
MINUTES

of the

24th General Assembly

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“Great is thy faithfulness.”
(Lamentations 3:22-23)

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 24th General Assembly committees are included at the end of the Journal section.

APPENDICES: The reports submitted to the Assembly by the 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. A directory of the churches, ministers and presbytery officers is published separately.

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.

MODERATOR, 24th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr. Orin Littlejohn, a ruling elder at EPC of Marshall in Marshall, Texas, was elected Moderator of the 24th General Assembly. He has had a distinguished career in Family Medicine including private practice:

- Marshall Regional Medical Center for 42 years, part of that time as Chief of Staff;
- Harrison County Hospital Association, Board of Directors for 26 years, part of that time as its Chairman;
- Harrison County Medical Society, member and past president;
- Member of the Texas Medical Association (TMA), including seven years on its Board of Counselors, and numerous years as Delegate to the Texas Medical Association House of Delegates.
- Past member of both the Texas Academy of Family Physicians and the American Association of Family Physicians;
- A fellow in the American Academy of Family Physicians and Board with the American Board of Family Practice from 1974 through 2000.



Dr. Littlejohn served his country as a jet pilot for the US Air Force from 1950 to 1955.

Instrumental in the organization of the EPC of Marshall, Dr. Littlejohn was ordained a ruling elder and has been active at the church, presbytery and General Assembly levels ever since. He is past chairman of the Coordinating Council for the Central South Presbytery and has also served as the Presbytery's Moderator. For several years, he was a member and chairman of the Board of Pension and Benefits, offering valuable insight to the Board from a physician's perspective. Dr. Littlejohn has been a team member and coordinator for Lay Renewal Ministries numerous times. He also teaches an adult Sunday School class at the EPC of Marshall, is a past board member of Prayer Life Seminars, and an organizer of Christian Sponsors Organization of Marshall.

In his community, Dr. Littlejohn has been a director of the Marshall National Bank (now Bank One Marshall) and chairman of the Loan and Discount Committee for six years. He is a member and past director of the Marshall Rotary Club and helped organize the Harrison County Board of Health and Mental Health and Retardation Organization, serving as its vice-chairman for several years.

Dr. Littlejohn and his wife, Jane, have been married for 51 years. They are the parents of two adult children, Robert Littlejohn, Ph.D, and wife, Teresa, and Eleeza Rex and husband, Bob Rex. They have four grandchildren: David and Katelyn Littlejohn, and Logan and Parker Rex.

Dr. Littlejohn will emphasize the theme of prayer during his time in office.

MODERATORS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Assembly/Year	Name	Presbytery	Place of Assembly
1 st 1981	Rev. Calvin Gray	Midwest	Livonia, MI
2 nd 1982	Elder Irvin Rinehart	West	Aurora, CO
3 rd 1983	Dr. James Van Dyke	Southeast	St. Louis, MO
4 th 1984	Elder Donald Harms	Midwest	Jackson, MS
5 th 1985	Rev. James Morrison	East	Aurora, CO
6 th 1986	Elder Roger Vonder Bruegge	Central South	Livonia, MI
7 th 1987	Dr. E. Perry Mobley	Southeast	Rome, GA
8 th 1988	Elder Richard Heidtman	Midwest	Englewood, CO
9 th 1989	Dr. Andrew Jumper	Central South	St. Louis, MO
10 th 1990	Elder James Rimmel	Allegheny	Bethesda, MD
11 th 1991	Dr. William Flannagan	Central South	Livonia, MI
12 th 1992	Elder John Adamson	Central South	Memphis, TN
13 th 1993	Dr. W. Graham Smith	East	Aurora, CO
14 th 1994	Elder William Johns	Southeast	Pompano Beach, FL
15 th 1995	Rev. Wayne Hoffman	Mid-America	Charlotte, NC
16 th 1996	Elder Claude Russell	West	Englewood, CO
17 th 1997	Dr. Richard Little	Mid-Atlantic	St. Louis, MO
18 th 1998	Elder Alan Smith	East	Highlands Ranch, CO
19 th 1999	Dr. James McGuire	Midwest	Rome, GA
20 th 2000	Elder John M. Graham, III	Southeast	Northville, MI
21 st 2001	Rev. Darryl “Bud” Sparling	West	Greenwood Vill., CO
22 nd 2002	Elder Knox Sherer	Mid-Atlantic	Memphis, TN
23 rd 2003	Dr. Ron DiNunzio	Florida	Brighton, MI
24 th 2004	Elder Orin Littlejohn	Central South	Virginia Beach, VA

STATED CLERKS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

TRUSTEES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Class of 2007

Elder John Adamson
6365 Old Orchard Cove
Memphis TN 38119
901/767-6408

Rev. Bill Meyer
134 Massie Drive
Yorktown, VA 23693
757/890-0597

Elder Allen Roes
14907 Stonegreen Lane
Huntersville NC 28078
704/948-9508

Class of 2006

Dr. Bill Hyer
3120 Highway 81 N.
Anderson SC 29621
864/226-2979

Elder Ken Roberts
3367 S. Oneida Way
Denver CO 80224
303/757-3675

Elder Ed Wedin
5643 Grape St.
Houston TX 77096
713/776-2449

Class of 2005

Rev. Jerry Brundle
100 Englewood Dr., A
Orion MI 48359
248/340-1900

Dr. Willard Davis
1760 Monrovia Street
Palm Bay Florida
321/953-6548

Rev. Bill Flannagan
101 E. Third Ave.
Rome GA 30161
706/291-6033

Elder Orin Littlejohn, Moderator
100 Azalea Way
Marshall TX 75672
903/935-7101

Reverend Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567
Livonia, MI 48152
734/742-2020

Rev. Ron DiNunzio, Chairman
Faith EPC
200 Mount Fair
Brooksville FL 34501
352/796-4969

Elder Knox Sherer
Immediate Past Chairman
101 Sandymead Road
Matthews, NC 28105
704/569-0002 ext. 102

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24th General Assembly
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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MINUTES
of the
24th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
JOURNAL

Minutes – Thursday morning
First Session
June 24, 2004

24-1 MORNING WORSHIP

Worship began at 8:30 A.M. in the sanctuary of Kempsville Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Elder Gary Boystel, Local Arrangements Committee Chairman, brought greetings and made opening announcements. The Moderator, Rev. Ronald DiNunzio (Faith EPC, Brooksville, Florida) opened the service with a call to worship and prayer of invocation, and then led the congregation in the Apostles' Creed. Mr. Lyle Helmick, Worship Leader for Kempsville Presbyterian Church, led the congregation in songs of adoration and praise. Host Pastor, Rev. Nate Atwood, preached from Judges 11 on the theme *Faithfulness: God's and Ours*. Following a musical response, Rev. Atwood closed the service with prayer.

24-2 CONVENING OF THE 24th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 24th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was called to order at 9:44 a.m. by the Moderator, Rev. Ronald C. DiNunzio. The Moderator opened the assembly with prayer.

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

ON MOTION Rev. Bob Garment, Elder Frank Johnson, and Rev. Howard Shockley were elected to serve as Recording Clerks for the 24th General Assembly.

