	107,532
2003	110,755
2004	65,730

A security deposit of \$6,129 was paid to secure the lease. Total lease expense for 1999 and 1998 was \$75,018 and \$60,020, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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ADMINISTRATION

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 1999

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Comerica Checking Account	\$ 597,241.26
Comerica Payroll Account	12,093.38
Petty Cash	500.00
Petty Cash - Key Cities	500.00
Vanguard - General Fund MM	644,655.18
Fidelity AM - General Fund	621,181.75
Vanguard Thompson Fund	29,364.87
Fidelity Puritan - Knox Fund	182,296.15
American Centuries - Knox Fund	440,501.31
Fidelity Puritan - Medical Benevolence	61,810.24
American Centuries - Medical Benevolence	192,338.25
Smith Barney - Ministerial Endowment	48,652.28
Literature Inventory	45,369.36
Accounts Receivable	2,266.04
Accounts Receivable - Inventory	2,225.18
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>2,880,995.25</u>

LAND, BUILDING AND FIXTURES

Furniture and Fixtures	147,677.31
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-90,160.00</u>
TOTAL LAND, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT	<u>57,517.31</u>

OTHER ASSETS

Deposit	<u>6,129.00</u>
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TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 2,944,641.56

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## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### NOTE 9 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Assembly considers all highly liquid debt instruments with maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

At December 31, 1999, cash and cash equivalents included:

	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Book Value</u>
Amounts covered by FDIC Insurance	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Amounts covered by SIPC Insurance	612,947	612,947
Amounts covered by brokerage company insurance	644,655	644,655
Amounts uninsured	834,300	851,031
Total Cash and Equivalents	<u>\$ 2,291,902</u>	<u>\$ 2,308,633</u>

Differences between bank carrying value and book value are caused by deposits in transit and outstanding checks.



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**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

LIABILITIES

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$ 33,851.84
Michigan State Taxes W/H	891.95
City of Detroit w/H	151.50
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>34,895.29</u>

DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS

2,481,103.60

TOTAL LIABILITIES

2,515,998.89

FUND BALANCE

428,642.67

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

\$ 2,944,641.56

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## ADMINISTRATION

### INCOME STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Per Member Giving	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 810,427.21	\$ -39,572.79
Interest Income	66,410.00	96,876.51	30,466.51
Missionary Administration	25,000.00	32,984.35	7,984.35
Knox Fund Interest	45,000.00	34,350.27	-10,649.73
Other Income	8,000.00	5,176.57	-2,823.43
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>994,410.00</b>	<b>979,814.91</b>	<b>-14,595.09</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
<b>PERSONNEL</b>			
Stated Clerk Salary	73,637.00	73,636.98	.02
Program Staff Salaries	280,000.00	252,169.28	27,830.72
Support Staff Salaries	93,417.00	73,132.84	20,284.16
Staff Insurance/Pension	83,000.00	70,214.36	12,785.64
Professional Expense Allowance	7,500.00	4,581.81	2,918.19
Staff Travel/Expenses	36,000.00	32,673.63	3,326.37
Executive Travel	30,000.00	22,037.18	7,962.82
Taxes/Workers Compensation	26,000.00	26,099.67	-99.67
Officers and Directors Liability Insurance	5,600.00	5,000.00	600.00
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>635,154.00</b>	<b>559,545.75</b>	<b>75,608.25</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Contingencies	4,000.00	16,727.15	-12,727.15
Telephone	18,000.00	15,497.69	2,502.31
Office Supplies	10,000.00	8,126.33	1,873.67
Printing and Promotion	29,500.00	19,863.84	9,636.16
EPC Reflections	40,000.00	57,513.49	-17,513.49

ADMINISTRATION (CONTINUED)

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
Postage	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 24,140.97	\$ 359.03
Technology Support	7,500.00	14,579.01	-7,079.01
Financial Audit	4,000.00	3,300.00	700.00
Professional Fees	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	3,281.00	4,256.33	-975.33
Office Development	7,500.00	19,048.36	-11,548.36
Committee Travel	65,000.00	71,209.02	-6,209.02
General Assembly Administration	24,500.00	20,569.78	3,930.22
Staff Technical Training	2,000.00	195.00	1,805.00
Pension Fund Administration	6,000.00	6,175.09	-175.09
Fraternal Relations	10,000.00	9,574.49	425.51
Presbytery Development	3,000.00	3,874.69	-874.69
Leadership Development	1,000.00	1,054.34	-54.34
Christian Education Resources	1,000.00	793.44	206.56
Buckingham Rent/Taxes	75,600.00	90,136.96	-14,536.96
Buckingham Utilities	7,875.00	6,091.50	1,783.50
Buckingham Maintenance/Insurance	11,000.00	11,600.55	-600.55
Van Expense	2,000.00	1,251.54	748.46
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>359,256.00</b>	<b>405,579.57</b>	<b>-46,323.57</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>994,410.00</b>	<b>965,125.32</b>	<b>29,284.68</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ ---</b>	<b>\$ 14,689.59</b>	<b>\$ 14,689.59</b>

# EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

### BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 1999

<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash Bank – Checking	\$     —
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>          —</u>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	
Inter Fund Account	<u>    -43,896.64</u>
Net Surplus	<u>    43,896.64</u>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<u>          \$     —</u>

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**CHURCH LOAN FUND**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**DECEMBER 31, 1999**

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
Comerica Checking Account	\$ ---
Fidelity AM - CLF	195,256.08
Salomon SB - CLF Money Market	191,732.81
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b><u>386,988.89</u></b>
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>	
Notes Receivable - Heartland	---
Notes Receivable - Westkirk	11,250.05
Notes Receivable - Argentina	24,166.67
Notes Receivable - Faith EPC	24,583.33
Notes Receivable - North Park EPC	24,999.80
Notes Receivable - Elkton EPC	24,999.88
Notes Receivable - Tabernacle EPC	28,499.96
Notes Receivable - Cornerstone EPC	30,833.18
Notes Receivable - Christ Fellowship	30,656.87
Notes Receivable - Covenant Community	32,499.86
Notes Receivable - Covenant Presbyterian	39,583.25
<b>TOTAL OTHER ASSETS</b>	<b><u>272,072.85</u></b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$ 659,061.74</u></b>
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$ 659,061.74</u></b>

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## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

### INCOME STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Central South Presbytery	\$ 8,500.00	\$ ---	\$ -8,500.00
East Presbytery	2,000.00	800.00	-1,200.00
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery	8,000.00	6,400.00	-1,600.00
Midwest Presbytery	7,000.00	6,000.00	-1,000.00
Southeast Presbytery	6,000.00	8,000.00	2,000.00
West Presbytery	3,000.00	---	-3,000.00
Florida Presbytery	1,000.00	1,000.00	---
Mid-America Presbytery	8,000.00	5,127.00	-2,873.00
CPAC Income	4,000.00	4,700.00	700.00
CDC Other Income	---	1,820.87	1,820.87
CDC Carryover	---	43,578.65	43,578.65
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>47,500.00</b>	<b>77,426.52</b>	<b>29,926.52</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Church Consultation/Travel	1,200.00	---	1,200.00
CPAC Training	12,500.00	16,294.63	-3,794.63
Presbytery Development/Travel	10,000.00	351.00	9,649.00
Mission Pastor Training	---	---	---
Research/Development	14,000.00	3,780.00	10,220.00
Church Development Miscellaneous	9,800.00	13,104.25	-3,304.25
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>47,500.00</b>	<b>33,529.88</b>	<b>13,970.12</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ ---</b>	<b>\$ 43,896.64</b>	<b>\$ 43,896.64</b>

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## CHURCH LOAN FUND

### INCOME STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1999

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Contributions	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 10,490.00	\$ -310.00
Interest-Smith Barney Shearson	9,500.00	15,450.28	5,950.28
Heartland Interest	416.67	0.04	-416.63
Westkirk Interest	487.50	437.50	-50.00
Westkirk Challenge	324.99	112.50	-212.49
Argentina Interest	800.00	950.00	150.00
Faith EPC Interest	875.00	812.70	-62.30
Faith EPC Challenge	583.32	---	-583.32
North Park EPC Interest	1,392.00	1,392.00	---
North Park EPC Challenge	600.00	393.00	-207.00
Elkton EPC Interest	1,398.00	1,398.00	---
Elkton EPC Challenge	600.00	600.00	---
Tabernacle Interest	1,050.00	1,050.08	0.08
Tabernacle Challenge	700.00	699.96	-0.04
Cornerstone EPC Interest	1,694.16	1,732.74	38.58
Cornerstone EPC Challenge	716.62	476.82	-239.80
Christ Fellowship Interest	1,694.25	1,694.25	---
Christ Fellowship Challenge	724.98	639.48	-85.50
Covenant Community Interest	1,680.00	1,822.80	142.80
Covenant Community Challenge	733.32	760.04	26.72
Covenant Presbyterian Interest	2,101.50	2,094.43	-7.07
Covenant Presbyterian Challenge	900.00	922.23	22.23
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>39,772.31</b>	<b>43,928.85</b>	<b>4,156.54</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Administration Fee	1,000.00	675.32	324.68
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 38,772.31</b>	<b>\$ 43,253.53</b>	<b>\$ 4,481.22</b>

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The Geneva Statement

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*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*



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## MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

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'Christ gave some to be pastors and teachers to prepares God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up.' (Ephesians 4:11,12) From the human perspective, our Ministers are our greatest assets. The Ministerial Vocation Committee has as its mission to serve the Teaching Elders of our Denomination. We attempt to address issues that pertain to the ministry and health of our pastors. To the question, who pastors the pastor, comes the answer that often very few are available to really pastor our pastor. As much as is possible from an institutional perspective, we seek to serve in this way.

The Ministerial Vocation Committee met at the EPC office on November 18-20, 1999 and again on June 1-3, 2000. Members of this committee are Mr. John Allman, Mr. Jerry Alpert, Mr. Jim Cantey, Chaplain (Commander) 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 our Committee Clerk and helped us with innumerable occasions of word-smithing and motion-crafting.

### THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

- 1. The Andy Jumper Fund:** It is our hope to complete the funding of the Andy Jumper scholarship fund that assists EPC students attending Reformed Theological Seminary. On Motion: that the benevolence asking be set at \$50,000.
- 2. Candidate Process:** The committee met with Mel Conant, a candidate from the Denver area who was recently granted extra-ordinary status. The extra-ordinary status means that some of the formal educational requirements are waived and the Ministerial Vocations Committee is responsible for assigning a course of study in preparation for ordination. Mr. Conant was examined by the Committee and recommendations were finalized regarding his preparation for ordination. Every candidate under the extra-ordinary clause will be asked to meet personally with the Ministerial Vocations Committee before final recommendations are developed. The Committee also conducted a phone interview with the Rev. Buck Oliphant regarding Mr. Allen White, an extra-ordinary candidate serving under World Outreach in Kazakhstan. In lieu of taking an EPC Polity Course, Bill Moore and Ed McCallum will meet with Allen White during the week of June 19, 2000 for an oral examination on church polity.
- 3. Chaplain's Subcommittee:** TE Jumper reported the following actions: Brian Hill has completed chaplaincy school and was approved to receive ecclesiastical approval to serve as a Chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve. The Chaplain's Subcommittee initiated an annual reporting process for all chaplains and reports from each chaplain are being collected. Commander Jumper attended the meetings of the Endorsers Conference for Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy (ECVAC), National Conference on Ministry to the Armed Forces (NCMAF) and the National Association of Evangelicals Commission on Chaplains..
- 4. General Assembly Events:** Mark Jumper will speak briefly when Chaplains are introduced at the 20th General Assembly encouraging pastors to consider military chaplaincy. He will secure recruiting materials from each branch of the Armed Services and arrange a "duty rotation" at the MVC exhibit table for military chaplains attending the Assembly. The MVC will

invite ministers and their spouses ordained in the past two years to a dinner Thursday, June 22 with the Moderators of the 19th and 20th General Assemblies, the MVC Chairman and the Stated Clerk. A dinner for Chaplains will be arranged at Ward Church on Thursday, June 22. Paul Rettew will lead the Face to Face portion of the 20th General Assembly. The forms used at the 19th General Assembly will be used again. Information from Face to Face forms will be combined and reproduced as one packet and placed on the MVC table in the exhibit area. MVC Exhibit Table will include the following items: D.Min. information from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Reformed Theological Seminary, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Fuller Theological Seminary Westminster Seminary, Covenant Seminary, and Erskine Seminary; Face to Face packet; Articles from Leadership and Net Results; Material on military chaplaincy. Members of the MVC and military chaplains will staff the table.

5. **Procedure Manual (revision for 2000):** The committee solicited feedback from Ministerial and Candidates Chairmen and Presbytery Clerks in preparation for revising the Ministerial/Candidates Committee Manual. The entire manual was closely edited and the proposed amendments and additions can be found at the end of this report.
6. **The PIF and the CIF Forms:** We have permission from the Christian Reformed Church to adapt their Church Profile and Minister Profile which will become our Personal Information Form (PIF) and Church Information Form (CIF). On motion: to approve the Church Information Form as a document for use in the EPC.
7. **Problematic Portion of the BOG:** Three areas of the BOG were discussed - G.5-3 dealing with the formation of a new church and BOG 11.6 dealing with associate pastors being called to pastor with the pastor leaves the church and G-11-33 dealing with a Minister accepting a call not approved by Presbytery. Recommendations are listed at the end of this document.
8. **The Personnel Management Task Force:** Many of the ideas developed by this task force were placed in the Vision 21 - 2001 EPC Strategic Plan. On motion: That a task group be formed and charged with implementation of those elements having to do with the office of minister. The task group be composed of Bill Moore, Ed Davis and John Allman, convened by Bill Moore, with the understanding that a second person from the Committee (fourth task group member) will be added in the future.

#### **MATTERS REFERRED**

1. **From the 18th Assembly, to Study the feasibility,** effectiveness and benefits of a periodic sabbatical for teaching elders. On motion: that the Advisory Paper on 'Sabbatical' be approved and placed in the Ministerial/Candidate Procedure Manual.
2. **From the 18th Assembly, to recommend guidelines** for performance evaluation and feedback for the pastor's annual review by the Session. On motion: On Motion: that the Advisory Paper on Performance Review be approved as a draft copy.
3. **From Other Committees, to advise on opting out of Social Security** (from Board of Pension & Benefits). See motion under Recommendations.
4. **St. Andrews Proposal: Project of Theological Education for St. Andrews Presbytery** The Ministerial Committee of the St. Andrews Presbytery, in light of the possible indigenization of the Argentine churches, forwarded their Project of Theological

education for the Presbytery of St. Andrews to the MVC for review and comment. The Stated Clerk and members of the Ministerial Vocation Committee who are commissioners to the 20th General Assembly will schedule a time to meet with commissioners from St. Andrews Presbytery to discuss the proposal.

#### **OLD BUSINESS AND PENDING MATTERS FOR FUTURE MVC MEETINGS**

1. Letter to Inactive Ministers regarding their ordination and IRS limitations
2. Neutral Reference Policy
3. Interim Pastor Training
4. Additional Advisory Papers for Ministerial/Candidates Manual
  - a. Ministerial Ethics
  - b. Head of Staff and Staff Relationships
  - c. Early Warning Signs of Ministerial Turmoil and Preventative Measures and Coping Skills.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* be revised on the following pages: (Cf. MVC-1, pp.178-182)
  - a. Page 24 - back ground check
  - b. Page 28 - termination of candidacy
  - c. Page 47 - when the pastor intends to resign
  - d. Page 55 - Regarding out of bounds principles
  - e. Attachment 7 - Session Endorsement Form
2. That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidate Committees* be amended to include the following new forms: (Cf. MVC-2 pp. 183-193)
  - a. Advisor's Report
  - b. Preliminary Questionnaire
  - c. Check List for Evaluation
  - d. Reference Check Form
  - e. Items Sent and Received
  - f. Statement of Faith
  - g. Statement of Faith, part 2
  - h. Termination of Candidacy Form
  - i. Service of Ordination and/or Installation
  - j. Annual Report of Ministers of the Word
  - k. Church Information Form
3. That the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidate Committees* be amended to include the following advisory papers: (Cf. MVC-3, pp. 194-207)
  - a. Study Leave
  - b. Sabbatical
  - c. Performance Review: (to be approved as a working draft only which will be possibly included in the Manual at a later date.)
4. That the following substitutions to forms in the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and*

*Candidate Committees* be approved:

- a. Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery
- b. Terms of Call for Out of Bounds Ministers
- c. Personal Information Form

5. That G.11-13 be amended by substituting the word 'shall' for 'may.'

Present Wording	Proposed Wording
G.11-13 In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person may request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere. (Section 15-8).	G.11-13 In the event a Minister desires to accept a call not approved by Presbytery, that person <del>may</del> shall request inactive status from office under the conditions set forth elsewhere. (Section 15-8).

Grounds: Making inactive status mandatory rather than voluntary appropriately limits Presbytery's legal exposure for ministry exercised by one of its members but not sanctioned by the Presbytery.

6. That G.11-6 be amended to eliminate the word 'ordinarily' in the second sentence and ending the paragraph after the second sentence.

Present Wording	Proposed Wording
G.11-6 A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. Ordinarily, an Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor. However, if by a three-fourths vote of the Church Session, request is made to Presbytery through the Ministerial Committee for an exclusion, the Presbytery may approve the Search Committee of the congregation to nominate the Associate to the congregation as Pastor.	G.11-6 A congregation may call a Minister to serve as Associate Pastor and shall proceed in the same fashion as indicated above, with the exception that the call of the congregation shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate. <del>Ordinarily</del> An Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor.

Grounds:

1. Most Reformed bodies prohibit the possibility of succession.
2. Although there are occasional apparent exceptions, the General Assembly Office is aware of numerous situations in which the possibility of succession has resulted in turbulence, unrest, conflict or disruption within congregations.
3. Some have suggested that prohibiting succession binds the Spirit in his work of calling to ministry. However, the fact that the Holy Spirit works through the orderly processes of our church courts is a basic principle of our constitutional system of church governance.
4. Scripture affirms that God does not author confusion (1 Cor. 14). In our experience, the possibility of succession from within is more likely to generate unrest conflict and discord than it is the peace, unity and purity of the church.

7. That G.5-1 and G.5-2 be amended as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p><b>G.5-1</b> Presbytery has the exclusive right to organize, dissolve, dismiss or to receive from some other body a particular Church. While a Church Session has the duty and right to establish missions of the congregation or initiate extension work, this should be done always in consultation with the Presbytery. However, to organize into a particular Church is a right reserved to the Presbytery.</p> <p><b>G.5-2 The development of a mission church:</b> A mission church consists of a number of professing Christians, with their children, associated together for divine worship and godly living, agreeable to the Scriptures, and submitting to the lawful government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p> <p>The mission church, because of its transitional nature, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances, and at its own discretion, Presbytery shall provide for such government in one of several ways:</p>	<p><b>G.5-1</b> Presbytery has the exclusive right to organize, dissolve, dismiss or to receive from some other body a particular Church. While a Church Session has the duty and right to establish missions of the congregation or initiate extension work, this should be done always in <del>consultation</del> <u>cooperation</u> with the Presbytery. <u>Such cooperation includes informing Presbytery as early as possible of Session's intent and proposed location for a mission church (G.16-16.E).</u> However, to organize into a particular Church is a right reserved to the Presbytery.</p> <p><b>G.5-2 The development of a mission church:</b> A mission church consists of a number of professing Christians, with their children, associated together for divine worship and godly living, agreeable to the Scriptures, and submitting to the lawful government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p> <p><u>A mission church is distinguished from a particular church in that it has no permanent governing body, and thus must be governed or supervised by others. However, its goal is to mature and be organized as a particular church as soon as this can be done in good order.</u></p> <p><b>A. Governance:</b> The mission church, because of its transitional nature, requires a temporary system of government. Depending on the circumstances, <del>and at its own discretion,</del> <u>Presbytery government shall be provided for such government in</u></p>

- A. Appoint an Evangelist as prescribed in 10-3C of the **Book of Government** and entrust appropriate powers to that person.
- B. Cooperate with the Session of a particular church in arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church. The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.
- C. Appoint a commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church.

At the discretion of the temporary governing body, members may be received into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9. These persons then become confirmed or baptized members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Mission churches shall maintain membership rolls in the same manner as, but separate from other particular churches.

Mission churches and their members shall have the right of judicial process to the court having oversight of their temporary governing body. It is the further intention of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that mission churches enjoy the same status as particular churches in relationship to civil government.

by one of several ways means:

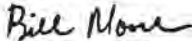
- 1. Presbytery may appoint an Evangelist as prescribed in 10-3C of the **Book of Government** and entrust appropriate powers to that person.
- 2. ~~Cooperate with~~ The Session of a particular church ~~in arranging a mother-daughter relationship with a mission church.~~ The Session may then serve as the temporary governing body of the mission church.
- 3. Presbytery or Session may appoint a commission to serve as a temporary Session of the mission church.

- B. **Membership:** ~~At the discretion of the temporary governing body,~~ Members may shall be received into the mission church as prescribed in Chapter 9. These persons then become confirmed or baptized members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Mission churches shall maintain membership rolls in the same manner as, but separate from other particular churches.

Mission churches and their members shall have the right of judicial process to the court having oversight of their temporary governing body. It is the further intention of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that mission churches enjoy the same status as particular churches in relationship to civil government.

8. The MVC reaffirms its support of the resolution (1997) pertaining to Social Security participation and recommends that the 20th General Assembly adopt the proposed advisory letter (**Communication 00-11**, p. 26).

Respectfully submitted,



Bill Moore, Chairman  
Ministerial Vocation Committee

June, 2000

## MVC-1

### 7. Steps In the Presentation of the Applicant to the Presbytery by the Ministerial Candidates Committee

The following are requirements in the acceptance process for Presbytery's Ministerial/ Candidates Committee.

#### Under Care of the Presbytery - G.12-2B)

- a. The Committee should notify the applicant of the time requirements before Presbytery can act on the application. See G.12-2A.
- b. The Committee should inform the applicant of the various required written documents that are needed (see Appendix - Attachment \*, "Candidates Check List - Items Sent and Received"):
  1. Session Approval Form(see Appendix - Attachment 6)
  2. Assessment Evaluation
  3. Physical Examination
  4. Transcripts from all schools above secondary level;
  5. Statement in writing of applicant's personal Christian experience and the events which had led to a sense of God's call to the ministry.
  6. The application to come under care (See Appendix - Attachment \*, "Application to Come under Care of Presbytery")
  7. PIF
  8. Preliminary Questionnaire - Statement of Faith - Final Questionnaire. The Committee may wish to ask the applicant to fill out the Preliminary Questionnaire as another way of gaining information from the candidate regarding his/her understanding of his/her call to ministry. As the candidate moves toward ordination, the Committee may wish to ask the candidate to complete the Statement of Faith and the Final Questionnaire. Each of these forms are found in the appendix.

9. Background Check: Note the following *Act of the Assembly*  
**98-15 Presbyteries shall perform a background investigation on all individuals seeking candidacy or membership in their Presbytery. The 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.**

Our first concern is to protect the safety of the flock under our care, and better secure the integrity of the household of faith. We are also concerned to strengthen the integrity of all information which is presented in the process of a call. We also note that by judicial precedent, any employer which fails to exercise due diligence and reasonable care to hire safe and competent employees exposes itself to legal liability for damages caused by employees so hired. We would thus protect the stewardship of the gifts given by God's people for the work of the Kingdom. The information requested in the background check is not confidential and is readily available on the public record, so violates no one's privacy.



### **13. Termination of Candidacy**

The normal process of candidacy is to shepherd the candidate through the appropriate steps that will lead him/her to ordination. Sometimes, however, a candidacy must be terminated.

#### **a. Reasons for terminating candidacy:**

1. The candidate decides he/she no longer wishes to pursue ordination;
2. The candidate decides he/she no longer wishes to pursue ordination within the EPC;
3. The candidate engages in behavior or embraces beliefs which would not be acceptable to the EPC ;
4. The candidate is making no progress over an extended period of time in pursuing ordination.

#### **b. Steps in Termination**

1. If it is the intent of the candidate to terminate his/her candidacy, he/she should be asked to put in writing to the Ministerial/Candidate Committee his/her desire to terminate candidacy.
2. If it is the intent of the Ministerial/Candidate Committee to terminate a candidate who has not requested termination, the Ministerial/Candidate Committee should put in writing its intent to the candidate with a listing of its reasons for seeking termination.
3. The Ministerial/Candidate Committee or one of its representatives should seek to meet with the candidate and discuss with him/her the intent to terminate candidacy.
4. The Ministerial/Candidate Committee should bring to Presbytery a motion to terminate the candidacy of the candidate;
5. If the candidate was accepted under care with extra-ordinary status the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery should inform the MVC of the decision of Presbytery to terminate candidacy (see Appendix - Attachment \*, "Termination of Candidacy Form").

## **V. DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS**

### **A. When the Pastor Intends to Resign His/Her Pastorate**

1. The first public knowledge of a Minister's intention to "resign his/her pastorate" shall be given by him to the Session of the church. He should advise the members of the Session of his/her intention to leave his/her present church and ask the Session to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of deciding whether to concur in his/her request.
2. The Session should proceed to arrange for such a congregational meeting immediately, care being taken to observe the required "two Sundays notice" (*Book of Government*, §8-1B and §15-2)

## V. DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

### A. When the Pastor Intends to Resign His/Her Pastorate

1. The first public knowledge of a Minister's intention to "resign his/her pastorate" shall be given by him to the Session of the church. He should advise the members of the Session of his/her intention to leave his/her present church and ask the Session to call a congregational meeting for the purpose of deciding whether to concur in his/her request.
2. The Session should proceed to arrange for such a congregational meeting immediately, care being taken to observe the required "two Sundays notice" (*Book of Government*, §8-1B and §15-2)
3. Normally a reception would be planned for the Minister and his/her family so that the congregation can express its appreciation publically to them.
4. Usually a Minister resigns his/her pastorate in order to respond to a call to serve in another pastorate or ministry. If the Minister has expressed his/her intention of not serving within the church as a Minister or in some other ministry approved by the EPC in the near future, Presbytery may consider placing him/her on inactive status (see pages 52 - 53 for limitations placed on an inactive minister). If the Minister will be actively seeking another call to ministry, the Presbytery may keep him/her on active roll as a Minister without call.

**G.8-1B** Notice of meeting: At least two Sundays notice shall be given. The purpose of the meeting must be stated in the call.

**G.15-2** The dissolution of a pastoral relationship: This relationship may be dissolved only by Presbytery. A congregational meeting shall be duly called and the congregation requested to concur with the Pastor in the request for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. If the congregation declines to concur, it shall appoint representatives to Presbytery to explain its action. The Presbytery shall then be the sole judge of whether or not to dissolve the relationship. In the event the congregation, in a duly called congregational meeting, votes to dissolve the relationship and the Pastor declines to concur, the congregation shall appoint representatives to Presbytery to explain its action. The Presbytery shall be the sole judge of whether or not to dissolve the relationship. The Presbytery may appoint an appropriate commission of Presbytery with authority to dissolve pastoral relationships.

### B. Procedures To Be Followed When Pastor Reaches the Age of 70.

1. When a Minister serving in any capacity in the Church reaches the age of 70, that relationship shall be terminated. The Minister is obligated to notify the Presbytery six months prior to his/her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Minister is then eligible to be reelected in the same relationship yearly with the approval of the Church Session and the Presbytery.

3. Normally a reception would be planned for the Minister and his/her family so that the congregation can express its appreciation publically to them.
4. Usually a Minister resigns his/her pastorate in order to respond to a call to serve in another pastorate or ministry. If the Minister has expressed his/her intention of not serving within the church as a Minister or in some other ministry approved by the EPC in the near future, Presbytery may consider placing him/her on inactive status (see pages 52 - 53 for limitations placed on an inactive minister). If the Minister will be actively seeking another call to ministry, the Presbytery may keep him/her on active roll as a Minister without call.

## **II. Regarding Request for Guidance for Out of Bounds**

1. Presbyteries should give serious attention to G.10-3F, which cautions Presbyteries to 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); (see Appendix - Attachment \*).
2. Presbyteries shall make diligent annual use of the form 'Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery.' The call to a 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.
3. 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;
4. When an out of bounds call is not approved, and the minister persists in that call, the procedures in G.15-8 apply. (See Acts of the Assembly, 99-11)

## **C. Missionaries and The Out Of Bounds Status**

EPC members who serve as missionaries are in a unique position because of their geographical distance from EPC Presbyteries. Some EPC missionaries are ordained and some are not. Some EPC missionaries serve under the direct oversight of the EPC World Outreach department, and some do not. In practice it might appear that all missionaries ordained within the EPC are serving "out of bounds." In reality, however, those EPC missionaries ordained and serving under the direct oversight of EPC's World Outreach department are serving under both the legal and the ecclesiastical authority of the church and would be within the boundaries of the EPC.

Ordained EPC missionaries who serve under the direct oversight of some other missions agency are serving "out of bounds." They serve under the ecclesiastical, but not under the legal, authority of the EPC. Their legal relationship lies with the agency under whose direct supervision they serve. This relationship with their primary mission agency is understood as the legal relationship which governs their ministry.

## ATTACHMENT 7

### SESSION ENDORSEMENT FORM

The normal process in which an EPC member moves toward becoming a candidate for the Gospel ministry includes the following initial steps:

- a A member senses God's leading to pursue the Gospel Ministry. This member talks to his/her pastor about his/her sense of call.
- a This member shares his/her convictions with his or her Session.
- a The Session encourages and interviews the member.
- a The member who is approved by Session is recommended to the Candidates Committee to be taken under care of the Presbytery. This form should be used to communicate to the Ministerial/Candidate Committee of Session's approval of the applicant.

Name of Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of membership: \_\_\_\_\_ years

Name and telephone of Elder completing this form: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What evidence/testimony does this person give of his or her salvation through death in Christ?
2. What evidence does this person give/demonstrate of his or her call to the Gospel Ministry?
3. Please mention in specific detail your observations regarding this person's potential fulfillment of the qualifications mentioned in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Mention specific strengths and weaknesses.
4. How do you evaluate this person's potential giftedness for the Gospel Ministry? Does the Session recommend this applicant for candidacy? Would this recommendation be with any qualifications? If so, what?
5. Does the person seem to sincerely desire to pursue God's will relative to the Gospel Ministry?

**STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION:** We, the Session of \_\_\_\_\_ Church, certify that the above applicant has been a member of the church since \_\_\_\_\_ and we commend this member to the Candidates Committee as an applicant for candidacy in the Gospel Ministry.

Signature of Moderator of this Session \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
224

June 2000

MVC-2

**ADVISOR'S REPORT**

*This report is provided for a Candidate's Advisor and should be used in his/her annual report about the candidate he is advising. It should be filled in and directed to the Candidates/Ministerial Committee for distribution at the last Presbytery meeting of the year.*

ADVISOR'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CANDIDATE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

1. In what ways have you communicated with and spent time with this candidate this past year?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In what specific ways has the candidate been involved in the worship and work of your congregation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Please indicate areas of service and ministry outside of your congregation in which the candidate has participated this past year.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Please share an update regarding the candidate's personal, intellectual, academic and vocational growth.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Are there any concerns and prayer requests that you or the candidate would like to communicate to the Presbytery? Are there any areas in which Presbytery can take a more active role in the life of this candidate?

## **PRELIMINARY QUESTIONNAIRE**

For the Candidate to complete and to return to the Ministerial/Candidate Committee

(Please TYPE out your answers and return to the chairman of the Candidates Care Committee)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe what factors have influenced you to consider vocational Christian service.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What kind of vocational ministry are you contemplating? How will ordination within the E.P.C assist you in accomplishing this ministry.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Describe how you are cultivating your relationship with God. What are you doing in the area of prayer, Bible reading and study, reading of Christian literature?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Describe your current and past involvement in the local church and/or in other areas of service, teaching, witness, ministry. Give approximate dates for each.

## CHECK LIST FOR EVALUATION

for use by Sessions and Candidate Committees in evaluating applicants for the Gospel Ministry

1. Evidence of a Call to the Gospel Ministry
2. Evidence of Giftedness for the Gospel Ministry
3. Observations of the Qualifications Mentioned in 1 Tim. 3: 1-7; Titus 1: 5-9
4. Areas of Service in the past That Reveal God's Blessings upon His Ministry.
5. How Would You Rate His Effectiveness in Communication:
  - public speaking
  - written communication
  - listening skills
6. Indications of Interpersonal Skills
  - able to connect with others
  - eye contact, manner, demeanor
  - motivational abilities, leadership skills
7. Administration
  - goal setting and decision making abilities
  - signs of success in, planning, organizing, delegating, recruiting, training.
8. Integrity
  - indications that he/she is trustworthy, truthful, dependable, responsible
  - any concerns about his handling of confidentiality, sexual purity, financial freedom
9. Sense of Personal Identity
  - is the applicant aware of his/her strengths, weaknesses, spiritual gifts
  - willing to take correction and criticism with discernment
  - evidence appropriate initiative, assertiveness, self-motivated, appropriate boldness
  - self esteem, self-confidence, stability, stress management skills, sense of direction;
  - positive and faith-filled outlook
10. Personal discipline
  - give evidence of practicing spiritual disciplines
  - use of time,
11. Knowledge
  - show evidence of intellectual abilities for seminary and ministry
  - able to handle the responsibilities of study, reflection, wise governance that fall on the Minister.

## REFERENCE CHECK FORM

To be used in a telephone interview with those listed in Candidate's PIF References

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Reference: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Contact? \_\_\_\_\_

*"The candidate has authorized us to contact you as a reference. He/she has signed a release stating that you are released from any claims or liabilities arising from your responses about him made in good faith and without malice."*

1. What is your relationship to the candidate?
2. How long have you known the candidate and how well do you know him/her?
3. The candidate is requesting to be under our supervision leading ordination as a minister of the Gospel/and minister as a military chaplain. How well suited do you think he/she is to pursue such a work?
4. How does he/she relate to children, teens, peers, older adults?
5. What would you say about his work habits?
6. What are your opinions about his/her Christian life and how he relates his Christian faith to his work and to others?
7. What are your thoughts about his/her moral and ethical behavior?
8. Is there anything I have not asked but that I should know about this person in making a decision about endorsing him for the ministry?



## **ITEMS SENT AND RECEIVED**

For use by Chair of Ministerial/Candidates Committee  
with Candidates

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. The Session Approval Form Date Sent: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_
2. The Candidacy Request Form Date Sent: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_
3. The PIF Form Date Sent: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_
4. The Preliminary Questionnaire Date Sent: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_
5. Report of Physical Examination Date Sent: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_
6. Report from Psychological  
/Career Evaluation. Date Sent: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_
7. Reference Checks Date Assigned: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_  
Committee Member assigned to telephone reference \_\_\_\_\_
8. Transcripts Date/School Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date/School Received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date/School Received: \_\_\_\_\_

*The items mentioned above should be received and evaluated before the decision to recommend  
candidacy to Presbytery.*

9. Statement of Faith, part 1 Date Sent: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_
10. Statement of Faith, part 2 Date Sent: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_
11. Advisor's Report: Date Sent: \_\_\_; Received: \_\_\_
12. Recommended Reading Date Sent: \_\_\_;
13. Exegesis Paper: Text Assigned: \_\_\_, Date assigned: \_\_\_  
Date received: \_\_\_

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

Candidate's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please **TYPE** out a statement of your own beliefs **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** about the following:

1. **THE BIBLE** (bibliology)
2. **GOD THE FATHER** (theology proper)
3. **JESUS CHRIST** (christology)
4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT** (pneumatology)
5. **MANKIND** (anthropology)
6. **SIN** (hamatology)
7. **SALVATION** (soteriology)

7. **SATAN** (satanology)

8. **ANGELS AND DEMONS** (angelology)

9. **THE CHURCH** (ecclesiology)

10. **THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE BELIEVER**

11. **FUTURE THINGS** (eschatology)

12. **EVANGELISM**

13. **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **Part 2 - Integration**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

(Please fill out this questionnaire and return it to the chairman of the Candidates Care Committee 2 weeks before you are scheduled to meet with that committee for your oral ordination examination.)

- 1. STATE IN YOUR OWN WORDS YOUR VIEW OF THE SCRIPTURES AND THE PLACE THE SCRIPTURES WILL HAVE IN YOUR MINISTRY.**
- 2. WHAT DISTINCTIONS OF THE REFORMED FAITH APPEALS TO YOU?**
- 3. WHAT/WHO IS THE "HOLY SPIRIT" AND HOW IMPORTANT IS HIS MINISTRY?**
- 4. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE CHURCH?**
- 5. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF THE PRESBYTERIAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT?**
- 6. EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS YOUR PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY.**
- 7. DESCRIBE THE YOUR APPROACH PERSONALLY AND AS A PASTOR IN A LOCAL CHURCH TO EVANGELISM.**
- 8. AS YOU REFLECT ON YOUR LIFE, EXPLAIN YOUR SENSE OF CALL TO MINISTRY**
- 9. ELABORATE ON YOUR CONVICTIONS ABOUT PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN YOUR LIVE AND IN THE LIVES OF CHRISTIANS TO WHOM YOU MIGHT MINISTER.**

## TERMINATION OF CANDIDACY FORM

This form should be used when a candidacy is terminated.

Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Presbytery \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Commencement of Candidacy \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Termination of Candidacy \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for Termination of Candidacy \_\_\_\_\_

List dates and results of written and personal communication of intent to terminate that Committee conducted with the Candidate:

Written Communication:

Committee Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Results? \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Meeting:

Committee Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Results? \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_ has been terminated of his  
Candidacy in the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Stated Clerk  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

One copy of this form shall be presented to Presbytery for action. If passed and the candidate is under the Extra-Ordinary Status, then a copy of the completed form shall be forwarded to the MVC committee at the GA office, 29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5, Livonia Michigan, 48154

## **SERVICE OF ORDINATION AND/OR INSTALLATION**

(This order of service is for advisement only; it shows where the different elements of ordination/installation may be placed in the flow of a worship service. Some may not wish to include as much singing or some of the other elements listed below. Soli Deo Gloria)

Call to Worship

Hymn of Praise

Invocation and Lord's Prayer and Apostle's Creed

Welcome, Explanation and Introduction of Commission

Scripture Reading

Anthem, Special Music, or Hymn

Announcements, Offering and Offeratory

Hymn

Sermon

Hymn

Constitutional Questions to the Candidate

Constitutional Questions to the Congregation

Prayer of Ordination/Installation

Declaration of Ordination/Installation

Charge to the Pastor

Charge to the Congregation

Hymn of Consecration or Victory

Appreciation and Dismissal of Search Committee

Benediction (usually by the one who was ordained/installed)

## ANNUAL REPORT ON MINISTERS OF THE WORD

*This report should be submitted to the Ministerial Committee annually along with the change in terms of call form.*

Presbytery \_\_\_\_\_ For year \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Minister of the Word \_\_\_\_\_ Church name \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Ministry at above mentioned Church \_\_\_\_\_

Major Responsibilities \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Major Accomplishments during the past year \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Change in Responsibilities for coming year \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Session Performance Review of Pastor: yes \_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_

Problems or Concerns \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Report \_\_\_\_\_

## MVC-3

### **'STUDY LEAVE'**

Ministerial Vocations Committee - June 2000

#### **BACK GROUND**

The 'Study Leave' provision is part of the Minister's Terms of Call. It represents a commitment on the part of the church and on the part of the minister to continue his education. Sometimes this provision has been abused; and in other occasions it has been neglected. Some consider 'Study Leave' simply an extended vacation time; others use it for inspiration but not for professional development.. The MVC suggests the following guidelines

1. The 'Study Leave' should be used to assist the Minister in doing a better job of his/her ministry. It is not an entitlement; but should produce results in skill/knowledge development useful in the church.
2. The Minister should be asked to put in writing for Session: where and what and why the 'Study Leave' will be used; and afterwards, a written report of what was studied; and how it will benefit the church as well as pastor.
3. The concept of a 'Study Leave' should be viewed as 'Professional Development', since the basic question to be asked is how this proposed study help the Minister do his/her job in a more effective and productive way.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

The concept of a 'Study Leave' represents a long history in the Reformed Tradition. It walks hand in hand with the commitment of providing an educated clergy as leaders in the church.(1 Tim. 3:15) Although historical experience has evidenced the peril of the pendulum, swinging between scholarship and piety, the Bible allows for no such divergence. We are commanded to grow both in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Pet. 3:18). Peter commands us to add to our faith, knowledge and to our knowledge godliness. (2 Pet. 1:5-7). Both Calvin and Knox were known for their scholarship and their devotion to Jesus Christ.

A 'Study Leave' is a leave of absence from the formal ministry for the purpose of study and renewal. It is a period of time set aside for personal and professional growth. One of the core values of the EPC is to continue a 'biblically educated leadership'. This value is incarnated in the provision for study and development through the Terms of Call document that requests time and resources for a 'Study Leave' for each ordained Minister.

The category of 'Professional Development' is very helpful in thinking through how to utilize the provisions of a 'Study Leave'. A 'Study Leave' should reflect the goals of professional development. It should contribute to effectiveness in ministry. Many courses, seminars, and classes have been developed that may help increase the competency of the pastor. Topics such as conflict management, administration, goal-setting and decision making, leadership development, crisis counseling and a host of others may be taken as a means of professional



development. At the same time, we must not think that a study of the mechanics and machinery of church ministry is sufficient for the Minister's needs. Ministry is a ministry of the Word and a ministry in the Spirit. Times that enhance our Biblical understanding, ministry skills and our walk of faith must continually be a part of our 'Study Leave' plans.

## QUALIFICATIONS

In the E.P.C., the Minister's terms of call include 2 weeks for 'Study Leave' annually. The Minister is encouraged to invest them each year for study. The Acts of the Assembly permit for 'Study Leave' to be accumulated for up to three years. Missionaries may accumulate up to 4 years of Study Leave and monies to be used in their 5<sup>th</sup> year. Except for Missionaries, 'Study Leave monies may not be accumulated.