ON MOTION Rev. Ken Van Kampen, Rev. Ron Meyer, and Elder John Manon, nominated by the Moderator, were elected to be readers of the daily minutes as provided for in *Rules for Assembly* §8-12.

Elder Gary Boystel, Local Arrangements Committee chairman, opened his report with prayer. Mr. Boystel welcomed the Assembly and made various announcements concerning facilities and arrangements.

The Stated Clerk made additional announcements including corrections and additions to the Commissioners Handbook. He also encouraged commissioners and observers to visit the exhibitors' area.

The Moderator offered special prayer for the Parker Presbyterian Church, Parker, Colorado where teens of member families were involved in a serious auto accident.

24-3 DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND ASSEMBLY ENROLLMENT

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

Central South Presbytery

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Daphne, AL	Christ Redeemer		Carter Mills
Montgomery AL	Grace		Kent Bull
Sylvania, AR	Sylvania	A.C. Cummings	Tommy Jordan
		Eddie Seaton	
Anna, IL	First EPC	Jim Harris	Steve Wilkinson
		Glenn Parker	
Murphysboro, IL	Hope		Tony Marseglia
Alexandria, LA	Grace	Merrill Blackburn	Bob Vincent, Jr.
Covington, LA	Faith	Henry Beck	Austin Olive, Jr.
Houma, LA	First	Rives McCord	Robert Hamd
Brandon, MS	Iglesia Hispana Cristo el Rey		Juan Singh
	Lakeside	Rich Gell	Greg Anthony
			James Blaha
Columbus, MS	Covenant		Robert Wilbur
Laurel, MS	Westminster	Lampkin Butts	Marty Fields
Louisville, MS	Louisville	Gloria Joiner	Chris Kiepe
Natchez, MS	New Covenant		Dennis Flach
Tunica, MS	Tunica		Paul Husband
Atoka, TN	Atoka		Ken Van Kampen
Collierville, TN	St. Patrick	Brian Nelms	Jim Holland
		Fred Williams	
Cordova, TN	Hope	Benny Arogyaswa	Eli Morris

		Randy Ford	Craig Strickland
		Johnny Walker	
Franklin, TN	Redeemer's Chapel		Bryan Maynard
Memphis, TN	All Saints		Waring Porter
	Second	John Adamson	Darrin "Rocky" Anthony
		Don Batchelor	Ron Sadlow
		Dick Cowan	John Uhl
		John Dewald	Sanders Willson
		John Holmes	
		Jim Hunter	
		Hawley Ingram, Jr	
		Milton Knowlton	
Elysian Fields, TX	Golden Rule		Gene Huntzinger
Houston, TX	Christ EPC	Reese Baker	Ron Horgan
		Ed Wedin	
	The City of Refuge	Rufus Smith, IV	
Katy, TX	Cornerstone		Brian Land
Marshall, TX	EPC of Marshall	Orin Littlejohn	Wayne Uppendahl
San Antonio, TX	Hope	Jim Harris	Darden Caylor
			Tom Masterson
	<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery</i>		Michael Allday Dan Burns Ron Pierce Greg Ward Brandon Wells

Presbytery of the East

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Bethesda, MD	Fourth	John Hocker	Jules Grisham
		Malcolm Tanigawa	Ron Meyer
Dundalk, MD	Dundalk	Lawrence Steele, Jr.	
Voorhees, NJ	Ashland	Frank Johnson	Jamie Cupschalk
		Walt Stevenson	
Montgomery, NY	Goodwill	Michael Brown	John Torres
		Dan Fritzs	
		Mark Guinup	
		Joe Slesinski	
Princeton, NY	Princeton		Gary Westra
New Castle, PA	New Covenant		George Yates
Wexford, PA	North Park	Gil Allewelt	Robert Hopper
		Mark Sharpnack	
Alexandria, VA	Faith	Zelda Artz	Dan Rose
		Helen Franssell	Neil Smith
		Lanah Hamrick	

		David Reihner	
		Jerry Seager	
		Alan Smith	
		Steele Stewart, Jr.	
Reston, VA	Reston	James Eckert	Tom Dages
		Steve Rockwell	
	<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery</i>	Jim Byrne Willard Davis Mark Jumper Tim MacGowan Nancy Stewart Louis Woods	

Presbytery of Florida

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Brooksville	Faith	Gwynn Blair	Ron DiNunzio
		David Holtzhouse	David Franklin
		Scott Knight	
		Keith Parkhill	
Defuniak Springs	Glendale	Dawson Mosley	
		W.A. Ray	
Fort Pierce	Trinity		Bob Garment
Homestead	First	Terry Dikkers	Clint Stockton
		Keith Quartermaine	
Plant City	EPC	Larry Doak	David Martin
		Anne Litzenberger	Don Mason
Pompano Beach	New Covenant	Josef Dorfler	Jim Letizia
		Robert Siegel	
		Lew Witt	
Tampa	University Church of the Lakes		Woody Johnson
	<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery</i>	Robert Balnicky Bruce Gimbel	

Presbytery of Mid-America

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Libertyville, IL	Hope		Michael Barry
Warrenville, IL	Immanuel	Paul Heidebrecht	Mateen Ellass
		James Mann	
		Carolyn Nystrom	
		Carol Plueddeman	
		Alva Steffler	
Overland Park, KS	Covenant Chapel		Brad Buescher
			Tom Ryan
Bridgeton, MO	Sutter	Art Kaufmann	
Kirkwood, MO	Greentree	Tom Werner	Tom Ricks

			Marc Swan
	Greentree Church at Webster		C. Scott Sauls
St. Louis	Central	Jerry Alpert	Dan Doriani
		Wayne Grace	Brett Eubank
		Dexter Kuhlman	Phil Rowland
		Bill Meeks	Brad Werner
	<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery</i>		Craig Babb David Lovell

Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Burgaw, NC	New Covenant		Travis Martin
Cary, NC	Fellowship of Christ		David McLean
Charlotte, NC	Faith Liberation Community		Charles Reese, Sr.
	Forest Hill	Neil Carmichael	David Chadwick
		June Davies	Robbi Fischer
		Nan Henderson	Chris Furr
		Tim Jordan	Jeffrey Park
		Charles Overstreet	Scott Waters
		Philip Reitano	
		Allen Roes	
		Knox Sherer	
	St. Giles	Bruce Andrews	Percy Burns
		Ron Hartman	
		Rister Jenkins	
	Threshold	Matt Kunze	Jeffrey Gardner
		Roby Wallin	
	Warehouse 242	Sherri Carswell	Bruce Marcey
		Bill Morgan	
		Gerry Smith	
Cornelius, NC	Lake Forest		Mike Moses
Durham, NC	Peace		James Banks
Garner, NC	Lifesong		Jim Carr
Gastonia, NC	Linwood		Jerry Robinson, Int.
Lewisville, NC	River Oaks	Frank Carter	David Beaty
		Pete Seward	
Pinehurst, NC	Christ Fellowship		Jim Thyne
Stanley, NC	Castanea		Jeff Morrison
Wilmington, NC	Myrtle Grove	Bill Blackley	Guy Glass
		Doug Carlson	Steve Jessen
		Wilbur Davis	Peter Stam
		Don Phillips	