Many denominations make no provision for the continued education of their clergy. We are fortunate to be a part of an historical tradition that places a priority on the cultivation, development and continuing education of its Ministers. However, some have misunderstood the purpose of the 'Study Leave' and not used it in the way it was designed. The 'Study Leave' is **not** designed to be additional vacation time. It is **not** designed to be used as time to read a few good books or catch up on the magazines unread during the year. **It is designed for focused study that will further the Minister's spiritual formation, deepen his/her Biblical understanding and enhance his/her ministry skills.**

## FINANCING THE 'STUDY LEAVE'

Regardless of the amount, money placed in the 'Study Leave' account should be treated as a 'Reimbursable Expense Account'. Money used from this account is not taxable. IRS requirements include documenting expenses and any money not used by the end of the year is returned to the general fund of the church. This means that the Minister would keep a record of expenses for each 'Study Leave' event and submit them to his treasurer for reimbursement within a month after the event. This also means that any money left in the 'Study Leave' account at the end of the year would revert back into the church's general fund. Use of 'Study Leave' money for purposes other than a study leave should be discouraged.

How much should be placed in the 'Study Leave' account? The tuition for attending a week long class or seminar, including the cost of room and board is expensive. Even with cost-cutting measures, the expense will run \$500 - \$1000. The local church may not be able to cover the entire expense of such a study leave. But some minimum amount will pay high dividends to the Minister who feels esteemed by his congregation and encouraged to continue his ministry with excellence. Perhaps an amount of \$400 - \$500 would be a suggested minimum.

## ACCOUNTABILITIES

A 'Study Leave' provision can be a great blessing to the church and to the Minister. As with all blessings, some boundaries need to be established to ensure that this provision is being properly

used. Every church should have a Personnel Committee (Personnel and Policy, or Pastor/Staff) that will work with the Minister and staff in church-related matters. The Minister should discuss with this committee the philosophy, practices and expectations regarding his/her 'Study Leave'. Often the Minister will need to take the high road in this matter for he/she may know more about the provisions for his/her 'Study Leave' than does the committee or Session members. He/she will want to work through the Personnel Committee to keep his/her Session informed of his/her 'Study Leave' plans.

#### **BEFORE THE 'STUDY LEAVE'**

The Minister should consult with the Personnel Committee in concert with his/her plans for a study leave. Some form of request that includes the date, purpose, nature of the 'Study Leave' should be forwarded to the Committee and through the Committee brought to Session. The following might be a form to be used for this purpose.

#### **STUDY LEAVE REQUEST**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ requests permission to be absent from his ministerial duties for a 'Study Leave' during the time period:  
\_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. 'The purpose of this 'Study Leave' is to \_\_\_\_ further my spiritual formation, \_\_\_\_ enhance my ministry skills and/or \_\_\_\_ deepen my Biblical understanding'. In the space below, please summarize your expectations for this study leave:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. This 'Study Leave' will involve (Class, seminar, independent study)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
(briefly explain the nature of the study leave, institution, etc; if an independent study is planned, please submit the plan of study)
  
4. Briefly explain what provisions have been made or will need to be made to cover Ministerial Duties while the Minister is away.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The Personnel Committee should bring the request for 'Study Leave' to the Session for information and/or approval. In the absence of such a committee, the above report should be presented directly to Session.

### **AFTER THE STUDY LEAVE**

A brief report should be presented to the Personnel Committee on the completion of the Study Leave. Such a report should include comments about the value of the study leave, insights, personal renewal, skills learned. A summary of this report could be presented to Session by the Personnel Committee.

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Many Ministers lose their cutting edge because they stop learning and growing. A properly administered 'Study Leave' can help keep the Minister from stagnating. Many Ministers have invested their 'Study Leave' into a D. Min program. Many such programs are available. Most of them are modular in nature, usually requiring a reading assignment before class, a week of classes, and then a post-class project often worked out in the structure of the local church. Although the cost for the D.Min program is greater than the annual 'Study Leave' allowance, if the student is patient, he can spread his studies and its costs over a number of years.

For the secure pastor, it might be advisable to interact with his Personnel Committee, asking them for suggestions of the areas of study they might suggest to improve his ministry. The local Presbytery might also be a good resource for ideas about 'Study Leave' possibilities.

## 'SABBATICAL'

Ministerial Vocations Committee - June 2000

### INTRODUCTION

A Sabbatical is a concept that traces its roots deep into the soil of the Scriptures. God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Old Testament regulations also informed farmers to give their land a year's rest after 6 years of productivity. Although the practice has been followed more closely in the academic community, Ministers from a wide diversity of denominational backgrounds are finding encouragement to consider a Sabbatical. Typically a Sabbatical is a paid leave of absence that facilitates further study, research, renewal prevention or recovery from burnout, writing, and/or the development of some appropriate project or undertaking that would be impossible under the current schedule. The 18th Assembly asked the Ministerial Vocations Committee to study the feasibility, effectiveness and benefits of a periodic sabbatical for Teaching Elders. A questionnaire was mailed to each E.P.C. church to solicit information about Sabbaticals as they were practiced on the level of the local church.

### DEFINITION

A Sabbatical is a period of time during which the Minister or staff person is relieved of his/her vocational responsibilities so he may experience new areas of ministry skills, education, exposure to the larger work of God in the Kingdom as well as find a measure of recovery from burnout and weariness in the ministry. It is neither vacation nor Study Leave. A vacation provides opportunities for the family for rest, enjoyment, renewal. A Study Leave provides opportunity for professional development, spiritual formation and growth in biblical understanding. A Sabbatical may include both rest and study, but its focus is on taking an extended period of time to recover from burnout, renew his/her walk with Christ, investigate a new area of ministry skills or study, undertake some project that will be incorporated into the local church. Normally it is granted after 6-7 years of ministry in the same place; hence the title 'Sabbatical'.

A Sabbatical is not an entitlement for the Minister that comes with ordination. Often the wise use of vacations and Study Leave, as well as the judicious following of appropriate time and work boundaries in the ministry will contribute to the continuing well being of the Minister. But the Presbytery and the Session of the local church may recommend a Sabbatical if they truly deem it important for the Minister and for the church.

### SABBATICAL CONCEPTS

David Carder, Assistant Pastor of Counseling Ministries at the First Evangelical Free Church of Fullerton CA, conducted a series of interviews with pastors who took a Sabbatical. He distilled from these interviews the following concepts which he presented at the Moody Pastor's Conference a few years ago:

1. A Sabbatical should take the Minister away from his place of ministry so he is disengaged from personnel, worship, programs and people of his church.

2. A Sabbatical should include a requirement that the Minister will return and serve at his place of ministry for a set number of years(2-4) after the Sabbatical is completed. It is agreed that neither pastor nor church will seek to make a change of pastorate during this time.
3. The ideal length of a Sabbatical appears to be between 10 and 15 weeks. Such a time period allows for disengagement from ministry and for focused study, spiritual formation, rest and renewal.
4. Additional funds may be needed to help with the costs of a Sabbatical. During a Sabbatical, the Minister is paid his full salary. But additional compensation may help with the cost of study, travel, and other expenses associated with a Sabbatical.
5. A Sabbatical may lead to the participant returning with a desire to shift or change the emphasis of his/her job description. Church leadership should be aware and prepared to discuss such thoughts with the Minister.
6. The highest levels of satisfaction appear to come from Sabbaticals that took the participants outside the usual realm of their past or present experiences. To visit the same old places for longer period of time is not as invigorating as doing at least some things differently during the sabbatical period.
7. A Sabbatical should be renewable. Sabbatical programs that may be repeated create less of a need to cram a 'once in a lifetime experience' into the first outing.

## GUIDELINES

In order to be granted a Sabbatical, the Minister should submit to Session a detailed proposal of how the time will be used. Approval of the Sabbatical rests with Session or appropriate judicatory. The request should be submitted at least 6 months prior to the beginning of the Sabbatical. The proposal should indicate:

1. The nature of the Sabbatical experience.
2. The specific goals of the Sabbatical.
3. The benefits of the Sabbatical to the Minister, his ministry and the local body of believers where he serves.
4. The time and duration of the Sabbatical.
5. Suggestions for filling the ministerial responsibilities during the Sabbatical.

## FEASIBILITY OF SABBATICALS

Survey responses from E.P.C. churches indicate that very few of them offer Sabbaticals to their staff. Some of them had never considered the possibility. Others indicated that the nature of their congregation would be such as to have great difficulty understanding why a Minister would be granted such an extended leave of absence from his/her work with pay. Churches that have a high percentage of professionals in the congregation seem to have greater proclivity to understand and provide Sabbatical opportunities.

Jay Beuoy, in the Summer 99 edition of 'Leadership Magazine', mentioned the importance in addressing attitudes about Sabbatical on three levels:

1. **With the Leadership Board:** He reported that most on the Leadership Board were neither for or against a Sabbatical; they were basically uninformed of its purpose and importance. He suggests giving a pamphlet to the leaders which will help them understand a Sabbatical. Such a pamphlet would:
  - a. Outline the unique nature of the Minister's work load: 6 day workweeks, no free weekends, week nights away from family, few free holidays, with the results that ministry can be stressful, wearisome, and discouraging.
  - b. List the benefits of a Sabbatical: a grateful Minister with a renewed vision, a more grateful Minister's wife, happier children, enhanced training, a deepening awareness of the love of the congregation for the Minister.

Jay noted two lessons he had learned from the educating his leadership board: first, to use the help of an outside source such a pamphlet from denominational headquarters, and secondly, to give enough lead time for the leadership to process the information and request. A pamphlet entitled 'Sabbatical Policy for Pastors' is available from the Evangelical Free Church at Great Lakes District, 1120 S. Calumet Rd., Unit 1. Chesterton, In, 46304

2. **With the Congregation:** The congregation will know even less than the Board about Sabbaticals. One of Jay's members came to an elder and said: 'I work two jobs to support my family and no one give me two months paid leave. I question Pastor Jay's work ethic.' Jay suggests distributing the same information to the congregation, directly, through the Newsletter, in discussions with members of the congregation.
3. **With the Minister himself:** Some ministers feel that the church will falter if they leave for a Sabbatical. Certainly the timing needs to be considered in light of the activities of the church. But with adequate planning, the church will continue its ministry during the absence of the Minister.

Jay concludes his Leadership article: 'A Sabbatical may seem too good to be true. As pastors, we're used to struggle and weariness. Yet, with a slight change of attitude on these three levels, you can get that needed rest. You, your family and your church will appreciate it.'

## TESTIMONY

Erik Ohman is the pastor of Parker Presbyterian Church in Parker Colorado. He had just returned from his Sabbatical when H. B London interviewed him on the 'Pastor to Pastor' program of Focus on the Family (tape # 33). Eric had gone on a Sabbatical for three months during the summer. He spent some time in mountains above Parker, in Scotland, traveling, resting, reading, praying and journaling. The following notes are summarized from his interview by H. B. London:

1. ***What led up to the plans for a Sabbatical?*** His wife noted that he looked tired all of the time. Others began to notice some classic symptoms of burnout- anger, frustration, weariness, loss of joy. He began to pray about a Sabbatical. The goals he clarified for a Sabbatical were to rest and to go deeper in his walk with Jesus Christ. Erik mentioned the importance of the pastor sharing with his leadership and laity his need for such a rest/recovery/renewal time in his ministry.
2. ***How would a Sabbatical be worked out in other and perhaps smaller churches?*** First talk with your spouse. Get her counsel regarding whether she thinks a Sabbatical is necessary. Discuss the concept with the Session and congregation. Build up to it. Talk about it down the road. Start planning for the contingencies during your absence. The people of God can do the work of God with appropriate training. In short, plan ahead; sell it to the leadership, make a case for its importance; trust leadership to carry on the ministry of the church.
3. ***What changes have taken place as a result of the Sabbatical?*** Erik said that the first change was that he has fallen more deeply in love with Jesus Christ. It is his opinion that the very best pastor, the most holy pastor is someone who is in love with Jesus Christ. Secondly he indicated that the Sabbatical has renewed his love for people. He finds himself more patient, more attentive, more focused in serving others for Christ's sake.

## CONCLUSION

A Sabbatical is a period of time during which the Minister or staff person is relieved of his/her vocational responsibilities so he may experience new areas of ministry skills, education, exposure to the larger work of God in the Kingdom as well as find a measure of recovery from burnout and weariness in the ministry. A Sabbatical is not an entitlement for the Minister that comes with ordination. Ordinarily the wise use of vacations and Study Leave, as well as the judicious following of appropriate time and work boundaries in the ministry will contribute to the continuing well being of the Minister. But the Presbytery and the Session of the local church may recommend a Sabbatical if they truly deem it important for the well-being of the Minister and for the church. The experience of Ministers from many Denominational backgrounds testify to the value and feasibility of a Sabbatical.

# PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SALARY

Working Draft

Ministerial Vocations Committee-June 2000

**DRAFT**

## HISTORY

The Standing Ministerial Committee of the 18th General Assembly discussed a number of issues related to the Minister in the local church. One of these dealt with the issue of the 'Performance Review' of the Minister and its relationship to salary recommendation for the coming year. GA asked the Ministerial Vocations Committee to investigate this area and come with some recommendations. The M.V.C. mailed a questionnaire to each E.P.C. church to solicit information about the annual performance review.

Although many of our larger E.P.C. churches have a fairly sophisticated 'Performance Review' process in place, some of our churches grapple each year with the practice of evaluating its Minister and staff as well with the issue of recommendations for annual increase (or decrease) in salaries. How and when should the Minister be evaluated? Who should conduct such an evaluation? Since the Minister is seeking to serve Christ, is a 'Performance Review' biblical? How should recommendations for salary increases be handled? Should equal increases be given to each staff of the same local church? Should increase be wedded to needs rather than performance? Should the annual cost of living increase be a factor of consideration? Should salary increases be wedded only to merit increases? Many questions and each one calls for serious and wise deliberation.

## DEFINITIONS

The 'Performance Review' is a formal evaluation of the performance of the Minister(s) and other staff members. It is an evaluation of the work that has been accomplished, typically since the last evaluation period. The 'Performance Review' is conducted on the backdrop of the position description which spells out the expectations of the church toward its Minister(s) and other staff members. It is not a judgment regarding the ultimate spiritual life and God-directed service of the individual. As Paul so aptly said: 'who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand for the Lord is able to make him stand' (Rom. 14:4). Furthermore Paul wrote to the Corinthians - 'I care very little if I am judged by you ... I do not even judge myself. It is the Lord who judges me.' 1 Cor. 4:3. Regardless of our career or vacation or employment, each of us will give an account to God of the way we have used our time, talents and treasure for His Kingdom.

The performance review, however, focuses on the work related to employment in the local church. It is a reality check. It is an opportunity to give and receive feedback about the major responsibilities, goals, projects, accomplishments and skills involved in related to the Minister or staff member's work. It is a time to speak the truth in love about the work of the ministry over the past evaluation period. In the parables, Jesus often taught the importance of accountability.



Paul (2 Thes. 3:6-10) was hardest on those who thought they could draw on the resources of the Christian community without working. Accountability is unpopular today. None of us really likes to have his/her work evaluated by someone else. We don't mind being commended, but we don't really want to hear anything negative about our performance. When we receive pay from a church, however, we understand that we are being paid for the work that we are asked to do. And implicit in such an arrangement is an understanding that our work will naturally be evaluated.

**The value of a regular 'Performance Review' are obvious:**

**1. It encourages a close examination of the original position description and an evaluation of the major responsibilities that came with the position.** The following questions are preparatory for such a performance review: Why was the staff member brought to this local church? What was he/she asked to do? How well is he/she doing in accomplishing the responsibilities of his/her position description? Has his/her role in the church changed? Does his/her position description need to be changed to reflect new or different responsibilities assigned to him/her?

**2. It permits discussion of expectations; the expectations of the church and the expectation of the staff member.** In this setting, an honest exchange of how well these expectations are being met can be processed. Sometimes the staff member thinks he/she is doing a great job but his supervision has a different perspective. Or the opposite might be true. The 'Performance Review' provides a forum for discussing expectations and clearing the 'pipe lines' for open communication.

**3. It fosters an evaluation of results within a limited time period.** Every position description contains implicit and explicit responsibilities that will be undertaken during the time of ministry at the local church. A 'Performance Review' is an opportunity to reflect on these results as they have been carried out during the past 6 months - 1 year, to discuss accomplishments and failures, successes and frustrations, and to set goals for the next work period. Ultimately we are called to faithfulness in our ministry to the Lord. But faithfulness is wedded to fruitfulness. The 'Performance Review' sets the stage for evaluating not only the time and plans invested in work, but also the fruit or lack of fruit in the assigned areas of ministry.

**4. It provides a protection for the staff person.** God looks with great disfavor on those who are lax in doing the Lord's work (Jer. 48:10). As iron sharpens iron, so one may sharpen another. A 'Performance Review' can be the occasion of sharpening the vision, skills, and commitment to diligently serving the Lord in the life of the Minister and other staff members. It also provides a 'paper trail' of evaluation in case a Minister or staff person were to come under the criticism of members of the congregation as to the effectiveness of his/her work.

## **PROCESS**

The process of 'Performance Review' differs among our E.P.C. churches. The review of the Minister is handled by the Session or a sub-set of Session. In some cases, each Session member is asked to complete an evaluation form about the Minister, and the results are summarized and communicated to the Minister by the Personnel Committee or an Executive Committee composed of the Clerk, the chair of Finance Committee and the chair of the Personnel Committee. In other churches, the 'Performance Review' of the Minister is conducted by an Executive Committee composed of a smaller number of elders such as the sub-set mentioned above. It would be the advice of the MVC that the Minister be evaluated by a sub-set of Session, a few elders who would approach this task with great sensitivity and seriousness.

When there are other staff members, the Minister or immediate supervisor conducts their evaluation. In some cases, the Minister performs the review of all other pastors and program staff. Or there may be a division of labor within the staff for such reviews. A music director might evaluate the choir director and organist. An assistant Minister might evaluate program staff under his oversight. It would be the advice of the MVC that each staff person be evaluated by his/her immediate supervisor. To complete an adequate performance review, every church should be able to answer in the affirmative the following questions:

1. Does each staff person, including the (Sr.) Pastor have a position description?
2. Does each staff person have goals that have emerged from the position description, which both the staff person and his/her supervisor understand and to which both have agreed should be pursued within the time period to be evaluated.

The results of all evaluations are usually communicated to the Personnel Committee. That Committee can present this information to Session when appropriate.

## FORMS

The forms used in E.P.C. churches for the annual 'Performance Review' vary from simple to sophisticated. In general a performance form will provide space for comments on the following areas;

1. **Key result area:** major responsibilities as mentioned in the Position Description. Space may also be allotted beside each major responsibility for specific duties related to each responsibility and comments about the achievement of these duties..
2. **Key projects and initiatives** - new programs or events that were initiated in concert with goals and objectives. What are the new areas of ministry that are being undertaken? Was there a major event or program that was initiated this past year? How successful were they?
3. **General Factors and skills related to ministry.** This includes a listing of areas

that impact the work of the ministry and may be focal points for evaluation and discussion. The following areas are typically included: quantity of work, quality of work, motivation level, vision, goal setting, spiritual life, staff relationships, congregational relationships, problem solving, communication skills, public preaching and teaching, initiative, creativity, work habits, leadership, administration, mentoring/leadership development, planning and decision making.

**4. Specific goals, ideas, emphases or changes for the next year.** One of the major results of the 'Performance Review' should be to establish goals and objectives for the next year. As the position description is reviewed, as the projects and activities of the past year are evaluated, and as the needs, opportunities and vision for the coming year are assessed, specific goals should emerge that can be put in writing. To a large degree, these goals become the checkpoints for discussion at the next performance review.

**5. Measurements of performance should be conducted on some type of scale.** Some may use a three fold scale - below average, average and above average; others may use a five-fold scale; unacceptable; unsatisfactory, satisfactory; above average; excellent. Most of us like to be 'feel-good' people who only affirm and commend our staff members. But for the sake of improvement and in a commitment to the good stewardship of our resources, E.P.C. churches through their Session and Minister are called to give honest feedback and evaluation to staff members. Some scale will need to be utilized that reflects a straight-forward evaluation. See the suggested form at the end of this article.

**6. Other considerations.** Often an evaluation form is used by both the evaluator and the evaluatee. Both are instructed to complete the form and then meet to discuss their observations. This process encourages the staff member to evaluate himself/herself and it also provides a basis for the evaluator to record his evaluation and interact with the evaluatee. **The performance evaluation may also serve as an opportunity to discuss in more detail the personal development of the staff member.** Under this heading, the following questions may be explored:

- \* what are your ministry aspirations for the next 3-5 years?
- \* what goals would you articulate for your personal and professional development during the next year?
- \* what plans might you formulate to accomplish goals mentioned above?
- \* how would you like to spend your next study leave?

The Performance Review should also be curtailed to deal with the staff person under evaluation. Sr. Leadership would be evaluated on issues related to vision, staff development, and over-all leadership of the church. Other program staff would be evaluated with a greater focus placed on the accomplishment of goals that were established at the beginning of the evaluation process. Support Staff would be evaluated with a priority placed on their work skills.

#### **TIMING**

The timing of a 'Performance Review' is important to the purposes of the review. Typically a

church year follows the momentum of the school year. Plans for programs and ministries are designed to be implemented during unfolding of the year, often beginning in September as families return from their summer vacation and as school calls children back to their studies.

A major 'Performance Review' should therefore be scheduled sometime in the late Spring. During this review, the work of the previous year can be evaluated and plans for the new year can be discussed. Some churches also conduct a mid-year review, during the early winter. A mid-year review gives a platform for feedback on the progress to date and for helpful discussion that might assist in the work that has been planned.

## **SALARY CONSIDERATIONS**

Most churches have developed some form of salary review for their Minister and staff. The larger churches often have a written policy that informs such a process. But many churches wade through hours of discussion each year about the appropriate ways to handle salary increases (or decreases) for the Minister(s) and staff. Some of our churches are struggling to survive financially and would love to pay their Minister and staff a larger salary but can not. And some churches are paying their Minister and staff a very generous salary.

Salary considerations address two major issues. The first speaks to the adequacy of the base salary of the Minister and other staff members. Geography, size of church, and years of ministry will all impact this figure. Information showing average salary figures for churches correlated to church position and church size are compiled annually. A copy may be available at the E.P.C. office and would show you the range of salaries paid for church positions in comparable churches.

The second salary consideration speaks to the annual adjustment in compensation. How does the Session make these decisions? What is a reasonable process to follow in arriving at the recommendations for annual salary adjustments for the staff at a local church?

Each church will develop its own methods of processing these important decisions. One way would be to connect the annual 'Performance Review' with salary recommendations. If measurements on the 'Performance Review' were on a scale of say 1-5, then the Personnel Committee could ask that it be provided with a number (1-5) representing the summary of the 'Performance Review' for each Minister and staff person. In conjunction with the Finance Committee, the Personnel Committee could decide what amount of money would be available for increase in staff compensation.

Some churches take into consideration the annual cost of living increase by making it equal to a satisfactory rating on the review. The staff person who received a rating higher than satisfactory would receive a merit increase above the annual cost of living increase; and the staff person who received a rating lower than satisfactory would receive less than the annual cost of living increase.

# ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW FORM

E.P.C. CHURCH NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Staff member name \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position title \_\_\_\_\_ Period of Review \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of last review \_\_\_\_\_ Date of current review \_\_\_\_\_

**KEY RESULT AREA**  
(from position description)  
excellent)

**SPECIFIC DUTIES**  
(unacceptable-unsatisfactory-satisfactory-above average-

**RATING**

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 1. |
|    | 2. |
|    | 3. |
| 2. | 1. |
|    | 2. |
|    | 3. |

**KEY PROJECTS AND INITIATIVE**

**COMMENTS**

**RATING**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**SKILLS /WORK ISSUES**

**DESCRIPTION**

**RATING**

1. Administration
2. Quality and quantity of work
3. Self-motivated
4. Leadership development
5. Setting goals and priorities
6. Planning and organizing
7. Problem solving
8. Creative thinking
9. Diplomacy and team work
10. Communication
11. Delegation

## SUMMARY

**GOALS for Next Work Period**

**Action Plans**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**COMMENTS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature) date: \_\_\_\_\_

**By Evaluator**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(signature) date \_\_\_\_\_

**By Evaluatee**

\_\_\_\_ I agree  
\_\_\_\_ I disagree

( if you choose not to sign, please submit a written explanation)

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## MODERATOR'S REPORT

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Dear Christian Friends,

Lucy and I are profoundly grateful for the past year's opportunity to represent you across our great United States as well as in Brazil and Argentina. The Ward Church family has been very gracious to support our work and absence on behalf of the Assembly, and to support us in prayer. In the Providence of God, we were able to visit every presbytery. I discovered a good spirit of unity and cooperation, and an agreement on the real "essentials" which ought to occupy our time. Our *Book of Government* (1-5) states that there are four vital characteristics of the Church:

1. Rightly preaching the Word of God ;
2. Rightly observing the Sacraments;
3. Practicing biblical discipline;
4. Maintaining loving fellowship.

I have found these healthy characteristics in every presbytery.



*James McGuire, Moderator*

Several issues currently occupy our corporate and private concerns: the relationship of the Essentials of our Faith to the Westminster Confession of Faith; affordable major medical coverage; aggressive planting of new churches, and women in ministry. Of them all, the first two create the most discussion, the third we all agree on, and the last, so far, we have refused to allow to become a separating issue.

Regarding the Essentials issue, we have an Ad Interim Committee that will bring a recommendation to the 21<sup>st</sup> Assembly. On the major medical issue, we know in the end we will find the best and most agreeable way to assure affordable, quality care for us all. On the planting of new churches, every presbytery and several individual churches are pressing to make things happen, and the leadership within the presbyteries and from Bill Meyer, our National Outreach Director, is paying off. The final issue of ordination of women as teaching elders is focused at the presbytery level, where the authority to ordain teaching elders resides.

Some churches choose to ordain women, and some do not. Some presbyteries seem closed to women as teaching elders, while others are open. What if your church believes calling women as teaching elders is improper, and you are in a presbytery which ordains women? What if your church believes it should call a woman as a teaching elder, but you are in a presbytery which will not allow you to do so? A large part of the resolution of this issue lies in your understanding of God's leading through the jointly made decisions of presbytery. But there is also another part not to be left unsaid: are you able to allow that another church in your presbytery just might be led by God to accomplish its particular mission in a way which you believe is not your way? And, are you open to

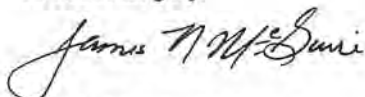
granting that church the freedom to pursue that mission with your love? This question applies to both those for women's ordination and those against.

This issue has practical implications for the already difficult task of church planting. Some want to support new church plants that have only men as ruling and teaching elders, and some want to support new church plants that allow women as ruling and teaching elders. The question for presbyteries to answer is "How can our churches walk together in this matter and give real support to each other in planting new churches?"

Remember, the EPC has determined constitutionally that women's ordination is a non-essential. My plea is for vigilance to keep it so.

"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

To God be the glory.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James N. McGuire". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James N. McGuire, Moderator  
19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

June, 2000



Rodger Woodworth, Chairman



National Outreach  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church



Bill Meyer, Director

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## NATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

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The National Outreach Committee met in two stated meetings since the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, September 30 – October 2, 1999 and March 16 – 18, 2000. The Committee consists of:

TE Bob Wilbur	TE Eli Morris	RE Bill Bumford
TE Jim Murphy	RE Ron Whalen, JR	TE Wayne Hoffman
TE John Cedar	TE Rodger Woodworth	RE Carolyn Nystrom

The mission you have given National Outreach is: ***“To labor with God to build a movement of growing and multiplying churches.”*** We are happy to report to you that the commitment of our churches and members to this mission is increasing at every dimension of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

**I. CHURCH PLANTING: *To equip and empower people to plant churches and effectively fulfill the Great Commission.***

**A. The Need**

***“In the United States of America we close 72 churches every week, and start 24 new churches every week. That is a net loss of 48 churches per week = 2,496 churches lost per year.” ASCG***

**B. Key Cities:** to plant multiplying churches in cities of over 1 million people with no present EPC presence.

**Hope Church – San Antonio, TX** is your current Key City church plant. Evangelist Tom Masterson began work there April 1, 1999. Hope Church celebrated its Grand Opening Worship Service on Palm Sunday, April 16, 2000 with 133 people worshipping God. Hope Church was established as a Mission Church of Central South Presbytery at its April 29 meeting. The church is currently being governed by the Oversight Committee established by the NOC. Its members are RE Reese Baker, TE Rhett Payne, TE Bob Stauffer, TE Craig Strickland, TE Bill Meyer. We rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord and His people to supply the needs of this new church. It ended its first fiscal year March 31, 2000 with its budget being over-subscribed and under-spent. Please continue to pray for Tom, Kathy & Sydney Masterson, and Pastoral Assistant Darden Caylor and his family.



**C. Churches Begun Since the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:**

<u>Highline Community</u> Englewood, CO Mel Conant	<u>Good Shepherd</u> Warrenton, MO Charles Plant
<u>Jacob's Well</u> Kansas City, KS Tim Keel	<u>Hope Church</u> San Antonio, TX Tom Masterson
<u>New Heart</u> Muskegon, MI Ron Amos	<u>New Covenant</u> Burgaw, NC Stephen Keller
<u>Warehouse 242</u> Charlotte, NC Todd Hahn	<u>North Grove</u> Wilmington, NC Bill Solomon

**D. Presbytery Church Development Committee Chairman**

January 7-8 saw the chairmen of the Presbytery CDC's gather in Detroit with the National Outreach Director to interact with each other, share ideas & plans, and generally discuss the state of church planting in their Presbyteries and the denomination as a whole. One of the conclusions reached was that we operate most often as individuals rather than as a family—individual larger churches actively doing their thing, individual Presbyteries doing their thing, the General Assembly through the NOC doing its thing. One of the commitments made by this group was to seek to accomplish more by doing more things together.

**II. CHURCH VITALITY: *To provide presbyteries and congregations the necessary resources to positively impact church vitality.***

**A. The Need**

*"85% of churches in America are on a growth plateau or are declining." ASCG*

**B. Bartlett Hess Award for Church Vitality**

The Award was established by the General Assembly to recognize churches that are examples of Church Vitality. The NOC announces that Forest Hill Church, Charlotte, NC has been chosen for this Award. Several years ago the Lord gave the church a vision for outreach. At the same time there was a need for a new worship facility. Believing that the Lord could accomplish both, they contributed financially to a inner-city church, committed to planting daughter churches every 18 months. (Lake Forest Community and Warehouse 242 are two that have been planted, and a third is in the works.) Forest Hill also built the new worship facility. We commend them for fully committing to the vision the Lord has given them, and encourage all our churches to follow their example.

### **C. Resources for Church Vitality**

There are many resources available. Churches are encouraged to contact Bill Meyer for ideas and suggestions that may be of help to your congregation.

## **III. EVANGELISM: *To equip and encourage churches to effectively reach their communities with the Gospel.***

### **A. The Need**

*“Evangelical Churches have failed to gain an additional two percent of the American population in the past fifty years. In other words, we are not even reaching our own children.” G. Barna, American Profile*

### **B. Lighthouses – Houses of Prayer Everywhere**

The NOC recommends this method as a way of involving every family in the congregation in personal evangelism. It follows the simple formula of **Pray, Care and Share**. Materials are available at the display area or contact Bill Meyer.

## **IV. URBAN MINISTRY: *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.***

### **A. The Need**

*It is estimated that 90% of the approximately 40 million urban poor in the USA are unchurched. This is a people group of 36 million people.*

- B.** We have two urban EPC churches—New Hope, Pittsburgh, PA pastored by Rodger Woodworth, and Military Ave., Detroit, MI pastored by Randy Brown. You are encouraged to contact these pastors and learn of their ministries and the opportunities in the urban centers.

## **V. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. In response to the 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly’s instruction that the NOC “develop a provision for national home missions,” the NOC recommends that the Master Plan for National Outreach be amended by adding:

**“Strategic Area #5 HOME MISSIONS: To enable workers to present the love of Christ to English-speaking people groups in the USA unreached by the established church.**

### **Objectives:**

- 1. To identify unreached English-speaking people groups in the USA needing Christ’s love.**
- 2. To find and nurture qualified missionaries who will live with these groups.**
- 3. To assist these workers in securing funds for their ministries;**
- 4. To work toward establishing churches among these peoples, or, if not possible, to link them with existing churches.**

*Rationale:* Many people within the USA are unserved (or under-served) by the established church. For example, Native Americans, migrant workers, rural & urban poor, handicapped individuals, families of recent immigrants, homeless people, substance abusers, prison & jail inmates and their families. This will enable NOC to call Home Missionaries to minister to these peoples and to enable these Home Missionaries to raise necessary support from our congregations.

2. In response to the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly's instructions to the NOC "to propose a plan for funding church planting" the NOC recommends the approval of this **Plan for Funding Church Planting:**
  1. A 3-year campaign to raise \$750,000 be started January 1, 2001;
  2. Contributions to the fund will be sought from Presbyteries, churches and individuals;
  3. The Fund will be used as follows:
    - Two-thirds for church/Presbytery/NOC partner projects.
    - One-third for NOC initiated projects.
  4. Church planters of NOC approved projects will be required to raise 50% of their compensation package for a period of three years. (Part of this may be accomplished by being a bi-vocational church planter.)

*Rationale:* The \$750,000 is approximately double what has been received through the Church Planting and Key City Benevolence Askings. The Committee believes that with a broad-based campaign that encourages grass-roots church planting as well as NOC-initiated plants, the church-at-large will respond. Furthermore, when church planters participate in the fundraising effort, several benefits are derived:

- They become more fiscally aware;
- Supporting churches identify more closely with people;
- The planter's commitment & aggressiveness is demonstrated.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rodger Woodworth  
Chairman, National Outreach Committee

William Meyer  
National Outreach Director

5/18/00

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## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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The Nominating Committee convened on April 28, 2000 at the General Assembly Office in Livonia, Michigan. The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. with prayer. Stated Clerk Edward Davis met with the committee and discussed the guidelines and requirements as they pertained to the work of the committee.

Committee members present were chairman Jack Sherard, Nancy Stewart, John Ward, Steve Wilkinson and Frank Johnson who participated by telephone. The committee recessed at noon on April 29 following by two reconvened meetings on May 24 and May 30 whereby the work of the committee was continued by teleconference.

The Nominating Committee will reconvene at 9:00 p.m. June 21 at the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* in Section 10-4.2 to change March 31 to April 30 so that the section reads as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
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 <u>March 31</u> of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.	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 <u>April 30</u> of that year. The Endorsement for Nomination shall be used and shall reflect official action of the Session or the Presbytery.

Grounds: This change would permit receiving information from Presbyteries that meet in April that are pertinent to the June General Assembly.

2. That the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* in Section 10-4.4 to change April to May so that the section reads as follows:

Present wording	Proposed wording
4. The Committee shall meet in <u>April</u> each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.	4. The Committee shall meet in <u>May</u> each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.

Grounds: This change would permit receiving information from Presbyteries that meet in April that are pertinent to the June General Assembly. Also, an April Nominating Committee meeting conflicts with a number of these April presbytery meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sherard, Chairman  
256

June, 2000

## SLATE OF NOMINATIONS

### COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Class of 2003 RE Knox Sherer (Mid-Atlantic)  
TE Bill Hyer (Mid-Atlantic)  
RE Virginia Patterson (Mid-America)

### COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

Class of 2003 Cher Curtis (Mid-America)  
RE Dan Tidwell (Central South)

### COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Class of 2003 TE Perry Mobley (Mid-Atlantic)  
RE Steele Stewart (East)  
Class of 2002 TE Russ Ragon (Southeast)

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION

Class of 2003 RE Jim Cantey (Central South)  
TE Art Hunt (Mid-America)

### COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

Class of 2003 TE Ron DiNunzio (Florida)  
RE Charles Overstreet (Mid-Atlantic)  
TE Marty Martin (West)

### COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW

Class of 2003 RE Buck Russell (West)

### COMMITTEE ON STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Class of 2003 TE Bryan Land (Central South)  
RE Reg Smith (Southeast)  
Class of 2001 RE Fred Albaugh (Midwest)

### COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

Class of 2003 RE Charles Haden (Central South)  
TE Tom Ricks (Mid-America)  
Class of 2002 TE Donald Sweeting (West)

### COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Class of 2003 Wendy Johnson (East)  
Margaret Donato (Central South)  
Class of 2002 Karen Vogler (Mid-America)

**COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH**

Class of 2003	RE Howard Hjelm (East)
	TE Sam Rowen (East)
	RE Bern Draper (West)
Class of 2002	Ed Randal (West)

**BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS**

Class of 2003	RE Milton Knowlton (Central South)
	RE Bill Johns (Southeast)

**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

Class of 2003	RE Charles Talbot (Midwest)
	TE Don Mason (Florida)
	RE Dave Shira (Central South)

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

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**COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**

TE Richard Alberta	RE Linda Kummer
RE John Allman	TE James Letizia
TE Greg Anthony	RE Arnold Lindseth, Jr.
TE Michael Boulware	TE Julio Lopez
TE David Brogren	RE Robert McLean
TE David Brown	TE David McLean
TE Gerald Brundle	RE Ken Mitchell
RE William Bumford	TE David Moncla
RE Hugh Burnes	RE Al Moore
RE Frank Carter	RE Donald Nelson
TE David Chadwick	TE Robert Norris
RE Stan Davis	RE Bill Painter
RE Ronald DeHaas	RE Keith Parkhill
TE Neil Ellison	TE Rhett Payne
RE Gary Fields	RE W.A. Ray
TE Bill Flannagan	RE Colleen Rinehart
RE Bill Gross	RE Ken Roberts
RE Donald Harms, <b>Chairman</b>	RE Sandy Russell
RE Jim Harris	TE Ronald Sadlow
TE Barney Heyward	RE Melvin Smith
TE Wayne Hoffman	TE Neil Smith
TE Jim Holland	TE Ramona Spilman
TE Mark Hudson	RE Steele Stewart, Jr.
TE Marc Huebl	TE Craig Strickland
RE Jerry Hulick	RE Kent Talbert
TE Gene Huntzinger	TE James Van Dyke
TE Bill Hyer	TE David Wahlstedt
RE William Irwin	RE William Walker
RE Connie Jennings, <b>Clerk</b>	RE Frances Wall
RE William Johnson	TE Gary Westra
TE Richard Kidd	RE Robert Wood
TE Doug Klein	RE Richard Young
RE Dexter Kuhlman	

**COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS**

RE Will Albritton	TE Glenn Marshall
RE Kevin Alder	TE Travis Martin
TE Bruce Anderson	TE Tom Masterson
TE David Baer	RE Frank Mathias
RE Bob Barnhart	RE Jim McCormick
TE Bud Brainerd	RE Ken Millice
TE Steve Bristol	TE Tom Musselman
TE Gordon Calbreath	RE Henry Phelps
TE Jamie Cupschalk	RE David Rilling
TE Tony DeOrio	RE John Rudd
TE Donald Fortson, III	RE Gerald Selle
RE Ron Grant	RE Gerald Streichert
RE Edward Halash	RE Daniel Tidwell
TE Scott Janney	TE Craig Vanbiber
TE Lee Kizer	TE Allen Wallace
RE Gordon Kummer	TE Richard Wells
RE Anne Litzenberger	RE Alvin Woods
RE Barbara Mansfield, Clerk	TE Alan Wright, Chairman

**FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

RE Doug Balch	RE Gary Henderson
TE Percy Burns	RE Bill Holmes
TE Dan Burns	RE William Hornsby
RE Ross Case	TE Dick Little
TE Ron DiNunzio	RE Lew Mix
TE Glenn Ferrell	TE John Patterson
RE Jack Ficara	RE Joseph Slesinski, III
TE Brett Garretson	TE Bradley Strait
TE Danny Gilbert, Chairman	RE Marty West
TE Chuck Gosling	RE Chris Wolschon
TE William Hampton	

**MEMORIALS AND APPRECIATION COMMITTEE**

Re Richard Hite	TE Bill Read, Chairman
RE Bob Marlow	RE Wendy Walker
RE James Musick	

**MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE**

RE Karl Baldner	TE Buck Oliphant
TE Edgar Blake	TE Harold K. Polk, Jr.
TE Malcolm Brown	TE Ed Randal



TE George Callahan	RE Irvin Rinehart
RE Frederick Conrad	TE David Ruff
TE Charles Creech	RE Earl Runcan
RE David Crothers	RE Felix Sharpe
TE James Glasgow	RE Mark Sharpnack
RE Jon Greeneisen	TE Howard Shockley, <b>Chairman</b>
RE Charles Haden	RE Hugh Smith
RE Ted Hailes	RE Tom Sturgeon
TE Dennis Henn	RE Charles Talbot
RE Thomas Henson	TE Doug Thompson, <b>Clerk</b>
TE David Herbertson	RE Deborah Toombs
TE Brian Hill	RE James Walker
TE Ron Horgan	RE Howard Webb
TE Charles Jacob	RE Russ Wing
RE Milton Knowlton	RE John Wohlfarth
TE Ian Lamont	TE Dean Wolf
RE Wallace Madewell	TE George Yates
RE Richard Martin	TE Bradley Yorton

#### NATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE

TE Ron Amos	TE Brian Land
TE Rocky Anthony	TE William Lindner, Jr.
TE Bob Barrett	RE Jack Loflin
TE David Beaty	TE Cooper McWhirter
RE Richard Bowman	RE Bill Meeks
RE Morton Bradley	TE Tom Melton
RE Ted Brandsma	TE Langdon Montgomery
TE John Crimmins	TE Michael Moses
TE Grady Davidson	RE Charles Overstreet
RE Robert Eagar	RE John Perry
RE Steve Eckert	RE Jeff Peters
TE Glen Francis	RE Donald Puller
TE Mike Frison	RE Bob Roach
TE Michael Gatliff	TE Dick Robinson
TE Don Giesmann	TE Marcelo Robles
TE Rich Gordon	TE Tom Ryan, <b>Chairman</b>
RE Al Guilstorf	RE Patrick Stottlemeyer
RE Wilton Hazelwood	TE John Torres
TE Peter Hiatt	TE Brian Tweedie
RE Gerry Hittenberger, <b>Clerk</b>	RE Howard Upchurch
RE Hawley Ingram, Jr.	TE Wayne Uppendahl

RE Gloria Joiner	TE Doug Walker
RE Cliff Jones	TE Brad Werner
RE Chuck Laird	RE John Young

#### STUDENT AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

TE Richard Barany	RE Jim Hunter
TE James Brown, Jr., Clerk	TE Steve Jessen
RE Jim Cantey	TE Woody Johnson
TE John Cedar	TE Steve Kerhoulas
RE Tom Crane	TE Philip Linton
TE Tom Dages, Chairman	TE Marty Martin
RE Richard DeKay	RE Hal McCrum
RE Larry Doak	TE Adger McKay
RE Ron Edmonds	TE Timothy Mindling
RE Terry Edwards	RE Michael Owen
RE Alan Enos	RE Don Phillips
TE David Fenska	TE Tom Pitman
TE Robbi Fischer	RE Joe Plemon
TE Don Galardi	TE Waring Porter
TE Bruce Gimbel	RE Ron Schwedland
TE Don Hardman	RE Hillard Strong
RE Greg Hemingway	TE Chris Talley
RE John Hocker	RE James Wall

#### THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

TE Duane Armistead	TE Russell Louden
TE Nathan Atwood	RE James Mann
RE John Barber	RE Carolyn Nystrom, Chairman
TE James Bates	TE John Quigley
TE Stephen Brown	RE Traverse Read, III
RE Donald Bugg	RE Tony Register
RE Jerald Dosh	RE Thom Schultz
RE Steve Ferris	RE Knox Sherer
TE Aldo Fontao	TE Juan Singh
TE David Keyser	TE Bryan Slater
TE Chris Kiepe, Clerk	TE Don Sweeting
RE Scott Knight	TE Michael Winship

#### WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

RE Charlotte Beatty	TE Gary Koerth
RE Diane Behrens	TE Ian Leslie

RE Merrill Blackburn	RE Lorelei Mah
RE Jan Bole	TE Chris Meeks
RE Jon Brooks	RE Joan Merritt, <b>Chairman</b>
RE Claudia Davidge	TE Perry Mobley
RE Millie Dreisbach, <b>Clerk</b>	RE George Oliver
RE Jim Freel	RE JunEllen Ray
RE Joyce Hickson-Szten	RE Stan Sherman
RE Chuck Hill	TE Rufus Smith, IV
RE Ramona Hockema	TE Mark Vanderput
TE Scott Jackson	RE Gregory Ward
RE Rister Jenkins	TE Bob Wilbur
TE Tommy Jordan	TE Dan Ytterrock
TE Jim Killgore	

#### WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

RE Richard Beatty	RE Doug Knapp, Jr.
RE Bill Blackley	RE Robert Lloyd, Jr.
TE Jim Blaha	RE Robert Lorey
RE David Block	TE Jorge Lumsden
RE Charles Brady	RE Thomas Mackie
TE Randy Brown	RE Bob Mathews
TE Brad Buescher	TE Jack Maxwell
TE Kenneth Burbridge	TE Erik Ohman, <b>Chairman</b>
TE James Carr	TE Jeffrey Park
RE Leroy Cole	RE Timothy Probert
RE Dwight Coston	TE Julian Reese
TE Ron Cox, <b>Clerk</b>	RE Rudy Rogers
RE Richard Day	RE Jose Rojas
TE Jim Dixon	TE Douglas Sherman
RE Richard Elm	TE Peter Stam
RE Bob Giles	RE Jim Thomason
TE Douglas Graham	TE Don Van Dyke
RE Johnny Hosford	RE David Van Vuuren
TE Art Hunt	TE Richard Vroon
RE Norm Jackson	TE Daniel Wilburn
RE Ken Jones	TE Sanders Willson
RE Tim Jordan	RE David Wood

MINUTES OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION OF THE  
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
EPC Headquarters  
MAY 12, 2000

Members present: James Rimmel, chairman, Robert Hess, Darryl "Bud" Sparling, Dave Shira, Evelyn Cisney, Barry Smith, Leonard Pilgrim, and Reese Baker. One member absent—Don Mason.