		Tony Register	
		Harold Weikert	
	North Grove	Don Marshall	
Wilson, NC	Forest Hills	Blaine Hughes	
Winston-Salem, NC	Reynolda		James Glasgow
			Alan Wright
Anderson, SC	Christ Church	Will Martin	Bill Hyer
		Henry Phelps	Adger McKay
Clover, SC	Clover		Chuck Baynard
Florence, SC	Trinity	Steve Cooper	Perry Mobley
			Bryan Slater
Gaffney, SC	Overbrook	James Solka	Patrick Dare
Abingdon, VA	Cleveland		Tom Musselman
Chesapeake, VA	Abundant Life	Diane Fiazza	
Elkton, VA	EPC		Robert Buchanan
Greenwood, VA	Lebanon	Richard Holcomb	Don Hardman, II
Hampton, VA	Northampton	Matthew Pagels	Don Neighbours
		Stephanie Thayer	
Lynchburg, VA	Rivermont	Greg Lester	Ron Cox
		Joan Pennock	John Mabray
		A.J. Sandy Stewart	
		Donald Summers	
		Clifford Thomas	
		Massie Ware	
Richmond, VA	Hope Church EPC		Peter Bowell
			David Dwight
Virginia Beach, VA	Kempsville	Robert Biddle	Bruce Anderson
		David Bottorff	Nate Atwood
		Peter Fay	Neil Ellison
		Jerry Kidd	
		Ken Millice	
		Bob O'Brien	
		Ron Strohkorb	
		Robert Swanbeck	
		Earle Woodberry	
Bluefield, WV	Westminster	Joe Hartzog	
		Jim Thomason	
Cross Lanes, WV	Perrow	Jim Crewdson	Keith Cobb
		Craig Lyle	Jack Maxwell
	<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery</i>		Don Fortson, III Daniel Gilbert Milton Hines Dick Little Bill Meyer Howard Shockley Phil Thrash

Presbytery of the Midwest

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Auburn, IN	St. Andrew	Diane Manon	Joe Laher
		John Manon	
Ann Arbor, MI	Covenant		Mark Vanderput
	Knox	Bill Painter	Chuck Jacob
Battle Creek, MI	First EPC	Joseph Kyle	
Brighton, MI	Cornerstone	David Jonckheere	Art Hunt
		Wally Schram	
Clarkston, MI	North Oaks		Steve Brown
Farmington Hills, MI	Grace Chapel	Malcolm Bain	
		Bill Bumford	
Flint, MI	Calvary	Jerald Dosh	Craig Vanbiber
		Dick Heidtman	
	Peace		David Galbraith
Harrison Township, MI	Knox		Douglas Graham
Lake City, MI	Lake City EPC		Don Van Dyke
Mt. Pleasant, MI	Mt. Pleasant		Scott McKee
Northville, MI	Ward	John Baird	David Brown
		Bob Julin	Edward Davis
		Mark MacLennan	Mark Taylor
		John Nowacki	
Orion, MI	Faith	Tom Henson	Jerry Brundle
Owosso, MI	Community EPC		Don Galardi
			James Rose
Plymouth, MI	Trinity		William Moore
			Dan Weidman
South Lyon, MI	Fellowship EPC	Jim Mindling	Del Belcher
			John Quigley
Trenton, MI	First	Ray Sawmiller	Duane Armistead
		Ray Schrameck	Ian Leslie
		Jerald Vanderkooi	
		Nevin Webster	
Cincinnati, OH	Evangelical Comm.	Bob Burgher	Glen Francis
		Vaughn Engle	Richard Lanning
		Harvey Landholm	
Findlay, OH	Gateway EPC	Dale Briggs	Ben Borsay
Youngstown, OH	Tabernacle	Jim Rimmel	Gary Koerth
			Rick Stauffer

	<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery</i>	Jeffrey Chadwick Kurt Gebhard Chris Gibson Michael Glodo Jeff Juday Scott Kennaugh Ed McCallum Bob Stauffer
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Presbytery of the Southeast

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Ackworth, GA	Lake Pointe		Richard Kidd
Lavonia, GA	Faith	Betty Rausch	
		Charles Rausch	
Rome, GA	First	John Graham	Scott Jackson
		Louise Hunt	Tommy Overton
		Bill Johns	
		Leonard Pilgrim	
		John Ward, Sr.	
Erlanger, KY	New Beginning		Steve Riser
Franklin, NC	Cornerstone	Rich Bankston	Ron Odum
		Shelby Bankston	
	Grace		Kenneth Jones
Highlands, NC	Community Bible	Thomas Bates	Bill McCutchen
		Curt Mackey	
Plumtree, NC	Plumtree	Terry Edwards	Gordon Williams
Chattanooga, TN	Brainerd	William Johnson	
		Charles Miller	
		John Perry	
	Lookout Valley	George Schneider	Grady Davidson
Hixson, TN	Valleybrook		Ed Murrey, IV
Knoxville, TN	Cedar Springs	Carroll Coakley	Roy Zinn
		A. Seaton Garrett	
		George Gorman	
	Community Evangelistic		Jarvis Ross
	Faith	James Slyman	
	<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery</i>		Bill Sharp Jim Van Dyke

Presbytery of the West

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Surprise, AZ	Grace	Richard Sleeman	Cooper McWhirter
San Diego, CA	Covenant		David Fenska
Sanger, CA	Sanger		David Long
Santa Maria, CA	Santa Maria		David Brogren

Aurora, CO	Faith	Claude Russell	
		Sandy Russell	
Englewood, CO	Cherry Creek	James Bacon	Marty Martin
		Jan Bole	Don Sweeting
		Elsie Demarest	Richard Vroon
		Barbara Matthews	
		Cecil Matthews	
		Ken Roberts	
Ft. Collins, CO	Christ Fellowship		Ed G. Davis
Golden, CO	Lookout Mtn.		Aram Haroutunian
			Peter Hiett
Greenwood Village, CO	Greenwood Comm.		Tom Melton
Highlands Ranch, CO	Cherry Hills		Michael Anderson
			Jim Dixon
			Brett Garretson
			John Patterson
Parker, CO	Parker	Bern Draper	
		Kurt Schoenbach	
Redmond, WA	Northwest		Ed Randal
Renton, WA	First		Jeffrey Jeremiah
	<i>Other ministers on the roll of Presbytery</i>		David Baer Bruce Demarest Mark Ingles Chris Istrati Greg Livingstone Mark Moore Robert Ralston Bradley Strait John Taylor Charles Wickman George Wood Stan VanDenBerg Bradley Yorton

Presbytery of St. Andrews

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Buenos Aires	Quilmes		Oswaldo Fernandez
	Belgrano		Julio Lopez
	Temperley		Jorge Lumsden
			Guille Mac Kenzie
	<i>Other Ministers on the Roll of Presbytery</i>		Freddie Berk Kenneth Murray

The following requested to be excused: Elder Jay Barrington (Central, St. Louis, MO); RE Ted Brandsma Bear Creek EPC, Lakewood, CO); Rev.