1. *Opening*: Introduction of members; prayer by Bud Sparling; Quorum of members determined and made by chairman Jim Rimmel.
2. *Review of matters to be covered--Agenda*
  - A. Insurance coverage
  - B. Overtures
  - C. Forms for Book of Discipline
  - D. Review of Book of Order §16-27 B on the responsibilities of the PJC
3. *Overtures of Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic (undated)*

Preliminary Comments: The PJC carefully reviewed and considered the overtures of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic. After careful review, the PJC believes that the suggestions are well intended and designed to maintain confidentiality, however the PJC believes that the dangers of possible abuse far outweigh this intent.

- A. Overture Number 1:

**Amend 6-1B** [of the Book of Discipline], the first sentence, with the inclusion of the italicized phrase "with attached supporting evidence" so that the sentence reads

"No investigation against an accused offender shall be commenced unless some person files a written charge, *with attached supporting evidence*, with the Clerk of the court, . . . etc."

*The current version of 6-1B of the Book of Discipline reads as follows:*

"No investigation against an accused offender shall be commenced unless some person files a written charge with the Clerk of the court, or unless the court finds it necessary under Book of Discipline §1-5 and §1-6 for itself to undertake an investigation."

A motion was made and seconded that overture number 1 be rejected by the General Assembly. After discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted by the commission recommending that the General Assembly NOT adopt overture number 1.

The reasons for recommending that the General Assembly NOT adopt overture number 1 are as follows:

1. The language creates more ambiguity in the procedure. What is "supporting evidence?"
2. The language creates a chilling effect on people who may be allegedly injured and may adversely affect their ability to obtain redress.

3. The court is the accuser, not the injured person. The court is responsible for developing the evidence and determining if an indictment should issue.
4. The PJC disagrees that "written charges" is ambiguous. The written charges means that the injured person is simply to put the matter in writing.

B. Overture Number 2:

Amend 6-1B by adding the following italicized sentences to the end of the section:

*"The Clerk shall determine and he satisfied [sic] that the person(s) bringing a charge have followed Scriptural procedure required under Matthew 18:15-16, 1 Timothy 5:19 and Galatians 6:1. The Clerk shall then notify the Moderator of the court that a charge has been properly filed against a member of the court."*

*The current version of 6-1B of the Book of Discipline reads as follows:*

*"No investigation against an accused offender shall be commenced unless some person files a written charge with the Clerk of the court, or unless the court finds it necessary under Book of Discipline §1-5 and §1-6 for itself to undertake an investigation."*

A motion was made and seconded that overture number 2 be rejected by the General Assembly. After discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted by the commission recommending that the General Assembly NOT adopt overture number 2.

The reasons for recommending that the General Assembly NOT adopt overture number 2 are as follows:

1. The Clerk does not have the authority to act for the court.
2. The inquiry as to such actions should be made by the court in order to determine if the court will assume jurisdiction over the matter. See, Book of Discipline §1-6.
3. The suggested language does not allow for an appeal if the Clerk rejects the offended individual's statements as to his or her actions.

C. Overture Number 3

Amend 6-1C by adding the following italicized words, so that the section now reads:

*C. Investigative Committee*

*Upon notification by the Clerk that a formal charge has been duly received against a member of the court, the Moderator shall appoint an investigative committee to serve as a finder of fact, which shall report its findings to the court with its recommendations. The committee shall have no authority to act for the court other than as an investigative body. Should a formal charge be filed against an officer of the court, the court as a whole shall receive the charge and elect the investigative committee.*

*The current version of 6-1C of the Book of Discipline reads as follows:*

"C. Judicial Committee

The court may appoint a judicial committee to serve as a finder of fact, which shall report its findings to the court with its recommendations. The committee shall have no authority to act for the court other than as an investigative body."

A motion was made and seconded that overture number 3 be rejected by the General Assembly. After discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted by the commission recommending that the General Assembly NOT adopt overture number 3.

The reasons for recommending that the General Assembly NOT adopt overture number 3 are as follows:

1. The Moderator does not have the authority to act for the court.
2. The EPC / Presbyterian system is designed to function with courts and bodies of elders making decisions, not individuals. The polity of our system is to govern by collective wisdom in bodies. This overture would allow an individual the ability to make significant decisions instead of a body.

D. Overture Number 4

Amend 1-6, sentence beginning "No charge involving a personal offense will be received . . ." *by changing* the phrase "to the court" to read "*to the Clerk of the court.*"

*The current version of 1-6 of the Book of Discipline reads as follows:*

"No charge involving a personal offense will be received unless the offended person alleges and proves to the court evidence demonstrating that he has followed the procedures required under Matthew 18:15-16 and Galatians 1:6."

A motion was made and seconded that overture number 4 be rejected by the General Assembly. After discussion, the motion was unanimously adopted by the commission recommending that the General Assembly NOT adopt overture number 4.

The reasons for recommending that the General Assembly NOT adopt overture number 3 are as follows:

1. The Moderator does not have the authority to act for the court.
2. The EPC and Presbyterian system is designed to function with courts and bodies of elders making decisions, not individuals. The polity of our system is to govern by collective wisdom in bodies. This overture would allow an individual the ability to make significant decisions instead of a body.

4. *Overture of the Presbytery of the West dated May 6, 2000 (re-ordered in minutes at the decision of the PJC).*

Recommendation adopted unanimously by the PJC:

The PJC believes that the overture from the Presbytery of the West raises no constitutional issues in its present form. The PJC suggests that such overture be referred by the Stated Clerk to appropriate committees for further study and/or action.

The PJC also suggests that this overture be presented to the General Assembly for consideration before the overture on insurance issues from the Presbytery of the Central South.

5. *Overture of the Presbytery of the Central South dated April 29, 2000.*

A motion was made that the PJC has reviewed and determined that it has jurisdiction to review of the Overture of the Central South adopted at the spring stated meeting Saturday, April 29, 2000 ("Central South Overture"). The motion was seconded. The Motion that the PJC has jurisdiction to review the overture was adopted by a vote of 7 to 1. (Bud Sparling voted against the motion.)

A motion was made to adopt the Central South Overture. Discussion occurred on the motion. No action was taken on such motion

[Lunch break]

After lunch, the PJC further reviewed the overture. After further discussion, the PJC unanimously adopted the following recommendation to the General Assembly:

This overture is premature inasmuch as it is in reality a disciplinary matter growing out of Chapter 13, Part 1.A 5 and 6 of the Book of Government. The Presbyteries have original jurisdiction in such matters. (See, Book of Discipline Section 3-2) The General Assembly has not provided notice to the appropriate Presbyteries that action is in order to insure compliance with Assembly Act 81.06 (See, Book of Discipline Sections 3-2 and 3-3). Unless and until the General Assembly provides notice to the Presbyteries and the Presbyteries fail to act after thirty days, the General Assembly does not have jurisdiction to act.

It is also beyond the scope of the General Assembly's authority to the extent that it mandates a Presbytery to "pay the premiums to re-enroll the ministers of non-compliant churches" under the EPC Group Insurance Plan. In other words, the Commission believes the issue of whether a Presbytery is obligated to pay insurance premiums within its boundaries is not within the scope of churches of the General Assembly as set forth under the Book of Government Section 16-22.

In addition to the above, the recommendation places two permanent committees with responsibility to deal with the matter. Committees do not have the authority to act for the General Assembly. Judicial committees may act as a finder of fact but not do not have the authority to act for the court. (See, Book of Discipline, Section 6-1C) The General Assembly could appoint a judicial commission under the Book of Discipline, Section 9-5, to act for the General Assembly, but no such request or motion has been made.

Finally, the General Assembly does not have the authority to require Presbyteries to pay funds.

6. *Review of the opinion of the Stated Clerk as to the Mid America action on David Baer.*

The PJC reviewed extensive papers on the matter and discussed in depth the issues related to David Baer and his admission to the Presbytery of Mid-America. After such discussion among the PJC and discussions with the Stated Clerk, the following motion was made by Robert Hess and seconded by Dave Shira:

Motion to sustain the provisional opinion of the Stated Clerk dated April 6, 2000. The motion was adopted unanimously by the PJC.

*Rational:*

The action of Mid America Presbytery in receiving the Reverend David Baer was not in violation of §13-5 of the Book of Government.

*Comments:* Presbyteries are granted the right under §16-16 A of the Book of Government to receive, install and ordain ministers.

PJC notes that this matter is not before the PJC in the form of a complaint.

PJC recommends the part of the NAPARC policy paper that deals with ministers fleeing from justice, or some other action to give comity to other denominations actions, be considered for adoption by the EPC.

7. *Development of Forms for Book of Discipline.*

The PJC appointed Jim Rimmel and Reese Baker to develop forms for use under the Book of Discipline for further review by the PJC. The PJC adjourned until Saturday morning.

[Saturday]

8. *Adoption of Forms.*

The PJC reviewed, altered and adopted the forms attached to this report for use under the Book of Discipline. The PJC recommends that the General Assembly adopt such forms and incorporate such forms into the Book of Discipline.

9. *Designation of Meeting of PJC*


Bob Hess made a motion that the PJC meet after all Presbyteries have met in May. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted by the PJC.

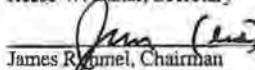
10. *Change in Book of Discipline*

Jim Rimmel made a motion that Section 7-5 C of the Book of Discipline change the reference from Section 7-6 B to Section 7-5 B. The motion was adopted unanimously and is to be presented to the General Assembly for action.

11. *Closing Prayer*

Evelyn Cisney closed with prayer.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Reese W. Baker, Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Rimmel, Chairman



PJC-1

## FORMS FOR DISCIPLINE

*Adopted by the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
June, 2000*

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Note: If conflicts exist between the forms and the Book of Discipline, the Book of Discipline controls.

When "D." appears on the form, such refers to the appropriate section of the Book of Discipline.

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 1

CHARGE (D. 5-1 AND 5-2)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Charging Party

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Charging Party

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Charging Party

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Charging Party

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Accused

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) of Accused

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date(s) of Alleged Offense

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Submittal Charge

Were you under 18 years of age at the time of the offense? If so, what was your age?  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Section 5-2)

Have you followed the procedures under Matthew 18: 15-16 and Galatians 6:1 in  
addressing this/these matters? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Matt. 18: 15-16 "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.'"

Gal. 6:1 "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted."

Detailed statement of alleged offense(s) including, but not limited to, the nature of the offense(s), date(s) of occurrence, possible witnesses and all other matters charging party(ies) believes relevant (use additional pages if required).

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CERTIFICATION BY CHARGING PARTY(IES)**

As God is my witness, I/we hereby certify that the above statements are true and correct to the best of my/our knowledge and belief. I/we understand that such charges may result in significant actions being taken that could affect another person(s), and I/we also understand that any fraudulent statements made by me/us may subject me/us to possible disciplinary actions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 2

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

Vs.

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE (D. 6-1C)

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

The \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Presbytery hereby appoints

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

to serve as a judicial committee for the limited purpose of gathering evidence, concerning the offense(s) against the accused and to report its findings to the court along with its recommendations.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

**THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**CHURCH/PRESBYTERY**  
**FORM 3**

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

APPOINTMENT OF PROSECUTOR (D. 6-2 & 6-3)

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

The \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Presbytery at a duly called meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ appointed \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as prosecutor in the above captioned matter.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

**Acceptance by Prosecutor:**

I hereby accept the role as prosecutor. I have no conflicts or have made full disclosure of my knowledge of the alleged offense.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Prosecutor

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 4

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

INDICTMENT (D. 7-2 & 7-3)

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

IN THE NAME OF THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, you are hereby charged with the offense(s) of [heresy, immorality, and/or contempt]. Specifically, you are accused of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[Provide details of the time, places, and circumstances of the alleged offense(s).]

The offense(s) set forth above is/are against the peace, unity and purity of the Church, and the honor and majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ as the King and Head thereof.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk



**THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**CHURCH/PRESBYTERY**  
**FORM 5**

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

FORMAL SUMMONS (D. 7-4A, B & C)

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ (accused or witness)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ (moderator or clerk of session)

You are hereby summoned to appear before the court of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name of governing body) meeting at \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (place) on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
for a trial as described in chapters 8 through 10 of the Book of Discipline, concerning the  
indictment brought against \_\_\_\_\_ (accused) by the  
\_\_\_\_\_ (governing body).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator, Clerk of Session or Stated  
Clerk of Presbytery or the General  
Assembly

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ (clerk)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ (person serving summons)

I hereby certify that I have served a summons on \_\_\_\_\_ (name)  
by personally delivering the summons on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ (or I  
certify that I was unable to locate and serve the summons).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**CHURCH/PRESBYTERY**  
**FORM 6**

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

**SECOND SUMMONS (D. 7-5 B)**

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ (accused or witness)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ (moderator or clerk of session)

You are hereby summoned to appear before the court of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name of governing body) meeting at \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (place) on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
for a trial as described in chapters 8 through 10 of the Book of Discipline, concerning the  
indictment brought against \_\_\_\_\_ (accused) by the  
\_\_\_\_\_ (governing body).

If you fail to appear at the appointed place and time (unless providentially hindered, which fact must be made known to the court), or that if you appear and refuse to plead, you shall be dealt with for your rebellion in accordance with Section 7-5C of the Book of Discipline.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator, Clerk of Session or Stated  
Clerk of Presbytery or the General  
Assembly

**CERTIFICATE OF SECOND SUMMONS**

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ (clerk)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ (person serving summons)

I hereby certify that I have served a summons on \_\_\_\_\_  
(name) by personally delivering the summons on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
(or I certify that I was unable to locate and serve the summons).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH/PRESBYTERY**  
**FORM 7**

**SUSPENSION OF OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS OF \_\_\_\_\_**

Pursuant to Section 6-7 of the Book of Discipline, as of \_\_\_\_\_ (date),  
the \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Presbytery hereby suspends  
all of the official functions of the above named officer (or if limited suspension, then the  
functions as set forth below):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 8

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

JUDICIAL COMMISSION (D. 9-5)

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

The \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Presbytery hereby appoints

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to serve as a judicial commission with the following rights, privileges, duties and obligations:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

**THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**CHURCH/PRESBYTERY**  
**FORM 9**

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

WITNESS AND EXHIBIT LIST (D. 7-4D)

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ (prosecutor or accused)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ (accused or prosecutor)

The following is a list of expected witnesses for the trial:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

(List others as necessary.)

The following is a list of exhibits for the trial, true and correct copies of which are attached hereto:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

(List others as necessary.)

Note: Each party shall provide the other with this list no later than five (5) days before the trial (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) by personal delivery or by means requiring a written receipt. See Section 7-4D of the Book of Discipline.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Party \_\_\_\_\_

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 10

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

Vs. CERTIFICATION OF NON-PAYMENT OF COUNSEL (D. 9-3A)

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

I hereby certify as counsel for \_\_\_\_\_ in the above matter that I am not receiving compensation for services rendered to \_\_\_\_\_ or any party and that the only funds I may receive are the reimbursement for expenses as allowed under Section 9-3 of the Book of Discipline.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Counsel

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 11

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church

ACCUSER

Vs.

JUDGMENT (D. 9-1 I)

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

The governing body in the above matter has determined that the accused is guilty/not guilty of the offenses(s) as set forth in the indictment. Accordingly, [the sanctions as determined are imposed] / [this matter is dismissed].

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk



THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 12

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

Vs.

SANCTIONS (D. 10-7 TO 10-13)

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

This governing body, having found the accused named above guilty of (heresy, immorality, and/or contempt), this governing body imposes the following sanctions:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

**THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**CHURCH/PRESBYTERY**  
**FORM 13**

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
ACCUSER

TRANSFER OF CASE

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
ACCUSED

This governing body has determined that the above matter should be transferred to \_\_\_\_\_ Church/Presbytery for investigation/trial/administration of sanctions for the following reasons:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 14

\_\_\_\_\_  
APPELLANT

NOTICE OF APPEAL (D. 12-5)

Vs.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
APPELLEE

TO: \_\_\_\_\_ (clerk of session or stated clerk of governing body  
from whose judgment appeal is made)

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_ (appellant)

Notice is hereby given of appeal to the \_\_\_\_\_ (next higher  
governing body) from the judgment entered in the above matter by the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (governing body entering decision) on the \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ (place).

The grounds for the appeal are as follows (see Section 12-4 of the Book of Discipline for  
a listing of the possible grounds):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Appellant

Note: An appeal must be filed within fifteen (15) days after the entry of judgment. See  
Book of Discipline, Section 12-5.

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 15

\_\_\_\_\_  
APPELLANT

Vs.

ABANDONMENT OF APPEAL (D. 12-11)

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
APPELLEE

Appellant having failed to appear at the scheduled date and time of his/her appeal at \_\_\_\_\_ (time) on \_\_\_\_\_ (date), the judgment of the lower court is hereby affirmed and the appeal is dismissed in accord with Section 12-11 of the Book of Discipline.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 16

\_\_\_\_\_  
APPELLANT

DETERMINATION OF APPEAL (D. 12-9)

Vs.

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
APPELLEE

Upon hearing and due deliberation the \_\_\_\_\_ (appellate  
body) finds as follows in accord with Section 12-9 of the Book of Discipline.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 17

COMPLAINT (D.13-1)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complainant

Vs.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Session, Presbytery or General Assembly)  
Respondent

STATEMENT OF COMPLAINT

I/we \_\_\_\_\_ (name(s) of complainant(s))  
complain(s) to the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the next higher  
governing body or General Assembly) against \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of church session or presbytery) concerning \_\_\_\_\_,  
in that at a meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ (place) on the \_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, said \_\_\_\_\_  
(governing body) did \_\_\_\_\_  
(state the decision or action of the lower court complained of).

The reasons for the complaint are as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Complainant(s) requests that the \_\_\_\_\_ (name of  
governing body to which complaint is addressed) order the \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of governing body complained against) to \_\_\_\_\_ (state  
specific relief requested).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Complainant

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 18

PROTEST (D. 14-2)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a member of or commissioner to  
\_\_\_\_\_ (name of governing body) wish to protest  
\_\_\_\_\_ (irregularity or delinquency). The reasons  
for my protest are:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Written notice of protest shall be given at the particular session of the governing body during which it arose. The protest shall be filed with the clerk or the stated clerk before adjournment.

THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
\_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH/PRESBYTERY  
FORM 19

DISSENT (D. 14-1)

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a member of or commissioner  
to \_\_\_\_\_ (name of governing body), register my  
dissent from the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (action or decision).

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

A dissent must be voiced prior to recess of the particular session at which the action is taken. The above form may be presented to the clerk or stated clerk or that person's assistant to confirm one's dissent. The name of the person dissenting shall be recorded.



PJC-2



## Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

April 6, 2000

Mr. Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of Mid-America  
The Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
1926 Prospector Ridge  
Ballwin, MO 63011

Dear Dexter,

I am receipt of your April 5<sup>th</sup> request for an opinion as to the constitutionality of an action taken by the Mid-America Presbytery in its October 22-23, 1999 meeting.

It is my opinion, after considered study, that the Mid-America Presbytery (EPC) acted within its constitutional rights as defined in the Book of Government 13-5 to receive the Reverend David Baer into its membership. This is a provisional opinion and shall be forwarded to our Permanent Judicial Commission for review (BG. 16-27, B.1) at its stated May meeting. This provisional opinion shall be forwarded to the appropriate parties within both the Presbytery and the General Assembly of our sister church, the Presbyterian Church of America.

I am thankful for the considerable attention and backgrounding you have provided for this most sensitive issue. The information provided has been most helpful.

In Christ,

Dr. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk  
General Assembly, The Evangelical Presbyterian Church

CC: Dr. L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk (PCA)  
RE Dale Eisenreich, Stated Clerk, Illiana Presbytery (PCA)  
RE Albert Neutel, Moderator, Mid-America Presbytery (EPC)



PJC-3

# Presbytery of Mid-America

## THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk  
1926 Prospector Ridge  
Ballwin, MO 63011  
(636) 458-1015 Fax (636) 458-6134

April 5, 2000

Rev. Dr. Ed Davis  
Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
29140 Buckingham Avenue  
Suite 5  
Livonia, Michigan 48154

Dear Ed,

I am writing you requesting an opinion on the constitutionality of an action taken by the Mid-America Presbytery in its meeting of October 22-23, 1999 whereby a minister was received while discipline, inquiry, and/or charges were pending against him by another denomination. Specifically at question is the receiving of the Rev. David Baer, a member of the Presbyterian Church in America, Illiana Presbytery, received into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church according to G13-5.

Attached is the report of the Presbytery commission whose recommendation regarding Rev. David Baer we acted on positively by the Mid-America Presbytery. Attached also is correspondence received from Mr. Dale Eisenreich, Clerk of the Illiana Presbytery (PCA) maintaining that the Reverend David Baer still remains under the jurisdiction of Illiana Presbytery and under CENSURE.

The question to you is this. In your opinion, did the Presbytery of Mid America (EPC) act constitutionally as it related to the receiving of the Reverend David Baer?

Sincerely,

Dexter Kuhlman

cc Mr. Albert Neutel, Moderator  
Rev. Wayne Hoffman, Ministerial Committee  
Coordinating Council - Mid America Presbytery


PJC-4

# Presbyterian Church in America

Office of the Stated Clerk—  
Administrative Committee—  
1852 Century Plaza, Suite 190  
Atlanta, GA 30347-4101  
Phone: 404-526-1100  
Fax: 404-529-1275  
Email: [sc@pcusa.org](mailto:sc@pcusa.org)

Stated Clerk of the General Assembly  
Dr. L. Roy Taylor  
**Business Administrator**  
The Reverend John W. Robertson  
Assistant to the Stated Clerk  
The Reverend J. Robert Fick

TO: Dr. Ed Davis, Stated Clerk of the EPC General Assembly  
Mr. Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk, Mid-West Presbytery, EPC

FROM: L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk PCA 

DATE: **Monday, March 13, 2000**

SUBJECT: Final Decision of the Standing Judicial Commission on the Baer Case

Attached you will find a copy of the Final Decision of the Standing Judicial Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America in Case 98-9, Appeal of Teaching Elder David Baer v. Illiana Presbytery. The Judicial Panel that heard the case unanimously denied Mr. Baer's appeal June 8, 1999. According to our judicial procedure, a panel's decision is reviewed by the full SJC. The Standing Judicial Commission met March 2 and unanimously approved the panel's decision. According to our polity, this is a final decision to which there may be no further complaint or appeal.

We await your response regarding your receiving Mr. Baer into the EPC as a minister in good standing when he was under judicial process in the PCA.

## Minutes and Report of the Presbytery Review Committee

June 8-9, 2000

The Presbytery Review Committee (PRC) met at the General Assembly Office from 9:00 a.m. Thursday, June 8 to 4:15 p.m. June 9, 2000. Committee members present were RE Buck Russell (Chairman), TE Steven Riser and TE George Woodcock. Also attending were TE Ed Davis (Stated Clerk) and TE Ed McCallum (Assistant to the Stated Clerk).

Buck Russell opened the meeting with prayer at 9:10 a.m. June 8.

### A. Review of Responses to Exceptions from 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Committee reviewed the responses by the various Presbyteries to the exceptions conveyed by the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

#### Presbytery of the Central South (TE Dennis Flach, Stated Clerk)

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).

Presbytery's Response: Concur that minutes did not fully reflect that sessions have indeed endorsed these candidates and that advisors were appointed for each. The Presbytery Minutes have subsequently included what had been noted.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

2. No indication that congregation approved dissolution of pastoral relationship with David Hicks, David Keyser and David Moncla (45-19) (G.15-2)

Presbytery's Response: In each case, pastors and congregations concurred. The B.O.G. citation explains a variety of dissolution scenarios between ministers and congregations. It remains the practice of presbytery to specify only exceptions to otherwise agreeable dissolution.

*The committee considered the response to be inadequate. Minutes should specifically indicate that all requirements of 15-2 have been met. Without such detail the Assembly cannot properly review Presbytery minutes for conformity to constitutional standards.*

**Recommendation #1:** That the Assembly refer the minutes of the 45<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting (section 19) to the Presbytery of the Central South for correction

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).

Presbytery's Response: This exception comes as a relief in record keeping for Presbytery and has subsequently become the practice of examining incoming candidates and ministers.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

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).

Presbytery's Response: These candidates preached sermons, passed written exams; hence their presbytery examinations proceeded. Subsequent recording of minutes will carefully include those steps. Likewise, presbytery minutes will be careful to record churches represented by commissioners appointed by presbytery.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

**Presbytery of the East** (RE Frank Johnson, Stated Clerk)

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).

Presbytery's Response: There are persons reported as excused for meeting 54. For meetings 52 and 53 add the name of Rev. Ebenezer Afful as being unexcused absent.

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).

Presbytery's Response: The exception is accurate. However, the then Chairman of the Ministerial Committee, Rev. Nancy Stewart, spoke with Dr. Hadden and wished him well. The Ministerial Committee will invite Dr. Hadden to the January, 2000 meeting of the Presbytery whereupon recognition will be given for his service to the Kingdom. Should Dr. Hadden be unable to attend the meeting the Ministerial Committee shall compose a letter of recognition for Dr. Hadden to be signed by the Moderator and Stated Clerk.

3. No record of terms of call for John Torres or Rick Stauffer (pp. 171-2) (*Rules for Assembly* 8-11.G-9).

Presbytery's Response: The terms of call (approved by the Presbytery but not in the minutes) at the time the two pastors assumed their current positions will be spread in the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of October 2, 1999 with reference to their omission in the minutes of the meetings in which they were approved for ordination and/or installation.

4. No record that a commission was approved to ordain / install John Torres (p. 171) (G-14.1; G.16-26,B.2-a).

Presbytery's Response: The names of the Commission originally approved by the Presbytery will be spread in the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of October 2, 1999 with reference to their omission in the minutes in which Rev. Torres was examined and approved for ordination and installation.

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).

Presbytery's Response: The action of the Moderator in the two instances cited will be confirmed at the Presbytery meeting of October 2, 1999.

6. There is no approved call for Dr. Sam Rowen (p. 182, D-3) (G.11-1 and G.11-4).

Presbytery's Response: There is an approved call in the minutes of September 26, 1998.

7. No indication that there was 10 day notice of the called meeting June 26, 1998 and its purpose (G.16-17).

Presbytery's Response: Agreed. A docket was prepared and approved, however, by the Presbytery at the meeting. The Presbytery of the East will not proceed in this manner again.

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).

Presbytery's Response: The appropriate form containing the minutes of each service will be appended to the minutes of the meetings in which the ordination and/or installation was approved for each pastor by the Presbytery.

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 and Candidates Committees*).

Presbytery's Response: Such a review has been conducted by the Ministerial Committee but no written report was spread in the minutes. The current Committee is in the midst of a review utilizing the appropriate forms of the General Assembly. At the January meeting of the Presbytery each year, a report will be given by the Ministerial Committee including a copy of the completed review and report and include in the minutes a y disagreements over calls and action taken about them by the Presbytery.

10. Terms of call forms have not been utilized (*Acts of the Assembly* 98-03).

Presbytery's Response: While the forms have not been used in each instance, the format regarding the components has been used. Each pastor has been assured that a call includes the items listed on the form. Forms will be used in the future and will be initially and annually distributed by the Ministerial Committee and received by them for inclusion in the annual report.

*The Committee accepted all the above responses as adequate.*

**Recommendation #2:** Because corrections noted in Presbytery's responses to exceptions issued by the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly were not spread in the certified minutes as indicated, the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly instructs the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the East to include the corrections in the minutes of the Fall 2000 meeting.

**Presbytery of Florida** (TE Bob Garment, Stated Clerk)

1. Commission reports were received but written reports were not inserted in the minutes (24.08 and 26.09) (G.16-26,B)

Presbytery's response: (24:09) The Commission to install Jim Letizia as pastor of New Covenant EPC did not present a written report. In lieu of such, the minutes of that commission are inserted in and made a part of the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Florida Presbytery.

(26.09) The Administrative Commission to Cypress Pointe EPC did make a report which is found in 26.28.

*The Committee considers this response to be inadequate. There is no evidence that this has been done because the certified copy of minutes ends with 26.24.*

**Recommendation #3:** That the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly instruct the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida to submit the relevant section of minutes (all sections following 26.24) to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly by July 31, 2000.

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.

**Presbytery's Response:** Florida Presbytery has corrected its premature action and restored TE Henry Braga to the Inactive Roll until the 5-year waiting period expires.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

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*)

**Presbytery's Response:** Acts of Assembly 98-03 requires the use of specific forms. It does not require replication of those forms in the minutes. The minutes accurately report the terms in a manner we feel is constitutional and clear.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

4. No indication that Tagg, Gimbal or Franklin had successfully passed written examinations (26.14) (G.13-2).

**Presbytery's Response:** Mr. Tagg, Mr. Gimbal, and Mr. Franklin all passed the required written exams and that information is included in the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Florida Presbytery.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

5. The moderator is not authorized to appoint or dismiss commissions (26.14, 24.09) (G.16-26,B).

**Presbytery's Response:** (24.09) Since G.16-26,B requires that Commissions be appointed for a specified duration, there should be no need for formal dismissal of a commission to install once the installation is accomplished and reported back to Presbytery. The wording of 24.09 should more accurately state that "the Work of the Commission being complete, it was dissolved with the thanks of the court." That correction is noted in the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Florida Presbytery.

(26.14) The court appointed the Commission and authorized the Moderator to name members to that commission. The corrected wording is noted in the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Florida Presbytery.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate but with comment. While the practice of Presbytery forming a commission but leaving the responsibility of appointing members to an officer of the court (26.14) appears to be constitutional, the Committee has reservations about the wisdom of the procedure, especially if it becomes a standard practice.*

6. There is no record that the requirements of G.5-3,B have been met (Cypress Pointe, 26-01).

**Presbytery's Response:** The information requested by PRC was not received from the Administrative Commission. The Church Development Committee has been instructed to investigate the omission of this information and report back to the 29<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

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).

**Presbytery's Response:** The Ministerial Committee did review the needs of retired ministers during the period of June 1998 to June 1999 but failed to make a formal report to Presbytery. That information can be found in the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Florida Presbytery. Florida Presbytery has no Out of Bounds ministers. Florida Presbytery was unaware that it had any inactive ministers until the PRC noted the error in Exception 2. The Presbytery of Florida has instructed the Ministerial Committee to review the work of active and inactive ministers and report back to the February 2000 Stated Meeting. Those instructions are recorded in the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Florida Presbytery.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

8. Terms of call forms have not been utilized (*Acts of the Assembly* 98-03)

**Presbytery's Response:** Acts of Assembly 98-03 requires the use of specific forms. It does not require replication of those forms in the minutes. The minutes accurately report the terms in a manner we feel is constitutional and clear.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

**Presbytery of Mid America** (RE Dexter Kuhlman, Stated Clerk)

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.

**Presbytery's Response:** (Exceptions 1-5 and 8): These all pertain to the minutes of the August 6, 1999 Called Meeting of Presbytery. The Presbytery Review Committee requested the Clerk to rewrite the minutes to better reflect what actions had taken place.



**Recommendation #4:** That the Assembly instruct the Clerk of the Mid-America Presbytery to forward a certified copy of the rewritten and approved minutes of the Aug. 6, 1999 Called Meeting to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly by July 31, 2000.

6. Terms of call forms not utilized (p. 139 Buescher, p. 140 Heyward, p. 145 Werner) (*Acts of Assembly* 98-03).

Presbytery's Response: In the future we will use the denomination call form.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

7. No indication of whether TE Heyward was examined under G.13-2, 13-4 or 13-5 (p. 139).

Presbytery's Response: Mr. Heyward was examined under BOG 13-5. Noted on page 3 paragraph 5.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

8. No written commission report to install TE Doug Graham (p. 140) (G.16-26, B).

*See Recommendation #4 above.*

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).

Presbytery's Response: Current Commission members for Trinity Fellowship are Corb Heimburger, TE Central, Dave Boswell, TE New Harvest, Stan Davis, RE Sutter. Presbytery will appoint two additional RE at its fall meeting and so report this action in the minutes. The purpose of the commission is to serve as an oversight commission of the mission church (BOG 16-26, G 5-2).

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

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).

Presbytery's Response: The congregation approved dissolving the pastoral relationship between TE Tom Ricks and TE John Splinter at a congregation meeting October 11, 1998. Copy of the congregational minutes is attached to the fall 1998 stated meeting of presbytery.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

11. Commission for Trinity Fellowship is improperly constituted (minimum 5 members) (pp. 143, 149) (G.5-2; G.16-26,B.2-a).

*See #9 above.*

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).

Presbytery's Response: The commission to install Brad Werner were as follows: Bill Vogler, TE Grace EPC, Doug Graham, TE Central, Barney Heyward, TE Central, Larry Swinson, RE Grace EPC, Mike Auon, RE Central and Alan Shaffer, RE Central. Brad passed his written exams. Terms of call are attached to the October 16-17, 1998 meeting of presbytery.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

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's Response: This is recorded in the April 1999 minutes of presbytery.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

#### **Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic (TE Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk)**

1. No indication that Peter Bowell, Keith Cobb or Grady Davidson had successfully completed the written exams for ordination (29-21; 31-23) (G.13-2).

Presbytery's Response: Minutes corrected to include this information.

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).

Presbytery's Response: Future Minutes will show specifically that official terms of call forms are used. It should be noted that while it has not been recorded in its Minutes, Presbytery has used these forms since their inception.

3. Home church for commission members not included (G.16-26,B.2-e).

Presbytery's Response: Future Minutes will show home church for Ruling Elder Commissioners. Teaching Elder commissioners are members of Presbytery unless otherwise indicated.

4. Ministerial Committee cannot constitute itself as a commission (29.25, last motion p. 22) (G.16-27,A.10).

Presbytery's Response: That Presbytery amend its Bylaws by deleting Section 3-A.3 of Article IV.

5. Exception #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.

Presbytery's Response: That Presbytery amend its Bylaws by deleting Section 3-A.3 of Article IV.

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).

Presbytery's Response: Presbytery believes the PRC may have made an incorrect reading of Minutes 31.13.A.1, which read, in part, as follows:

"That Presbytery approved disposition of the Christ EPC property as follows: 1. That a commission be created, composed of the following members: Don Creamer (Chairman), Cheryl Angus, David Dwight,

Knox Sherer and Jerry Thompson; that said commission be authorized to complete the sale of Christ EPC property, except property being leased to Sprint Communications.”

We would submit that while the word “appoint” could have been used, the committee was in order by its use of the word “create” in the immediate and overall context of the threefold recommended action presented to Presbytery. We would also submit that Presbytery acted upon a clear contextual understanding of synonymy to create/appoint an administrative commission to dispose of the Christ EPC property in accord with BG 16-16.B.

Minutes corrected to show the home church of commission members as follows (PRC Exception 3, above): RE Don Creamer (Chairman, Grace), RE Cheryl Angus (Hope), TE David Dwight, RE Knox Sherer (Forest Hill), RE Jerry Thompson (Abundant Life).

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).

Presbytery’s Response: Minutes corrected to indicate TE Robert Bryan restored to Active Status as of October 17, 1998 (BG 15-8) prior to his being transferred to the Presbytery of the Southeast.

*The Committee accepted all the responses above as adequate.*

**Presbytery of the Midwest (RE Alton Bennett, Stated Clerk)**

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).

Presbytery’s Response: At the time of Scott Poblenz’ examination, his pastor, Dr. Don Giesmann, attested to “his life and love for the work of Christ and the church.” Dr. Giesmann was pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Trenton, MI (p. 88). The advisor for Scott Poblenz was TE Dr. Thomas Burbridge and was approved in the 78<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

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.

Presbytery’s Response: The completion of written exams is under the jurisdiction of the Candidates Care Committee. It is the policy of the Presbytery, that all preliminary work must be approved before presentation for ordination/examination. Herb Frost preached during the worship service as indicated on the Order of Worship attachment (p. 95). Herb Frost was called as an Assistant Pastor of Ward Church. The reference in the report of annual review – terms of call (p. 191) indicates his assignment is to Immanuel Church, Ward’s daughter church.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate but with comment. The body of the Minutes, at the point of action being taken, should be clear and explicit in showing that all constitutional requirements have been met.*

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*).

**Presbytery's Response:** The Terms of Call are recorded in the minutes and the Terms of Call forms are filed in their personnel file. The Ministerial Committee and Presbytery will consider the alteration of this practice.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

4. No record of any recognition or ceremony upon retirement of TE Hugh Gowman (p. 91) (G.15-9).

**Presbytery's Response:** None was held, since the church he pastored withdrew from the EPC denomination at the same time he retired. Due to the circumstances, it did not seem appropriate.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate but with comment. The withdrawal of a church has no relation to the status of a minister being placed on the retired roll. It is appropriate to honor his years of service on the floor of Presbytery.*

5. Committees do not have authority to appoint commissions (p. 91, Hicks) (G.16-26,B).

**Presbytery's Response:** The question was addressed in response to the 1998 Presbytery Review Committee. These minutes were already recorded in the permanent record at that time.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

6. No indication that 10 days notice and purpose for a called meeting was provided (p. 116) (G.16-17).

**Presbytery's Response:** The practice of the Presbytery is to include Presbytery notices as an attachment to the called meeting. This was an oversight by the Stated Clerk.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

7. No indication of which church endorsed Paul Burr as a candidate for ministry (p. 173) (G.12-2,A).

**Presbytery's Response:** The previous Candidates Care Chairman included this information in his approved report. The Stated Clerk failed to notice the change in procedure by the new committee chair.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate but with comment. Minutes should be corrected to include the name of the church.*

8. There was no motion to approve Douglas Walker for ordination (p. 174). Terms of call form not utilized (Acts of Assembly 98-03).