Erik Ohman (Parker Pres., Parker, CO); Rev. Darryl “Bud” Sparling (Parker Pres., Parker, CO); Rev. Ramona Spilman (Cherry Hills, Highlands Ranch, CO)

Final enrollment of the Assembly:

221 Teaching Elders **Number of churches represented: 134**

181 Ruling Elders

396 Total Commissioners

246 Observers

642 Total enrollment

24-4 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

ON MOTION The docket was adopted as follows:

DOCKET

Thursday, June 24, 2004

First Session

- 8:30 Opening worship service (Sanctuary)
Speaker: Rev. Nate Atwood, Host Pastor
- 9:30 Assembly convenes (Sanctuary)
- Opening session. Constituting prayer. Election of Recording Clerks and minutes committee. Local arrangements and announcements. Call for quorum. Docket.
 - Election of 24th General Assembly Moderator. Passing of the gavel. The Moderator’s Address
 - Partial report of the Nominating Committee
 - Ratification vote on descending overtures. Receive the 23rd General Assembly (2003) Minutes.
 - Introduction of missionaries and chaplains. New churches. Face to Face.
 - Report of the Stated Clerk. Matters received and referred. Committee instructions. Introduction of standing committee chairmen.
- 10:30-3:00 EPC Pastors’ Wives and World Outreach Missionary Wives Luncheon and Cruise
- 2:00-1:30 Lunch (ticket required) (Refreshment Tent)
Newly Ordained Ministers Lunch

Second Session

- 1:30-5:00 Standing Committees meet
- 2:00-4:30 Women’s Ministries: Faith in Action (Founders Inn)
- 3:00 Board of Pension & Benefits informational meeting
- 5:30-7:00 Women’s Ministries Directors Dinner (Founders Inn)
- 7:30-9:00 Evening Worship: Dr. Craig Strickland, Keynoter (Sanctuary)
Investiture of 24th Assembly Moderator

24-5 ELECTION OF 24th GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR

Rev. Don Van Dyke, chairman of the Nominating Committee, opened his report with prayer. Rev. Van Dyke placed in nomination the name of Elder Orin Littlejohn as Moderator of the 24th General Assembly. He then introduced Rev. Edward Davis to speak on behalf of the nomination. Rev. Davis noted that Dr. Littlejohn is a remarkable man of gentility and graciousness, representing to us, as a family, a model of generosity. He is a man gifted in vision, leadership and most importantly, he is a godly man, God-fearing and God-loving.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

ON MOTION Elder Orin Littlejohn was elected Moderator of the 24th General Assembly by acclamation.

The retiring Moderator declared Rev. Orin Littlejohn to be the Moderator of the 24th General Assembly and passed the gavel to him.

The newly elected Moderator introduced his wife, Jane, son Robert and daughter Elisa Rex, his pastor, Rev. Wayne Uppendahl and his wife, Lorie, his office manager Vera Hall, friend Jeanne Rodgers, and the commissioners from EPC of Marshall. He expressed his gratitude to the Assembly for the privilege of being elected Moderator. Dr. Littlejohn declared that his theme for the coming year as Moderator would be *prayer*. The new Moderator encouraged the Assembly to emphasize the importance and privilege of prayer throughout the coming year.

24-6 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS

Moderator Orin Littlejohn offered a prayer of thanksgiving for Rev. DiNunzio's ministry to the EPC during the previous year. The retiring Moderator, Rev. Ron DiNunzio reflected on his year of ministry as Moderator of the 23rd General Assembly.

Moderator's Address

Rev. Ron DiNunzio, 23rd General Assembly

The opening lines of *A Tale of Two Cities* say "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times" and I could sit down now because that describes the entire year I just spent as Moderator of the 23rd General Assembly. It indeed has been the best of times. It has been a great privilege and honor for me to serve as your Moderator. I'm sorry I didn't get to all of your churches but that would have required me to be out of MY church. I think a year's term as Moderator is long enough because, you see, even though you have a very competent associate and elders, after a certain period of time out of the pulpit they start to realize that things are okay. People aren't leaving and there's a whole stash of cash available and so they wanted to know when I was coming home... Now I'm coming home,

and I thank you for the privilege of being your Moderator. I want to especially thank the previous Moderators for laying the groundwork and giving me the opportunity to serve in that long and illustrious line.

I had a chance a couple of weeks ago to be your fraternal delegate to the Christian Reformed Church (CRC) Synod meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As I spent some time there it was nostalgic for me. I spent my first year of seminary at Calvin Seminary and as I said to that Assembly that day, I transferred to Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi only because I spent my first year at Calvin not ever able to see my professor, the board at the front, or the chapel because all those Dutch people are so tall! All I saw was the bell. So I moved to Reformed Seminary where the people are not abnormally tall!

My wife and I had the opportunity to start our moderatorial quest by attending the women's conference in San Antonio, Texas. I have to tell you, I never thought I'd be able to get a word in edgewise with 132 women but it was a great experience that I really relished. I absolutely cherish the time we spent together. We have an excellent women's ministry and I thank you for your participation in that.

During the CRC Synod meeting, commissioners dealt with an issue early on and I bring it to you for a couple of reasons because (1) they are our brothers and sisters in Christ, and (2) they have a history which is much longer than ours. One of the issues they are dealing with right now is Question 80 in their catechism dealing with the issue of the Roman Catholic mass. The question and answer come to a point where it calls the Romans Catholic mass "a condemnable idolatry." Calvin is a little stronger in his Institutes and calls it a "damnable idolatry." The issue that began with a very simple statement was still not resolved after I left, to the best of my knowledge. The issue was this: Do you want to take out of that catechism, which has historically stood the test of time, the statement that the Catholic mass is "idolatry"? They are struggling with this issue but it's not the issue that is my concern. I commend them for that.

My concern is a statement I heard on the floor of that Synod. I want to share it with you because I think it is a vitally important comment. It's true the mass as offered in the 15th and 16th Centuries (the mass that Calvin, Luther, Knox and Zwingli would have been familiar with) is different from the mass of today. Representatives from the CRC have met with some Roman Catholic bishops both in America and Canada and one of the statements they were presenting, one of the possible amendments, is that they change the catechism to reflect that that mass was no longer the "condemnable idolatry." I praise the Lord for His timing and perfect resourcing because a pastor who was an advisor to that Synod stood up on the floor and said to those people, "Sir, you have never been in my country [Argentina] under the oppression of the Catholic Church." I'm not saying this to demean our brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church who love the Lord and who are called by God, true believers. I'm saying this for us to understand something. I'm sure that when Calvin and Luther made their statements, they were not popular statements of the day and culture. As a matter of fact, they were very anti-cultural statements. I think we are

approaching a time in our own world (if we are not already there) and our own church when we will have to wrestle with those issues that have been historically Presbyterian and Protestant in nature, and make the tough decisions. I commend that Synod for their willingness to fight. I would be careful as we approach those kinds of issues on being wise and biblically based, not to be politically correct but to always be *biblically* correct. One of the saddest statements I heard was that it was cultural and maybe this is a different time.