**Presbytery's Response:** Douglas Walker was approved ON MOTION (p. 174). The oral examination for Douglas Walker for ordination was sustained. See number 3 re: Terms of Call Form.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate but with comment. In the case of examination for ordination, a specific motion should be made to approve the person for ordination pending a call.*

9. No indication of the provision under which Steve Brown was examined (p. 222) (G.13-2, 4 or 5).

Presbytery's Response: TE Steve Brown was examined under G.13-4 as indicated by the statement "the Rev. Steve Brown was introduced to be examined on views by the Presbytery pursuant to the call of North Oaks Community Church.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate but with comment. Minutes should be explicit about the status of a minister prior to their examinations and the constitutional authority for the particular examination administered. The minutes remain unclear about whether TE Brown was transferred from another Reformed body.*

10. No advisor appointed for James Cupschalk (p. 225) (G.12-2,D).

Presbytery's Response: No advisor was appointed due to the fact that James Cupschalk was transferred with all studies completed. He is completing his examinations at the present time as Assistant Pastor at Mt. Pleasant Community Church.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

11. Minutes not signed by Moderator (p. 226).

Presbytery's Response: The moderator was not available prior to submitting the certified copy. The signature was obtained prior to the General Assembly report.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

12. No annual report of status of retired ministers (G. 15-9)

Presbytery's Response: This report was delayed due to the lack of response by the ministers. The 1999 report was completed and mailed on 8/10/99 and the Presbytery has been notified that the annual publishing date of this report will be in March.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

13. No record of review of Out of Bounds ministers (G.10-3,F).

Presbytery's Response: This report was delayed due to the lack of response by the ministers. The 1999 report was completed and mailed on 8/10/99 and the Presbytery has been notified that the annual publishing date of this report will be in March.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

#### **Presbytery of the Southeast (TE Russell Ragon, Stated Clerk)**

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).

Presbytery's Response: Excused absences are noted beginning with the 48<sup>th</sup> stated meeting all others are unexcused.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate but with comment. For clarity, minutes should use the format agreed to at the Stated Clerk's workshop.*

2. The form for the out of bounds call for Cobby Ware is missing. (44-21,45-21) (*Acts of the Assembly* 98-03).

Presbytery's Response: The needed form has been included in the minutes for the 48<sup>th</sup> stated meeting.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

3. The assets and church property discussed in 45-11 were not disposed of in accordance G.5-5 (Hope and 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Louisville).

Presbytery's Response: Not True, Dear Brothers and Sisters. At its 37<sup>th</sup> stated meeting in Cartersville GA on Feb. 10, 1996 the property of First Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY was disposed of properly. (37.21). The title of the remaining property was transferred to the Presbytery of the Southeast by motion of Presbytery. However, since First – Louisville was unwilling to convey its property and assets to the Presbytery, the trustees of the presbytery attempted to take a pastoral role in dealing with the aging congregation (41.11) During this time, the congregation sold its property and gave the funds earned from the sale away. (43.12). After the congregation had illegally sold all of its property and disposed of it without the permission of presbytery and contrary to the Book of Order, the presbytery consciously made the decision not to file suit in secular court. Such was our decision based on scripture. They, not we, were in error. "Why not rather be wronged?"

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate but with comment. It appears that Presbytery acted properly in 1996. However, it also appears that Presbytery's delay in implementing constitutional polity resulted in assets being disposed of in a manner contrary to G.5-5. The Committee recognizes the prerogative of Presbytery not to file suit. However, it also urges Presbytery to be more diligent in its stewardship of its assets.*

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).

Presbytery's Response: The Commission to dissolve Hope Church provided minutes as of October 8, 1999, and they are inserted into the minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> stated meeting.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

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).

Presbytery's Response: Dan Gilchrist and Jack Piers were examined by Presbytery, they responded to questions from the Moderator, a charge was given to them and advisors were appointed. That such was the case has been noted in the minutes (45.21).

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

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).

Presbytery's Response: Ruling 99-3 has been deleted from the minutes. Ruling 99-4 has been rewritten and attached to the minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup>.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

7. No indication of which EPC church endorsed Alan Wallace as a candidate for ministry (46-12) (G.12-2,A).

Presbytery's Response: The fact that Alan Wallace was endorsed by Brainerd Presbyterian has been noted in the minutes.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

8. No terms of call or form included for Tommy Jordan (G.11-5,E; *Acts of Assembly* 98-03)

Presbytery's Response: Form has been attached to the minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> stated meeting.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

9. No indication that 10 days notice was provided for the called meeting of Dec. 4, 1998 (G.16-17).

Presbytery's Response: Ten days notice was given and the fact has been noted in the minutes

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

10. Churches of commission members were not included (46-33) (G.16-26,B.2-e).

Presbytery's Response: The churches of the commission members were: TE Julian Reese, RE Augie Barker, RE Kent Ivey, RE John Green, all of Christ Presbyterian, Knoxville, and TE Jim Hoilman and RE Dan Wells, both of Lynn Garden Presbyterian, Kingsport.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

11. There is no record of annual review of the status of retired ministers (G.15-9).

Presbytery's Response: In the minutes (44.21-6) there is a record of the annual review of the status of retired ministers.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

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.

Presbytery's Response: A copy of the minutes of the commission for Dec. 4, 1998 have been included in the minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> stated meeting.

*The Committee accepted the response as adequate.*

**Recommendation #5:** Because corrections noted in Presbytery's responses to exceptions issued by the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly were not included in the certified minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting as indicated, the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly instructs the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Southeast to include the corrections in the minutes of the Fall 2000 meeting.

**Presbytery of St. Andrews, Argentina (TE Juan Jose Mejias, Stated Clerk)**

The 14<sup>th</sup> General Assembly took action requiring that all Presbyteries keep records in English in addition to any other language used. A computer translation program has been used which has not rendered satisfactory minutes. This year a translation of one set of Minutes was furnished to the Committee. The Committee commends St. Andrews and looks forward to a complete set of English minutes subject to review in 2001.

**Presbytery of the West (TE Marc Huebl, Stated Clerk)**

1. No indication that Ramona Spilman successfully completed the written exams for ordination (54-10) (G.13-2).

Presbytery's Response: Please know that the Care of Candidates Committee would never have allowed a Candidate for Ordination to be examined by the Presbytery if they had failed their written exams. Nor would the Presbytery's Stated Clerk. However, to be helpful in your review, the Presbytery will do its best to record such information in its Minutes when candidates are examined by the Presbytery in future record keeping.

2. Many reports not opened in prayer.

Presbytery's Response: We will be more diligent to have the presenter of the report be sure to open their report in prayer, and have the Clerk more diligent to be sure to record it when they do.

3. 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).

Presbytery's Response: There is no argument and so the motion is out of order and needs to be corrected by the Presbytery.

4. Attachment 16 to the 56<sup>th</sup> 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)

Presbytery's Response: Since the call was unchanged, just the geographical location of the Ministry's business office, the need to have this call on its proper form was overlooked. We will be more circumspect and have the minister and his calling agency send us a new Outside the Boundaries Call form.

*The Committee accepted all the responses above as adequate.*

**B. Minutes Subject to Review by the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

**Presbytery of the Central South:**

**Recommendation #6:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 47.07 – (Stated Clerk Report): Required forms for minutes of Commissions to ordain / install are not used (see Attachment 14, *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*) (Acts of the Assembly 98-03).
2. System of reporting attendance is inadequate (*Rules for Assembly* 8.11.G.1): 1) categories of Teaching and Ruling Elder are not used, 2) discrepancies between names listed as unexcused and the number listed as unexcused, 3) 47<sup>th</sup> stated meeting has no names of ruling elders present
3. No record of disposition of Exceptions to Minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Rules of the Assembly



4. 47.23 – Ministerial Committee report is incomplete. No record of status prior to change of call, no terms of call summaries or forms.
5. Called Meeting 8/28/99 – Attendance does not contain excused or unexcused absences (Rules for Assembly 8.11.G.1)
6. Attachment 6 for the 48<sup>th</sup> Stated meeting is missing from the certified copies. The Clerk is instructed to forward the attachment to the Office of the Stated Clerk no later than July 31, 2000.
7. 48.22 – Insufficient information in minutes to determine if actions taken conform to constitutional standards: 1) status of Dr. Overton prior to being “reestablished” is not indicated, 2) no record present of actions to dissolve pastoral relationship of Christ EPC and Rev. Petterson, 3) no basis cited for moving Rev. Roberts to inactive roll, 4) no record present of actions taken to dismiss Rev. Roberts as Assistant Pastor, 5) no record that Allan Thompson is ordained, 6) no record of actions taken to dissolve pastoral relationship of Rev. Werner and Marshall EPC.
8. Signatures are missing from copies of certified minutes submitted for review (minutes of stated meetings and commission reports). The Clerk is instructed to submit copies of completed signature pages to the Office of the Stated Clerk by July 31, 2000.
9. 48: Attachment 9 (second page, section E): Administrative Commission acted unconstitutionally to restrict whom a congregation could elect as its own officers, thereby violating the rights of Crossroads Community Church held in perpetuity (G.17-5; 7-2). This action is remanded to Presbytery for correction.
10. 49.19 – No terms of call form included for Ron Horgan or Frank Varro.
11. 49 (attachment 7) – Terms of call for TE Permenter are out of order. A call as pastor has no definite period of time. There is no provision for 2 weeks of study leave.

#### **Presbytery of the East**

**Recommendation #7:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the East be approved with the following exceptions:

1. Appendices referred to in Minutes of the 55<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting are missing. The Clerk is instructed to forward Appendices to the Office of the Stated by July 31, 2000.
2. 55.E.2 – No advisor appointed for Candidates Gray and O’Connell.
3. Minutes of certified minutes of 55<sup>th</sup>, 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting are not signed.
4. 56.F.1 – No record of written exam for Frank Young or signing the Ministerial Obligation (G. 13-2, 16-16.L, Acts of the Assembly 98.03).
5. Responses to exceptions in a letter from the Clerk (spreading information in the October 2, 1999 minutes) have not been fulfilled. Presbytery of the East is directed to include the required information in the Fall 2000 meeting.
6. Appendices referred to in minutes of the 56<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting are not included in the certified copies. Clerk is instructed to forward these Appendices to the Office of the Stated Clerk by July 31, 2000.

#### **Presbytery of Florida**

**Recommendation #8:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of Florida be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 27:16 – Presbytery has no constitutional authority to divest Richard Adelman without censure without using disciplinary procedures in the Book of Discipline.
2. Record of the 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting appears to be inaccurate. Provisional Minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> Stated Minutes have significant differences from the certified copies, yet there is no record of corrections at the 29<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting.
3. 28:14 – Ministerial Committee report is missing in the certified minutes. Presbytery is directed to correct the minutes and forward corrections to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following their Fall 2000 meeting.

4. 28:15 – Judicial Committee report is missing in the certified minutes. Presbytery is directed to correct the minutes and forward corrections to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following their Fall 2000 meeting.
5. Session Review Committee report is missing, including admonishment of Dan Lacich. Presbytery is directed to correct the minutes and forward corrections to the Office of the Stated Clerk immediately following their Fall 2000 meeting.
6. 28:14 – The Presbytery appears to have ordained Jonathan Tagg improperly, without having official terms of call forms in hand (*Acts of the Assembly* 98-03).
7. General: Permanent record lacks signatures.
8. 29:14 – Presbytery has no constitutional authority to divest Michael Eubanks of office without censure. Presbytery took action based on a misstatement of fact: "The EPC does not transfer to non-reformed denominations." There is no such constitutional prohibition. Neither is there a constitutional provision for a de facto renunciation of jurisdiction. This matter is referred to the Presbytery of Florida for reconsideration.
9. Ministerial Committee did not make the required annual report on the work of Ministers of the Word (G.16-27.A.1). This requirement is not fulfilled by reporting changes in terms of call (G.16-27.A. 8).

### Presbytery of Mid-America

**Recommendation #9:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 24.03, 25.03 – No record of unexcused absences (Rules for Assembly 8-11-G.1)
2. 25.04 – No copy of rewritten minutes included in certified copy.
3. 25.19.1 No record of actions taken to dissolve the pastoral relationship of Mark Quay and New Harvest Community Church.
4. 25.20.4 – No service of appreciation and thanksgiving was conducted upon the retirement of Paul Westberg (G.15-9).
5. 25.20.7 – There is no office of co-pastor in the EPC (Acts of the Assembly 85-05).
6. 25.20.09 – Call and terms of call for David Baer as evangelist were not used. Powers of evangelist were not specified (G.10-3, C).
7. 25.20.10 – Required forms for minutes of commission to ordain/install have not been used (Attachment 14, Procedure Manual) (Acts of the Assembly 98-03).
8. 25.20.10 – No record that Presbytery approved new call or terms of call for Corbett Heimburger.
9. 25.21 – A ruling elder was assigned as advisor for candidates. Book of Government requires a teaching elder (12.2.D).
10. 26.16 – Required forms for minutes of commission to ordain/install have not been used (Acts of the Assembly 98-03).
11. 26.16.01 – Required forms for minutes of commission to ordain/install have not been used (Acts of the Assembly 90-03).
12. 26.16.03 – No call or terms of call for Rev. Plant were approved by Presbytery.
13. 26.16.05 – Minutes do not indicate that proper steps for receiving a church from another body or independency have been followed: installation of pastor, election or recognition of officers, reception of members (G.5-4).
14. 26.16.07 – Minutes do not indicate that membership of Greentree Community Church were received according to G.5-3.B.
15. 26.16.12 – Minutes do not contain required out of bounds call forms (Acts of Assembly 98-03).
16. 26.16.14 – Presbytery acted unconstitutionally to set aside the term limit requirement of officers. It is the right of the congregation, not the presbytery to determine if it has lifetime officers or to have limited terms (G.15-6). The issue is remanded to the Presbytery of Mid-America for correction.

### Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

Commendations: Excellent Stated Clerk's and Treasurer's Report to 32<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting. The work of the Spiritual Outreach Committee in providing workshops for ministry enrichment is commended as an example to other Presbyteries. Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting are excellent.

**Recommendation #10:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 32.02 – Forest Hill is authorized to have 8 ruling elder commissioners but 10 are registered.
2. 32.27 – The pension for Robert Buchanan is below the 10% minimum requirement.
3. 32.27.M – Required out of bounds call form is omitted for Doug Murphy (Acts of the Assembly 98-03)
4. 32.31 – Presbytery appointed a commission, but no members are named.
5. 7C – Excused and unexcused absences are not recorded (Rules of Assembly 8.11.G.1).
6. 7C.07.E – Call and terms of call for Jeff Parks not approved by Presbytery. No definite period of time for service is specified (G.16-27.A-6).

### Presbytery of the Midwest

**Recommendation #11:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest be approved with the following exceptions:

1. P. 265: Pension for TE Bill Meyer is below the 10% minimum (Acts of the Assembly 81-05).
2. P. 266: Call to Larry Schmoekel is out of order. There is no constitutional provision for a 2 year out of bounds call. Out of bounds calls are approved annually (G.10-3.F).
3. P. 266: No summary of terms of call or terms of call form included in the minutes (Schmoekel, Quigley) (Acts of Assembly 89-03).
4. Pp. 271 – 272: No summary of terms of call or terms of call form for Armistead and Ytterock included in the certified copy of the minutes.
5. Pp. 276, 279 – No advisor appointed for Jeff Juday or Tim McCracken (G.12-2.D).
6. P. 279 – Terms of call for Doug Thompson are missing. If a call changes there must be new terms of call (the call comes from a different body even if the numbers are the same).
7. P. 280 – The call to Bob Stauffer is unclear (no agency specified). No terms of call appear in the minutes. There is no record of church or Presbytery actions to dissolve Bob Stauffer's pastoral relationship with Tabernacle EPC.
8. P. 280 – Terms of call for Ron Amos are missing.
9. Pp. 281-282 – Members of a dissolved church were not commended to another congregation by the Presbytery (G.5-5).
10. P. 284 – No indication that the required 10-day notice was given for a Called Meeting.
11. 83-8.A – Commission reports are missing.
12. 83-11 – No advisor appointed for Tim Brown.
13. 83-13 – Call and terms of call for Jamie Cupschalk was approved, but no record of his prior status, no record that he was examined and approved for ordination.
14. 83-13 – Call and terms of call for Craig Van Biber was approved, but no record of his prior status, no indication that he was examined and no record of signing the Ministerial Obligation.
15. 85-12 – (Note: this should be numbered 84-12) No out of bounds call or terms of call form included for TE Gebhard.
16. 85-12 – (Note: this should be numbered 84-12) No record of previous status of David Hicks or dissolution of his call.

17. 85-12 – (Note: this should be numbered 84-12) No terms of call summary or forms included in minutes for Missionaries Kelley, Killgore, Mindling and Walker.

### **Presbytery of the Southeast**

Commendations: 47:11 Attachment B – The Clerk is commended for a fine Annual Report.

**Recommendation #12:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved with the following exceptions

1. 47:11, 28, 29, 30 – Reports not begun with prayer.
2. 47:12 – Service of appreciation and thanksgiving not conducted for either TE Gainey or TE Schussler (G.15-9)
3. 47:12 (4) – Four teaching elders removed from roll with no indication for constitutional provisions for removal.
4. 47:12 – No advisor appointed for Thomas Covington.
5. 47, Attachment C/1 – Terms of call forms for William Swafford are inadequate.
6. 47:19 – People who are not members of the court (Martha Roden) cannot make motions.
7. 47:28 – Ministerial Committee report did not begin with prayer.
8. 47<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting – Attachments C, D and E lack signatures.
9. 48, Attachment C – No definite period of time is part of the call as Assistant Pastor for John Piers (G.11-7). Terms of call form is incomplete.
10. 47, 48, 49: Signature of Moderator is missing.

### **Presbytery of St. Andrews**

Commendations: The Presbytery Review Committee commends the Presbytery of St. Andrews for beginning the process of maintaining official records in English and for their work in moving toward organizing as a denomination in Argentina.

**Recommendation #13:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of St. Andrews be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 55.4.2.4 and 55.4.3.1.2 – An important **Book of Government** distinction between committees and commissions is blurred. The Presbytery is instructed to take note of **Government** 16.26.A and 16.26.B and make this distinction clear in the future.
2. Translations of the 54<sup>th</sup> and 53<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meetings were not submitted. The Stated Clerk is instructed to submit those minutes by Dec. 31, 2000.

### **Presbytery of the West**

Commendation: Minutes are excellent. They show clarity, thoroughness, and a diligence for applying constitutional procedures.

**Recommendation #14:** That the minutes of the Presbytery of the West be approved without exceptions.

### C. General observations of Presbytery Minutes

1. The Committee noted a trend to form commissions complying with the minimum standards for representation from 2 churches. While this is constitutional and probably expedient, Presbyteries should give due consideration to composing commissions (especially to ordain and install) with broader representation, demonstrating our connectionalism.
2. When members of commissions being formed are listed, minutes should include the churches to which commissioners belong.
3. At times it is appropriate to include people who are not members of the Presbytery on a commission to ordain / install. Presbyteries should take care to see that these people are either from other EPC presbyteries or ruling/teaching elders from other reformed bodies. Minutes should state that these people are enrolled as corresponding members. These members are not counted in the minimum constitutional requirements for forming commissions (5 members, 2 churches).
4. When ministers are receiving a call Clerks should take care to note the prior status of the Minister (candidate, Presbytery membership, previous place of service, etc.).
5. Clerks are reminded that Presbytery must approve both a pastor's call and a pastor's terms of call. The two are not synonymous.
6. Clerks should consistently use terminology from the Book of Order, e.g., "Out of Bounds" rather than "outside of boundaries," "retired," rather than "honorably retired," "without call," not "active without call."
7. There appears to be a discrepancy between Acts of the Assembly 89-03 and 89-04 regarding the use of Attachments. Guidance from the Office of the Stated Clerk is needed on this issue.
8. We note a wide disparity in the information given in treasurers' reports ranging from complete details to a cursory statement of money in the bank account. Guidance from the Office of the Stated Clerk is needed on this issue.
9. Required annual reporting by the Ministerial Committees in our Presbyteries is lacking. Most Presbyteries secure (often with difficulty), approve and report changes in terms of call (G.16-27.A.8). The Committee did not observe any Presbytery reporting the Ministerial Committee's required annual report on the work of the Ministers of the Word (see G.16-27.A.8). Guidance from the Office of the Stated Clerk is needed on these issues.
10. 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).

11. If the Assembly approves the recommendations below which deal with standardizing the form of Presbytery Minutes, the Committee encourages the Office of the Stated Clerk to consider assembling a Presbytery Clerk's Handbook utilizing the checklists below.

#### D. Additional Recommendations

**Recommendation #15:** That the following standardization method of numbering sections and subsections of the Presbytery Minutes be approved:

Each Main section should identify the number of the meeting and the section, i.e., 76-10 identifies the 76<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> section. Letter or number subsections as appropriate (e.g., 76-10 A.1).

*Grounds:* This will insure that all Presbyteries use the same format, making it easier to identify and refer to specific actions.

**Recommendation #16:** That the following standardized method of reporting attendance be initiated in all Presbyteries:

Active in EPC Church:

<u>Church</u>	<u>TE</u>	<u>RE</u>
Faith EPC	Dr. John Blank (Present) Rev. John Bold (Unexcused)	Sam Underline (Excused) Frank Italics (Present)

(Followed by all EPC Churches)

Out of Bounds

Name of TE (present, excused, unexcused)

Evangelists

Name of TE (present, excused, unexcused)

(Followed by all other categories)

(Followed by visitors)

*Grounds:* Rules for Assembly 8-11-G require this reporting and this is a convenient and clear method to standardize the process.

**Recommendation #17:** That the following checklists be used by all Presbyteries (see attachments):

- A. Examination of candidates to come under care of Presbytery (Attachment #1)
- B. Examination of a candidate for ordination (Attachment #2)
- C. Examination of an ordained minister transferring to a Presbytery (Attachment #3)
- D. Examination of an ordained minister coming from another denomination from within the Reformed family (Attachment #4).
- E. Examination of an ordained minister coming from any other tradition (Attachment #5)
- F. Appointing commissions (Attachment #6)
- G. Special called meetings (Attachment #7)
- H. Dissolution of a pastoral relationship (Attachment #8)

*Grounds:* Following a checklist will insure that all required actions have been taken and using the standard format will insure proper reporting of actions taken.

**Recommendation #18:** That the following standardized method be used by all Presbyteries to show that corrections to exceptions and notations to Presbytery Minutes have been made:

In a subsequent set of minutes under the heading "Errata" make reference to the minutes to be corrected and then show the correction being made.

Example:

**76-10 Errata**

- 76-10 A Make the following correction to exceptions reported by the Presbytery Review Committee:
- A.1 Exception 1 (quote it)  
Response: \_\_\_\_\_ ...
- A.2 Exception 2 (quote it)  
Response: \_\_\_\_\_ ...
- 76-10 B Make the following correction to notations reported by the Presbytery Review Committee:
- B.1 Notation 1 (quote it)  
Response: \_\_\_\_\_ ...
- B.2 Notation 2 (quote it)  
Response: \_\_\_\_\_ ...

Grounds: Once minutes have been approved and placed in a Presbytery's permanent record they may not be altered. This provides a clear, standardized method to make necessary changes to approved minutes.

**Recommendation #19:** That guidance from the Office of the Stated Clerk be given to the Presbyteries on the following issues:

- Financial reporting in Presbytery Minutes
- Use of attachments in Presbytery Minutes, addressing the inconsistency in Acts of the Assembly 89-03 and 89-04.
- Annual reporting on the work of Ministers of the Word and changes in terms of call (G. 16.27.A.1, 8)

Grounds: The Presbytery Review Committee observed wide variation in practice and thoroughness in these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Buck Russell, Chairman



Ed McCallum, Recorder

Attachment #1  
**Checklist for Candidates Coming Under Care of Presbytery (G.12)**

- 1. Membership in EPC church for a minimum of six months (G.12-2,A)
- 2. Endorsement form received from church session (Attachment 7, Procedure Manual)
- 3. Examined and recommended by the Ministerial or Candidates Care Committee (G.12-2,B)
- 4. Examined satisfactorily in (G.12-2,C):
  - Christian experience and growth
  - Motives for seeking ordination
  - Personal call to ministry
- 5. Candidate responded affirmatively to questions asked by Moderator (G.12-2,C)
- 6. Charge given to the candidate
- 7. Advisor assigned to candidate (G.12-2,D)

**Sample:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (name), having been a member of \_\_\_\_\_ (Church name) for at least six months, has been endorsed by that church session as a candidate to come under care of the Presbytery. The \_\_\_\_\_ Committee has examined (name) and recommends approval. In accordance with G.12-2,C, the Presbytery examined and approved (Name) as a Candidate under care of the \_\_\_\_\_ Presbytery. The Candidate responded affirmatively to the questions posed by the Moderator (G.12-2,C). Prayer for the candidate was offered by (name) and a charge to the candidate was given by \_\_\_\_\_ (name). \_\_\_\_\_ (name) was appointed as the Candidate's advisor.



Attachment #2

**Checklist for Examination of Candidate for Ordination (G.13-2)**

- 1. Candidate is required to have completed a four-year college degree and a three-year degree from a seminary approved by Presbytery including appropriate courses in Greek and Hebrew (G.12-2.G)
- 2. Candidate was under care of Presbytery for at least one year (G.12-2.F).
  - Ordinary minimum of one year waived. Reasons:
  
- 3. Candidate successfully completed all written examinations.
- 4. Candidate successfully completed oral examination in:
  - Christian experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth.
  - Theology and Sacraments
  - English Bible
  - The Book of Order
  - The Reformed Tradition
  - Nature of the office of Minister of the Word
- 5. Candidate has preached a sermon to the presbytery on an assigned topic or Scripture

Sample:

Candidate \_\_\_\_\_, having completed the required course work (G.12-26) and having successfully completed the written and oral examinations as required in G.13-2, was examined by the Presbytery in Christian experience and progress in spiritual growth. (Name) preached a sermon on the assigned (topic / Scripture) of \_\_\_\_\_ and demonstrated ability to expound the Word of God effectively. The examination was arrested and the Candidate was excused while the Presbytery discussed and reviewed the examination. (Name) spoke on behalf of the Candidate. The Presbytery sustained a motion to approve ordination pending a call. The Candidate was brought back into the meeting and congratulated. Prayer for the candidate was led by \_\_\_\_\_ (Name).

Attachment #3

**Checklist for Examination of an EPC Minister Transferring to a Presbytery (G.13-4)**

- 1. Certificate of dismissal received from Clerk of dismissing Presbytery (*Procedure Manual*, pp. 48, 93)
- 2. Minister was examined orally on views of (G.13.2, 13.4):
  - Theology and sacraments,
  - English Bible,
  - Book of Order,
  - Reformed tradition and the
  - Nature of the office of the Minister of the Word
- 3. Minister related his / her experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth (G. 13.2).
- 4. Presbytery moved to enroll minister pending approval of call.
- 5. Ministerial obligation form signed and on file.
- 6. Certificate of Reception sent to Clerk of dismissing Presbytery (*Procedure Manual*, p. 93).
- 7. "Record of Official Change for Minister's Status and Ministry" sent to the Minister and General Assembly (*Procedure Manual*, pp. 48, 92)

Sample:

\_\_\_\_\_ (name), an ordained minister of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, seeking to transfer from \_\_\_\_\_ Presbytery to \_\_\_\_\_ Presbytery was examined orally on his / her views in the areas indicated in G.13-2. The examination was arrested and the minister was excused while the Presbytery discussed and reviewed the examination. The Presbytery sustained a motion to receive \_\_\_\_\_ (name) as a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Presbytery pending an approved call. \_\_\_\_\_ (name) signed the Ministerial Obligation Form which is on file in the Clerk's office.

Attachment #4

**Checklist for Examination of an Ordained Minister from Another Denomination within the Reformed Tradition (G.13-5)**

- 1. Minister's credentials of education and ordination presented and approved
- 2. Minister was examined orally on views of (G.13.2, 13.4):
  - Theology and sacraments,
  - English Bible,
  - Book of Order,
  - Reformed tradition and the
  - Nature of the office of the Minister of the Word
- 3. Minister related his / her experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth (G. 13.2, 5).
- 4. No discipline, inquiry, or charges pending from other denomination
  - Pending charges: Presbytery reviewed case and declared by ¾ vote that pending charges are insufficient for refusal of membership (G.13-5)
  - Minister lacks current ordination credentials for reasons other than disciplinary action (G.13-6)
- 5. Presbytery moved to enroll minister pending approval of call.
- 6. Ministerial obligation form signed and on file.

Sample:

\_\_\_\_\_ (name), an ordained minister of \_\_\_\_\_  
(denomination) from within the Reformed tradition has presented the credentials of education required by those seeking ordination in the EPC and has been examined by the presbytery on views and beliefs as outlined in G.13-4. The examination was arrested, \_\_\_\_\_ (name) was excused while Presbytery discussed and reviewed the examination. The Presbytery sustained the motion to approve the transfer to the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_ pending an approved call. \_\_\_\_\_ was brought back into the meeting and congratulated. Prayer for the minister was led by \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ (name) signed the Ministerial Obligation Form which is on file in the Clerk's office.

Attachment #5

**Checklist for Examination of an Ordained Minister from a non-Reformed tradition (G.13-5)**

- 1. Minister's credentials of education and ordination presented and approved
- 2. Minister successfully completed all written examinations (G.13-2)
- 3. Minister successfully completed oral examination in (G.13-2):
  - Christian experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth.
  - Theology and Sacraments
  - English Bible
  - The Book of Order
  - The Reformed Tradition
  - Nature of the office of Minister of the Word
- 4. No discipline, inquiry, or charges pending from other denomination
  - Pending charges: Presbytery reviewed case and declared by  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote that pending charges are insufficient for refusal of membership (G.13-5)
  - Minister lacks current ordination credentials for reasons other than disciplinary action (G.13-6)
- 5. Minister has preached a sermon to the presbytery on an assigned topic or Scripture.
- 5. Presbytery moved to enroll minister pending approval of call.
- 6. Ministerial obligation form signed and on file.

**Sample:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (name), an ordained minister of \_\_\_\_\_  
(denomination) having presented the credentials of education required by those seeking ordination in the EPC and having successfully completed the written and oral examinations as required in G.13-2, was examined by the Presbytery in Christian experience and spiritual growth. He preached a sermon on the assigned topic / Scripture \_\_\_\_\_, demonstrating the ability to expound the Word of God effectively. The examination was arrested, \_\_\_\_\_ (name) was excused while Presbytery discussed and reviewed the examination. The Presbytery sustained the motion to approve the transfer to the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_ pending an approved call. \_\_\_\_\_ was brought back into the meeting and congratulated. Prayer for the minister was led by \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ (name) signed the Ministerial Obligation Form which is on file in the Clerk's office.

Attachment #6

**Checklist for Administrative Commissions (G.16-26)**

- 1. Appointed by the Presbytery (not by a committee).
- 2. Powers given to the Commission and its duration are specifically stated.
- 3. Composed of at least five members, as near to a 2:1 RE / TE ratio as possible.
- 4. Represents at least two member churches.
- 5. Written report of actions submitted.
- 6. Written report inserted in Presbytery Minutes
- 7. Commission has been dismissed.

Sample: Forming a Commission

An Administrative Commission was appointed, composed of the following members:

(List names, RE or TE, churches they represent)

The commission was appointed to (state specifically what powers are given to the Commission – see G.16-26,B-2). The Commission is constituted until (date).

Sample: Dismissing a Commission

The Administrative Commission appointed to (state powers given to Commission) has filed their written report (see Attachment \_\_\_\_). The Commission was dismissed and thanked for their completed work.

Attachment #7

**Checklist for Special Called Meetings of the Presbytery (G.16-7)**

- 1. Ten days notice was given before the meeting.
- 2. Notice of the meeting stated the purpose of the meeting.
- 3. Quorum was present.
- 4. Minutes kept by the stated clerk.

Sample:

A special called meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ Presbytery was held on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_. Ten days notice of this meeting was given to all churches and Teaching Elders. A quorum was present and a record of the meeting follow.

Attachment #8

**Checklist for the Dissolution of a Pastoral Relationship (G.15-2)**

- 1. Minister or Session consulted with the Ministerial Committee before making request to dissolve the pastoral relationship.
- 2. If a pastor or associate pastor, a congregational meeting was duly called and congregation concurred.
  - Congregation or pastor did not concur.
    - Commission appointed
    - Presbytery heard representatives explain action
  - Decision of congregation or commission:
- 3. Status of pastor following dissolution:
- 4. "Record of Official Change for Minister's Status and Ministry" sent to the Minister and General Assembly (*Procedure Manual*, pp. 48, 92)

Sample:

Pastor / Associate Pastor:

The congregation of \_\_\_\_\_ Church in a duly called congregational meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ (date) approved the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with TE \_\_\_\_\_ The Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_ concurred and the relationship is dissolved. Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ was / is (fill in new status: transferred, without call, out of bounds, etc.)

Assistant Pastor:

Based on the action of the Session of \_\_\_\_\_ Church, the Presbytery of \_\_\_\_\_ concurs with the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with TE \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ was / is (fill in new status: transferred, without call, out of bounds, etc.)

## STATED CLERK'S REPORT

"Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore...stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." (1 Cor. 15)

This Assembly we begin to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Passing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we engage in what strikes me as a "defining moment." This Assembly has one eye to its history and the other eye on its future. In a variety of fascinating ways, the business of the Assembly only asks the larger question, "How is God working in us, and where is He seeking to lead the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?"

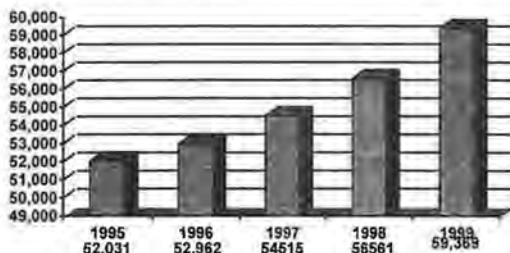
The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is a family of churches, essentially Reformed and Presbyterian, defined by shared core values and bonded by the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Vision 21). We share a precious legacy, a common mission and shared biblical values.

By faith, as with our father Abraham, this little family journeyed forth twenty years ago to follow God's voice though, like Abraham, we hardly knew where God would lead. And here we are. What a privilege to be alive, to belong to God's family and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The stated mission of the Assembly is "glorify God by helping congregations and presbyteries fulfill Christ's mission for His Church in those regions and communities in which God calls them to serve." Standing on the portals of a new century, we ask God to renew our confidence that He alone has called us to this place "for such a time as this."

Taking stock is like opening a family album and scanning the pictures. A family picture shows it all—blessings and blemishes. May the following pictures only further motivate us to become a people of the future in whom our heavenly Father finds great pleasure

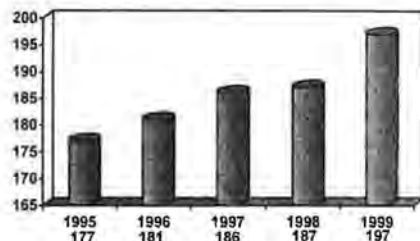
**I. Active Membership** reported this Assembly year is 59,369, a 5% increase. In the inclusive membership, small decreases were reported on the baptized roll and on the numbers of ministers enrolled in presbyteries.



**II. Number of churches** reported this Assembly year is 197, a net increase of 10 churches (+5.3%) including both particular and mission churches.

### Inclusive Membership 1999:

1. Active Adult:	59,369
2. Baptized Roll:	4,078
3. Ministers:	438
	63,885





**New churches** added this Assembly year:

**Central South**

1. Hope Church, San Antonio TX (Key City Church Plant), Rev. Tom Masterson
2. St. Andrews Church, Jackson MS (Hispanic Church Plant, World Outreach / Lakeside Presbyterian, Brandon MS), Dr. Juan Singh
3. Midtown Church, Memphis TN (Daughter Church of Second Presbyterian, Memphis TN), Rev. Bill McCutchen.

**Mid-America**

4. Jacob's Well, Kansas City MO (Daughter Church of Heartland Community Church, Overland Park KS), Tim Keel.
5. Good Shepherd Community Church, Warrenton MO (received from independence), Rev. Charles Plant.
6. The Crossings, Columbia MO (Daughter Church of Greentree Community Church, Kirkwood MO), Rev. David Cover and Rev. Keith Simon.

**Mid-Atlantic**

7. Warehouse 242, Charlotte NC (Daughter Church of Forest Hill, Charlotte NC), October 1999, Rev. Todd Hahn.
8. North Grove EPC, Wilmington NC (Daughter Church of Myrtle Grove, Wilmington NC), Rev. Bill Solomon.
9. New Covenant Church, Burgaw NC (Daughter Church of Myrtle Grove, Wilmington NC), Rev. Stephen Keller

**Midwest**

10. New Heart Community Church, Muskegon MI (received from independence), Rev. Ron Amos
11. Peace Presbyterian Church, Flint MI (received from independence), Rev. David Galbraith.

**St. Andrews (Argentina)**

12. Urdinarra Mission Church (Presbytery Church Plant), Rev. Roberto Aliaga

**West**

13. Highline Community Church, Denver CO (Daughter Church of Greenwood Community Church, Englewood, CO), Mel Conant.
14. Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego CA (received from independence), Rev. David Fenska.

Offsetting greater gain were the following losses:

**Florida**

1. Abundant Life Presbyterian Church, Lake Mary FL (dissolved)

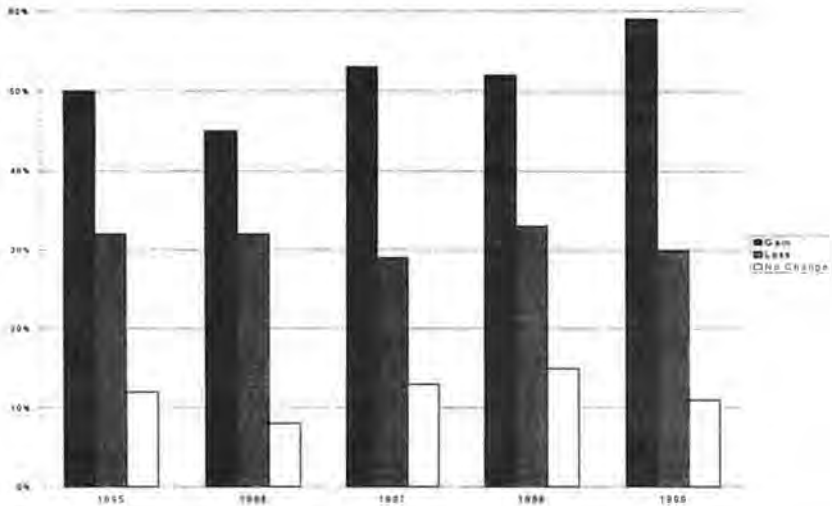
**Mid-America**

2. Baywind Christian Church, Navarre MN (dismissed to independence)

**Midwest**

3. Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Novi MI (dissolved)
4. Hope Community Church, Mentor OH (dissolved)

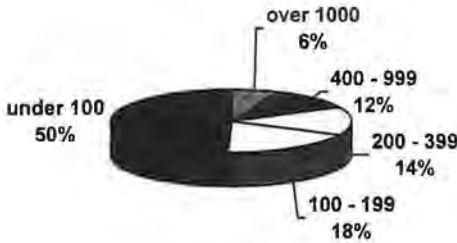
III. Internal Growth. 117 churches reported gains in membership in 1999. 59 reported losses and 21 reported no change.



	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change
Total Professions of faith:	1,518	1,106	1,658	1,677	+1.1%
Adult:	1,062	566	1,117	1,102	- 1.3%
Youth:	456	540	541	575	+6.3%

Total Baptisms:	1,465	1,534	1,634	1,843	+12.8%
Adult:	576	691	688	756	+9.9%
Infant:	889	843	946	946	+15.0%
Sunday School Enrollment:	35,075	37,158	35,758	34,251	-4.2%

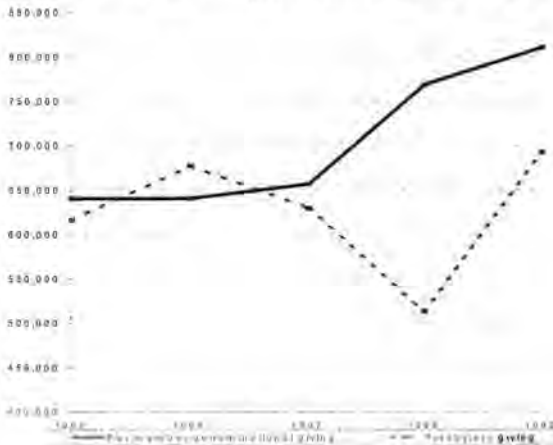
IV. **Distribution of congregations by size and membership (1999):** Lyle Schaller has observed that the EPC is a denomination of large churches. That trend has not changed over the past year. Although only 12 churches (6%) exceed 1000 members, those churches



contain 46% of the denomination's membership. On the other hand, one half of our churches report membership of less than 100. Size does not always indicate health. A church may be small and healthy or large and unhealthy. Both face challenges, but of a different nature. Both have opportunities for ministry unique to each.

V. **Giving:** Giving to both General Assembly and Presbytery has shown a healthy increase in 1999. Per member giving to the General Assembly totaled \$810,427. Churches reported giving \$692,171 to Presbytery causes. Benevolence giving to the General Assembly (including missionary support) was up 27% in the past year.

**General Assembly Per Member Giving and Total Presbytery Giving:**



**General Assembly Benevolence Giving:**

Total Benevolence Giving (including missionary support):

1997: \$1,373,871

1998: \$1,420,487

1999: \$1,807,253

Change: +27%

Of the 1999 total, \$1,407,949 came from EPC churches. The remaining \$397,714 was provided by individual giving, mostly toward individual missionary support.

**General Assembly Benevolence Giving by Category:**

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Change
Missionary Support	711,124	888,614	968,551	968,183	1,167,192	+21%
World Outreach	182,263	177,834	161,667	212,368	156,879	-26%
Women's Ministries	33,534	54,541	62,294	41,368	66,087	+60%
Special Offerings	46,210	44,724	36,807	37,407	65,179	+74%
National Outreach	59,351	72,471	78,668	71,320	223,045	+213%
Church Loan Fund	10,950	11,185	10,553	11,012	10,940	-.07%
Youth Ministries	297	719	3,290	3,742	3,292	-12%
Other Designated Giving	34,543	63,854	52,041	75,087	114,648	+53%
	1,078,245	1,313,941	1,373,871	1,420,487	1,807,253	+27%

**Benevolence Giving by Approved Program:**

Approved Benevolence Askings Project	Goal	Actual	Percentage of Goal
<b>National Outreach</b>			
Church Planting	50,000	34,333	69%
Church Loan Fund	25,000	10,940	44%
Key City Project	75,000	119,720	160%
Appalachian Project	5,000	4,577	92%
World Impact / Military Avenue Church	30,000	36,749	122%
<b>Youth Ministries</b>			
SYAM Ministries	10,000	3,292	33%
<b>Women's Ministries</b>	15,000	9,951	66%
Per Woman	25,000	14,503	58%
Faith Focus	35,000	24,618	70%
<b>World Outreach</b>			
China Seminary	50,000	18,219	36%
China Field Development	5,000	238	5%
Argentina Field Development	10,000	2,013	20%
Argentina Leadership Development	10,000	3,140	31%
Argentina Church Planting	20,000	18,131	91%
Argentina Library Development	5,000	10,614	212%
Argentina Pastoral Local Scholarships	1,500	0	0%
Argentina Presbytery Outreach	10,000	0	0%
Brazil Theological Scholarships	20,000	36,684	183%
Edward Davis Library / Jumper	10,000	2,200	22%
Brazil Foreign Missions (Angola)	10,000	7,930	79%
Brazil Foreign Missions (Ghana)	8,000	1,627	20%
Siberia Team Ministry	10,000	8,592	86%
Muslim Team Development	15,000	5,327	36%
Kazakstan Team Ministry	10,000	12,330	123%
Kazakstan Building Fund	50,000	17,230	34%

Approved Benevolence Askings Project	Goal	Actual	Percentage of Goal
Hispanic Project (Jackson)	10,000	654	7%
<b>Ministerial Vocation</b>			
Andrew A. Jumper Scholarship Fund	50,000	23,230	46%
Newly Ordained Ministers' Dinner	3,000	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>589,500</b>	<b>415,850</b>	<b>71%</b>

After a small, one year decline, missionary support in 1991 rose 21%. Giving toward General Assembly Benevolence Askings attained 71% of the goal, compared to 48% in 1998. To some extent this represents more realistic targets (\$589,000 as compared to \$650,000 in 1998), but that should not take away from a generous 32% increase in actual giving (from \$315,123 to \$415,850). Following action of the 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, two ongoing benevolence askings (Military Avenue and the Appalachian Project) were placed in the National Outreach category, accounting for some of the 213% increase. There is also much reason to give thanks to churches and individuals who have given significant financial support to the Key City Project, Hope Church in San Antonio, Texas. During 1999 EPC churches responded with open hearts to special appeals for relief from hurricane damage in North Carolina and Honduras, an earthquake in Turkey, and the refugee crisis in Honduras.



In summary, in 1999 our membership gave an average of \$45.96 per member toward the total work of the General Assembly (see chart below). This represents a 12% increase over. The per member asking for the administration of the General Assembly Office is \$18. Actual giving toward that goal in 1999 was \$14.28 per member, up from \$14.10 per member in 1998.

#### Conclusion:

Times of change and transition confront us at every corner. The 90s challenged us to clarify from whence we have come and who we are. I believe the understanding and value of being a family, evangelical and Reformed, has experienced greater clarity and significance with each assembly.

The future offers us, as a family of churches, the challenge to integrate the best of our historical heritage with the ministry challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Some people describe the EPC as a pastoral people. So be it. It does not mean—let no one mistake—that we have forsaken

theology. We simply, with the Spirit's enabling, determine to practice our theology with a pastoral heart.

For this Clerk, the Assembly closes out twenty years. Above all else, it has been a privilege given me by the Lord. My life verse across many years of ministry remains St. Paul's words in II Corinthians 4: "Since God in his mercy has given us this wonderful ministry, we never give up...we do not distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know that." Of myself, I have not earned the privilege of the years past, but God has graciously given the blessing. To him alone be the glory!

I close with one concern, one commendation, and one delight. I am concerned about presbyteries. Variables such as participation and growth in mission are changing and perplexing. I commend to our church family an outstanding General Assembly staff who work with unbelievable faithfulness and diligence. And I delight in the nomination of an outstanding person who follows me in this office. The Stated Clerk Search Committee has served us well!

With Thanksgiving,

Edward Davis,  
Stated Clerk

June 2000

**Growth by Presbytery - 20th General Assembly**

*Current figures approximated from previous year or current information.	#Mission Church		1997 Members	1998 Members	1999 Members	1998-99 Change	1998 Attendance	1999 Attendance	1998-99 Change
<b>CENTRAL SOUTH PRESBYTERY</b>									
Atoka Presbyterian Church	Atoka	TN	44	38	34	-10.5%	35	54	54.3%
Christ EPC	Houston	TX	579	562	456	-18.9%	400	339	-15.3%
Christ Presbyterian Church#	Cape Girardeau	MO	49	51	53	3.9%	48	46	0.0%
Church of the King	Corpus Christi	TX	40	40	52	30.0%	75	70	-6.7%
Cornerstone EPC	Katy	TX	93	129	124	-3.9%	167	157	-6.0%
Covenant Presbyterian Church	Columbus	MS	43	41	42	2.4%	35	59	68.6%
CrossPointe Community Church	Carrollton	TX	108	131	145	10.7%	160	170	6.3%
Crossroads Community Church	Austin	TX	36	34	18	-47.1%	100	75	-25.0%
EPC of Marshall	Marshall	TX	245	244	251	2.9%	194	170	-12.4%
First EPC	Anna	IL	182	187	196	4.8%	189	196	3.7%
First Presbyterian Church	Houma	LA	60	66	63	-4.5%	46	44	-4.3%
First Presbyterian Church	Mendian	MS	362	368	369	5.7%	235	370	57.4%
First Presbyterian Church	Waskom	TX	39	29	27	-6.9%	30	22	-26.7%
First Presbyterian Church	West Point	MS	143	146	120	-17.8%	135	100	-25.9%
Golden Rule Presbyterian Church	Elysian Fields	TX	14	15	25	66.7%	22	35	59.1%
Grace Covenant#	Opelousas	LA	35	35	38	8.6%	50	50	0.0%
Grace Presbyterian Church	Alexandria	LA	241	245	277	13.1%	225	225	0.0%
Grace Presbyterian Church	Montgomery	AL	99	83	88	6.0%	85	85	0.0%
Hope Church#*	San Antonio	TX			40			100	
Hope Presbyterian Church	Cordova	TN	1102	1565	2260	44.4%	2056	2501	21.6%
Lakeside Presbyterian Church	Brandon	MS	505	483	454	-6.0%	335	300	-10.4%
Louisville Presbyterian Church	Louisville	MS	35	42	29	-31.0%	50	47	-6.0%
Midtown Church#	Memphis	TN			50			50	
New Covenant Presbyterian Church#	Natchez	MS	24	41	47	14.6%	50	85	70.0%
Providence Presbyterian Church	Rowlett	TX	68	82	83	1.2%	135	150	11.1%
Redeemer EPC	Birmingham	AL	87	82	69	-11.3%	85	85	0.0%
Second Presbyterian Church	Memphis	TN	3197	3287	3351	1.9%	1306	1337	2.4%
St. Andrews Church#*	Jackson	MS			40			40	
St. Patrick Presbyterian Church	Collierville	TN	0	150	154	2.7%	200	235	17.5%
The City of Refuge (EPC)	Houston	TX	117	56	71	26.8%	80	85	6.3%
Trinity Presbyterian (dissolved)	Mobile	AL	38	36			35	0	-100.0%
Tunica Presbyterian Church	Tunica	MS	126	121	119	-1.7%	95	95	0.0%
Westminster Presbyterian Church	Laurel	MS	245	262	268	2.3%	180	185	2.8%
Zachary Presbyterian Church	Zachary	LA	67	66	71	7.6%	43	50	16.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>8043</b>	<b>8697</b>	<b>9504</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>6881</b>	<b>7614</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
<b>EAST PRESBYTERY</b>									
Ashtand EPC	Voorhees	NJ	436	422	348	-17.5%	285	215	-24.6%
Calvary Presbyterian Church	Butler	PA	141	121	116	-4.1%	60	57	-5.0%
Dundalk Presbyterian Church	Dundalk	MD	249	246	247	0.4%	230	200	-13.0%
Faith Presbyterian Church	Alexandria	VA	257	263	292	3.2%	274	295	7.7%
Fourth Presbyterian Church	Bethesda	MD	2420	2493	2504	0.4%	1500	1290	-14.0%
Goodwill Presbyterian Church	Montgomery	NY	96	112	142	26.8%	100	197	97.0%
Montclair Community Church	Montclair	VA	25	37	38	2.7%	50	50	0.0%
New Covenant EPC	New Castle	PA	242	254	251	-1.2%	176	207	17.6%
New Hope EPC#	Pittsburgh	PA	61	31	36	16.1%	115	90	-21.7%
North Park EPC	Westford	PA	422	432	448	3.7%	470	520	10.6%
Princeton EPC	Duanesburg	NY	250	264	285	8.0%	240	230	-4.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>4599</b>	<b>4695</b>	<b>4707</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>3600</b>	<b>3361</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>
<b>FLORIDA PRESBYTERY</b>									
Cypress Pointe E.P.C.	Oviedo	FL	50	51	70	37.3%	100	130	30.0%
EPC of Plant City	Plant City	FL	348	358	391	9.2%	315	350	11.1%
Faith EPC	Brooksville	FL	298	296	321	8.4%	280	360	28.6%
First Presbyterian Church of Homestead	Homestead	FL	143	128	129	0.8%	185	90	-51.4%
Glendale Presbyterian Church	DeFuniak Springs	FL	59	55	61	10.9%	70	75	7.1%
Abundant Life Presb. Church (dissolved)	Lake Mary	FL	27	27			25	0	-100.0%
New Covenant EPC	Pompano Beach	FL	613	615	672	9.3%	450	450	0.0%

**Growth by Presbytery - 20th General Assembly**

*Current figures approximated from previous year or current information.	#Mission Church		1997 Members	1998 Members	1999 Members	1998-99 Change	1998 Attendance	1999 Attendance	1998-99 Change
The Cornerstone EPC	Daytona Beach	FL	138	146	79	-45.9%	60	50	-16.7%
Trinity EPC	Ft. Pierce	FL	129	92	85	-7.6%	70	62	-11.4%
University EPC	Tampa	FL	118	120	112	-6.7%	82	82	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1923</b>	<b>1888</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>1637</b>	<b>1649</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
<b>MID-AMERICA PRESBYTERY</b>									
Baldwin Community Presby. Church	Baldwin	IL	40	39	11	-71.8%	25	20	-20.0%
BayWind Christian Church (dismissed)	Naverse	MN	0	47			150		
Central Presbyterian Church	St. Louis	MO	2688	2663	2625	-1.4%	1131	1051	-7.1%
Covenant Chapel	Leawood	KS	230	234	261	11.5%	350	450	28.6%
East Crossing EPC	Madison	WI	47	51	48	-5.9%	60	72	20.0%
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church	Grover	MO	54	67	68	1.5%	75	84	12.0%
Good Shepherd Community Church*	Warrenton	MO			40			40	
Grace EPC	Lawrence	KS	288	302	334	10.6%	770	837	8.7%
Greentree Community	St. Louis	MO	150	85	123	44.7%	0	500	
Heartland Community Church	Overland Park	KS	528	565	637	12.7%	1022	1450	41.9%
Highview Evangelical Presbyterian	Dousman	WA	85	83	83	0.0%	100	100	0.0%
Immanuel Presbyterian Church	Warrenville	IL	281	281	281	0.0%	300	300	0.0%
Jacob's Well*	Kansas City	MO			60			60	
Lakeland Community Church	Lees Summit	MO	10	38	33	-13.2%	175	208	17.1%
New Harvest Community Church*	Baltwin	MO	48	48	30	-37.5%	70	50	-28.6%
Sutter Presbyterian Church	Bridgeton	MO	107	113	118	4.4%	90	102	13.3%
The Crossings*	Columbia	MO			30			30	
Trinity Fellowship Church#	Alton	IL	0	0	12		45	45	0.0%
West Highlands Pres. Church*	Lenexa	KS	48	58	58	0.0%	70	70	0.0%
Westkirk EPC	Des Moines	IA	295	305	310	1.6%	181	193	6.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>4899</b>	<b>4979</b>	<b>5162</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>4614</b>	<b>5659</b>	<b>22.6%</b>
<b>MID-ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY</b>									
Abundant Life Church*	Chesapeake	VA	71	90	93	3.3%	160	160	0.0%
Bethesda Presbyterian Church*	Florence	SC	53	17	17	0.0%	20	20	0.0%
Bridgeway EPC	Chesapeake	VA	63	83	52	-37.3%	85	70	-7.7%
Brunswick Presbyterian Church	Brunswick	NC	27	18	18	0.0%	15	15	0.0%
Christ Church EPC	Anderson	SC	100	110	124	12.7%	170	165	-2.9%
Christ Fellowship	Southern Pines	NC	47	64	69	7.8%	80	79	-1.3%
Cleveland Presbyterian Church	Abingdon	VA	47	47	47	0.0%	35	35	0.0%
Covenant Community Church	Charlotte	NC	58	51	53	3.9%	65	63	-3.1%
Cramerton Presbyterian Church	Cramerton	NC	37	34	34	0.0%	25	32	28.0%
Cregmore Presbyterian Church	Columbia	SC	70	71	69	-2.8%	70	70	0.0%
Emmanuel Church	Lairrens	SC	31	31	8	-74.2%	30	8	-73.3%
EPC of Elkton	Elkton	VA	133	149	146	-2.0%	135	135	0.0%
Faith EPC (dissolved)	Roanoke	VA	35	18	0	-100.0%	0	0	
Fellowship of Christ	Carly	NC	134	144	156	8.3%	250	250	0.0%
First EPC of Clover	Clover	SC	46	45	50	11.1%	43	57	32.6%
Forest Hill Presbyterian Church	Charlotte	NC	1588	1579	1694	7.3%	1457	1767	21.3%
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church*	Wilson	NC	76	68	68	0.0%	60	60	0.0%
Grace Presbyterian Church	Fredericksburg	VA	26	26	35	34.6%	30	50	66.7%
Hope Church EPC	Richmond	VA	0	43	102	137.2%	250	310	24.0%
Kempsville Presbyterian Church	Virginia Beach	VA	1277	1456	1317	-9.5%	1078	1180	9.5%
Lake Forest Community Church*	Cornellus	NC	0	100	100	0.0%	261	307	17.6%
Lebanon Presbyterian Church	Greenwood	VA	65	75	92	22.7%	80	85	6.3%
Lee Park Presbyterian Church	Monroe	NC	79	79	81	2.5%	66	647	851.5%
Linwood Presbyterian Church	Gastonia	NC	64	64	41	-35.9%	40	35	-12.5%
Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church	Wilmington	NC	1392	1480	1469	-0.7%	1200	1048	-12.7%
New Covenant Church	Burgaw	NC			41			75	
North Grove EPC*	Wilmington	NC			100			150	
Northampton Presbyterian Church	Hampton	VA	101	97	94	-3.1%	40	45	12.5%
Overbrook Community Church	Gaffney	SC	85	101	84	-16.8%	95	80	-15.8%
Parrow Presbyterian Church	Cross Lanes	WV	327	313	272	-13.1%	360	609	69.2%
Reynolds Presbyterian Church	Winston-Salem	NC	899	881	926	5.1%	675	575	-14.8%



**Growth by Presbytery - 20th General Assembly**

*Current figures approximated from previous year or current information.	#Mission Church		1997 Members	1998 Members	1999 Members	1998-99 Change	1998 Attendance	1999 Attendance	1998-99 Change
River Oaks Community Church	Lewisville	NC		63	127	101.6%		350	
St. Giles Presbyterian Church	Charlotte	NC	327	320	282	-11.9%	257	263	2.3%
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Florence	SC	429	430	424	-1.4%	297	275	-7.4%
Warehouse 2428*	Charlotte	NC			100			375	
Westminster Presbyterian Church	Bluefield	WV	494	471	474	0.6%	290	353	21.7%
Woodside Presbyterian Church	Roanoke	VA	34	35	34	-2.9%	32	32	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>8215</b>	<b>8553</b>	<b>8893</b>	<b>2.8%</b>	<b>7733</b>	<b>8930</b>	<b>27.1%</b>
<b>MIDWEST PRESBYTERY</b>									
Calvary Presbyterian Church	Flint	MI	632	640	596	-6.9%	384	384	0.0%
Community EPC	Owosso	MI	103	93	95	2.2%	160	247	54.4%
Cornerstone EPC	Brighton	MI	1089	1268	1433	13.0%	1800	1801	0.1%
Covenant Presbyterian Church	Ann Arbor	MI	88	86	97	12.8%	150	130	-13.3%
DaySpring Comm. Ch.*	Newark	OH	150	150	150	0.0%	150	150	0.0%
Faith EPC	Lake Orion	MI	288	317	289	-8.8%	815	850	4.3%
Faith EPC	Richmond	OH	113	117	101	-13.7%	150	110	-26.7%
Fellowship EPC	South Lyon	MI	203	233	242	3.9%	275	325	18.2%
First Presbyterian Church	Trenton	MI	824	804	861	7.1%	500	477	-4.6%
Grace Chapel	Farmington Hills	MI	392	241	267	10.8%	200	254	27.0%
Grace Community Church#	Oscoda	MI	26	26	11	-57.7%	35	43	22.9%
Hope Community Church (dissolved)	Mentor	OH	33	27	0		35	0	-100.0%
Immanuel Presb. (dissolved / mission)	Livonia	MI	54	54			86	0	-100.0%
Kensington Community Church	Troy	MI	691	851	990	16.3%	3000	3275	9.2%
Knox Presbyterian Church	Ann Arbor	MI	314	362	381	5.2%	600	535	-10.8%
Knox Presbyterian Church	Harrison Township	MI	568	575	585	-1.7%	450	550	22.2%
Lake City EPC	Lake City	MI	64	60	63	5.0%	125	130	4.0%
Mercy Christian Fellowship	Farmington Hills	MI	0	0	28		0	70	
Military Avenue EPC	Detroit	MI	82	84	87	3.6%	150	100	-33.3%
Mt. Pleasant Community Church	Mt. Pleasant	MI	295	302	300	-0.7%	450	284	-36.9%
New Heart Community Church#*	Muskegon	MI			50			50	
New Hope Church	Oxford	MI		0	57		97	110	13.4%
North Oaks Community Church	Clarkston	MI	73	65	57	-12.3%	75	95	26.7%
Oakland Avenue EPC	Pentac	MI	228	228	199	-12.7%	186	150	-19.4%
Peace Presbyterian Church*	Flint	MI			85			85	
St. Andrew EPC	Auburn	IN	145	195	201	3.1%	179	148	-17.3%
Stonebridge Church	Perrysburg	OH	23	40	55	37.5%	75	42	-44.0%
Tabernacle EPC	Youngstown	OH	465	503	516	2.6%	495	485	-2.0%
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Columbia City	IN	116	119	123	3.4%	115	125	8.7%
Trinity Presbyterian Church	Plymouth	MI	620	630	625	-0.8%	550	600	9.1%
Ward Presbyterian Church	Northville	MI	4194	4182	4182	0.7%	3000	3223	7.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11873</b>	<b>12232</b>	<b>12716</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>14287</b>	<b>14828</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
<b>SOUTHEAST PRESBYTERY</b>									
Brainerd Presbyterian Church	Chattanooga	TN	505	548	566	3.3%	315	350	11.1%
Christ Presbyterian Church	Knoxville	TN	23	17	18	5.9%	20	35	75.0%
Community Bible Church	Highlands	NC	168	162	199	9.3%	225	290	28.9%
Cornerstone EPC	Franklin	NC	80	80	84	5.0%	93	83	-10.8%
Faith Presbyterian Church	Knoxville	TN	55	59	52	-11.9%	65	45	-30.8%
Faith Presbyterian Church	Lavonia	GA	92	93	102	9.7%	45	71	57.8%
First Presbyterian Church	Rome	GA	893	898	937	4.3%	610	592	-3.0%
Flatrock Covenant Presbyterian Church	Denniston	KY	5	5	5	0.0%	14	14	0.0%
Grace Community Presbyterian	Marietta	GA	72	69	69	0.0%	45	40	-11.1%
Grace Presbyterian Church	Franklin	NC	96	142	99	-30.3%	135	85	-37.0%
Grace! EPC	Asheville	NC	100	85	37	-56.5%	120	40	-66.7%
Lookout Valley Presbyterian	Chattanooga	TN	99	106	105	-0.9%	75	75	0.0%
Lynn Garden Presbyterian Church	Kingsport	TN	90	85	89	4.7%	75	50	-33.3%
Mt. Calvary Presbyterian Church	Kingsport	TN	50	49	49	0.0%	60	67	11.7%
New Beginning E.P.C.	Eranger	KY	87	62	58	-9.7%	55	50	-9.1%
Plumtree Presbyterian Church	Plumtree	NC	101	113	105	-6.2%	95	115	21.1%
Valleybrook Presbyterian Church	Hixson	TN	140	109	111	1.8%	110	105	-4.5%

**Growth by Presbytery - 20th General Assembly**

*Current figures approximated from previous year or current information.	#Mission Church		1997 Members	1998 Members	1999 Members	1998-99 Change	1998 Attendance	1999 Attendance	1998-99 Change
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2656</b>	<b>2702</b>	<b>2696</b>	<b>-0.2%</b>	<b>2167</b>	<b>2107</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>
<b>ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERY</b>									
Belgrano*	Buenos Aires		35	40	45	12.5%	60	55	-8.3%
Church of Olivos	Buenos Aires		361	152	154	1.3%	175	175	0.0%
City Church*	Buenos Aires		69	69	60	-13.0%	70	60	-14.3%
Gualeguaychú*	Entre Ríos				30			30	
La Mision de la I.E.P.*	Buenos Aires		100	120	120	0.0%	120	150	25.0%
Quilmes	Buenos Aires		20	29	36	24.1%	40	50	25.0%
San Antonia de Padua Church*	Buenos Aires		35	40	20	-50.0%	40	25	-37.5%
Temperley*	Buenos Aires		140	200	200	0.0%	200	200	0.0%
Urdinarrain#*	Entre Ríos				30				30.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>760</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>746</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
<b>WEST PRESBYTERY</b>									
Arvada Community Church#*	Arvada	CO	0	60	60	0.0%	65	85	30.8%
Bear Creek EPC	Lakewood	CO	543	521	511	-1.9%	463	413	-10.8%
Canyon Creek Community Church	Chandler	AZ	72	74	87	17.6%	200	178	-11.0%
Celebration Community Church	Denver	CO	0	0	53		0	91	
Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church	Englewood	CO	1081	1162	1229	5.8%	1050	943	-10.2%
Cherry Hills Community Church	Highlands Ranch	CO	3718	3848	4152	7.9%	4250	3300	-22.4%
Christ Covenant Church	Leoti	KS	80	85	87	2.4%	99	99	0.0%
Christ Fellowship Church	Ft. Collins	CO	29	33	33	0.0%	45	60	33.3%
Christ's Family Presbyterian	Chandler	AZ	49	47	55	17.0%	40	45	12.5%
Clayton Community Church*	Clayton	CA	200	200	250	25.0%	500	600	20.0%
Clear View Community Church*	Buena Vista	CO	50	50	50	0.0%	50	50	0.0%
Cornerstone Community Church	Denver	CO	266	295	310	5.1%	260	260	0.0%
Covenant Presbyterian Church	San Diego	CA			300			300	
Covenant Community Pres. Church	Aurora	CO	79	77	81	5.2%	92	100	8.7%
Faith Evangelical Church	Loveland	CO	420	435	475	9.2%	492	500	1.6%
Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Folsom	CA	35	39	38	-2.6%	48	48	0.0%
Faith Presbyterian Church	Aurora	CO	1029	1002	1003	0.1%	749	850	-13.2%
First Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Renton	WA	596	598	641	7.2%	650	646	-0.6%
Grace Community Church	Sun City West	AZ		141	136	-3.5%	100	119	19.0%
Highline Community Church	Denver	CO			100			300	
Greenwood Community Church	Englewood	CO	594	694	660	-4.9%	1100	1160	4.5%
Lookout Mtn. Community Church	Golden	CO	402	429	464	8.2%	600	567	-29.1%
Morningside Presbyterian Church	Phoenix	AZ	140	137	135	-1.5%	80	70	-12.5%
New Community Christian Church*	Denver	CO	100	140	140	0.0%	330	330	0.0%
New Covenant Church*	Tucson	AZ	80	66	60	-9.1%	70	60	-14.3%
Northwest EPC	Redmond	WA	45	55	54	-1.8%	110	113	2.7%
Parker Presbyterian Church	Parker	CO	296	342	369	7.9%	495	570	15.2%
Presbyterian Parish at Vall&Beaver Cr.#*	Vail	CO	0	50	50	0.0%	50	50	0.0%
San Ramon Presbyterian Church	San Ramon	CA	294	429	464	12.8%	450	421	-6.4%
Santa Maria Community Church	Santa Maria	CA	91	103	91	-11.7%	58	62	6.9%
Thai EPC*	Cerritos	CA	45	45	45	0.0%	45	45	0.0%
Trinity EPC*	Littleton	CO	183	183	183	0.0%	189	189	0.0%
Valley Community Church	San Jacinto	CA	59	67	72	7.5%	90	90	0.0%
West Bowles Community Church	Littleton	CO	554	658	648	-1.5%	1000	1400	40.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>11132</b>	<b>12065</b>	<b>13106</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>14020</b>	<b>13904</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>54100</b>	<b>56561</b>	<b>59369</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>55534</b>	<b>59687</b>	<b>7.5%</b>

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## STUDENT AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES REPORT

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*Bob Watson, Director*



*Rick Stauffer, Chairman*

*"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

*Hebrews 13: 7-8*

In an Assembly year filled with transition and change for the Student & Young Adult Ministries Office it was wonderful to see and remember the steadfast faithfulness of the Lord manifested in so many ways. The Spirit of God is at work in the lives of young people and youth ministries in EPC congregations across the denomination. In churches both large and small, in big cities and small towns, from middle school students through young adults, Jesus Christ is indeed the same yesterday, today and forever! The wonderful gospel of his grace and mercy is impacting young lives in our churches on a daily basis. Worship among our youth is authentic and rich. They exhibit a desire to serve God with their lives in meaningful and practical ways. Their thirst for a deep and meaningful spiritual experience is an excellent example to the whole Body of Christ.

### *The Committee*

The SYAM Committee convened twice this assembly year, October 1-2, 1999 and March 3-4, 2000, at the Office of the General Assembly in Livonia, Michigan. The committee received the resignation of Sue Werner (Youth Worker) at the fall meeting. The vacancy created by Sue Werner's resignation was filled at the Spring meeting by Fred Albaugh (Youth Worker). SYAM Committee Membership: Reg Smith (RE), Sonny Flowers (RE), Smokey Ridgley (RE), Jim Byrne (TE), and Rick Stauffer (TE) - Chair. God has blessed the committee with a group of willing and talented servants with great devotion to the cause of Christ and an enthusiasm to use their gifts in his service.

In addition, the Interim Director of SYAM, Bob Watson, is an ex-officio member of the committee. The SYAM Executive Secretary, Sue Ferrell, also sat in on the meetings and took the minutes. The Committee took special note of the exceptional service rendered throughout the busy late spring and summer months of 1999 by Sue Ferrell during the absence of a SYAM Director. Sue filled the gap and enabled the trips and events to go on as planned, her

service was a great blessing to our SYAM programs and was much appreciated.

#### *The Summer of 1999 in Review*

The Lord was at work in wonderful ways in the lives of EPC students and their leaders throughout the summer of 1999. Through the Summer Jam conferences for high school students and the multiple mission trip opportunities for various age groups a great deal was accomplished as a result of SYAM summer ministries during this Assembly year.

#### *Mission Trips:*

A total of 548 people from 50 churches participated in the SYAM Mission Trips offered in 1999, an increase of 145 people over the 403 participants in 1998 trips. The 1999 destinations included Appalachia (3 trips), Mexico and Brazil. The physical work accomplished, while it is always great, is so often exceeded by the changed hearts and new perspectives which God brings to the participants. Frequently students and leaders tell of their intention to "go and serve" and how in the process they received more from the Lord than they were able to give! Houses were built, roofs were repaired, walls were painted, Vacation Bible Schools were held, and in the process hearts were changed for the Kingdom of God!

#### *Summer Jam Conferences:*

Three fantastic weeks of ministry among 750 students and leaders from 29 different churches took place as a result of the EPC's annual high school conferences called Summer Jam. The locations for the 1999 Jams were Gunnison, Colorado (Western State College), Panama City Beach, Florida (Ramada Beach Resort) and Davis, West Virginia (Cannan Valley Conference Center). Although the speakers and recreational opportunities differed at each location, they shared the common purposes of evangelism and discipleship. Feedback gathered at each location indicated that both goals were being accomplished.

#### *Mission Opportunities Summer 2000*

Mission trips seem to have an unequalled ability to be used of God to change and challenge young people to put their faith in action. As teams participate in some aspect of service to others they are forced to face the priorities and values in their own lives. The SYAM Committee has established a commitment to keep missions as a high priority and respond to the growing interest in mission trip participation from among our EPC congregations. The trips being offered for the summer of 2000 are as follows:

Appalachian Impact	June 18 – 24, 2000
Appalachian Impact	July 2 – 8, 2000
Appalachian Impact	July 9 – 15, 2000
Appalachian Impact	July 23 – 29, 2000
North Carolina Coastal Care	July 16 – 22, 2000
Mission Mexico	June 25 – July 1, 2000

At the time of this writing over 600 students from 40 congregations have registered to participate in the SYAM summer 2000 mission trips.

#### *Summer Jam 2000 A.D.*

Summer Jam has proven to be a powerful time in the lives of many students and youth

groups. Jam includes quality programming, outstanding speakers, vital worship, teaching and excellent opportunities for developing relationships. Several years ago the SYAM Committee determined that there should be a single, national gathered "Super Summer Jam" in the summer of the year 2000. The campus of Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee was selected as an ideal location for the event. The theme selected for this year is "Sold Out To Jesus". Brett Ray, an Immensely popular past Jam speaker and Pam Stenzel, a nationally recognized communicator are scheduled to keynote this year's Jam. Excellent recreational opportunities and easy access from many locations are also great benefits of this year's location. At the time of this printing 550 persons from 25 congregations have registered for Super Summer Jam 2000 AD

Many EPC youth workers have stepped up to leadership roles for summer trips. The SYAM committee wishes to thank God for each of the willing servants who must lead their own groups on one or more of the above trips as well as take an overall leadership role in the trip.

#### **Future Summer Plans**

As the SYAM Committee looked ahead to the summer of 2001 it anticipated holding a single Jam for a second consecutive year while the overall future of the event is evaluated and reviewed. It is the Committee's desire to offer programs that are effective, economical and responsive to the needs of the congregations throughout the EPC. Several outstanding locations are under consideration and availability of nationally known speakers has been confirmed for the event. In addition, several new and exciting possibilities are currently under investigation as Mission Trip destinations both within the U.S. and abroad.

#### **Youth Worker Retreat**

An ever growing number of EPC congregations are demonstrating their commitment to young people by the addition of youth staff at the local church level. Youth workers often face a wide variety of challenges and expectations without a corresponding source of encouragement and training. The SYAM Committee is committed to serve as a resource to those involved in ministry with youth in a variety of ways, including an annual gathering for persons involved in ministry with students. In 1999, Scott Brewer and the staff and people of Brainerd Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee hosted the Youth Worker's Retreat. Our keynote speaker was author (*The Family Friendly Church*) Ben Freudenburg from St. Louis. Our 2000 Youth Worker Retreat will be hosted by Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Maryland, (D.C. area) October 19-21, 2000. It promises to be an enjoyable time of refreshment and renewal.

#### **Denominational Youth Ministry Meeting**

In January, 2000 Bob Watson met with 15 student and young adult leaders of various denominations for the second annual meeting of its kind hosted by Sonlife Ministries in Elburn, Illinois. Each of the denominations and ministries represented are highly concerned with reaching young people in our culture in the new millennium with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Sonlife as an organization is committed to serving the church by providing practical support and cutting edge resources for sharpening the effectiveness of ministry.

### Youth Church Membership Curriculum

A continuing project of the SYAM Committee is the Church Membership Curriculum for Youth. A revised working draft version has now been completed and is available on a limited basis for review and testing. The current version is designed for use over 10 sessions and includes the following topics:

Lesson 1	The Bible/Word of God	Lesson 6	Salvation (II)
Lesson 2	Who is God?	Lesson 7	Sacraments
Lesson 3	Jesus Christ	Lesson 8	The Church
Lesson 4	Holy Spirit/Trinity	Lesson 9	Spiritual Gifts
Lesson 5	Salvation (I)	Lesson 10	Membership/Church Life

Copies of the draft version are available from the SYAM office. Feedback is not only welcome but actively desired during this stage of pre-publication revision of this material.

### Final Thoughts

The unity of the Spirit and the common commitment to the faithful proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ exist literally from coast to coast and border to border in our churches. From small church-plant fellowships to large, well established mega-churches, the message of God's amazing grace is the same across the denomination. There is also a broadly shared commitment to establishing and maintaining effective ministries among students and young adults as a priority in many of our churches. There is a growing awareness and increasing commitment to effective youth ministry at the presbytery level as well. The enthusiasm and vitality of youth is a tremendous resource in our congregations and one which is well worth the investment of our time and effort. Each member of the EPC family of churches brings a unique and valuable perspective to the task of effectively communicating the gospel to the next generation. Trusting not in ourselves, but in the mighty power of the Spirit of God, we can look to the future with hope and confidence, anticipating the great things God will do in our midst.

### **Recommendation 1:**

That the General Assembly endorse the Student & Young Adult Ministries Youth Curriculum for use in church membership programs for youth and young adults.

Grounds: Student & Young Adult Ministries has received numerous inquiries from churches for youth membership material. After extensive review of existing curricula, it was determined that the development of such material would be a valuable asset to EPC congregations and a worthwhile undertaking. A great challenge for the church in every age is to pass on the life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus in a way that is both powerful and meaningful to the next generation. Teens and young adults must be nurtured in their understanding of the great truths of the Christian faith. This curriculum is offered as one possible part in the process of accomplishing that vital goal.

### ***By His Amazing Grace,***

Rick Stauffer, SYAM Committee Chairman

Bob Watson, SYAM Interim Director

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## THEOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT

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This is the report on the work of the permanent Committee on Theology, done between September and June of 1999-2000. Our committee consisted of TE Tom Ricks, (chairman), TE Mike Glodo, (recording clerk), TE Bruce Demarest, RE Charles Haden, RE George Schneider and RE Bob Warburton. The committee met at the General Assembly Office December 10-11, 1999 and then via conference call in March, 2000. Having completed our assigned tasks, I pass this report to you for your consideration.

Our first order of business was to respond to the request of the Committee on Administration regarding the training of officers in the tenets of the reformed faith. I have attached that response for your perusal. Second, the committee considered the position papers on the Christian view of marriage and theology of children that have been tabled since March, 1998. It is the request of this committee that the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly release us from this responsibility. The formal request and the reasoning behind it are as follows:

**Recommendation:**

1. Due to the scope of the issue, the lack of significant disagreement within the EPC on these matters, the degree to which our standards and existing position papers address the subject, the abundant resources already available, we hereby request to be relieved of the general assignment of developing position papers on marriage and the family.

Grounds: Because our assignment does not focus on a particular problem or problems and because the subject matter is extremely broad, we have found it difficult to provide a response that would add anything beyond the vast amounts of excellent material available in the broader evangelical community.

Having acted on these two items, our committee has completed its work for the past year. We look forward to the opportunities that will arise in the coming year for this committee to serve our Lord and his people in the EPC.

Warm Regards in Christ,



Tom Ricks, Chairman  
Theology Committee

June, 2000

INPUT FROM THEOLOGY COMMITTEE TO COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION  
REGARDING PASTORAL LETTER ON OFFICER TRAINING

***I. Recommendations regarding content and extent of elder training as prescribed by 12-3-B.***

*Evaluate content, provide explanation of biblical bases for polity.*

The *Book of Government* 12-3-B makes the church session responsible for courses of instruction in several subjects that are important for church officers. But 12-3-B does not give any indication of the content and extent of those subjects, nor does it give any guidance on the amount of time and attention that should be given to each subject. In order for an officer to be effective, he must have a good grasp of each of the subjects in 12-3-B.

***II. Time and attention for each subject on which candidates are examined.***

In the area of church history, the training should give the candidates an understanding of the line in which we stand as the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The EPC is one of many Presbyterian and Reformed denominations. Our roots go back to the Reformation, then to the Western Church, and back to Israel and Abraham. An officer should know about the church councils, the heresies with which they dealt and their results, as well as the schisms and what they mean to the Church. This does not require a two-semester course in church history, but it will require more than a couple of brief sessions looking at the family tree of the Presbyterian denominations. As leaders in the local church, the elders and deacons should be able to give to church members an adequate explanation of who we are and how did we get here.

Closely related to church history is the subject of the faith of the church. The EPC is in the Reformed tradition and on some issues, the EPC is not in line with the evangelical community. Our constitution includes the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*. Many church members do not know much about the WCF and Catechisms, and they never will unless they are trained. The teaching elders cannot be expected to carry this load alone. Ruling elders are supposed to be able to teach. The Session is responsible for the spiritual health of the local church, and that responsibility is shared by teaching and ruling elders. Since many ruling elders come from non-Reformed backgrounds, training in this area is crucial. The church will not continue to be Reformed unless the officers are Reformed and teach the people.

The *Book of Order* contains the *Book of Government*, the *Book of Discipline*, and the *Book of Worship*. In order to function within the courts of the church, an elder has to know how the church works. He should know the structure of the church, the rights of churches and courts, how the constitution is amended, the function of committees and commissions, and how meetings are structured. The training should seek to cover not only the content of the *Book of Government*, but also the reasons for the rules. In the area of discipline, and elder needs to know its purpose and generally how it is accomplished in the EPC, even if he is not intimately familiar with all the details of judicial procedure.



The *Book of Worship* sets forth how the EPC understands and carries out worship. Chapter three is important in the training process because it covers the Sacraments. Each officer should know how the EPC understands the meaning and effect of the Sacraments, and why we baptize infants. The Reformed understanding of the Sacraments is different from the Western Church out of which we came, and different from the understanding of many in the evangelical church today. These differences are important and are tied to our understanding of the Covenant of Grace.

The church will not be able to be true to its biblical roots unless the people are taught diligently, and that will not happen unless the officers are properly trained. The training cannot be done properly with a couple of sessions on church history, a couple on systematic theology, and a couple on church government. Our teaching elders have extensive knowledge in these areas, and some of that knowledge must be passed on to our ruling elders and deacons. It would be reasonable to spread this training over a year to give the candidates an opportunity to study the *Book of Order* and the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Scripture references.

### **III. Ensuring that sessions are upholding their responsibility according to BoG 11-3.**

While each congregation, "has the right to elect its own officers." (7-2) The Session of each church has the responsibility to determine the fitness of each candidate for office. (see 11-3) It is incumbent upon the church Session to test each elder elect using the following criteria.

1. Ability to "watch over the spiritual welfare" (10-4) of the congregation.
2. Ability to "participate diligently in the working of that portion of the Church to which they are commissioned." (10-4)
3. That they be "blameless in life, sound in the faith, wise in the things of God and ... exhibit a lifestyle that is an example to all." (10-5)
4. Able to lead in worship and prayer, visit the sick, encourage members in their spiritual growth and exercise discipline when necessary. (see 10-6)

To that end each church Session should not only provide training and accountability in theology and doctrine, but it must also determine the candidate's ability and desire to humbly shepherd the people of God.

Should the Session determine, according to Scripture, that an elder elect fails to meet the criteria to care for God's flock, it must not confirm that individual to the office of Ruling Elder. This decision is the sole right and responsibility of the local church court.

(see 11-3)

#### ***IV. Inquiring into evaluation procedures used to evaluate candidate fitness.***

Each session is urged to develop a method of evaluation within its officer training program. Within each course or area of instruction the session should develop a method of reviewing the essential questions of study and determining each candidate's basic understanding. Such a method of evaluation should be a means of encouraging a higher level of comprehension and commitment to the ministries of ruling elder and deacon, and of determining the readiness of those who are sufficiently prepared to serve in these offices.

#### ***V. Are candidates' exceptions to the standards documented and to what extent are they permitted to take exception?***

We recommend that, as standard practice, elder and deacon candidates be asked to provide the session with a written list of any known exceptions they may have to the *Westminster Confession and Catechisms* and to the *Book of Order*. By "known exception" we mean according to the candidate's level of knowledge in accordance with the training process provided by the session.

This will allow the candidate to take his officer vows in full integrity. Optimally, this should be done after the training period is concluded. But absolutely must be done before the session makes examination of the candidates according to BoG 11-3 (cf. also 13-??)

The latter portion of this question is something the session must determine. We would, however, remind sessions of what was approved by the 18<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in the paper regarding the "Essentials" and the Westminster standards.

Therefore, it is the conclusion of the [Theology] Committee that a relationship of substantial subscription exists between all ruling and teaching elders and the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*. [sec. 4.2]

Further, an act of the 17<sup>th</sup> General Assembly stated

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 ordained holds these teachings as his own, and will teach them as truth. And finally, an act of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (AoA 93-17) stated

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.

Therefore, the session should not adjudge exceptions by using the "Essentials" as the minimum standard but should employ some holistic or "substantial" conception of the Confession and catechisms.

Pastors should, as part of their ongoing teaching of the session, help establish and improve upon the session's ability to make these determinations.

#### *VI. Are officer responsibilities outlined adequately for candidates?*

Within the training program, church sessions should provide information, clarification, and a better understanding of the specific responsibilities, duties, and characteristics of the offices of elder and deacon as outlined in sections 10-4 through 10-8 in the Book of Government. Whatever materials, courses, or methods of instruction are used by sessions, a practical system of evaluation of the understanding of each candidate should also be included to determine a sufficient level of understanding and readiness by each candidate to serve in the offices of ruling elder and deacon.

#### *VII. Resource materials for officer training.*

We commend to the Committee on Administration and to the General Assembly the following materials which would prove very helpful in developing and improving officer training.