Ladies and gentlemen, I grew up in the Catholic Church and I want to tell you something. What has been confirmed and reaffirmed every year at every Vatican counsel, at every meeting is that in agreement they stand united to the Counsel of Trent's declaration and those who do not believe or are not part of the Catholic Church are not part of the true church of Jesus Christ. That's their official doctrine. I bring that to your attention not as a derogatory statement but for us to understand that the Reformation did not occur just because there was nothing else to do. The Reformation cost many of the brothers and sisters, saints in the Lord Jesus Christ, their lives for a stand they believed was biblical as opposed to institutional. I call us to that kind of vigilance and that kind of understanding of what it is we say we are and what we believe when we call ourselves Presbyterian and Reformed.

As I traveled around the country I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to visit all of your churches. I visited many of the presbyteries and it's an exciting time. We are indeed a unique denomination in the history of the Church -- from the West, as scattered as it is, as cowboy as it is, to the East, as far as it is, as straight-laced as it is; from the North with places like Livonia and Dee-troit Michigan (notice that I'm from Detroit, so I said it properly). (You know, Dee-troit, home of the Dee-troit Pistons?) From the North to the South, as far South as Tampa Bay, the home of the Stanley Cup champions... Who would have thought that Lord Stanley's cup would ever be won by a Florida team!

We are a diverse group in a diverse time and the Lord has called each of us to a particular kind of unique ministry. I think one of the saddest parts of ministry over the past years is that we have often tried to emulate someone else's ministry, not understanding success is not measured in terms of church growth according to church growth, but in terms of church growth according to Jesus Christ's ministry.

I see the ladies moving and I have to do something very quickly. Jeanna DiNunzio, where are you? Somebody grab the prettiest lady in the narthex and bring her in here! To the best-looking 15-year-old in the balcony where all 15-year olds love to sit, Charles, thank you, son. It's been a tough year. I traveled; they stayed home. I missed soccer games. I missed basketball games. But it's been a great year, too. As I traveled and thought about the church, I have some concerns. I'm concerned that we live in a society where the people in the pews, and sometimes the people who stand in the pulpits are more concerned about "What's in it for me?" than "What's in it for Christ?" They talk about our society being a consumer society and I'm afraid that mentality has crept into our churches.

Folks, it's not about us. It's about Jesus Christ. It's not about the churches we pastor. It's about the great responsibility we shoulder.

We've got a great denomination, but we've got some churches in this denomination in trouble. We've got some small churches that, if we don't help them if we are able, in six months or a year from now will not be in this denomination or in any other denomination. We have some pastors who are hurting, who are ready to give up and I would venture to say on any day if we asked certain people, if we could give you a job making the same kind of money you are making now in the pastorate would you take that job? My heart really aches because I think the answer for many would be "absolutely, in a heartbeat." We have told our pastors that they have to build churches and raise funds and bring more people in. God has told us we have to be faithful and obedient. It was eloquently stated this morning in the worship service that it's not about us. We don't add anybody to the kingdom. It's God himself who adds to the Kingdom. We are the shepherds. We are the ones who are supposed to watch after the sheep, to shepherd the flock. That's my call to you pastors, but you know what? Ruling elders, you're not off the hook. It's been my experience as I traveled the denomination this year that you ruling elders are a great backbone of this denomination, and without you we won't survive long. My admonition to the teaching elders and the ruling elders who are here is to go back to your churches and train and disciple other men and women to become the leaders of the church. God has never called his church anywhere. He has never given them a mission to any calling. He has never put any burden on their heart that He has not properly resourced with men, material and finances. If we do not *have*, Scripture says, it is because we do not *ask*. Well, we're not asking for the right things. We need the Lord to soften our hearts and help us to see that sometimes the shepherd has to lay down his life for the sheep. Sometimes it's not about me. Sometimes it's not about basketball and soccer games. Sometimes ministry goes beyond the pastor and ruling elder. All the time it touches the family.

I have a great praise. As I traveled this denomination, regardless of our styles of worship and the buildings where we worship, one thing that is beyond any question is our devotion to the Scriptures, the Word of God. I praise you for that. It's exciting to know that maybe the biggest issue we have to deal with at this Assembly will be the realignment of some geographical boundaries. Not whether homosexuals should stand in the pulpit and be ordained or whether we are going to come out with a position paper for and in favor of gay marriages. Those are issues in the church that will affect us unless we stand firmly for what we say we believe and that's the Scriptures being the inerrant, infallible and inspired Word of God. This is a great denomination, one that has the ability to do the things that God has called them to do in the 21st Century may be impacting church history to the point of a Luther or a Calvin. I don't know what history will write about this denomination. But if it writes nothing else it needs to write this: They were faithful, obedient servants.

24-7 INTRODUCTION OF MISSIONARIES

With the permission of the court, Rev. Jeff Chadwick introduced the EPC missionaries present for this Assembly.

<u>Missionary</u>	<u>Field of Service</u>
Dave and Wendy Adamson	Kazakhstan
Dan and Catherine Burns	Kazakhstan
Laurie Christie	England – Muslims
Dan and Jan Clark	US based/International
Chris and Debbie Gibson	Hungary
John and Margy Haines	US based/Muslim ministry
Brian and Ginny Holt	Ethiopia
Jeff and Lynne Juday	Middle East
Greg and Sally Livingstone	Southeast Asia
John and Carlene McCurry	Arab Gulf
Jeff and Nancy Meade	Southeast Asia
Azucena Robles	Argentina
Phil and Diane Thrash	Germany
Greg and Peggy Ward	Eastern Europe
Brandon and Liz Wells	Arab Gulf
Jonathan and Fozia Young	Russia

The Moderator led the court in prayer for all of the EPC missionaries.

On behalf of the Assembly, Rev. Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk, presented the retiring Moderator with a plaque of appreciation and a lapel pin representing the Moderator's Cross.

24-8 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Don Van Dyke, chairman of the Nominating Committee, opened his report with prayer. The chairman noted that all pre-registered commissioners have been assigned to standing committees and that those assignments were distributed at registration.

The slate of nominations for permanent committees follows:

Committee on Administration

Class of 2007	Elder John Adamson (Central South)
	Rev. Bill Meyer (Mid-Atlantic)
	Elder Allen Roes (Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2005	Rev. Bill Flannagan (Southeast)

Committee on Christian Education & Publications

Class of 2007	Rev. Brad Strait (West)
	Hugo Izzo (Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2005	Rev. David Baer (West)

Committee on Fraternal Relations

Class of 2007	Rev. Craig Vanbiber (Midwest)
	Elder Frank Johnson (East)

Committee on Ministerial Vocation

Class of 2007	Rev. George Yates (East) Elder Bill Meeks (Mid-America)
Class of 2005	Elder Jerry Kidd (Mid-Atlantic)

Committee on National Outreach

Class of 2007	Elder Jim Berni (Midwest) Rev. Rodger Woodworth (East) Elder Ted Brandsma (West)
Class of 2005	Rev. Grady Davidson (Southeast)

Committee on Presbytery Review

Class of 2007	Elder Jay Curtis (Florida)
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Committee on Student & Young Adult Ministries

Class of 2007	Brandon Bates (Central South) Rev. George Boomer (Mid-America)
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Committee on Theology

Class of 2007	Rev. Jeff Jeremiah (West) Elder Bill Painter (Midwest)
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Committee on Women's Ministries

Class of 2007	Libby Cooper (Mid-Atlantic) Sandy Gavin (East)
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Committee on World Outreach

Class of 2007	Elder Bern Draper (West) Rev. Gene Huntzinger (Central South) Elder Ted Galyon (Central South)
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Board of Pension and Benefits

Class of 2007	Rev. Roy Zinn (Southeast) Elder Milton Knowlton (Central South)
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Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2007	Elder Sam Searcy (West) Rev. Percy Burns (Mid-Atlantic) Elder Dale Schaefer (Mid-America)
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ON MOTION the partial report of the Nominating Committee was received.

24-9 RATIFICATION VOTE ON DESCENDING OVERTURES

The Stated Clerk offered prayer and reviewed the procedures for ratification of descending overtures.

OVERTURE 03-A

Shall the **Book of Government** be amended in §11-8 by

- 1) inserting the word “currently” before the phrase “serving in a temporary relationship” and,
- 2) following the words “that church,” add the following sentence:
“Moreover, should a Search Committee desire to consider any person who has served in a temporary capacity since the pulpit most recently

became vacant, approval by a three-fourths vote of the Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee to proceed”

[The proposed text appears underscored in the Proposed Wording and will not appear so in the **Book of Order**.]

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>11-8 Temporary pastoral relationships. A Church Session may invite a Minister to preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and perform needed pastoral duties. The invitation must be approved by the Presbytery on recommendation of the Ministerial Committee unless stipulated. No person serving in a temporary relationship is eligible to be called as Pastor of that church. The various relations are as follows:</p>	<p>11-8 Temporary pastoral relationships. A Church Session may invite a Minister to preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and perform needed pastoral duties. The invitation must be approved by the Presbytery on recommendation of the Ministerial Committee unless stipulated. No person <u>currently</u> serving in a temporary relationship is eligible to be called as Pastor of that church. <u>Moreover, should a Search Committee desire to consider any person who has served in a temporary capacity since the pulpit most recently became vacant, approval by a three-fourths vote of the Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee to proceed.</u> The various relations are as follows:</p>

Grounds:

The addition of the word “currently” clarifies the intent of the sentence. Those who have served and completed a temporary relationship are eligible to be considered as pastor. However, those who are actively serving in a temporary relationship are not eligible to be considered as pastor. The proposed final sentence adds a provision similar to the succession requirement for associate pastors in G.11-6.

Overture 03-A		
Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	66	0
East	47	0
Florida	26	0
Mid-America	27	0
Mid-Atlantic	74	0
Midwest	47	0

Southeast	56	0
St. Andrews	Abstained*	
West	33	0

ON MOTION Overture 03-A was ratified.

OVERTURE 03-B

Shall the ***Book of Government*** be amended in §11-5F.8 to include after “book allowance,” the phrase “reimbursement for expenses incurred in attending presbytery and General Assembly meetings”? (Underscore indicates amended text and will not be underlined in the ***Book of Government***.)

Present Wording (G.11-5F.8)	Proposed Wording (G.11-5F.8)
<p>The call of the congregation shall be stated in the following or like terms:</p> <p>The _____ <u>E</u>vangelical Presbyterian Church of _____, feeling led by the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, have covenanted together to call you, _____, as Pastor (or other office). In issuing this call to you to be our Pastor and spiritual leader, we commit ourselves to support you in every way. We commit ourselves to support you in prayer, in participation in the work of ministry, and in your material needs.</p> <p>In meeting your material needs, we initially commit ourselves as follows:</p> <p>1. Annual Salary _____(and frequency of payment</p>	<p>The call of the congregation shall be stated in the following or like terms:</p> <p>The _____ <u>E</u>vangelical Presbyterian Church of _____ feeling led by the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, have covenanted together to call you, _____, as Pastor (or other office). In issuing this call to you to be our Pastor and spiritual leader, we commit ourselves to support you in every way. We commit ourselves to support you in prayer, in participation in the work of ministry, and in your material needs.</p> <p>In meeting your material needs, we initially commit ourselves as follows:</p> <p>1. Annual Salary _____(and frequency of payment)</p>

2. Housing or housing allowance _____ 3. Utilities and maintenance _____ 4. Car and expense allowance _____ 5. Full portion of the denominational retirement program _____ 6. Medical insurance for you and your family _____ 7. Annual vacation leave of _____ 8. Others shall be stipulated, such as: study leave (required), book allowance, etc. We commit ourselves to continue this remuneration as long as you continue as our Pastor (or other). We commit ourselves to review this pledge annually and to adjust it appropriately, with the consent of Presbytery. In addition, we commit ourselves to paying the expense related to your move	2. Housing or housing allowance _____ 3. Utilities and maintenance _____ 4. Car and expense allowance _____ 5. Full portion of the denominational retirement program _____ 6. Medical insurance for you and your family _____ 7. Annual vacation leave of _____ 8. Others shall be stipulated, such as: study leave (required), book allowance, <u>reimbursement for expenses incurred in attending presbytery and General Assembly meetings</u> , etc We commit ourselves to continue this remuneration as long as you continue as our Pastor (or other). We commit ourselves to review this pledge annually and to adjust it appropriately, with the consent of Presbytery. In addition, we commit ourselves to paying the expense related to your move.
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Grounds: One means of expressing the EPC’s identity as a “family of churches” is meeting together in presbyteries and General Assembly. Travel costs are a necessary part of being a connectional family. Churches should take these facts and values into account when issuing terms of call for their ministers and also plan to reimburse the costs of sending its full representation of ruling elders to church courts. Reimbursement of expenses for Teaching Elders attending meetings of church courts should be encouraged by making explicit mention of it as a possible allowance in terms of call.

Overture 03-B		
Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	66	0
East	51	0
Florida	26	0
Mid-America	27	0
Mid-Atlantic	74	0
Midwest	49	2
Southeast	59	0
St. Andrews	Abstained*	
West	35	0

ON MOTION Overture 03-B was ratified.

OVERTURE 03-C

Shall the ***Book of Discipline*** be amended in §6-1C by changing the term “Judicial Committee” to Judicial Investigative Committee” and in all other places in the ***Book of Order*** where the former term is used (also **D.8-7B**)? (Underscore indicates amended text and will not appear so in the Book of Discipline.)