- Berhoef, Gerard. *The Elder's Handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Christian's Library Press, \*\*.
- Berhoef, Gerard. *The Deacon's Handbook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Christian's Library Press, 1980.
- Hart, D. G. and Mark A. Noll, eds. *Dictionary of the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition in America*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1999.
- [Jumper, Andrew A.]. *Presbyterian Officers' Handbook for Elders and Deacons*. St. Louis: Lay Renewal Ministries, 1985.
- Jumper, Andrew A. *Presbyterian Officer's Handbook*. St. Louis, MO: Lay Renewal Ministries, \*\*.
- Keller, Timothy P. *Resources for Deacons*. Decatur, GA: Committee for Christian Education and Publication, 1985.
- Keller, Timothy P. *Ministries of Mercy*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1997.
- Loetscher, Loefferts. *A Brief History of Presbyterians*. Or Smalley.
- Miller, Samuel. *The Ruling Elder*.
- Reymond, Robert L. *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1998.

\*Any Warfield/Hodge materials.

\*Any standard commentary on the Westminster Confession of Faith, such as those by A. A. Hodge, G. I. Williamson and John Gerstner, *et al.*

Refer also to the reading list compiled by the Theology Committee and approved by the General Assembly several years ago.

### ***VIII. Possible pre-assembly conference providing instruction and motivation for officer training.***

Besides supplying a pastoral letter on officer training, the Committee on Administration may wish to consider, for some future assembly, a pre-assembly conference on officer training. Such a conference may be well attended and very productive if it included elements such as the following.

The nature of the offices of elder and deacon.

Survey of practices and resources for officer training.

Panel discussion among ministers and/or elders whose churches have developed and maintained an excellent officer training program.

The role of confessions in the community life of a church.

Presently pre-assembly conferences tend to focus on church program oriented workshops. The Theology Committee recommends that these helpful resources be alternated with some seminars that would assist our congregations in the elder training process.

### ***IX. Survey of EPC practices with respect to officer training.***

**Introduction:** The Permanent Committee on Theology, in response to a request of the Committee on Administration, has sought to ascertain how E.P.C. churches are selecting and training men and women for the office of Ruling Elder. In February of 2000 surveys were mailed to the 178 churches within our denomination. The results are listed below.

1. Of the 178 surveys mailed out 91 churches responded. This response rate of 50 %, is an excellent return that should provide conclusive information about the denomination as a whole.
2. Three questions were asked on the survey. They were as follows:
  - a) How does your church conduct the officer nomination process for Ruling Elders?
  - b) What training do you provide for your Ruling Elders elect?

- c) What materials do you use in training your Ruling Elders elect?
3. The following information was gathered from the first question. (How does your church conduct the officer nomination process for Ruling Elders?) 100% of the respondents answered this question.
- a) 74% of all churches use some form of a Nominating Committee. 55% of these respondents allow the congregation to select the Nominating Committee.
  - b) 16% of respondents used a Nominating Committee that was selected by the Session.
  - c) 3% of respondents used a Nominating Committee chosen by the congregation and approved by the Pastor.
  - d) 26 % of all churches do not use a Nominating Committee for the selection of Ruling Elders.
  - e) 13% of these churches use the Session as a Nominating Committee and the congregation gives final approval of the Ruling Elders chosen to serve.
  - f) 6% of these churches allow the Session to nominate and elect without congregational approval.
  - g) 6% of the congregations chose their Ruling Elders without a Nominating Committee or input from the Session.
  - h) One church allows the Session to select Ruling Elders contingent upon approval of the Pastor.
4. The following information was gathered from the second question. (What training do you provide for your Ruling Elders elect?) 82% of respondents answered this question.
- a) In 62% of the churches the Pastor does all of the training.
  - b) In 12% of the churches the Pastor and current Ruling Elders share the training responsibilities.
  - c) In 8% of the churches Ruling Elders elect sit in on two Session meetings prior to beginning their term of office. This was noted as "on the job training."
  - d) One church used four different teachers with specific areas of expertise. (i.e. Pastor teaches theology, Business Manager trains in the area of finance, etc)

**Length of Instruction:**

- a) 21 % of the churches held classes for Ruling Elders once per week for a 3-6 month period. Classes were 1-2 hours each in length.
  - b) 19 % of the churches met twice with Ruling Elders elect for a total of 4-8 hours.
  - c) 12% of the churches met weekly for 6-8 weeks. Each class lasted 1-2 hours.
  - d) 10% of the churches met weekly for 4-5 weeks. Each class lasted 1-2 hours.
  - e) 3% of churches met regularly for 8 months to 1 year for training newly elected Ruling Elders.
5. The following information was gathered from the third question. (What materials do you use in training your Ruling Elders elect?) 65% of the respondents answered this question. \* Note: 88% of churches were using a *combination* of the materials listed below.
- a) 46% used The Westminster Confession of Faith.
  - b) 44% use The Evangelical Presbyterian Church Book of Church Order.
  - c) 40% used Andy Jumper's Officer Training: Presbyterian History and Government.
  - d) 29% used Scripture (specifically mentioned 1 Timothy 3 & Titus 1)
  - e) 7% used the document known as "The Essentials of the Faith" (my quotation marks)
  - f) 3% used Maxwell's Leadership Training Videos Series, In Joy.
  - g) Sixteen other books, articles and video series were listed as resource material.

**Conclusions:** While this is not a scientific study several conclusions can safely be drawn.

- a) Some form of a Nominating Committee is the prevalent tool being used by E.P.C. churches to aid in the Ruling Elder selection process.
- b) Pastors are doing the majority of the teaching in Ruling Elder training classes.

- c) Although it was the most widely used resource, less than half of all churches use The Westminster Confession of Faith as a tool for training Ruling Elders.
- d) The majority of E.P.C. churches do not use the document known as "The Essentials of the Faith" (my quotations) as a tool for training Ruling Elders.
- e) Since 40% of respondents use Andy Jumper's material it should be reviewed and perhaps updated with permission of the author's estate.
- f) Only 36% of all respondents are giving Ruling Elders elect 8 hours or more of training.
- g) Some of selection and training processes indicate a lack of understanding or adherence to the Book of Government instructions on the nomination, election and training of officers.

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## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT

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With this past year now written in the chronicles of EPC Women's Ministries, we give thanks for the blessings and opportunities that have been ours as we have served on the permanent committee.

The Women's Ministries Committee convened twice since the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; October 25-26, 1999 and April 6-7, 2000. The following is a summary of reports submitted, plans made, and communications sent to the local Women's Ministries.

### ***Woman To Woman - Women's Ministries Newsletter***

One issue of our newsletter has been published this past year. Each article written and ministry idea shared all reflect God's faithfulness to Women's Ministries.

We are pleased that the newsletter *Woman to Woman* received the 1999 Renaissance Award from the International Association of Business Communicators Detroit Chapter. This award is a tribute to Jan Juday, former Director of Women's Ministries and editor of the newsletter.



*Anne Blackley, Chairman*

### ***Women's Ministries Handbook***

Our women's Ministries Handbook, revised and approved by the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, has been printed and distributed to each pastor and Women's Ministries in our EPC churches. Additional copies may be obtained from the General Assembly office for a price of \$7 each. How thankful we are to have a tool of communication that shares our goals, structure, history and components of an active, healthy Women's Ministries.

### ***Faith Focus Projects 1998***

On August 16-31, 1999 our 1998 Faith Focus Project was fulfilled by the hosting of a conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan on behalf of the persecuted church. Forty-two EPC women traveled halfway across the world to offer themselves in service with the seven EPC missionaries serving in Kazakhstan and Russia who assisted in planning this conference. Through our giving goal, scholarships were provided for 157 nationals representing 11 countries.

Another goal of our conference was to do humanitarian dental work for these Christian sisters. A dental team lead by Dr. Kitsie Hendrix and Dr. Linda Juday had a total of 233 encounters including root canals, gum surgeries and general dentistry.

Our speakers were Mary Whelchel, Iqbal Massey, Jean Mobley, and Barbara Neuman.

It was through the many areas of ministry and service we saw a glimpse of what it meant to be ministered to by Jesus, for we saw Him in the:

- **J**-oy radiating from the hearts of the women
- **E**-xcitement and enthusiasm of their faith in Jesus Christ
- **S**-incerity and simplicity of their faith and desire to share with all
- **U**-nity in the Spirit we were blessed by
- **S**-ervanthood of US team and missionaries who went to invest their hearts, yet came away with a greater investment in our hearts receiving more than they gave.



## **1999**

Our 1999 Faith Focus Project has been "Bringing the Missionaries Home" for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the EPC at General Assembly 2000. Our goal of \$35,000 has been reached and exceeded and we rejoice in being able to contribute to the financial expenses of our EPC missionaries for the 20<sup>th</sup> (2000) General Assembly.

## **2000**

As a continuation of our involvement in the needs of Kazakhstan, we chose as our 2000 Faith Focus "A Message of Hope for the Youth of Kazakhstan." With a giving goal of \$15,000, it is our desire to provide funds to support four one-week camps for difficult youth, and a one week camp for handicapped youth with cerebral palsy. The "difficult youth" could be a gang member, one affected by the growing drug culture, someone from a broken home or who lives in poverty, or one from an atheistic family.

These camps are designed to give youth an opportunity to hear the truth of the gospel outside the pressures and temptations of city life and to encourage young believers to grow in their faith. These camps will be sponsored by Almagul Church in Almaty, Kazakhstan and will under the leadership and supervision of the EPC mission team serving the Almagul Church. The team is composed of Reverend and Mrs. Dan Burns, Reverend and Mrs. Bill Hampton, and Mr. and Mrs. Allen White.

## **2001**

With a mission goal and commitment to minister to Central Asian women in Kazakhstan and surrounding countries, our Faith Focus Project for 2001 will be to raise funds to host another Women's Conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Our EPC missionary team serving in Kazakhstan, the Burnses, Hamptons and Whites will assist with the on site arrangements. A US team of EPC women will travel to Kazakhstan to serve on various committees such as leadership, administration, hospitality, prayer, and worship.

### ***Women's National Conference***

The sky and seas rejoiced October 7-10, 1999 on the shores of southeast Virginia as 341 EPC women gathered together from all over the US to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> EPC National Conference. The Founder's Inn Conference Center in Virginia Beach, VA, and our host, the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery, welcomed us with genuine Southern hospitality. Through the ministry of keynote speaker Mary Glynn Peeples, Peggy Miller's drama portrayal of Fanny Crosby, eight interesting and informative workshops, and the excellent leadership of our conference director, Nancy Larsen, we found the fulfillment of our theme "You Will Go Out In Joy," and so we did, with renewed visions and refreshed spirits.

### ***General Assembly Planning***

The Women's Ministries program at our General Assembly is a wonderful opportunity to inform and be informed, to encourage and be encouraged, to inspire and be inspired, to affirm one another and be affirmed. As the Women's Ministries Committee planned the program for the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly it was our desire and prayer to:

- **Inform** and communicate through the distribution of an information packet given to the women at registration. This packet will include recommended Bible studies for 2000/2001, Faith Focus material, and ministry information.
- **Encourage** through the Thursday afternoon's presentation of ministry highlights/displays and small group sharing entitled "Dream With A Vision."

- Inspire by a message from Florence Littauer, nationally known speaker and author, at our Friday Women's Luncheon. Recommended Bible studies, the exciting Kazakhstan report and current and future Faith Focus projects will be announced during our afternoon session.
- Affirm the women in their ministry on Saturday morning through a time of questions and answers, a time to share their hopes and visions, and pray for one another.

***Resignation of Jan Juday***

We are reminded by Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "to everything there is a season . . ." and how thankful we are for the season of ministry in which Jan Juday served as Director of EPC Women's Ministries. Through her five years of quality leadership we have experienced growth and unity among the women of our denomination. We all have been blessed, inspired, and challenged with a vision of kingdom possibilities. Upon acceptance of her resignation, the Administration Committee has appointed a search committee of five to seek a new director. The committee consists of Donna Alberta, George Callahan, Vicki Oliver, Sue Smith and Stated Clerk Edward Davis.



*Jan Juday*

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Blackley, Chairman



## World Outreach Committee Report

20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly



*Bern Draper*



*Dick Oestreicher*

The World Outreach Committee has met in three stated meetings since the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly: September 9-11, 1999; January 20-22, 2000; and March 23-25, 2000. Members are:

RE Bern Draper, Chairman	RE Robert Healy	TE Phil Linton
TE Jeffrey Chadwick	RE Hawley Ingram	RE Brette Rash
RE John Haase	RE Rister Jenkins	TE Sam Rowen

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	US/Muslim World
Barany, Dick & Linda	Kenya
Burns, Dan & Catherine	Kazakhstan
Clark, Dan & Jan	England/Muslim World
Fain, John & Dawn	US/International
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	US/Muslim World
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
Singh, Juan & Adriana	US Hispanic
Sparling, Bud & Carol	US/International
Walker, Dave & Deb	Japan
White, Allen & Pat	Kazakhstan
Young, Jonathan & Fozia	Russia

We are pleased to announce that the following candidates have been appointed as World Outreach missionaries since the 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:

Creech, Chuck & Kim—Argentina  
Juday, Jeff—Middle East  
Meyer, Ross & Sandy—Argentina

Jim and Sally Foote changed agencies from WO to Footprints, International on September 1, 1999. They continue to evangelize and disciple people in Tyumen, Siberia under their new agency.

### Approved Candidates

We are working with several candidates who have applied to the World Outreach Committee and are in the process of completing their requirements.

- *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, MD.
- *Randy and Martha Halbedl* have been received as approved candidates interested in serving under cooperative agreement with Frontiers on a church planting team among Muslims in Southeast Asia. They are also members of Fourth Presbyterian.
- *Brian and Ginny Holt* have been received as approved candidates serving under cooperative agreement with SIM at a seminary and international church in Ethiopia. Brian is a member of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic and Ginny is a member of Forest Hill Presbyterian in Charlotte, NC.
- *Jane Loyda* has been received as an approved candidate and is seeking a team to join. She is a member of Cherry Hills Presbyterian in Highlands Ranch, CO.
- 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 Almaty team is increasingly involved in training national leaders and preparing to organize a presbytery. National leaders now fill all ministry positions at Almagul church except pastor, and have initiated several new outreach ministries. Dan Burns hopes to have a national pastor or pastoral candidate in place by summer 2001. One sister church, Orbita, is fully organized with national leadership. Two new church plants are underway. The first is a Kazakh language group. The second, a group for Russian speakers with a strong Kazakh cultural identity, has been growing well under the leadership of a national intern and Bill Hampton. The Whites have settled in well and are studying Russian and assisting with small group leadership.

- *Argentina:* We are partnering closely with our brethren in Argentina to establish a national Presbyterian denomination in the year 2001. All decisions on World Outreach personnel appointments and assignments in Argentina are now made in consultation with the Presbytery of St. Andrews Mission Committee. Miguel and Azucena Robles continue working to revitalize the Belgrano Church. Marcelo Robles continues as pastor of La Misión (Flores) with his new wife, Miriam. He plans to remain there, leaving World Outreach at the end of 2000. Chris and Gina Meeks have been assisting at La Misión and the church plant in Lomas. On returning from home service in January 2001, they will begin a daughter church plant of La Misión. Ross and Sandy Meyer plan to be in Buenos Aires by August. Chuck and Kim Creech may be there by early 2001. Both couples will start their field service with internships under Argentine pastors. One more couple is in the application process.
- *Muslim Field:* So far, three efforts to develop Turkey as a World Outreach field have met with closed doors. The World Outreach Committee has postponed further initiatives related to Turkey until 2001. We continue to pray for Turkey as we wait to see what opportunities God brings forth.
- *Siberia:* Following the transfer of Jim and Sally Foote from World Outreach to Footprints, International, in September 1999, World Outreach is no longer active in Siberia.
- *Ethnic Ministry:* Juan and Adriana Singh are planting a Hispanic church, St Andrews Presbyterian, in Jackson, MS, with Lakeside Presbyterian in Brandon, MS, as mother church. St Andrews has about 35 members, four small group meetings and many outreach activities. Growth in attendance is needed.

Missionary care and development is part of the World Outreach Committee responsibility. Another part is helping the EPC respond to the challenge of the world around us. Some of the directions these opportunities have taken us follow:

- The 6th Conference for World Outreach missionaries took place just prior to this GA. This is always a great time to build the sense of family among our EPC missionaries. This year, courtesy of the Faith Focus, all but five of our missionary families and singles were together for three days of sharing, prayer and teamwork training.
- The Lord has provided a wonderfully gifted and experienced new World Outreach Director in Jeff Chadwick, currently pastor of Westminster Presbyterian in Bluefield, WV. He will begin working with Dick Oestreicher this summer in preparation for Dick's retirement in September.
- Missionary support continues to grow every year. Support income topped one million this year, at \$1,168,592. Project giving also increased, making total missions giving \$1,334,181.
- Missionaries serving under cooperative agreements with evangelical agencies give us access to Muslim work in Europe, Russia, the Middle East, and 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. To adopt the revised World Outreach Master Plan presented in attachment 1.

Grounds:

Values: To modify value statements to more accurately reflect WOC positions and commitments.

Goals & objectives: Original goals & objectives were stated for 1998 and 2001. The new document presents goals for 2002 and 2005.

EPC Fields: To position Muslim ministry first priority in our major defining document as it is in actuality.

Strategic Opportunities: To place East Asia (China) more substantially in our goals, and to add overseas international church planting and development as a new field focus.

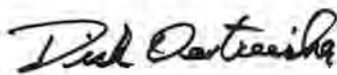
Mission Ed: To state new goals as a result of progress on past goal statements.

2. To approve the following revision to World Outreach Missions Manual section 302.3C:  
Remove item 6 *Studies in Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments*, and change number 7 to 6.  
Grounds: Everything listed in item 6 is covered in item 1 *A systematic study program in theology, Reformed essentials and tradition including the sacraments*.
3. To approve the following revision to World Outreach Missions Manual section 400.10 *Vehicles:*  
Change the amount of the standard vehicle allowance from \$14,000 to \$18,000. This would increase the monthly vehicle escrow amount from \$233 to \$300. The only change in the wording of the manual would be to replace \$14,000 with \$18,000 in the third sentence.  
Grounds: The \$14,000 allowance was established in January 1995. This increase adjusts for vehicle price increases in the intervening years.
4. To approve the addition of the following section to the World Outreach Missions Manual:  
**301.5 Provisional Presbytery Formation**  
*When the WOC believes the work is ready for establishment of a provisional presbytery, it will request the GA to appoint a commission entrusted with all the powers necessary to do so (Book of Government 16-26.B).*  
Grounds: This specifies the procedure to be followed in establishing a provisional presbytery where there is no indigenous court with the power to ordain ministers, organize and receive particular churches, and establish presbyteries. This procedure accords with the standards set forth in *The Book of Order* and the precedent established in receiving Argentine churches and ministers into the EPC in 1987.
7. To approve the addition of the following section to the World Outreach Missions Manual:  
**304.5 Extended Home Service**  
*At the end of the normal home service, the WOC may grant, with justification, an extension of home service not to exceed one year.*  
Grounds: At present, WO has no clear statement about the length of home service or how it might be extended before a missionary is placed on leave of absence. This policy would require the missionary to request extension of home service, indicating a reason for the request. The WOC would then act on that request. This is in line with other missions agency policies.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Bern Draper, Chairman  
May 2000



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

## REPORT TO 20th GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORLD OUTREACH MASTER PLAN PROGRESS

A Three Year Report (Short Term Goals '96-'98)

Obj.	Goal	Results
	<b>Goal I—Mission Ministries</b>	
	<b>I.A—Muslim World</b>	
	To establish a Christian presence in Muslim cultures and where possible to plant churches.	
1998 I.A.1	Identify a Muslim field and establish a partnership agreement with an approved sending agency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GA '98 approved Turkey as our Muslim Field</li> <li>• National ministry identified to partner with</li> <li>• Circumstances led to no official development of this relationship</li> </ul>
I.A.2	Utilize Arab World Ministries and Frontiers as our main cooperative agencies for EPC work in the Muslim world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Largest concentrations of WO missionaries</li> <li>• Frontiers 9 people/5 units, AWM 7/4</li> <li>• Dir visits to both their IHQ's in England</li> </ul>
2001 I.A.1	Deploy 10 EPC missionaries to the Muslim Field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Searching for a team leader and team members</li> </ul>
	<b>I.B—Argentina</b>	
	To establish an indigenous Presbyterian Church in Argentina, in consultation with the St. Andrews Presbytery in Buenos Aires.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The goal of becoming a national church in the year 2001 is being worked on by GA, the presbytery and WO</li> </ul>
1998 I.B.1	Identify and prioritize those areas in Argentina most appropriate for establishing at least two additional presbyteries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single Presbytery is very acceptable</li> <li>• St Andrews Presbytery now has a Missions Committee (CDC) for CP site selection</li> </ul>
I.B.2	Identify and help equip Argentine church-planting personnel to work in the above areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustenance provided to 1 church planter &amp; 1 revitalization pastor.</li> <li>• 1 WO missionary couple assigned to revitalization</li> </ul>
I.B.3	Identify, train, and send at least one missionary church-planting team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeks - Meyers team in Flores daughter church in 2001</li> <li>• Creech - Branch team in 2001 in a new location</li> </ul>
	<b>I.C—Eastern Europe/Former Soviet Union Nations</b>	
	To develop ways to proclaim the gospel, plant churches, and help build God's kingdom in the region.	

1998 I.C.1	Complete the team in Kazakhstan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whites to field in '99</li> <li>Open to add additional qualified workers</li> </ul>
I.C.2	Identify an ordained church planter for Tyumen, Siberia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WO activity discontinued</li> </ul>
I.C.3	Identify like-minded seminaries or institutes for indigenous leadership training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified in Kazakhstan, curriculum development being worked on</li> <li>Siberia activity discontinued</li> <li>Identified in Argentina</li> </ul>
2001 I.C.1	Plant three churches in Almaty, Kazakhstan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First church planted in Almagul</li> <li>Second begun in '00</li> </ul>
I.C.2	Plant one church in Tyumen, Siberia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WO Activity discontinued</li> </ul>
<b>I.D—North American Ethnic and Urban Ministry</b>		
	To initiate ministry and to plant and develop churches in local ethnic and urban communities in partnership with EPC churches and/or presbyteries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GA '98 Transferred Urban work to NOC</li> <li>Ethnic work remains with WOC</li> </ul>
1998 I.D.1	Support and assist Military Avenue Church in inner city Detroit and to use this experience as a model for other urban areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transferred to NOC</li> </ul>
I.D.2	Cooperate with EPC churches that desire to work together in ethnic or urban ministries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project developing in Jackson, MS in connection with Lakeside Pres</li> </ul>
I.D.3	Support with funds and short-term personnel the Appalachian Project in Kentucky, directed to evangelizing rural families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transferred to NOC</li> </ul>
2001 I.D	Identify one urban ministry where a cluster of EPC churches is led to cooperate in fulfilling an ethnic or urban project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transferred to NOC</li> </ul>
<b>I.E—Bi-Vocational Opportunities</b>		
	To send spiritually gifted men and women to serve in restricted access nations, with primary purposes of evangelism, discipleship, and church development within the context of business and professional assignments.	
1998 I.E.1	Work with an approved agency to facilitate bi-vocational work in China.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four agencies approved: EPI (SEND), Pioneers, Jian Hua Foundation &amp; ELIC</li> </ul>
I.E.2	Assist EPC churches to plan short-term bi-vocational mission in China.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several assisting Sam &amp; Ruth Rowen's project</li> </ul>
<b>I.F—Relief and Development</b>		
	To minister in deed and work through emergency relief, especially in areas where EPC missionaries are serving.	
2001 I.F	To annually solicit our churches for a relief or development project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mailing to EPC churches annually on a WR project with growing participation</li> </ul>



	<b>Goal II—Mission Partnerships</b>	
	To develop partnerships with other evangelical Presbyterian denominations and reformed churches in North America and abroad, and with other compatible agencies.	
	<b>II.A—Brazil</b>	
1998 II.A.1	Explore partnership with the IPB (Brazil) in consultation with St. Andrews Presbytery, toward fulfilling the goal of establishing an indigenous Presbyterian Church in Argentina.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IPB has 1 couple in La Plata, BA Province</li> <li>• Osvaldo Fernandez' son studying at IPB seminary in Brazil, Gomez's son has applied for the IPB offered scholarship</li> </ul>
II.A.2	Restudy the Articles of Agreement (EPC/IPB) as to the most helpful relationship in ministry for both churches in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Church Dev goals completed</li> <li>• Foreign Mission goals completed</li> <li>• 2000 is last year for Brazil Benevolence Askings related to the original program</li> </ul>
2001 II.A	Complete Phase I of faculty development of the Andrew Jumper Graduate Center as a key to leadership development in the IPB (Brazil) and throughout Latin America.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last scholarship recipient still in process</li> <li>• 7 completed and teaching in Brazil</li> </ul>
	<b>II.B—China Seminary Project</b>	
2001 II.B	Promote and support EPC's commitment to the China Seminary Project that results in training pastors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$90,000 has been raised</li> </ul>
	<b>II.C—EPC Pastoral Network</b>	
1998 II.C	Develop a network of EPC pastoral leadership that encourages dialogue with World Outreach regarding participation in EPC's mission goals and the local churches' vision for missions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant progress made with a number of EPC churches</li> </ul>
	<b>II.D—WFRC Partnership</b>	
1998 II.D	Become a member of the World Fellowship of Reformed Churches to enhance EPC's work in Latin America.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action yet taken</li> </ul>
	<b>Goal III—Mission Resources</b>	
	<b>III.A—Missions Education</b>	
	To encourage and promote a mission vision for EPC, World Outreach shall nurture mission consciousness and excellence in EPC churches and presbyteries.	
1998 III.A.1	Convene an annual mission consultation to provide vision and training to the EPC church family.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 - 4 annual presbytery visits with occasional consultation included.</li> <li>• Annual gathering was discontinued</li> <li>• WO publications have increased</li> </ul>
III.A.2	Be a resource to EPC churches in developing mission policies, training, and information that will assist local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several have been assisted as assistance</li> </ul>

	churches in their missions programs.	was requested
III.A.3	Schedule an annual vision trip for EPC pastors and church members desiring mission exposure and participation in areas of EPC work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'96 Russia &amp; Kazakhstan - 7 participants</li> <li>'97 Europe &amp; Middle East - 6 participants</li> <li>'98 Argentina - 11 participants</li> <li>'99 Central Asia - cancelled</li> </ul>
<b>III.B. Mission Personnel Development</b>		
	To assist individuals in churches and presbyteries to adequately prepare for cross-cultural service and to provide pastoral care for those in mission service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidate process now includes: Cross Cultural Assessment Center, Marriage testing, and complete medical history</li> <li>Missionary administration improved by ORC salary calculations and improved study leave</li> </ul>
2001 III.B.1	Send 101 missionaries into mission service in EPC teams or through approved cooperative agencies. Thirty-five of these missionaries will be in EPC teams whose ultimate goal is to plant reformed churches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>55 missionaries by GA '99</li> <li>Likely to be 60+ by GA 2000</li> </ul>
III.B.2	Share a synopsis of the annual Uniform Missionary Evaluation with supporting churches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begun in Jan '98 and continues annually with much appreciation from the churches</li> </ul>
III.B.3	Establish a network of mentors for seminarians interested in mission service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not yet acted upon</li> </ul>
III.B.4	Identify EPC pastors interested in forming a team to provide pastoral care to EPC foreign missionaries through field visitation on a regular basis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All but 3 units have been visited in the Dir's annual trips</li> </ul>
III.B.5	Encourage short-term missionary service (one or two years) working alongside WO missionaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous short-term teams have served in England, Siberia, Argentina and Kazakhstan.</li> </ul>

## WOC-1

# WORLD OUTREACH MASTER PLAN

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The global vision of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) is to establish the church of Jesus Christ in those cultures and people groups where opportunity and our ability to respond intersect.*

## VALUES AND COMMITMENTS

1. The foundation of World Outreach is the written Word of God, the Westminster Confession and the Book of Order of the EPC.
2. We are committed to establish and develop indigenous reformed churches and to eventual presbytery formation in adopted EPC fields.
3. We are committed to evangelism in both word and deed that results in the establishing of indigenous churches.
4. We are committed to encourage the spiritual maturity of indigenous leadership.
5. We are committed to engaging every member's participation in fulfilling the goals of our mission.
6. We are committed to partnering with other evangelical churches and organizations to demonstrate the unity of the Body of Christ.
7. We are committed to administering entrusted resources in an efficient and effective manner with full accountability.
8. We are committed to being sensitive and responsive to the Holy Spirit's work throughout the world.
9. We are committed to pray for worldwide evangelization.
10. We are committed to faithful proclamation of the Gospel to the nations until the Lord returns.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING

World Outreach is committed to develop its mission program with clear intention. Our primary focus shall be the Muslim World and other opportunities deemed to be strategic for the EPC.

# GOALS

## EPC Mission Fields

### 1. Muslim Ministry

**Goal:** To partner with cooperative agencies already serving in Muslim ministry by placing EPC workers on their teams.

**Objectives: 2002**

- Place bi-vocational workers under agencies which can assign them in strategic ministry in restricted access nations.
- Continue to partner with Arab World Ministries and with Frontiers as our main partner agencies.

**Objectives: 2005**

- Recruit 10 new units for cooperative Muslim ministry.

**Goal:** To develop and place (an) EPC team(s) in the Muslim world.

**Objectives: 2005**

- Identify two experienced team leaders for EPC church planting teams in the Muslim World, including Turkey.

### 2. Argentina

**Goal:** To establish an indigenous Presbyterian church in Argentina, in cooperation with the St. Andrews Presbytery in Buenos Aires.

**Objectives: 2002**

- Two WO teams in church planting.
- Support Argentine national church planting efforts.

**Goal:** To participate with the new national Presbyterian church in Argentina in its missional outreach.

**Objectives: 2002**

- Facilitate short-term ministry trips from EPC churches.

**Objectives: 2005**

- Recruit for a third WO church planting team.
- Designate and train a Field Director from among the WO workers.
- Foster a foreign mission vision among the Argentine churches.

### 3. Kazakhstan

**Goal:** To continue to plant Reformed churches and develop presbyteries.

**Objectives: 2002**

- Continue to recruit church planters.
- Establish a program to train Reformed national teaching elders.

**Objectives: 2005**

- Organize three churches.
- Develop and implement a model for presbytery formation.

## **Other Strategic Opportunities**

### **4. East Asia**

**Goal:** To develop available avenues for service in East Asia.

**Objectives:** 2002

- To promote and support the training of pastors in East Asia.
- Place bi-vocational workers under agencies which can assign them in strategic ministry in East Asia.
- To develop our partnership with ELIC by encouraging EPC members to teach English in East Asia.

**Objectives:** 2005

- Identify and develop opportunities for EPC service to East Asia.

### **5. Relief and Development**

**Goal:** To minister in deed and word through emergency relief, especially in areas where EPC missionaries are serving.

**Objectives:** 2005

- In the event of a world or national disaster, the World Outreach Director will assist the Stated Clerk to assess the situation and determine an appropriate response.
- Assist in every possible way should an emergency arise in a community served by a World Outreach worker.

### **6. Overseas International Churches**

**Goal:** To plant and support the development of international churches in significant locations throughout the world.

**Objectives:** 2005

- Match EPC pastors with vacant pulpits in international churches.
- Identify cities lacking an international church which are capable of sustaining one, especially in Muslim contexts.
- Encourage international churches to minister to immigrant peoples, especially those with Muslim backgrounds.

### **7. North American Ethnic Ministry**

**Goal:** To plant and develop churches in ethnic communities in partnership with EPC churches and presbyteries.

**Objectives:** 2002

- Jackson Hispanic church planting program funded by end of 2000.
- Determine by end of 2001, whether or not to proceed with the Jackson Hispanic church.

**Objectives:** 2005

- Encourage and partner with EPC churches in developing ministry to their local ethnic communities

## **8. Mission Partnerships**

**Goal:** To develop partnerships with other evangelical Presbyterian denominations and Reformed churches in North America and abroad, and with other compatible agencies.

**Objectives:** 2002

- Assist the EPC GA in reconnecting with the IPB of Brazil to establish a new program of partnership.

## **Missions Education & Resources**

### **9. Missions Education**

**Goal:** To encourage and promote a mission vision for EPC. World Outreach shall nurture mission consciousness and excellence in EPC churches and presbyteries.

**Objectives:** 2002

- Resource EPC churches in mission policy, programs and training.
- Convene a consultation of Presbytery WO Committee Chairmen in the fall of 2000 & 2001.
- Connect EPC churches with WO workers for short-term and summer mission trips.

**Objectives:** 2005

- Schedule periodic vision trips for EPC pastors and church members.

### **10. Mission Personnel Development**

**Goal:** To assist individuals in churches and presbyteries to adequately prepare for cross-cultural service.

**Objectives:** 2002

- Encourage short-term service working alongside WO missionaries.

**Objectives:** 2005

- Develop a program to identify key individuals from EPC church summer mission trips and begin nurturing and recruiting efforts with them.

**Goal:** To encourage and assist non-ordained World Outreach candidates and missionaries to prepare for ordination.

**Objectives:** 2005

- Work with the Ministerial Vocation Committee toward developing an ordination track for EPC candidates and missionaries.

### **11. Pastoral Care Network**

**Goal:** To provide pastoral care for World Outreach workers.

**Objectives:** 2002

- Develop missionary-care pastors for Argentina, Kazakhstan, and for any future EPC fields where appropriate, whose churches endorse and assist this endeavor.

**PART III**  
**DOCUMENTS**

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**Rules for Assembly**  
**As amended through the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

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**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 celebra-

tion 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 & 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. A list of all items referred to and considered by the committee;
  - B. A statement of all issues discussed;
  - C. A report of all recommendations contained in reports, communications and overtures referred. Action taken by the Assembly committees to approve, modify or not approve those items referred shall be reported back to the Assembly with reasons.

- 8-6** Minutes of the corresponding permanent committee shall be submitted to the Assembly committee for review.
- 8-7** Informational presentation of special aspects of work reported by a particular Assembly committee shall be limited to five (5) minutes. The Moderator may extend this time up to an additional ten (10) minutes.
- 8-8** Any recommendation affecting the budget of the Assembly shall be referred to the Committee on Administration for review before presentation to the Assembly.
- 8-9** The completed report of an Assembly committee shall contain the full text of the report and handled as follows:
- A. Proofed and signed by chairman of committee and thereafter given to Stated Clerk for permanent record;
  - B. Presented to the Assembly during docketed time by chairman or designate.
- 8-10** No partial report of an Assembly committee shall be presented without consent of the Assembly.
- 8-11** A. Presbytery **Minutes** shall be examined for conformity to:
1. the constitutional standards of the church, as to substance of the action recorded;
  2. appropriate standards as to the use of the English language.
- B. Each set of Presbytery **Minutes** must be read by at least two members of the Committee on Presbytery Review.
- C. The findings of the Committee with respect to the **Minutes** of each Presbytery shall be reported under the following categories as appropriate:
1. **Notations:** Typographical errors, misspellings, improper punctuation, non-prejudicial statements of facts and other variations in form maybe reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc., may be included here.
  2. **Exceptions:** Violations of constitutional standards of actions which in substance appear not to conform to EPC standards should be reported here.
- D. The Committee should prepare a report concerning the **Minutes** of each Presbytery. After action by the Assembly, two copies shall be given to the Stated Clerk, one for his permanent file and one to be mailed to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.
- E. Notations and exceptions in the Committee's report shall be handled as follows:
1. Notations shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery without being read to the Assembly or recorded in its **Minutes**.
  2. Exceptions shall be read before the Assembly, recorded in its **Minutes**, and disposed of as the Assembly determines.

- F. The Presbyteries shall take note in their **Minutes** of exceptions and notations conveyed from the Assembly 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 proof-read by a committee of three Commissioners in consultation with the recording clerks of the Assembly. The committee of three shall be nominated by the convening Moderator and the minutes shall be posted in a public place where they can be read by interested Commissioners.

#### IX. Permanent Committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission

9-1 The ministries of the Assembly shall be conducted primarily through permanent committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission, to wit:

- A. Committee on Administration
  1. Chaired by most immediate past Moderator.
  2. Committee Membership: Moderator, Stated Clerk, immediate past Moderator, immediate past Chairman, nine elected members, plus the chairmen of other permanent committees. The chairmen from other committees shall have voice but no vote.
  3. Functions in the following ways:
    - a. Administrative oversight
      - Oversight and coordination of Administration Committee with World Outreach, Christian Education, Ministerial Vocation, National Outreach, Women's Ministries and 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 (PJC)

"The Permanent Judicial Commission: The General Assembly shall establish a PJC. The Commissions 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, at least one former stated clerk of a 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 April 30 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 May 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.

**A Digest of the  
ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
1981-2000**

"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. References to Minutes are to section numbers, not page numbers.)

**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)
- 82-13 The Assembly approves criteria to guide selection of the location of General Assembly meetings (**Minutes** 2-46; Appendix I):
- a. Geographical suitability, including accessibility to long distance transportation
  - b. Capability of accommodating 350 delegates
  - c. Facilities for seating a minimum of 750 people for public services
  - d. Adequate financial and personnel resources
  - e. Adequate support services (housing, transportation, food).
- 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)
- 00-10 The Assembly adopts Forms 1-19 for inclusion in the *Book of Discipline*. (**Minutes**, 20-43)

## 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. The Evaluation Committee shall be enlarged every third year by two persons coinciding with the year of election of the Stated Clerk to provide a more comprehensive evaluation. Evaluation and nomination of the Stated Clerk shall be made by the Committee on Administration to the Assembly. (**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 18<sup>th</sup> (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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly to make "The Essentials" a part of our Constitution.

The Committee concurs with the Stated Clerk that "The Essentials" should not be made a part of our Constitution and given that authority. This document now carries the authority of an Act of the Assembly (reference Acts of the Assembly §81-1).

In order to further understand the relationship between "The Essentials" and the **Westminster Confession of Faith**, it is important to remember our historical context. As Presbyterians, we hold the **Westminster Confession of Faith** to be our standard of doctrine as it is found in Scripture. This standard is held not only in the intellect but also in the heart. The **Westminster Confession of Faith** is a positive statement of what we believe Scripture teaches.

"The Essentials" is a distillation for the **Westminster Confession of Faith** and is helpful in stating what we believe. The two are not in contradiction but are in harmony with one another as an expression of Reformed doctrine.

Courts of the EPC should encourage their members to continue studying our Confession in the light of the Word of God that we may grow theologically and spiritually together, unto the stature of the fullness of Christ. (*Minutes*, 8-60)

- 89-01 Baptisms at some court of the church other than the session shall be done only by a Pastor and at least one Ruling Elder from the same particular church (*Book of Worship*, §3-2E) and shall conform to the stipulations of the *Book of Worship* on baptism. As members of the EPC, members of the court may participate in the responses to the questions proposed to a congregation. Further, it may not be done unless:
1. One of the parents is a member in good standing of a particular church which is a true branch of the visible Church and to which notification of the baptism is made in accordance with W.3-2G1.
  2. Or, if the only presenting parent is a member of the presbytery and therefore does not belong to a particular church, that person shall stipulate prior to the baptism in what particular church the baptized person shall be enrolled. It is not within the jurisdiction of a presbytery or the General Assembly to authorize baptisms since that is a duty of a session. However, a baptism may be performed at such a court provided the above considerations are met. (*Minutes*, 9-52)

92-06 The Assembly encourages the use of the *Westminster Confession of Faith Commentary* (Summertown Texts) in EPC churches. (**Minutes**, 12-27)

93-08 Assembly adopts "Pastoral Letter on Children and the Lord's Supper" as guidance to the churches on the subject of young children and their participation in the sacrament of communion, and that Roger Beckwith's article (*Westminster Theological Journal*, Fall, 1975) "Age of Admission to the Lord's Supper," should accompany this letter. (**Minutes**, 13-26)

### ***PASTORAL LETTER ON CHILDREN AND THE LORD'S SUPPER***

The permanent Committee on Theology issues this pastoral letter to the General Assembly in response to its request for guidance on the subject of young children and their participation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Administration of and participation in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper must be done in accordance with Scripture as expressed in the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, Chapters 27 & 29, the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, Questions 96 & 97, and the *Westminster Larger Catechism*, Questions 168 through 177.

The history of the Reformed tradition on this matter is fairly clear that young children have not been admitted to the Lord's Supper. However, the early church until the twelfth century did permit the practice. In recent years, greater interest has developed among the Reformed denominations in allowing such to participate.

It is the conclusion of this committee that Scripture, as explained by our confessional standards, permits only those who are of faith in Christ to participate in the Lord's Supper. Further, none who are of saving faith in Christ are to be prevented from it (WLC, 173). Those who do participate must be able to discern the nature of the sacrament (WLC, 170 & 174), must prepare themselves for worthy participation (WLC 171 & 173), and be able to engage in self-examination at the time of and following participation (1 Cor. 11: 26-30, WLC, 175).

The Session of the church is charged with the responsibility to discern the credibility of the profession of those who wish to participate in the Lord's Supper, regardless of age. This is explained in the *Westminster Larger Catechism*, # 173.

Q. May any who profess the faith and desire to come to the Lord's Supper be kept from it?

A. Such as are found to be ignorant or scandalous, notwithstanding their profession of the faith, and desire to come to the Lord's Supper, may and ought to be kept from that sacrament, by the power which Christ hath left in his church, until they receive instruction and manifest their reformation.

The advice of this committee is that, though a local session is not required to admit young children to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, it may permit them if the following criteria are met:

1. The child has been administered the sacrament of Christian baptism.
2. The child presents a credible profession of faith as determined initially by his or her parents, and determined ultimately by the Session of the church.
3. The child is able to evidence to the Session a basic understanding of the nature of the sacrament as it is set forth in the Scriptures and in the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The Session must still continue to exercise diligence in its covenant responsibilities toward those children who are admitted to the Lord's Supper. The Session may or may not choose to admit the child into active membership at that time.