Present wording (D.6-1C)	Proposed wording (D.6-1C)
<p>6-1C. Judicial Committee The court may appoint a judicial com-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.</p>	<p>6-1C. Judicial <u>Investigative</u> Committee The court may appoint a judicial <u>investigative</u> committee to serve as a finder of fact, which shall report its findings to the court with its recommendations. The <u>judicial investigative</u> committee shall have no authority to act for the court other than as an investigative body.</p>
Present wording (D.8-7B)	Proposed wording (D.8-7B)
<p>8-7B. Witness Inconvenience When the alleged offense took place at a distance, and it is inconvenient for the witnesses to appear before the court having jurisdiction, that court may either appoint a judicial committee or request the coordinate court contiguous to the place where the facts occurred to take the testimony for it.</p> <p>Due notice of the time and place of the taking of testimony by the judicial committee or the coordinate court shall be given to the opposite party. Testimony may be taken by questions asked to the witness with answers recorded in writing or recorded by electronic or other means. All parties shall have the right to examine the witness.</p>	<p>8-7B. Witness Inconvenience When the alleged offense took place at a distance, and it is inconvenient for the witnesses to appear before the court having jurisdiction, that court may either appoint a judicial <u>investigative</u> committee or request the coordinate court contiguous to the place where the facts occurred to take the testimony for it.</p> <p>Due notice of the time and place of the taking of testimony by the judicial <u>investigative</u> committee or the coordinate court shall be given to the opposite party. Testimony may be taken by questions asked to the witness with answers recorded in writing or recorded by electronic or other means. All parties shall have the right to examine the witness.</p>

Grounds: By definition, this committee is limited to investigating charges and serving as a finder of facts and does not act as a judicial body in the administration of church discipline. It is instructed to report its findings to the court with its recommendations (if any). Its limited authority is clearly stated that it “shall have no authority to act for the court other than as an investigative body (**D.6-1C**). Calling the committee an “Investigative Committee” would

more clearly conform its title to its constitutional definition and purpose.

The retention of the term “Judicial” makes clear the intent and possible results of the Committee’s activity.

Overture 03-C		
Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	66	0
East	51	0
Florida	26	0
Mid-America	27	0
Mid-Atlantic	76	0
Midwest	48	0
Southeast	59	0
St. Andrews	Abstained*	
West	33	0

ON MOTION Overture 03-C was ratified.

**The St. Andrews Presbytery abstained from the vote on these overtures since this presbytery is becoming a national church apart from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. It did not believe it appropriate to vote on matters that will affect the denomination after the St. Andrews Presbytery is no longer part of the EPC.*

24-10 RECEPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 23rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly received the minutes of the 23rd General Assembly. Adoption of the minutes will be accomplished by the Committee on Administration (November 2004) as allowed in *Robert’s Rules of Order*. Additions or corrections to this document should be forwarded to the General Assembly Office no later than September 1, 2004.

24-11 REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated Clerk Michael Glodo offered prayer and continued with his report, referring to his written report distributed at registration. He acknowledged the work of the General Assembly Office and that of the committees this year. He called attention to the revamped website as well as the bi-weekly electronic newsletter, asking those who are receiving the newsletter to submit articles of interest to the larger church.

Officer training materials are before the Assembly this year. The Stated Clerk urged the commissioners to use it this year and to bring feedback for improvement to the 25th Assembly.

He noted with great appreciation that Ed McCallum and Jeff Chadwick have renewed their terms for another three years. The Stated Clerk then introduced Freddie Berk, Kenneth Murray, Guille Mac Kenzie, Jorge Lumsden, Oswaldo Fernandez and Marcelo Robles from the St. Andrews Presbytery, Argentina. A recommendation is before the

Assembly that will dismiss the presbytery from the EPC and launch it as a new denomination.

When the staff returns to Michigan, it will be moving to a new office site in the Laurel Park area at I-275 and Six Mile Road. Much work has been done over the past several months to prepare for this move, scheduled for the last week in July.

This year, there are 8 new churches, and 3 churches either dissolved or dismissed, for a net gain of 5 churches. Total number of EPC churches stands at 194. As many as 30 new churches might be in process by the next General Assembly, according to National Outreach Director, Bob Stauffer.

Several churches have noted at least 10% gain in membership and/or attendance this year. Only 30 % have shown growth this year; 70% of EPC churches have either reached a plateau or are declining, a matter of concern. He reiterated that there are resources now to help (Natural Church Development). The Stated Clerk also called attention to the financial data reported in his report. The office continues to try to make the best use of the resources entrusted to it.

ON MOTION the report of the Stated Clerk was received.

24-12 MATTERS RECEIVED AND REFERRED

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication #04-1 from Moderator Ron DiNunzio dated June 2004
Re: Nominations to the Board of Pension and Benefits (Class of 2005), the Nominating Committee Class of 2005, and the 2004-2005 Nominating Committee and Board of Pension and Benefits chairmen.

Referred to the Floor (p. 64)

Communication #04-2 from David F. Brugger, Manager of Member Certification, ECFA dated August 26, 2003. Re: ECFA compliance review.

Received as information

Communication #04-3 from Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk, EPC, dated November 2003. Re: Notice to Clerks of Session regarding 2003 Gratitude Gift offering.

Received as information

Communication #04-4 from Lookout Mountain Community Church, Golden, Colorado extending an offer to host the 25th General Assembly, June 23-25, 2005.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 51)

Communication #04-5 from First Presbyterian Church of Rome, Georgia extending an offer to host the 26th General Assembly, June 22-24, 2006.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 51)

Communication #04-6 from Dr. Robert C. Cannada, Chancellor or Reformed Theological Seminary dated June 1, 2004. Re: update on the RTS/EPC partnership. *Received as Information*

Communication #04-7 from Bruce C. Stewart, Secretary, Interchurch Relations Committee of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America dated May 31, 2004. Re: declining the EPC invitation to send a fraternal delegate due to the concurrent meeting of their Synod with the EPC Assembly.

Referred to the Committee on Fraternal Relations (p. 80)

Communication #04-8 from Dr. Robert Stauffer, National Outreach Director to Dr. Craig Strickland, Pastor Hope EPC, Cordova, Tennessee, dated June 17, 2004. Re: the awarding of the Bartlett Hess Award for Church Vitality to Hope Presbyterian Church.

Received as information

Communication #04-9 from Mid-Atlantic Presbytery dated June, 2004. Re: recommendations for change in presbytery boundaries.

Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 68)

ON MOTION all Communications were referred as noted.

OVERTURES

Overture #04-A from the Presbytery of the Southeast to change a portion of its eastern boundary to place the Western North Carolina counties of Buncombe, Henderson, and McDowell in the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic.

Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 68)

ON MOTION the Overtures were referred as noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Recommendation #1

That the invitation of Lookout Mountain Community Church (Golden, CO) to host the 25th General Assembly with the cooperation of Presbytery of the West and the General Assembly be accepted.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 51)

Recommendation #2

That the invitation of First Presbyterian Church (Rome, GA) to host the 26th General Assembly be accepted.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 51)

Recommendation #3

That the 24th General Assembly establish a 25th Anniversary Celebration

Committee consisting of one member from each presbytery to be named by the Moderator for the purpose of planning and implementing a commemoration of the EPC's 25th year. (NOTE: The conclusion of the 25th year of the EPC at its 26th General Assembly will coincide with the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the first American presbytery.)