93-17 The Assembly sustains the opinion of the Permanent Judicial Commission concerning the purpose of the *Essentials of the Faith*:

The purpose of the *Essentials of the Faith* is to provide an explicit and concise expression of the essentials of the Christian faith, but also leave room for Christians to disagree on non-essentials. It is never to be used as an explicit standard for a minimal core of beliefs for

candidates, ordination, or ministerial exams. It is not to duplicate the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, or to be construed as a substitute for the WCF. Because it is not part of the Constitution, it is never to be used as such. Theoretically, a person could affirm the *Essentials*, as all knowledgeable Christians would do, but disagree with the WCF. Such a person would be unacceptable as a Teaching or Ruling Elder in the EPC, being out of accord with its Constitution. On the other hand, a person cannot affirm the WCF and disbelieve any part of the *Essentials*. The *Essentials* are to be subscribed to in addition to the full WCF (G.14-1A.4). (Minutes 13-38) (The 16<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 I-81. The southern boundary shall include the state of West Virginia except for the eastern panhandle. Western boundary shall include eastern Ohio from I-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 I-70. (Minutes, 6-51)

86-13 The Assembly instructs the stated clerks of presbyteries to request every congregation to recommend Ruling Elders willing and qualified to serve on specific permanent committees. Further, to instruct the Stated Clerk of General Assembly to produce a brief description of duties and responsibilities for each permanent committee along with upcoming vacancies. Clerks of presbyteries are requested to submit a combined list of available Ruling Elders from member congregations, along with their qualifications, experience, and brief biographical sketch. Copies of pertinent documents are to be transmitted to each member of the Nominating Committee prior to its meeting. (Minutes, 6-70). (Cf. Rules, §10, for description of permanent Nominating Committee.)

87-07 The boundaries of the West Presbytery are extended to include the states of Washington and Idaho. (Minutes, 7-44)

87-08 The metropolitan area of Kansas City and contiguous counties of that city within the state of Kansas (West Presbytery) shall be placed totally within the bounds of the Central South Presbytery. (Minutes, 7-44)

87-11 The Presbytery of Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andres, formed in Buenos Aires, Argentina shall be received, consisting of five particular churches. (Minutes, 7-51)

88-02 Presbyteries shall meet at least three times per year. (Minutes, 8-64)

88-03 The entire state of Florida is placed within the bounds of the Southeast Presbytery. (Minutes, 8-31)

88-04 The Presbytery of the Southeast is divided into two smaller presbyteries: The Mid-Atlantic Presbytery and the Presbytery of the Southeast. Mid-Atlantic Presbytery shall include the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, and the portions of Virginia previously included in the Southeast Presbytery. Southeast Presbytery shall include the states of Florida, Georgia, and the eastern portions of Tennessee and Kentucky. (Minutes, 8-31)

88-05 The boundaries of the Presbytery of the Central South are amended to include that section of Kansas which lies east of Highway 81 to include all of the city of Wichita. Western portion of Kansas remains with the Presbytery of the West. (Minutes, 8-31)

- 88-06 The Assembly approves the concept of presbyteries covenanting with colleges and other educational institutions but disapproved the General Assembly entering into such agreements. (**Minutes**, 8-55)
- 90-09 Boundaries for the Presbytery of St. Andrews shall consist of the province of Buenos Aires. (**Minutes**, 10-36)
- 90-11 The Presbytery of Florida is established, encompassing the state of Florida. The boundaries of the Presbytery of the Southeast are adjusted accordingly. (**Minutes**, 10-36)
- 91-05 A commission can be created only by an appointing court to serve as a commission for a limited time as specified by presbytery. No committee of presbytery shall have continuing authority to serve as a commission except as specifically authorized by G.16-26B and G.16-27A. 12. No committee has the authority to create commissions. The rationale is that a committee is not a court of the church. (**Minutes**, 11-35)
- 91-06 The Presbytery of the Central South is divided into two presbyteries:
1. **Central South:** Northern boundary extends from I-65 at (but excluding) Louisville, along the Ohio River to the confluence of the Wabash and Ohio Rivers, westward along Highway 13 to Murphysboro, Illinois, then due west to the Mississippi River. Then is extended from the Mississippi River due west of Murphysboro south to the Arkansas state line. Across the northern state line of Arkansas westward to the western state line. South on the Arkansas state line to the junction of the present boundary at the Texas state line. Boundaries of the continuing Presbytery of the Central South would remain as presently established.
  2. **Mid-America:** Southern boundary follows I-40 from and including Oklahoma City to the Arkansas state line. Northward on the Arkansas state line to the junction of the Missouri-Arkansas state line, then eastward to the Mississippi River. North along the Mississippi River to the point due west of Murphysboro, Illinois, and due east to Murphysboro along Highway 13 to the confluence of the Ohio and Wabash Rivers. Northward along the eastern boundary of Illinois and westward across the northern state line of Illinois to the Iowa state line. Northward on the eastern state line of Iowa and westward on the northern Iowa state line to the western state line. Southward on the western Iowa state line to the present junction of the Kansas state line. Westward to US 81 and southward along US 81 (I-135, I-35) to and including Oklahoma City. (**Minutes**, 11-37)
- 92-08 The Assembly amends the boundaries of the Central South and Southeast Presbyteries so that the Nashville metropolitan area is included in its entirety in the Central South Presbytery.
- The boundaries of the Central South Presbytery shall be as follows: From the Kentucky-Tennessee state line at I-65 east to the Sumner-Macon County, Tennessee line; south on the Sumner-Macon county line to the intersection of Wilson County; south on the Wilson-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 BentonBurton, Washington, Carroll, Boone and Madison are included in the Presbytery of Mid-America. (**Minutes**, 12-29)

- 92-10 The 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)
- 00-11 The Assembly adopts additional guidelines for Presbytery Minutes:  
 a. Standardization of numbering sections and subsections;  
 b. Standardization of attendance reporting;  
 c. Checklists to be used by Presbyteries to insure required actions have been taken and properly reported;  
 d. Standardization of reporting corrections to minutes made in response to exceptions issued by the General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 20-46)

#### **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)

*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 provide the presbyteries a letter encouraging each session to annually review pastoral and staff compensation, taking into account such factors as changes in cost of living, performance, capabilities of the congregation, and economic conditions of the community. Each presbytery shall determine how best to use the letter. **(Minutes, 3-37)**
- 83-02 Opportunity shall be provided at each General Assembly for pastors seeking a call to meet with churches and other ministries seeking to issue a call. **(Minutes, 3-37)**

- 83-03 Presbyteries shall use the approved standardized "Application - Candidates for Gospel Ministry" for persons seeking to come under care of presbyteries. (**Minutes**, 3-48)
- 83-04 Session shall use the approved "Session Approval Form" for commending candidates to presbyteries. (**Minutes**, 3-48)
- 83-05 A standardized "Personal Information Form" shall be provided for ministers seeking admission into the EPC and for EPC ministers seeking a change in call. (**Minutes**, 3-48)
- 83-06 Presbyteries shall use the approved "Call for Pastor or Associate Pastor" form for ministerial terms of call. (**Minutes**, 3-48)
- 83-07 The denomination shall provide an approved "Candidates Educational Equivalency Program" (CEEP) for presbyteries preparing candidates for the ministry who have extraordinary circumstances. Program shall be under general oversight of Ministerial Vocation Committee. (**Minutes**, 3-50)
- 83-14 The General Assembly charges its Ministerial Vocation Committee with the responsibility for developing a thorough Continuing Education Program for Ministers. To be included in such study are the following needs:
- a. the need for pastoral development in study leave;
  - b. the need for quality content in the study leave;
  - c. the need for non-pastoral professional staff to be included in professional development time.
- While encouraging all churches to participate in continuing education programs, the Assembly urges the Ministerial Vocation Committee, in devising such a plan, to preserve the ministers' and local session's liberty to choose those quality programs which best meet their needs, whether or not they be denominationally sponsored. (**Minutes**, 3-30)
- 83-15 The General Assembly instructs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to proceed to design a process for the proper maintenance of the military chaplaincy program (**Minutes**, 3-37)
- 84-02 The General Assembly sustains the Permanent Judicial Commission's opinion that "It is contrary to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (27-4) and the *Constitution of the Church, Book of Worship* (3-1), to allow persons who are not ordained Ministers of the Word to administer the sacraments." Document entitled "Uniform Procedures on Candidacy, Licensure, and Ordination" (**Minutes** 1983) shall be amended accordingly. (**Minutes**, 4-23) (*The 14<sup>th</sup> 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)
- 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;
  6. 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).
- 89-22 Non-ordained persons meeting EPC requirements for ordination shall be eligible to be ordained for the purpose of extended military duty. (**Minutes**, 9-36)
- 89-23 Extended active duty military chaplains seeking to transfer from other denominations may be received by presbytery only after a review and report regarding that person's chaplaincy by the Ministerial Vocation Committee. (**Minutes**, 9-36)
- 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 and if no other plan for coverage exists. (**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)
- 90-18 The Assembly endorses the LOGOI/FLET program as an acceptable equivalency program of theological education for candidates pursuing ordination in Argentina. (**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, if an examination is not sustained after three attempts, the fourth examination 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 sessions to participate in its support. (**Minutes**, 12-28)
- 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)
- 94-28 The Assembly amends the Medical Benevolence Fund document in the category "Ministers Without Call" by substituting the term "Total Pastor and Spouse Income" for "Gross Effective Income." (Minutes, 14-26)
- 94-29 The Assembly instructs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to include statistical and/or narrative summaries in the five areas of responsibility given in the *Rules for Assembly*:
- Issues noted in monitoring/aiding Ministerial Committees of presbyteries;
  - Number of churches seeking pastors, number of active PIF's and issues noted in pastor placement;
  - Number of candidates, number of EPC students at each seminary, status of Jumper Scholarship, special relationships and developments noted;
  - Number of extraordinary candidates in process and their outlook;
  - Number of candidates tested and trends noted. (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, 16-367) (*Note: This recommendation is intended to be presented and adopted on a yearly basis.*)
- 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

- 82-03 The Assembly shall establish a three-year program (1982-85) called "Mission to the Nation" which shall have as its goal church development and new church planting. The permanent committee is instructed to propose appropriate projects and to develop a church-wide campaign to raise \$2.5 million for this program. Congregations are encouraged to place priority to giving to Mission to the Nation. (**Minutes**, 2-32, Appendix E)
- 82-12 The Church Development Committee is instructed to establish a procedure for assisting EPC churches with ministry and financial needs, and to develop a procedure that will assist EPC churches in their fundraising for Mission to the Nation. (**Minutes**, 2-32)
- 83-11 The General Assembly shall establish a loan fund for church site and building development whereby on a revolving capitalization basis, low interest monies will be available to mission churches and other churches in need. Special campaigns are to be implemented by the permanent Church Development Committee to raise at least the amount of one and one-half million dollars through means of designated gifts, special church offerings, and short-term loans. (**Minutes**, 3-54) (*The 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly established a new Church Loan Fund. Cf. Act 86-12*)
- 86-12 The Assembly approves a new Church Loan Fund with an initial target goal of \$300,000. Monies would be available at a favorable rate to EPC congregations seeking to acquire land or building facilities. Steps to launch Fund:
1. Promote congregational giving by individual gifts, legacies, endowments, outright gifts, and inclusion in local church budgets;
  2. Designate 1986 and 1987 Thanksgiving Offerings to this Fund. (**Minutes**, 6-64)
- 86-23 The Assembly adopts a "Provisional Master Plan for Church Development" (**Minutes**, 6-64; page 115ff).
- 88-12 Assembly endorses the concept of an assessment process designed to identify gifted persons called and qualified for church planting. (**Minutes**, 8-31)
- 89-09 The Assembly authorizes the Church Development Committee to conduct a campaign to encourage members of the EPC to include the Church Loan Fund in their wills. (**Minutes**, 9-45)
- 89-10 The Assembly directs the Church Development and Administration Committees to jointly develop detailed administrative guidelines for the managing of the Church Loan Fund, and qualifications for churches and presbyteries requesting loans, and of assigning priorities to such requests. No requests for loans may be made until the presbyteries and churches have been advised of the guidelines. (**Minutes**, 9-48)
- 89-11 The Assembly authorizes the Church Development Committee to begin making loans to established EPC churches and to presbyteries in this Assembly year with appropriate fees to cover administrative costs and to provide challenge contribution goals from such churches and presbyteries to help build the Fund, enabling them to make more loans to needy congregations. (**Minutes**, 09-48)
- 89-12 The Assembly approves the establishment of an Investors Church Development Fund and authorizes the Church Development Committee to prepare a preliminary plan to present to the



10th General Assembly (1990) and to select subcommittee members with expertise in this field as needed. (**Minutes**, 9-45)

- 89-13 The Assembly approves for implementation adopts the Master Plan for Church Development. (**Minutes**, 9-45)
- 89-24 The Assembly adopts a position description for a Director of Outreach. (**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**, 12-436).
- 92-21 The Assembly adopts the Policy 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**, 16-345)
- 96-12 The Assembly instructs the National Outreach Committee to review the 1989 Church Development Master Plan prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> (1997) Assembly, and every five years thereafter, revising as necessary. (**Minutes**, 16-345)
- 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 17<sup>th</sup> (1997) General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 16-345)
- 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 17<sup>th</sup> (1997) General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 16-34)
- 97-23 The Key Cities Plan describing potential church development is adopted. (**Minutes**, 17-44)

- 97-24 The Assembly approves the Bartlett L. Hess Award, an annual honor for the church that has demonstrated the most innovative approach to church growth or revitalization during that year. (*Minutes* 17-44)
- 97-25 The Assembly approves combining the Church Development Plans of 1989 and 1995, using the newly approved *Mission Statement and Core Values* of the National Outreach Committee into a *1997 Master Plan for Church Development*. (*Minutes*, 17-44)
- 97-26 The National Outreach Committee is instructed to provide training and resources for the leadership in our churches in how to share their faith in Christ, individually and in group settings, with those in their communities who have not yet come to Christ. (*Minutes*, 17-44)
- 97-27 The Assembly commends Rev. Corbett Heimburger for his work as National Outreach Director, having built a foundation and provided sound direction and support in this area of ministry, and pray for the Lord's guidance for Rev. Heimburger's future ministry. (*Minutes*, 17-45)
- 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, p. 38)
- 98-11 The Assembly adopts the 1998 National Outreach Master Plan. (*Minutes*, 18-41)
- 98-12 The Assembly endorses the Alpha program as a resource for evangelism. (*Minutes* 18-41)
- 00-04 The Assembly adds home missions as a new strategic area to the National Outreach Master Plan: "In partnership, cooperation with, and/or at the request of Presbytery, we will enable workers to present the love of Christ to English-speaking people groups in the USA, unreached by the established church." (*Minutes*, 20-28)
- 00-05 The Assembly adopts a plan to fund church planting through a 3-year campaign to raise \$750,000. Two-thirds of the fund will be used for church/presbytery/National Outreach partner projects. One-third of the fund will be used for Key City projects. (*Minutes*, 20-28)

#### WORLD OUTREACH

- 82-13 The Assembly approves establishment of permanent World Outreach Committee. Until such time as the EPC contains 200 member churches, committee shall consist of six members on a three-year, three-class system, with the Moderator and Stated Clerk to serve as ex-officio members. Committee will elect replacement members from within EPC membership. Members may serve a maximum of two terms, and then may not be reelected without at least one year's break. WOC members will include two teaching elders and four ruling elders. WOC 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 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. Minutes* 3-53)
- 83-13 *World Outreach Manual, Part I (Theology and Practice of Missions)* is adopted by the Assembly. (*Minutes*, 3-46)
- 83-16 A "Sons and Daughters" program is approved, to encourage those who are presently serving as missionaries with EPC roots to become EPC missionaries through World Outreach.

**Qualifications:**

1. Home church or present membership in an EPC church;
2. Substantial financial support from EPC sources.

**Benefits to Missionaries:**

1. Greater prayer and care base from entire EPC constituency;
2. EPC initiative in gathering support and other necessary funds;
3. Ministry among EPC churches within a primary region (preferably within a presbytery) to reduce travel time and costs during home service (furlough);
4. Scheduling assistance from the World Outreach office.

**Benefits to EPC**

1. Strong sense of missions from within EPC family, leading to ownership from all of EPC;
2. Sons and daughters of one church become adopted by others within a region;
3. Opens a way for maximum but realistic growth rapidly and from within. (**Minutes**, 3-46)

- 84-04 Oversight of Ethnic and Urban Ministries in North America shall be given to the permanent Committee on World Outreach. (**Minutes**, 4-24) (*The 18<sup>th</sup> 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**, 12-436)
- 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)**
- 00-01 The Assembly authorized the Committee on Administration to continue the relationship of the EPC with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB). The relationship will include exchange programs for youth, leadership, and music ministry, theological education programs, joint missionary projects and church planting. **(Minutes 20-20; Communication 00-14)**
- 00-06 The Assembly adopts an updated World Outreach Master Plan, stating goals and objectives for 2002 and 2005, placing East Asia more substantially in the goals, and adding overseas international church planting as a new field focus. **(Minutes, 20-29)**

#### 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)

85-25 The Assembly approves in principle the Articles of Agreement between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB) and forms a commission to negotiate and consummate a final agreement. (**Minutes** 5-47) *The work of the Commission was received and adopted by the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (Minutes 6-40).*

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)
- 00-02 The Assembly authorized the Committee on Administration to continue the relationship of the EPC with the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (IPB). The relationship will include exchange programs for youth, leadership, and music ministry, theological education programs, joint missionary projects and church planting. (**Minutes** 20-20; Communication 00-14)

#### **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 congrega-

tion, 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)

- 89-18 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 The Assembly adopts the policy 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)
- 00-05 The Assembly adopts a plan to fund church planting through a 3-year campaign to raise \$750,000. Two-thirds of the fund will be used for church/presbytery/National Outreach partner projects. One-third of the fund will be used for Key City projects. (Minutes, 20-28)

#### 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)
- 89-26 The Assembly instructs the permanent Christian Education and Publications Committee to establish a task force on homelessness. (**Minutes**, 9-38)
- 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)
- 93-15 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)
- 93-19 The Assembly commends the *Study Guide for the Westminster Confession and Book of Order*, by Rev. William Hyer for use in the churches. (**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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:
- a. To establish student curriculum guidelines to assist churches in the Christian nurture of their children;
  - b. 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 Assembly endorses the Alpha program as a resource for evangelism. (**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)
- 00-07 The Assembly endorses children's catechism lessons from Children's Ministries International as resources for use in EPC churches. (**Minutes**, 20-38)
- 00-08 The Assembly endorses the book *Infant Baptism* by John Sartelle for use alongside Francis Schaeffer's booklet, *Baptism*. (**Minutes**, 20-38)
- 00-09 The Assembly endorses a Youth Curriculum as a working draft for use in church membership programs. (**Minutes**, 20-39)

### **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)
- 89-06 The Assembly approves formation 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 con-

cerning the acceptance, operation, and effectiveness of the Plan. (**Minutes**, 9-22). *The 15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly rescinded this action to establish a Board of Reference (cf. Act 95-07).*

- 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 Trust with the understanding that the actual Fund Trust Agreement would be presented to the 11th Assembly. Approval to begin promotion of the Fund Trust 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 if no other plan for coverage exists. (**Minutes**, 10-39)
- 90-22 The Assembly adopts a restated pension plan and adoption agreement. (**Minutes** 10-22)
- 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. (**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)
- 93-18 The Assembly adds infertility treatment (but not testing) for up to four months to the Medical Plan. (**Minutes**, 13-12)
- 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) (*Note: This recommendation is intended to be presented and adopted on a yearly basis.*)
- 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)
- 00-02 The Assembly amends the Medical Plan to include:  
a) Home health care services provided within 7 days following discharge from hospital for a cause related to the cause of hospital confinement  
b) Prescription coverage for Viagra and birth control pills. (Minutes, 00-25)
- 00-03 The Assembly amends the Medical Plan to specifically exclude:  
a) Charges in connection with weekend hospital admissions unless deemed medically necessary;  
b) Charges made in connection with surrogate parenting arrangements;  
c) Charges for completing a claim form;  
d) Charges made for professional services of a resident physician or intern;  
e) Surgery for sex reassignment or complications from such procedure;  
f) Services or supplies rendered while not under continuing care of a physician.  
(Minutes, 00-25)

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## ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

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### Between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and The Presbyterian Church of Brazil

aiming at a brotherly fellowship in which  
they will help each other in the propagation  
of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### Preamble

The Presbyterian Church of Brazil has been created by God as one of His instruments to be a Reformed and Presbyterian witness in Brazil for Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church has also been created by God as a similar instrument in the United States. Each recognizes that the other has primary responsibility for the country where God has placed it. When one works as a helper in the regional field of the other, it shall do so under the authority of that church. However, in order for the helper church to have a voice in the missionary enterprise of the primary church, it is necessary to establish a means whereby the two churches may share in the planning, projecting, overseeing and strategizing for missions. It is always to be remembered that the primary church has final authority for approval of such plans for missions. The means for such joint planning shall be "**The Joint Committee for Missions.**" This Joint Committee shall assist both in Brazil and in the United States in recommending to the primary churches plans for developing the missionary enterprise in joint venture between the primary and the helper churches.

#### The Joint Committee for Missions

1. Recommendations for shared missions between a primary and helper church shall come to both churches through the JCM.
2. The JCM shall be composed of six (6) members, three (3) from each church. In addition, each church may appoint advisors without vote.
3. Each church shall designate one of its members as co-chairman and meeting shall be alternately chaired by the co-chairman. A secretary/recorder shall be provided by the host church and minutes shall be provided in both English and Portuguese. A permanent book of the minutes shall be kept in both languages and a copy provided for each church for historical purposes. The Committee shall meet at least annually in November and at other times as necessary, such other meetings to be set by the JCM at its November meeting or upon call of the co-chairman. The regular meetings ordinarily shall be held alternately in each country.
4. The JCM shall make an annual report to the two churches through the appropriate denominational committee, in order that shared missions may be kept before the two churches.

5. The approval, disapproval, or modification of recommendations from the JCM shall come from that board or agency so designated by the particular church. Also such designated board or agency may submit recommendations and proposals to the JCM for its consideration.
6. No joint missionary enterprise shall be undertaken that has not been recommended by the JCM and approved in a manner required by each denomination.
7. Approved joint missionary enterprises shall have a time frame and financial parameters designated and shall have established procedures for evaluation and assessment.
8. The following stipulations shall govern missionaries (those appointed to serve within the bounds of the other church):
  - A. Ordained
    1. Shall be under the jurisdiction of the agency, institution or church court under which they serve.
    2. Shall be under the constitutional documents (confessions, 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 responsibility for the support of that person.
9. Funding 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 help 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 Inter-ecclesiastical 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 of 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 the 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.

Original document signed by Andrew Jumper and Boanerges Ribeiro, chairmen, L. Edward Davis, Paulo Breda Filho, Bartlett Hess, and Jose Arantes Costa.

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## COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH EVANGELICAL MISSIONARY AGENCIES

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**COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH**  
**Evangelical Presbyterian Church**  
**29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5**  
**Livonia, Michigan 48154**

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 material 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 the 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 I the full and free presentation of the gospel as contained in and understand 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 directions of \_\_\_\_\_ (agency).

13. The missionary's field director will initiate home service planning in consultation with World Outreach and also with \_\_\_\_\_'s (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 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 coordination but within the context of the proportion of support from EPC sources.
16. The missionary shall not solicit homeland constituency 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Agency) \_\_\_\_\_

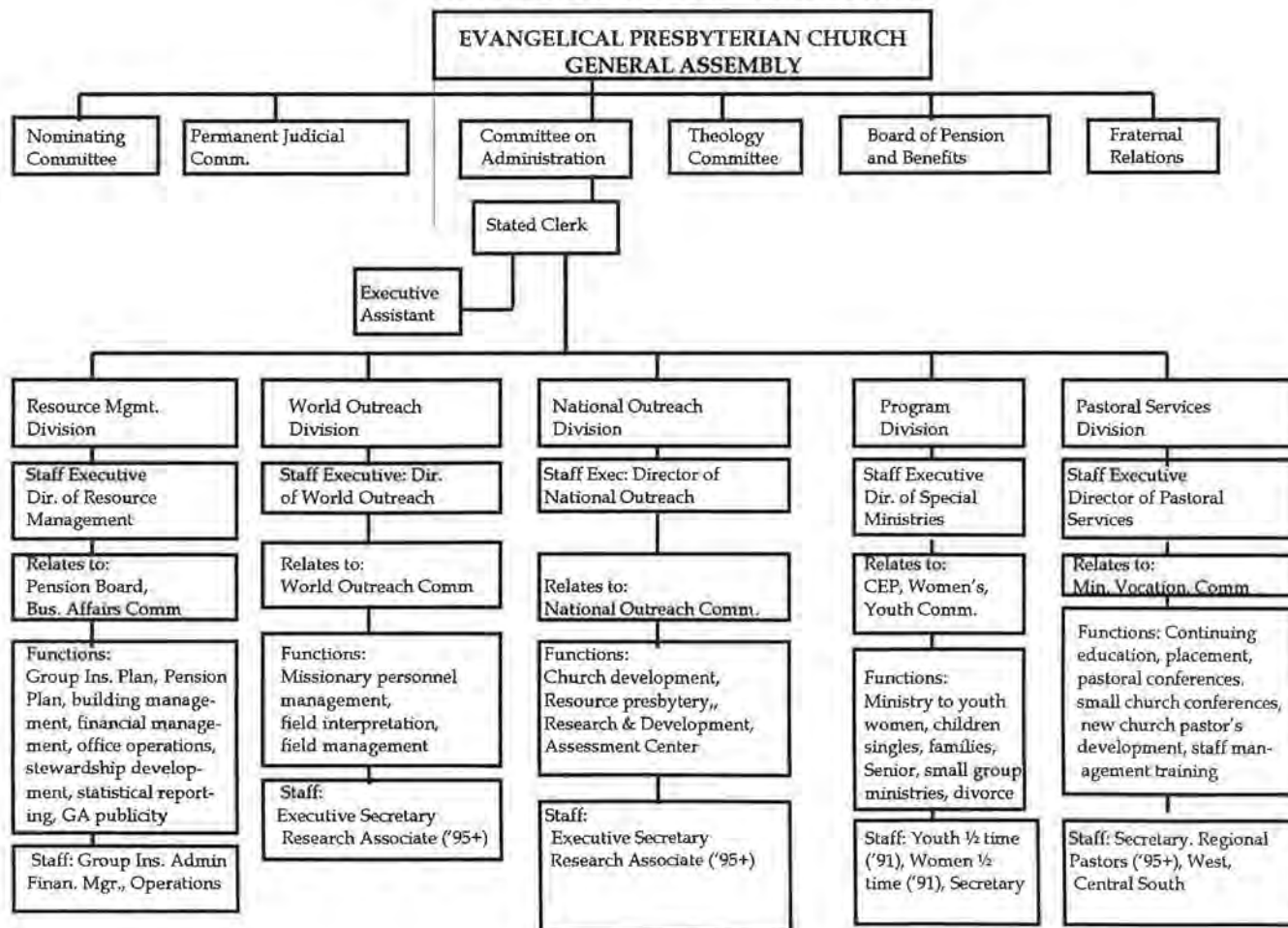
World Outreach Director \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 World Outreach \_\_\_\_\_

\*World Outreach has cooperative agreements with the following agencies:

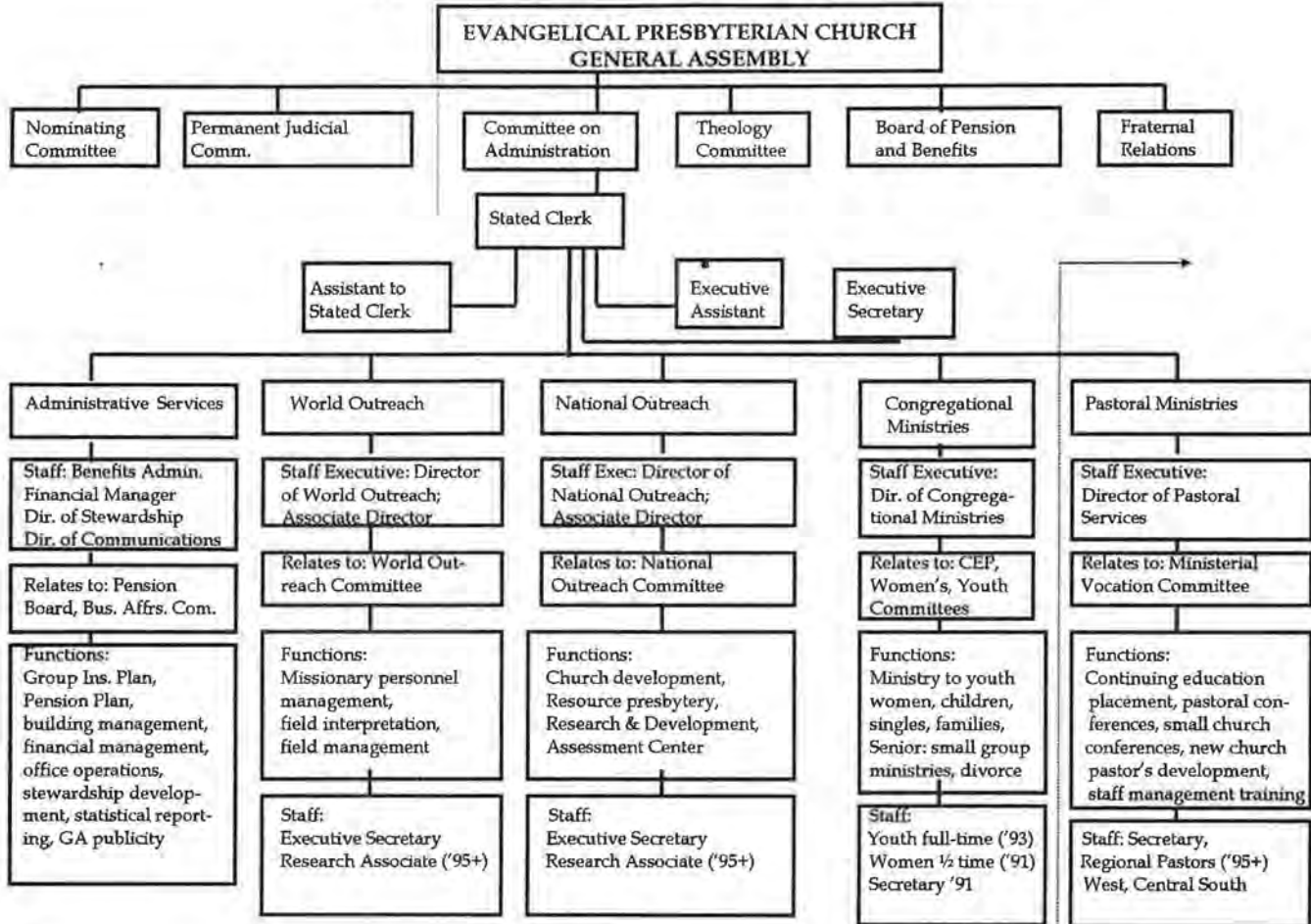
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|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Arab World Ministries             | 10. Overseas Missionary Fellowship |
| 2. English Language Institute/ China | 11. Pioneers                       |
| 3. Frontiers                         | 12. Send International             |
| 4. Interserve                        | 13. SERVE                          |
| 5. Jian Hua Foundation               | 14. United World Mission           |
| 6. Logoi                             | 15. World Impact                   |
| 7. Middle East Media                 | 16. Wycliffe Bible Translators     |
| 8. Missionary Internship             | 17. Youth for Christ, USA          |
| 9. Overseas Crusades                 |                                    |



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART - DESIGN FOR 2001



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART - DESIGN FOR 2001(Revised Draft)



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## THE GENEVA STATEMENT

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*Agreement of Cooperation between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
and the  
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*

Being persuaded from Scripture that all Christians are united 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 politics must be maintained and respected.

We therefore pledge ourselves to labor together in love, to advance the work of Christ in both our common and separate ministries, seeking to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We promise that if ever we should offend one another in our common labors, we shall do everything possible to resolve the matter and to maintain cooperation. We commit ourselves to labor in support of our church courts, faithfully reporting our activities to the appropriate board or agency, and our respective committees concerning interchurch relations.

We further believe that such practical fraternity apart from any quest for organizational union, will be pleasing to God and promote the advancement of the Gospel in the world. For these reasons we commit ourselves to this Agreement of Cooperation, which is to be attached to the joint statement previously adopted by our churches.

*Adopted June, 1992  
12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

The 11<sup>th</sup> 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  
11<sup>th</sup> General Assembly*

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**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FUND**

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**RESOLVED**, that there is hereby declared this 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1992 by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, a Medical Benevolence Fund designated and distinct from all other funds of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to be administered by the Committee on Administration under the following terms and conditions:

1. Fund Income. The Committee shall, after paying the necessary expenses of the management and preservation of the Fund, pay an amount up to but not exceeding the net income of the Fund as directed by the Benevolence Committee. In the year that the total distributions over the course of a calendar year, as directed by the Benevolence Committee, shall total an amount less than the entire net income, then the Committee shall accumulate any excess income and add it to the principal.
2. Benevolence Committee. The Benevolence Committee shall be composed of two Ruling Elders and one Teaching Elder of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church who shall be nominated by the Committee on Administration and elected by the General Assembly. Each member of the Benevolence Committee shall serve for a term of three years and shall not be eligible for succession. The first group of Committee members shall be elected with staggered terms; that is, one shall be elected for a one-year term, one shall be elected for a two-year term, and one shall be elected for a three-year term.
3. Distribution Requirements. The Benevolence Committee shall order the Committee on Administration to make distributions from the income of the Fund only under the following conditions:
  - A. All distributions shall be used solely for the purpose of paying for the cost of medical benefits insurance.
  - B. Only the following individuals shall be eligible as beneficiaries of such distributions:
    1. Ministers of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church who are without a present call. Such beneficiaries shall be eligible, however, only until such time as their income\* exceeds \$25,000\*\* annual gross effective income, until medical benefits become available from some other source as a part of such person's income or for a maximum period of one year.
    2. Mission church pastors of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, but only if the mission church is not a daughter church of another Evangelical Presbyterian Church and only until such time as such pastor's annual gross effective income shall exceed the sum of \$25,000\*\* and in no event shall such pastor receive distributions for more than one year.
    3. Retired ministers of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches.

- C. Applications for distributions shall be made to the Benevolence Committee by the Presbytery having jurisdiction over the prospective beneficiary. The Benevolence Committee shall develop an application form which, among other things, shall be executed by the Presbytery and shall contractually commit an amount equal to the distribution from this Fund, it being the intention that this Fund shall never pay more than one-half of the actual amount of the medical benefit insurance premium paid on behalf of each individual beneficiary. Applications shall be received by the Committee quarterly in January, April, July and October.
- D. In the event that the income from this Fund is not sufficient to pay the entire one-half of the need of the individual applicants in any year, then the Benevolence Committee shall order its distributions to be made *pro rata* based upon the amount of income available from this Fund.
4. Amendment. The General Assembly shall have the power at any time, by a vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the General Assembly, duly constituted, to modify, alter or amend this designation of endowment fund and to change the requirements for the beneficiaries thereof.
5. Accountings. The Committee on Administration shall render annually a statement of properties in the Fund and of receipts and disbursements by category during the period covered to the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church at its annual meeting. Each accounting shall be done on a calendar year basis and shall be rendered to the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church during the next calendar year.

\* *From all sources*

\*\* *Increased in 1997 from \$20,000 to \$25,000*

Adopted 6/92  
Amended 6/97

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**POSITION DESCRIPTION  
FOR THE  
STATED CLERK**

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- 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 that 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.

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## POSITION STATEMENT ON PRESBYTERY DEVELOPMENT

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The purpose of this position statement is to be a guide to the General Assembly in making decisions concerning the establishment of new presbyteries or the realignment of current boundaries.

The Church as the body of Christ is composed of all those persons who profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior, together with their children. The Church on earth is not limited to particular forms of government or denominational structures; nevertheless, the government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be Presbyterian in form. Such is government by elders meeting in church courts in regular gradation. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes the perfecting of the visible Church is best established where the scriptural doctrine of government by elders gathered in church courts is practiced.

The courts of the Church shall be the Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. Presbytery shall be composed of all Ministers belonging to it, and two Ruling Elders for each Minister drawn from the particular churches within its bounds.

The Presbytery has jurisdiction over all that belongs to the worship and ministry of a group of churches within the designated bounds. In its spiritual oversight, the mission of the Presbytery shall be:

1. The nurture and care of persons called to the office of Minister and oversight of all transactions pursuant to call.
2. The provision of spiritual discipline according to the *Book of Discipline*.
3. The oversight of church Sessions through annual review.
4. The maintenance of peace and unity within the congregations.
5. The establishment and development of churches.
6. The encouragement of evangelism, renewal, and ministries of compassion within the congregations and Presbytery.
7. The active participation in the life of the General Assembly.
8. The organization of the Presbytery for maximum advancement of the Gospel and the kingdom.
9. The provision of resources to member congregations promoting effective evangelism, education, stewardship, officer training and the like.

In pursuit of its mission, the question naturally arises as to what constitutes a viable Presbytery. Viability may be defined as "the ability with maximum efficiency to achieve a stated mission." The basic components of a viable Presbytery within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be understood as the following:

### 1. LEADERSHIP

A Presbytery must have adequate personnel resources to support the local church as well as Presbytery's committees and commissions.



2. **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

Sufficient resources must be available to support the mission and life of a Presbytery. A minimum budget of \$100,000 ('94 dollar basis) per year is necessary.

3. **COMMITMENT**

Leadership and resources are of little value if the solid commitment of Ministers and Ruling Elders of each church to the connectional form of government is absent.

4. **DEMOGRAPHICS**

The minimum requirements for a Presbytery need to be:

1. A large church (1,000 + members);
2. Twelve organized churches;
3. A composite membership base of 2,500.

5. **OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK**

The Stated Clerk shall be provided with office equipment and necessary support staff to carry out the duties of the office as defined in the Presbytery by-laws.

6. **GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY**

Presbytery boundaries should be established to keep travel distances between churches to a reasonable minimum.

92294mb

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**SUGGESTED CONSTITUTION  
FOR LOCAL CHURCHES\*  
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: 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 connectonal 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.

*Adopted at 19<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
June, 1999*

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## PRESBYTERY WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEES

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### 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 the 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.



**PART IV**  
**DIRECTORY**

## COMMITTEE ROSTER

### COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

---

#### CLASS OF 2001

RE Zelda Artz  
1220 S. Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22204  
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TE Erik Ohman  
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RE Mark Sharpnack  
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##### 20<sup>th</sup> GA MODERATOR

RE John Graham, III  
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706/291-6223

##### CHAIRMAN

TE Jimmy McGuire  
Ward Presbyterian Church  
40000 Six Mile Road  
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248/374-5958

##### STATED CLERK

TE Mike Glodo  
General Assembly Office  
29140 Buckingham Ave. Suite 5  
Livonia, MI 48154  
734/261-2001

##### IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRMAN

RE Alan Smith  
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Fairfax, VA 22032  
703/978-0835



#### ADVISORY MEMBERS

TE David Ruff, Chairman  
Christian Education & Publications  
Committee  
Forest Hill EPC  
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Charlotte, NC 28210  
704/554-9037

Rev. Paul Rettew, Chairman  
Ministerial Vocation Committee  
Knox Presbyterian Church  
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TE Philip Linton, Chairman  
World Outreach Committee  
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TE Rodger Woodworth, Chairman  
National Outreach Committee  
New Hope EPC  
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Mrs. Vicki Oliver, Chairman  
Women's Ministries Committee  
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TE James Byrne, Chairman  
Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee  
Fourth Presbyterian Church  
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#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

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---

FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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TE Perry Mobley  
332 Hambrick Court  
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336/659-1943

RE Steele Stewart  
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---

MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

---

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RE Jerry Alpert  
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**COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH**

---

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**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

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**CLASS OF 2003**

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---

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---

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---

**2001 COMMITTEE**

---

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RE Carl Hassell  
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TE Wally Hostetter  
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703/449-2668

RE Virginia Patterson  
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630/483-3829





**PART V**  
**ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS**  
**OF THE**  
**CHURCHES**

## 1999 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH

CENTRAL SOUTH				1998	1999	Gains					Losses			Worship	Sunday	Baptized	Infant	Adult
Church	City	State	Members	Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gen	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Deaths	Other Loss	Attendance	School	Ret	Baptisms	Baptisms	Baptisms	
1 Atoka Presbyterian Church	Atoka	TN	38	34	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	54	24	0	0	0	0	
2 Christ EPC	Houston	TX	562	456	22	0	4	4	12	0	124	339	426	99	10	0	0	
3 Christ Presbyterian Church	Cape Girardeau	MO	51	53	0	0	7	0	5	0	0	48	23	0	0	0	0	
4 Church of the King	Corpus Christi	TX	40	52	1	0	12	0	1	0	0	70	39	22	2	0	0	
5 Cornerstone EPC	Katy	TX	129	124	1	3	3	9	11	0	10	157	122	56	2	3	0	
6 Covenant Presbyterian Church	Columbus	MS	41	42	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	59	26	0	1	0	0	
7 CrossPointe Community Church	Carrollton	TX	131	145	2	5	2	9	4	0	0	170	72	39	13	3	0	
8 Crossroads Community Church	Austin	TX	34	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	75	65	8	0	3	0	
9 EPC of Marshall	Marshall	TX	244	251	7	0	2	0	2	0	0	170	105	0	1	7	0	
10 First EPC	Anna	IL	187	198	2	1	2	14	3	3	4	196	151	18	1	0	0	
11 First Presbyterian Church	Houma	LA	66	63	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	44	48	14	0	0	0	
12 First Presbyterian Church	Meridian	MS	368	389	8	0	9	4	1	9	0	370	0	0	4	0	0	
13 First Presbyterian Church	Waskom	TX	29	27	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	22	15	2	0	0	0	
14 First Presbyterian Church	West Point	MS	146	120	0	0	4	0	1	0	29	100	100	48	5	1	0	
15 Golden Rule Presbyterian Church	Elysian Fields	TX	15	25	0	3	4	3	0	0	0	35	21	0	0	1	0	
16 Grace Covenant	Opelousas	LA	35	38	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	50	31	2	0	0	0	
17 Grace Presbyterian Church	Alexandria	LA	245	277	2	1	14	19	4	1	0	225	150	43	4	0	0	
18 Grace Presbyterian Church	Montgomery	AL	83	88	1	1	18	10	3	0	22	85	111	13	0	2	0	
19 Hope Church	San Antonio	TX	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	
20 Hope Presbyterian Church	Cordova	TN	1565	2260	33	90	254	365	9	2	57	2501	1303	0	117	58	0	
21 Lakeside Presbyterian Church	Brandon	MS	483	454	5	5	12	20	9	1	61	300	284	68	7	1	0	
22 Louisville Presbyterian Church	Louisville	MS	42	29	2	0	0	0	4	1	0	47	26	7	0	0	0	
23 Midtown Church	Memphis	TN	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	
24 New Covenant Presbyterian Church	Natchez	MS	41	47	3	1	7	0	4	0	1	85	42	2	0	2	0	
25 Providence Presbyterian Church	Rowlett	TX	82	83	0	0	0	6	0	0	5	150	0	0	1	2	0	
26 Redeemer EPC	Birmingham	AL	62	69	0	0	0	14	0	0	7	85	16	0	0	1	0	
27 Second Presbyterian Church	Memphis	TN	3287	3351	6	32	64	82	69	31	20	1337	3045	476	48	19	0	
28 St. Patrick Presbyterian Church	Collierville	TN	150	154	21	15	84	36	0	0	2	235	156	55	11	4	0	
29 St. Andrews Church	Jackson	MS		40								40						
30 The City of Refuge (EPC)	Houston	TX	59	71	0	0	12	13	9	0	1	85	49	0	1	0	0	
31 Tunica Presbyterian Church	Tunica	MS	121	119	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	95	90	22	0	0	0	
32 Westminster Presbyterian Church	Laurel	MS	262	266	5	13	0	0	10	2	0	185	192	33	4	0	0	
33 Zachary Presbyterian Church	Zachary	LA	66	71	0	0	5	1	1	0	0	50	46	0	0	0	0	
			8697	9504	125	172	520	630	168	55	362	7614	6778	1049	232	107	0	

## 1999 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - CENTRAL SOUTH PRESBYTERY

	CENTRAL SOUTH CHURCHES	RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS				TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE	
		BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE				NON-EPC MISSIONS
1	Atoka Presbyterian, TN	20247	56416	4726	16246	0	600	100	0	61141	16946	64442
2	Christ EPC, TX	10651019	1329501	25992	728263	0	10116	37203	249789	1356493	1025371	10981141
3	Christ Presbyterian, MO	44731	146262	21595	137453	300	300	1800	1540	167857	141393	71195
4	Church of the King, TX	6240	148042	7133	137108	1000	800	1740	13800	155175	154448	6987
5	The City of Refuge, TX	128000	220000	0	243350	0	1350	300	10000	220000	255000	91000
6	Cornerstone Presbyterian, TX	214040	356687	77534	433475	2322	2322	28159	0	434221	466278	181983
7	Covenant Presbyterian, MS	586	76483	0	70358	430	738	0	2312	76483	73837	3232
8	CrossPointe Community, TX	183101	385577	47862	312483	2358	2358	3420	3606	433439	324225	292315
9	Crossroads Community, TX	7254	111607	11020	118239	648	306	1715	1815	122627	122723	7158
10	EPC of Marshall, TX	47365	276247	0	238608	3675	4410	7331	6159	276247	260183	63429
11	First EPC, IL	80020	273514	130153	376835	3420	3420	7316	14640	403667	405831	78056
12	First Presbyterian, LA	8085	112557	46	96634	1188	1188	1292	8203	112603	108506	12183
13	First Presbyterian, MS	723850	493784	43410	596491	6516	6516	7400	4000	537194	620923	640121
14	First Presbyterian, TX	3845	18775	0	18833	0	0	0	0	18775	18833	3787
15	First Presbyterian, MS	8538	183856	25698	186134	2628	2409	3029	0	209554	194200	23892
16	Golden Rule, TX	69268	45735	3148	91304	0	0	493	6328	48883	98125	20026
17	Grace Presbyterian, LA	6401	285895	27250	265024	5400	5400	100	18041	313144	293965	25580
18	Grace Community, AL	(122875)	255285	0	1619802	1125	1125	756	8232	255285	1631040	(1498630)
19	Grace Covenant, LA	20000	25000	10000	20000	0	0	0	0	35000	20000	35000
20	Hope Church, TN	306299	4465896	3803101	8337180	23475	28260	3000	0	8268997	8391915	183381
21	Lakeside Presbyterian, MS	440988	664301	63613	672897	10318	4536	25284	27432	747914	740465	448437
22	Louisville Presbyterian, MS	40923	74447	3393	88634	550	954	3018	1200	77840	94356	24407
23	New Covenant, MS	39141	81078	2623	80900	738	738	117	2492	83701	84985	37857
24	Providence Presbyterian, TX	15280	278097	9187	259902	1476	1872	2100	9746	287284	275096	27468
25	Redeemer EPC, AL	104553	350449	0	227730	1000	1116	50	67660	350449	297556	157446
26	Second Presbyterian, TN		7670032	497216	5336078	48630	59166	94220	1780427	8167248	7318521	
27	St. Patrick Presbyterian, TN	0	202499	3286	160013	1800	0	0	0	205785	161813	43972
28	Tunica Presbyterian, MS	41849	138809	747	121568	907	2178	1668	10750	139556	137071	44334
29	Westminster Presbyterian, MS	479980	429158	23922	342402	3125	4460	24000	0	453080	373987	559073
30	Zachary Presbyterian, LA	41325	69416	203	68504	1247	1100	3050	1000	69620	74901	36044
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>19245405</b>	<b>4842858</b>	<b>21402448</b>	<b>124274</b>	<b>147738</b>	<b>258661</b>	<b>2249172</b>	<b>24088263</b>	<b>24182293</b>	

1998 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST

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EAST			Gains						Losses							
Church	City	State	1996 Members	1998 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Death	Other Loss	Worship Attendance	Sunday School	Baptized/Full	Interim Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
1 Ashland EPC	Voorhees	NJ	422	348	2	4	0	0	12	5	63	215	90	131	3	0
2 Calvary Presbyterian Church	Butler	PA	121	116	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	57	21	0	1	0
3 Dundalk Presbyterian Church	Dundalk	MD	246	247	3	2	1	9	0	3	12	200	183	0	3	3
4 Faith Presbyterian Church	Alexandria	VA	283	292	0	5	16	12	7	5	12	295	130	61	0	4
5 Fourth Presbyterian Church	Bethesda	MD	2493	2504	0	77	0	0	31	17	18	1290	1525	0	38	8
6 Goodwill Presbyterian Church	ry	NY	112	142	3	28	0	0	0	1	0	197	77	0	0	9
7 Montclair Community Church	Montclair	VA	37	38	2	1	1	0	2	1	0	50	45	12	3	1
8 New Covenant EPC	Castle	PA	254	251	0	0	4	20	0	3	24	207	62	39	4	1
9 New Hope EPC	Pittsburgh	PA	31	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	36	0	0	1
10 North Park EPC	Wexford	PA	432	448	35	5	0	23	0	3	44	520	342	0	6	2
11 Princetown EPC	rg	NY	264	285	16	6	0	8	2	7	0	230	198	0	2	4
			4695	4707	62	128	22	73	54	51	174	3351	2709	241	60	33

### 1999 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST

	EAST	RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS				TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE	
	CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PER MEMBER PRESBYTERY	EPC GIVING	NON-EPC BENEVOLENCE MISSIONS				
1	Ashland EPC, NJ	108364	355935	54549	363674	2160	7595	6865	69565	410484	449860	68988
2	Calvary Presbyterian, PA	2525	73603	67390	149933	500	1000	3550	1500	160993	156483	7035
3	Dundalk Presbyterian, MD	214123	297590	9820	260824	1248	4484	7265	22910	307410	296731	224802
4	Faith Presbyterian, VA	61166	616697	62085	483341	1415	5094	20529	28045	678782	538424	221524
5	Fourth Presbyterian, MD	6230061	3473168	3397728	9658872	4500	5000	24200	558852	6870896	10261424	2819533
6	Goodwill Presbyterian, NY	26689	223565	3945	188979	0	2019	2160	22992	227511	216150	38049
7	Montclair Community, VA	15284	50724	150	43355	0	0	200	0	50874	43555	22603
8	New Covenant, PA	85043	756531	3068	756629	1300	1560	4283	10395	759599	774167	70475
9	New Hope, PA	43408	72726	71349	162447	0	0	500	3255	144075	166201	21282
10	North Park EPC, PA	204161	881877	66754	860573	2598	7794	11375	80469	948631	962809	189983
11	Princetown EPC, NY	75966	425408	0	408210	0	2526	2435	32664	425408	445835	55539
TOTAL			7227825	3756839	13366837	13721	37073	83362	830647	10984663	14331640	

1999 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

1999	FLORIDA			Gains						Losses				Worship Attendance	Sunday School	Baptized Re-Inst.	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
	Church	City	State	1998 Members	1999 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Death	Other Loss						
1	Cypress Pointe E.P.C.	Oviedo	FL	51	70	4	3	2	18	2	0	6	130	0	0	3	3	
2	EPC of Plant City	Plant City	FL	358	391	2	3	37	9	3	2	13	350	172	0	10	7	
3	Faith EPC	Brooksville	FL	296	321	2	2	5	24	5	1	2	360	141	40	3	4	
4	First Presbyterian Church of Homestead	Homestead	FL	128	129	2	0	0	4	1	0	4	90	53	36	2	0	
5	Glendale Presbyterian Church	DeFuniak Springs	FL	55	61	0	5	0	2	0	1	4	75	46	6	0	0	
6	New Covenant EPC	Pompano Beach	FL	615	672	5	18	10	54	2	6	20	450	422	0	14	26	
7	The Cornerstone EPC	Daytona Beach	FL	146	79	0	0	0	4	4	3	84	50	0	0	0	0	
8	Trinity EPC	Fl. Pierce	FL	92	85	0	1	0	4	1	3	8	62	30	11	1	1	
9	University EPC	Tampa	FL	120	112	5	1	0	0	0	0	14	82	66	18	7	1	
				1888	1920	20	33	54	119	18	16	135	1649	850	111	40	42	

**1999 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA**

FLORIDA	CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS					TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
			TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PER MEMBER PRESBYTERY	GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS			
1	Cypress Pointe, FL	22943	143574	33120	186107	0	0	0	2731	176694	188837	10800
2	EPC of Plant City, FL	138442	622080	18411	687895	7239	6500	8496	64381	640491	774511	4422
3	Faith EPC, FL	126938	568515	9935	270408	4500	5400	29275	42960	578450	352543	352845
4	First Presbyterian, FL	16857	112531	125546	213202	2322	2903	3956	0	238077	222383	32551
5	Glendale Presbyterian, FL	22158	54833	96	38084	990	990	248	0	54829	40312	36775
6	New Covenant, FL	55236	838415	100000	862740	10000	0	3173	45574	938415	941487	52164
7	The Cornerstone, FL	1851	221400	36196	219261	2592	0	2298	14208	257596	238359	21088
8	Trinity EPC, FL	27796	280101	5674	270401	2088	2088	1897	3000	285775	279473	34097
9	University EPC, FL	5600	189263	122	166075	1800	2160	2650	9443	189385	182128	12857
TOTAL			3030712	329100	2934173	31531	20041	51993	182296	3359812	3220034	

## 1989 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA

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MID-AMERICA			Gains				Losses									
Church	City	State	1988 Members	1989 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Death	Other Loss	Worship Attendance	Sunday School	Baptized Ret.	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
1 Baldwin Community Presby. Church	Baldwin	IL	39	11	0	0	0	0	0	4	24	20	3	0	0	0
2 Central Presbyterian Church	St. Louis	MO	2663	2625	21	10	40	55	72	24	68	1051	852	871	43	8
3 Covenant Chapel	Leawood	KS	234	261	0	8	38	11	27	0	3	450	202	0	7	3
4 East Crossing EPC	Madison	WI	51	48	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	72	45	0	2	9
5 Emmanuel Presbyterian Church	Grover	MO	67	68	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	84	72	18	1	0
6 Good Shepherd Community Church	Warrenton	MO		40								40				
7 Grace EPC	Lawrence	KS	302	334	0	0	12	45	0	2	23	837	473	0	20	2
8 Greentree Community	St. Louis	MO	85	123	2	8	31	17	0	0	0	500	140	6	6	4
9 Heartland Community Church	Overland Park	KS	565	637	0	0	0	0	13	1	5	1450	1128	0	68	25
10 Highview Evangelical Presbyterian	Douman	WI	83	83	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	100	80	21	1	0
11 Immanuel Presbyterian Church	Warrenville	IL	281	281	1	10	0	0	9	2	0	300	265	38	0	6
12 Jacob's Well	Kansas City	MO		60								60				
13 Lakeland Community Church	Lees Summit	MO	38	33	4	24	0	0	0	0	1	205	63	0	9	19
14 New Harvest Community Church	Ballwin	MO	48	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0
15 Sutter Presbyterian Church	Bridgeton	MO	113	118	5	2	0	0	0	2	0	102	108	0	0	2
16 The Crossings	Columbia	MO	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0
17 Trinity Fellowship Church	Alton	IL	0	12	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	45	46	0	1	0
18 West Highlands Pres. Church	Lenexa	KS	58	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	0	0	0
19 Westkirk EPC	Des Moines	IA	305	310	4	0	12	17	7	7	14	193	0	0	2	5
			4979	5162	37	63	145	148	132	42	140	5659	3475	954	160	81



**1999 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - MID-AMERICA PRESBYTERY**

	MID-AMERICA CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS				TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE	
			TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PER MEMBER PRESBYTERY	EPC GIVING	NON-EPC BENEVOLENCE				MISSIONS
1	Baldwin Community, IL	9778	8572	6861	14295	300	120	245	0	15533	14960	10352
2	Central Presbyterian, MO	1651906	3472384	283279	3468713	61230	39930	46600	380626	3755663	3977089	1430470
3	Covenant Chapel, KS	273739	737426	1071663	1789639	1856	4176	1880	26858	1809089	1824589	258239
4	East Crossing EPC, WI	28776	107253	12420	121059	0	0	0	395	119673	121454	26905
5	Emmanuel Presbyterian, MO	19351	122025	35717	137185	0	1208	0	0	157742	138391	38702
6	Good Shepherd, MO											
7	Grace EPC, KS	128143	985915	2849	845299	52800	5250	0	76572	998764	979921	136968
8	Greentree Community, MO	119000	276000	20000	241000	2000	2000	1000	27000	296000	273000	142000
9	Heartland Community, KS	162834	1665339	92510	1472329	1000	0	0	40000	1757849	1513329	407354
10	Highview EPC, WI	181796	160229	24648	332124	800	800	720	8573	184877	343017	23658
11	Immanuel Presbyterian, IL	216746	718953	12055	665234	2240	5058	4500	43372	731008	720404	227350
12	Jacob's Well, MO						0	0	0			
13	Lakeland Community, MO	2000	122000	6000	0	0	0	0	0	128000	0	130000
14	New Harvest Community, MO						0	13037				
15	Sutter Presbyterian, MO	46122	195080	3000	123398	856	1695	1100	45743	198080	172792	71410
16	Trinity Fellowship, IL	14145	40717	5397	31501	0	0	0	0	46114	31501	28758
17	West Highlands EPC, KS						200	1200				
18	Westkirk Presbyterian, IA	104589	273456	57232	257641	1500	5430	16554	7211	330891	288336	146954
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8855352</b>	<b>1633731</b>	<b>9499617</b>	<b>124582</b>	<b>65865</b>	<b>86816</b>	<b>636350</b>	<b>10519083</b>	<b>10306793</b>	

## 1999 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

MID-ATLANTIC			Gains								Losses							
Church	City	State	1998 Members	1999 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Death	Other Loss	Worship Attendance	Sunday School	Baptized Ref	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms		
1 Abundant Life Church	Chesapeake	VA	90	93	0	0	0	17	0	0	14	160	20	0	1	10		
2 Bethesda Presbyterian Church	Florence	SC	17	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0		
3 Bridgeway EPC	Chesapeake	VA	83	52	8	0	6	0	5	0	0	70	32	0	0	7		
4 Brunswick Presbyterian Church	Brunswick	NC	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5	3	1	0		
5 Christ Church EPC	Anderson	SC	110	124	8	2	4	10	2	0	7	165	155	0	3	4		
6 Christ Fellowship	Southern Pines	NC	64	69	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	79	41	0	3	1		
7 Cleveland Presbyterian Church	Abingdon	VA	47	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	37	0	0	0		
8 Covenant Community Church	Charlotte	NC	51	53	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	63	40	6	0	0		
9 Cramerton Presbyterian Church	Cramerton	NC	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	12	10	0	0		
10 Cragmore Presbyterian Church	Columbia	SC	71	69	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	70	27	4	1	0		
11 Emmanuel Church	Laurens	SC	31	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	24	8	8	0	0	0		
12 EPC of Elkton	Elkton	VA	149	146	0	3	0	3	3	1	5	135	139	53	0	1		
13 Fellowship of Christ	Cary	NC	144	156	0	8	2	2	0	0	0	250	0	0	2	2		
14 First EPC of Clover	Clover	SC	45	50	3	2	0	0	0	0	4	57	0	16	1	0		
15 Forest Hill Presbyterian Church	Charlotte	NC	1579	1694	0	18	76	174	13	13	127	1767	882	272	17	6		
16 Forest Hills Presbyterian Church	Wilson	NC	68	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	0	0	0	0		
17 Grace Presbyterian Church	Fredericksburg	VA	26	35	0	1	8	0	0	0	0	50	29	1	0	0		
18 Hope Church EPC	Richmond	VA	43	102	0	1	53	8	0	0	0	310	145	0	4	0		
19 Kempsville Presbyterian Church	Virginia Beach	VA	1456	1317	21	3	22	97	17	4	261	1180	455	0	4	12		
20 Lake Forest Community Church	Cornelius	NC	100	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	307	0	0	5	2		
21 Lebanon Presbyterian Church	Greenwood	VA	75	92	2	7	3	6	0	1	0	85	67	4	2	8		
22 Lee Park Presbyterian Church	Monroe	NC	79	81	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	847	58	16	2	1		
23 Linwood Presbyterian Church	Gastonia	NC	64	41	0	0	2	0	0	1	24	35	13	2	0	0		
24 Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church	Wilmington	NC	1480	1460	37	8	49	73	66	8	106	1048	715	3	21	25		
25 New Covenant Church	Burgaw	NC	0	41	0	0	18	27	2	0	2	75	0	0	0	0		
26 North Grove EPC	Wilmington	NC	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	0		
27 Northampton Presbyterian Church	Hampton	VA	97	94	0	0	2	0	1	2	2	45	45	32	2	0		
28 Overbrook Community Church	Gaffney	SC	101	84	1	0	3	3	1	0	23	80	58	16	1	0		
29 Perrow Presbyterian Church	Cross Lanes	WV	313	272	2	0	0	4	3	6	38	609	321	83	3	2		
30 Reynolda Presbyterian Church	Winston-Salem	NC	681	926	11	5	25	16	8	2	2	575	471	0	7	1		
31 River Oaks Community Church	Lewisville	NC	63	127	19	4	34	7	0	0	0	350	0	0	2	19		
32 St. Giles Presbyterian Church	Charlotte	NC	320	282	0	0	0	6	1	1	42	263	75	3	0	0		
33 Trinity Presbyterian Church	Florence	SC	430	424	0	0	7	0	12	1	0	275	292	0	4	1		
34 Warehouse 242	Charlotte	NC	0	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	375	0	0	1	0		
35 Westminster Presbyterian Church	Bluefield	WV	471	474	0	0	8	5	5	4	1	353	141	41	0	1		
36 Woodside Presbyterian Church	Roanoke	VA	35	34	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	32	25	0	0	1		
			8553	8893	112	85	324	462	140	43	685	9830	4306	565	87	102		

**1999 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - MID-ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY**

MID-ATLANTIC CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS					TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
		TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PER MEMBER PRESBYTERY	PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS			
1 Abundant Life, VA	46473	266148	42992	276668	0	500	5040	24289	309140	306397	49216
2 Bethesda Presbyterian, SC						306	0				
3 Bridgeway EPC, VA	0	88315	27150	112035	0	0	0	0	113465	112035	1430
4 Brunswick Presbyterian, NC	27053	12395	0	14736	0	324	0	1800	12395	16860	22587
5 Christ Church EPC, SC	70020	273473	23657	286690	3000	1920	5305	13300	297130	310215	56935
6 Christ Fellowship, NC	4537	109307	26545	122935	1200	1152	3672	9377	135852	138337	2052
7 Cleveland Presbytenan, VA	25632	32213	0	29040	705	0	0	250	32213	28995	28850
8 Governan Community, NC	7935	81100	50	61704	775	918	1800	7246	81150	72243	16842
9 Gratterton EPC, NC	5994	50167	0	46306	1000	600	2300	1532	50167	51738	5423
10 Gregmore Church, SC	8642	81193	8376	92881	1033	950	1	1220	89569	96086	2126
11 Emmanuel Presbyterian, SC	1664	30923	1500	30308	260	100	0	224	32423	30832	3255
12 EPC, Elton, VA	18099	180029	137	173571	4500	2700	2640	8175	180166	191686	6679
13 Fellowship of Christ, NC	14077	426858	0	333154	2900	2592	2768	95626	426858	437040	3885
14 First EPC, SC	4842	34924	0	30820	0	0	0	1744	34924	32564	7202
15 Forest Hill, NC	610687	5660241	3535154	9078089	29870	31853	27305	340621	9195395	9507908	298174
16 Forest Hills Presbyterian, NC						2400	2632				
17 Grace Presbyterian, VA	46379	44748	9249	56887	4634	488	904	1487	53996	64179	36196
18 Hope Church, VA	46925	464346	70344	256996	3600	2574	5000	17800	534690	265930	295685
19 Kempsville Presbyterian, VA	85318	1929351	3750	1556187	18213	14000	14836	159296	1933101	1762532	255887
20 Lake Forest, NC	20266	302320	83851	218212	1170	2106	0	37902	386170	269390	147046
21 Lebanon Presbyterian, VA	37958	113858	2881	84550	1500	1000	1970	22209	116779	111229	43508
22 Lee Park, NC	15461	69791	0	52973	1200	1100	728	5797	69791	61798	23463
23 Linwood Presbyterian, NC	1297	46098	6116	45336	135	525	1366	0	52214	47382	6129
24 Myrtle Grove Presbyterian, NC	311551	2235053	12070	1926480	28000	37000	13792	213950	2247123	2219222	339462
25 New Covenant, NC	4803	58715	0	25019	0	0	0	1300	58715	26319	37199
26 North Grove EPC, NC						0	0				
27 Northampton Presbyterian, VA	32577	95262	1730	76492	2065	1748	4548	0	96992	84853	44816
28 Overbrook Community, SC	72456	186557	9177	157987	1000	1818	6531	2700	195734	170035	98154
29 Perrow Presbyterian, WV	26465	666762	1409	485131	6600	6174	10704	176077	668171	684686	9950
30 Reynolds Presbyterian, NC	345500	1085000	250000	1134267	13600	15433	5300	187000	1335000	1356600	325000
31 River Oaks, NC	2500	411500	32500	280300	0	0	1000	29600	444000	311100	135400
32 St. Giles, NC	345956	747902	13895	358834	6650	5760	9930	300682	761797	681856	425897
33 Trinity Presbyterian, SC	468409	613004	0	357354	15663	7938	67509	145803	613004	594272	487141
34 Warehouse 242, NC	14629	213674	55960	0	0	0	0	340	269634	340	283924
35 Westminster Presbyterian, WV	131629	811238	1917495	2549721	5388	9180	30250	142653	2728733	2737192	123170
36 Woodside Presbyterian, VA	19368	26905	1925	28476	0	680	0	0	28831	29156	19063
46 TOTAL		17447410	6137912	20338770	154601	153819	227651	1950406	23585322	22819908	

## 1999 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST

464

MIDWEST			Gains						Losses							
Church	City	State	1998 Members	1999 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Death	Other Loss	Worship Attendance	Sunday School	Baptized Roll	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
1 Calvary Presbyterian Church	Flint	MI	640	596	8	9	8	12	6	5	70	384	205	137	11	4
2 Community EPC	Owosso	MI	93	95	0	9	0	2	0	0	9	247	101	0	0	7
3 Cornerstone EPC	Brighton	MI	1268	1433	9	106	45	11	5	1	0	1801	1450	0	36	55
4 Covenant Presbyterian Church	Ann Arbor	MI	86	97	7	0	1	18	1	1	13	130	100	57	1	0
5 DaySpring Community Church	Newark	OH	150	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	0	0	0	0
6 Faith EPC	Lake Orion	MI	317	269	0	6	0	19	11	0	42	850	218	0	12	27
7 Faith EPC	Richmond	OH	117	101	0	5	0	0	0	1	20	110	0	0	0	0
8 Fellowship EPC	South Lyon	MI	233	242	0	0	0	13	4	0	0	325	0	0	6	0
9 First Presbyterian Church	Trenton	MI	804	861	26	5	10	33	2	9	6	477	210	60	15	6
10 Grace Chapel	Farmington Hills	MI	241	267	11	9	7	14	4	1	10	254	208	1	1	19
11 Grace Community Church	Oscoda	MI	28	11	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	43	23	0	0	0
12 Church	Troy	MI	851	990	0	103	42	0	1	1	4	3275	1401	0	43	28
13 Knox Presbyterian Church	Ann Arbor	MI	362	381	7	5	19	25	1	0	36	535	341	226	20	0
14 Knox Presbyterian Church	Harrison Township	MI	575	565	0	0	27	0	7	1	29	550	370	0	8	0
15 Lake City EPC	Lake City	MI	60	63	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	130	48	0	2	1
16 Mercy Christian Fellowship	Farmington Hills	MI	0	28	0	0	24	4	0	0	0	70	17	10	2	15
17 Military Avenue EPC	Detroit	MI	84	87	0	3	3	0	0	3	0	100	40	0	0	0
18 Church	Mt. Pleasant	MI	302	300	0	0	1	14	1	4	12	284	188	0	4	2
19 New Heart Community Church	Muskegon	MI	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0	0	0
20 New Hope Church	Oxford	MI	0	57	2	5	34	16	0	0	0	110	45	0	14	0
21 Church	Clarkston	MI	65	57	0	0	0	8	0	0	16	95	0	0	0	0
22 Oakland Avenue EPC	Pontiac	MI	228	199	0	5	0	5	2	5	32	150	90	0	5	0
23 Peace Presbyterian Church	Flint	MI	0	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	0	0	0	0
24 St. Andrew EPC	Auburn	IN	195	201	0	1	10	7	1	4	7	148	182	48	5	1
25 Stonebridge Church	Perrysburg	OH	40	55	0	1	12	4	2	0	0	42	63	0	0	1
26 Tabernacle EPC	Youngstown	OH	503	516	1	17	0	2	5	2	0	485	271	0	18	0
27 Trinity Presbyterian Church	Columbia City	IN	119	123	1	1	0	4	4	1	0	125	82	42	3	2
28 Trinity Presbyterian Church	Plymouth	MI	630	625	0	5	16	20	9	1	36	600	290	0	11	1
29 Ward Presbyterian Church	Northville	MI	4162	4192	38	15	54	113	45	21	124	3223	2992	0	47	23
			12232	12716	111	320	316	348	111	62	466	14828	8935	580	264	190

**1999 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - MIDWEST PRESBYTERY**

MIDWEST CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS			PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
		TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY							
1 Calvary Presbyterian, MI	155965	721510	5425	672778	1953	11574	8415	5500	728935	700220	182680	
2 Community EPC, MI	50451	230827	1410	180514	1000	1900	4400	28795	232237	218609	66079	
3 Cornerstone Presbyterian, MI	792806	3086962	359773	2784009	12046	22824	98671	505481	3446735	3423031	816512	
4 Covenant Presbyterian	53097	255609	72443	262898	7603	1548	5455	46013	328062	323517	57632	
5 Faith EPC, OH	28617	129406	0	112265	1112	2106	0	10400	129406	125883	32140	
6 Faith EPC, MI	213292	935767	38680	776250	3012	5706	10225	59063	974448	854256	333483	
7 Fellowship EPC, MI	223810	417168	18005	415174	1950	3600	26240	35120	435173	483084	175899	
8 First Presbyterian, MI	233752	947516	195407	947657	780	4800	9293	206784	1142923	1169314	207361	
9 Grace Chapel, MI	119314	631082	29621	599705	2290	4338	27595	58585	660703	662513	117504	
10 Grace Community, MI	19186	58731	11848	55203	0	80	1250	0	70579	56533	33232	
11 Immanuel Presbyterian, MI	55962	159446	3252	86212	486	972	6261	14966	162698	88897	129763	
12 Kensington Community, MI	1025520	4167938	358504	3656350	9025	17100	0	54547	4826442	3737022	1814940	
13 Knox Presbyterian, AA MI	1894417	1468889	44378	2334937	10389	6516	12200	84664	1513267	2448706	958978	
14 Knox Presbyterian, MI	108774	850259	24397	563478	1438	9479	11800	217743	874656	803939	179491	
15 Lake City EPC, MI	10439	101775	0	83420	480	1080	2989	13195	101775	101164	11050	
16 Mercy Christian, MI	10096	71210	10100	0	0	0	0	10000	81310	10000	81408	
17 Military Avenue EPC, MI	26964	42846	94661	145998	1000	1600	1100	1800	137507	151496	12975	
18 Mt. Pleasant Community, MI	112227	315971	0	313775	0	250	0	37754	315971	351779	76419	
19 New Heart, MI	0	14240	15150	28118	0	0	0	0	29390	28118	1272	
20 New Hope Church, MI	0	57944	7200	60635	0	0	0	0	65144	60635	4509	
21 North Oaks Community, MI	64722	105192	2306	87780	0	1170	1680	0	107498	90609	81610	
22 Oakland Avenue EPC, MI	82077	263946	44019	259862	2185	3105	2131	30514	307985	297797	72245	
23 St. Andrew EPC, IN	98460	299727	23188	212974	1853	3608	5120	62302	322915	285857	135518	
24 Stonebridge Church, OH	36961	149317	401	121575	342	648	15200	12050	149718	149815	36864	
25 Tabernacle EPC, OH	110326	973496	4963	921086	3720	8541	3111	49612	978459	986070	102715	
26 Trinity Evang Fellowship, OH						0	0					
27 Trinity Presbyterian, IN	60190	167519	30585	136095	1044	2610	1350	23810	198104	164909	93385	
28 Trinity Presbyterian, MI	99852	1035682	16530	889433	5985	11340	33419	166916	1052212	907093	244971	
29 Ward Presbyterian, MI						74880	215323					
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>17659975</b>	<b>1412247</b>	<b>16458160</b>	<b>69693</b>	<b>201375</b>	<b>503226</b>	<b>1736614</b>	<b>19072222</b>	<b>18678657</b>		

## 1999 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTHEAST

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SOUTHEAST			Gains						Losses							
Church	City	State	1998 Members	1999 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Death	Other Loss	Worship Attendance	Sunday School	Baptized Roll	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
1 Brainerd Presbyterian Church	Chattanooga	TN	548	566	12	2	9	11	5	5	8	350	256	78	4	8
2 Christ Presbyterian Church	Knoxville	TN	17	18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	35	23	0	0	2
3 Community Bible Church	Highlands	NC	182	199	0	8	9	0	0	0	0	290	70	0	2	0
4 Cornerstone EPC	Franklin	NC	80	84	0	1	2	4	3	0	0	83	19	1	0	0
5 Faith Presbyterian Church	Knoxville	TN	59	52	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	45	13	0	0	0
6 Faith Presbyterian Church	Lavonia	GA	93	102	0	4	1	5	1	0	0	71	0	8	1	3
7 First Presbyterian Church	Rome	GA	898	937	23	2	21	24	10	15	8	592	743	167	18	4
8 Flatrock Covenant Presbyterian Church	Denniston	KY	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	18	2	0	0
9 Grace Community Presbyterian	Marietta	GA	69	69	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	40	17	0	2	1
10 Grace Presbyterian Church	Franklin	NC	142	99	9	2	8	8	1	1	66	85	60	0	1	9
11 Grace! EPC	Asheville	NC	85	37	0	0	0	0	2	0	46	40	12	0	0	0
12 Lookout Valley Presbyterian	Chattanooga	TN	108	105	0	0	1	2	2	2	0	75	52	9	0	0
13 Lynn Garden Presbyterian Church	Kingsport	TN	85	89	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	50	45	10	0	0
14 Mt. Calvary Presbyterian Church	Kingsport	TN	49	49	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	67	24	0	0	0
15 New Beginning E.P.C.	Erlanger	KY	62	68	0	1	2	10	4	0	3	50	35	0	1	1
16 Plumtree Presbyterian Church	Plumtree	NC	113	106	0	0	3	2	0	0	12	115	85	0	0	0
17 Valleybrook Presbyterian Church	Hixson	TN	109	111	1	1	4	3	4	0	3	105	68	8	5	1
			2702	2886	48	22	59	71	39	26	144	2107	1638	283	34	29

**1999 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - SOUTHEAST PRESBYTERY**

	SOUTHEAST CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS				TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE	
			TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PER MEMBER PRESBYTERY	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS				
												OTHER INCOME
1	Brainerd Presbyterian, TN	402	641002	3680	554227	13200	9900	3860	27914	644682	609101	35983
2	Christ Presbyterian, TN	11421	66207	12000	62966	400	400	0	13771	78207	77537	12091
3	Community Bible, NC	844189	1765456	103267	2691883	3682	3276	11953	1200	1868723	2711994	918
4	Cornerstone EPC, NC	99830	116344	7798	189565	2100	1440	2225	17254	124142	212584	11388
5	Faith Presbyterian, TN	12467	84143	7375	79920	360	990	0	0	91518	81270	22715
6	Faith Presbyterian, GA	28	37532	0	32428	312	313	0	0	37532	33053	4508
7	First Presbyterian, GA	173248	1348494	135350	992735	74120	16164	51605	308117	1483844	1442741	214351
8	Flatrock Covenant Church, KY	6687	3171	131	9690	0	0	0	54	3302	9744	245
9	Grace EPC, Asheville NC	134496	74479	9392	140612	896	933	200	0	83871	142641	75726
10	Grace Community, GA	1526	96000	17174	103958	1500	1242	0	0	113174	106700	8000
11	Grace Presbyterian, Franklin NC	84878	179768	6553	76121	1000	1365	1891	5070	186321	85447	186752
12	Lookout Valley Presbyterian, TN	6067	89923	66	85217	1000	1900	300	3450	89989	91867	4189
13	Lynn Garden Presbyterian, TN	40960	73448	379	68908	1700	2800	1150	5746	73827	80304	34483
14	Mount Calvary Presbyterian, TN	10543	33154	1092	32341	1390	600	0	700	34246	35031	9758
15	New Beginning Presbyterian, KY	75931	122671	16405	117314	3400	1116	500	0	139076	122330	92676
16	Plumtree Presbyterian, NC	27521	123170	0	58733	2000	1100	1280	49834	123170	112947	37743
17	Valleybrook Presbyterian, TN	18637	151709	29638	182553	2400	1800	3370	750	181347	190874	9110
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>5006871</b>	<b>350300</b>	<b>5479172</b>	<b>109460</b>	<b>45339</b>	<b>78334</b>	<b>433860</b>	<b>5356971</b>	<b>6146165</b>	

## 1999 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS (ARGENTINA)

ST. ANDREWS (ARGENTINA)				Gains				Losses				Worship Attendance	Sunday School	Baptized Tot.	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms	
Church	City	1998 Members	1999 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Death	Other Loss							
1 Belgrano	Buenos Aires	80	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Church of Olivos	Buenos Aires	152	154	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	175	50	0	14	1	0
3 City Church	Buenos Aires	69	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4 Gualaguaychu Mission	Entre Rios		30														
5 La Mision de la I.E.P.	Buenos Aires	120	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6 Quilmes	Buenos Aires	29	36	0	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	24	12	0	0	0	0
7 Church	Buenos Aires	40	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8 Temperley	Buenos Aires	200	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9 Urdinarrain Mission	Entre Rios		30									30					
		<b>670</b>	<b>685</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	





## 1999 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

470

WEST			Gains						Losses								
Church	City	State	1998 Members	1999 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Death	Other Loss	Worship Attendance	Sunday School	Baptized Roll	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms	
1 Arvada Community Church	Arvada	CO	60	60								85	0	0	0	0	
2 Bear Creek EPC	Lakewood	CO	521	511	7	4	9	6	3	9	24	413	420	0	3	3	
3 Canyon Creek Community Church	Chandler	AZ	74	87	10	6	2	2	0	0	7	178	61	0	1	11	
4 Celebration Community Church	Denver	CO		53	0	12	41	0	0	0	0	91	28	0	0	4	
5 Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church	Englewood	CO	1162	1229	0	0	0	99	2	6	24	943	365	0	26	10	
6 Cherry Hills Community Church	Highlands Ranch	CO	3848	4152	20	71	122	230	46	4	89	3300	1670	0	94	28	
7 Christ Covenant Church	Leoti	KS	85	87	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	99	82	27	0	0	
8 Christ Fellowship Church	Fl. Collins	CO	33	33	2	3	0	0	4	0	1	60	20	0	4	0	
9 Christ's Family Presbyterian	Chandler	AZ	47	55	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	45	33	0	1	3	
10 Clayton Community Church	Clayton	CA	200	250								600					
11 Clear View Community Church	Buena Vista	CO	50	50								50			0	0	
12 Cornerstone Community Church	Denver	CO	295	310	0	20	7	0	5	7	5	280	70	0	5	8	
13 Covenant Presbyterian Church*	San Diego	CA		300								300					
14 Covenant Community Pres. Church	Aurora	CO	77	81	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	100	48	0	2	0	
15 Faith Evangelical Church	Loveland	CO	435	475	11	7	31	11	0	3	17	500	357	12	1	7	
16 Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Folsom	CA	39	38	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	48	0	24	1	0	
17 Faith Presbyterian Church	Aurora	CO	1002	1003	0	100	9	31	12	7	30	650	235	0	13	14	
18 First Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Renton	WA	568	641	9	18	11	14	4	5	0	648	425	5	4	3	
19 Grace Community Church	Sun City West	AZ	141	138	0	2	124	10	0	0	0	119	0	0	0	0	
20 Greenwood Community Church	Englewood	CO	694	660	0	0	0	0	153	0	0	1150	0	0	0	0	
21 Highline Community Church**	Denver	CO		100								200					
22 Lookout Mtn. Community Church	Golden	CO	429	464	0	8	0	71	0	0	64	587	479	0	17	25	
23 Morningside Presbyterian Church	Phoenix	AZ	137	135	0	0	0	5	1	4	2	70	25	24	0	1	
24 New Community Christian Church	Denver	CO	140	140								330					
25 New Covenant Church	Tucson	AZ	66	60								60					
26 Northwest EPC	Redmond	WA	55	54	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	113	150	0	0	0	
27 Parker Presbyterian Church	Parker	CO	342	369	0	4	14	11	2	0	0	570	280	0	7	43	
28 Presbyterian Parish at Vail&Beaver Cr.	Vail	CO	50	50								50					
29 San Ramon Presbyterian Church	San Ramon	CA	429	484	0	9	33	39	17	2	7	421	215	124	9	6	
30 Santa Maria Community Church	Santa Maria	CA	103	91	1	2	0	12	0	2	25	62	30	32	8	2	
31 Thai EPC	Cerritos	CA	45	45								45			0	0	
32 Trinity EPC	Littleton	CO	183	183	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	189	0	0	0	0	
33 Valley Community Church	San Jacinto	CA	67	72	0	0	0	9	0	2	2	90	18	0	0	3	
34 West Bowles Community Church	Littleton	CO	658	648	0	10	43	51	10	3	101	1400	557	0	0	0	
			12065	13106	60	276	461	804	259	56	402	13804	5788	248	196	171	



## 1999 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT - SUMMARY BY PRESBYTERY

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	1998 Members	1999 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Other Gain	Transfer Loss	Death	Other Loss	Worship Attendance	Sunday School	Baptized Roll	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
CENTRAL SOUTH	8697	9504	125	172	520	630	168	55	362	7574	6776	1094	232	107
EAST	4695	4707	62	128	22	73	54	51	174	3351	2709	243	60	33
FLORIDA	1888	1920	20	33	54	119	18	16	135	1649	950	111	40	42
MID-AMERICA	4979	5162	37	63	145	148	132	42	140	5659	3475	954	160	81
MID-ATLANTIC	8653	8693	112	85	324	462	140	43	685	9830	4306	565	87	102
MIDWEST	12232	12716	111	320	316	348	111	62	466	14828	8935	580	264	190
SOUTHEAST	2702	2696	48	22	59	71	39	26	144	2107	1538	283	34	29
ST. ANDREWS	650	665	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	745	62	0	14	1
WEST	12065	13106	60	276	461	604	259	56	402	13904	5768	248	196	171
	56561	59369	575	1102	1904	2458	921	351	2508	59647	34521	4078	1087	756

**1999 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - SUMMARY**

SUMMARY	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS						TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
	BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PER MEMBER PRESBYTERY	EPC GIVING	NON-EPC BENEVOLENCE MISSIONS				
Central South Presbytery		19245405	4842858	21402448	124274	147738	258661	2249172	24088263	24182293	
Presbytery of the East		7227825	3756839	13366837	13721	37073	83362	830647	10984663	14331640	
Presbytery of Florida		3030712	329100	2934173	31531	20041	51993	182296	3359812	3220034	
Mid-America Presbytery		8885352	1633731	9499617	124582	65865	86816	836350	10519083	10398793	
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery		17447410	6137912	20338770	154601	153819	227651	1950406	23585322	22819908	
Midwest Presbytery		17659975	1412247	16458160	69693	201375	503228	1736614	19072222	18678867	
Southeast Presbytery		5006671	350300	5479172	109460	45339	78334	433860	5356971	6146165	
Presbytery of the West		23440866	5383494	14242228	64010	136737	117903	1498589	28824360	21534446	
St Andrews Presbytery		177424	5598	143046	300	1386	0	39335	183022	184067	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>102121640</b>	<b>23852079</b>	<b>103864451</b>	<b>692171</b>	<b>809373</b>	<b>1407949</b>	<b>9557268</b>	<b>125973719</b>	<b>121496213</b>	