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 51)

Recommendation #4

That the 2004 Thanksgiving Offering be designated for the work of denominational urban ministries, to be administered by the National Outreach Committee.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 52)

Recommendation #5

That the *Book of Government* and *Rules for Assembly* be amended to provide for the nomination and election of a Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. (Details of this recommendation are found in the attachment to the Committee on Administration Report).

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 52)

Recommendation #6

That the Assembly dismiss the St. Andrews Presbytery and grant it recognition as a national Reformed and Presbyterian body according to the proposed "Articles of Dismissal and Agreement" and, by virtue of such, adopt such articles. (The Articles of Dismissal and Agreement are found in an attachment to the Committee on Administration Report).

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 53)

Recommendation #7

That the 24th General Assembly dissolve the Presbytery of Florida, effective on the Monday following its fall stated meeting; and

- that its member churches and all ministers on its rolls be reassigned to the Southeast Presbytery;
- that all matters requiring presbytery oversight be reassigned to the Southeast Presbytery;
- that prior to the act of dissolution all non-monetary assets of the Presbytery of Florida shall be liquidated and after all obligations have been satisfied, its remaining assets shall be forwarded to the Southeast Presbytery by November 15, 2004; and that Southeast Presbytery give all possible consideration to the travel and cost requirements of Florida members when planning presbytery meeting venues.

Referred to the Committee on National Outreach (p. 68)

Recommendation #8

That, pursuant to the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly to study an equitable method of funding the General Assembly budget, the 24th General Assembly take no action at this time in light of the substantial progress in participation of more churches at higher levels of their per

member asking. (See the Stated Clerk's report for details of this progress.)
Further, that the Committee be directed to report once again to the 25th
General Assembly regarding this matter.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 52)

Recommendation #9

That the Proposed 2005 Administration Budget for \$1,272,900 be adopted.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 52)

Recommendation #10

That the Proposed 2005 Benevolence Askings for \$484,000 be adopted.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 52)

Recommendation #11

That the Assembly grant five minutes following the World Outreach
Director's report to allow John McCurry to address the Assembly
regarding his new responsibilities in World Outreach field development

Stricken

Recommendation #12

That the Assembly grant 5 minutes for an **urban ministries report** and that
the Moderator grant an additional five minutes according his discretion (*Rules
for Assembly* 8-7).

Adopted

Recommendation #13

That the Assembly grant **5 minutes for a presentation in conjunction
with the introduction of chaplains** regarding chaplaincy from an EPC
chaplain to be designated by the permanent Ministerial Vocation
Committee (*Rules for Assembly* 8-7).

Adopted

From the BOARD OF PENSION & BENEFITS

Recommendation #14

That the General Assembly designate up to 100% of a minister's early or
normal retirement or disability pension for 2005 as a **housing allowance**
for United States income tax purposes (IRS Ruling I.107-1) but only to the
extent that pension is used to rent or provide a home.

Grounds:

Counsel has advised us that we should go on record each year to approve
retirement housing allowance. Retirees who have tax questions should
consult their tax advisor.

Referred to the floor (p. 44)

**Jointly From the
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS and THEOLOGY
COMMITTEES**

Recommendation #15

That the proposed draft officer training manual be adopted on a trial basis with encouragement to the churches to make use of it and provide constructive feedback to both permanent committees for the purpose of bringing a final proposed manual to the 25th General Assembly. (See Appendix C in the Commissioner's Handbook).

Referred to the Committee on Christian Education (p. 67)

From the COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Recommendation #16

That the Evangelical Presbyterian Church accept the invitation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) to send a fraternal observer to its General Assembly, that it confirm the Committee's reciprocation of invitations for the 24th General Assembly and authorize the Committee to establish a regular exchange of observers in coordination with its corresponding committee of the RPCNA.

Referred to the Committee on Fraternal Relations (p. 80)

From the KAZAKHSTAN COMMISSION

Recommendation #17

That the following sentence be inserted ahead of the last sentence of *Book of Government* 10-3-C:

In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Referred to the floor (p. 70)

Recommendation #18

That the 24th General Assembly extend the duration of the commission until 1) the commission can make its recommendations to the Committee on Administration concerning amendments to the World Outreach Missions Manual at its fall meeting and 2) the commission can make an additional field visit to participate with the national church in the ordination of a teaching elder.

Referred to the floor (p. 71)

Recommendation #19

That the August 22-25, 2003, and March 31, 2004, minutes of the Kazakhstan Commission be received. (See Kazakhstan Commission Report)

Referred to the floor (p. 72)

From the MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

Recommendation #20

That, in response the referral of the 23rd General Assembly, the Assembly

find that provisions for succession of associate pastors (G.11.6) and ministers in temporary relationships with churches (G.11.8 as amended and sent as a descending overture to presbyteries by the 23rd General Assembly) do not create any inequity.

Grounds: The source and terms of call for associate pastors and for ministers serving in temporary relationships are fundamentally different. Associate pastors are called by the congregation and have no term limit. Ministers in a temporary relationship are invited to serve by the session for a specific period of time. While it is appropriate to require a minister serving in a temporary capacity to step aside in order to be considered for a call, it is not appropriate to ask an associate to step down from the long-term relationship established between the congregation and the minister.

Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 48)

Recommendation #21

That the Assembly approve the following substitute motion for Overture 03-B (see Attachment MVC-1, Ministerial Vocation Committee Report):

The Assembly directs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to adjust the written Theology and Sacraments Examination to include questions on Reformed tradition to account for at least 20% of the examination score and re-title the examination as “Theology, Sacraments and Reformed Tradition.” The new examination shall be implemented in January 2005.

Grounds: Some presbyteries have noted a lack of knowledge of the Reformed tradition in candidates. Written examinations are required in 5 areas: Theology and Sacraments, English Bible, the Book of Order, the Reformed tradition, and the Nature of the Office of Minister of the Word (G.13.2). The EPC has incorporated all five areas in three written examinations. This motion will put appropriate weight on the subject of the Reformed tradition and re-titling the examination will encourage study of the topic in preparation for taking the exam.

Referred to the Committee on Ministerial Vocation (p. 49)

From the COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

No Recommendations.

From the PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Recommendation #22

That *Book of Government* §14-1 E. 8 be amended to substitute the word “officers” in the place of the word “presbyters.”

Grounds: The vow as currently written is inappropriate in its application to deacons since deacons are not presbyters. Substitution of the word “officers” makes the vow appropriate to elders and deacons.

Referred to the floor (p. 61)

**From the COMMITTEE ON STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES**

No Recommendations.

**From the AD INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR COLLEGE
MINISTRIES**

Recommendation #23

To form a permanent committee on College Ministry made up of two Ruling Elders, two Teaching Elders, and two non-ordained people involved with college ministry that will begin at the 25th General Assembly (2005).

Grounds: We believe that the task before us in college ministry is too much to add to an already very full plate for the SYAM committee. This committee needs to operate on its own in order to bridge the SYAM committee and National Outreach, training young people to be the next church planters.

Referred to the floor (p. 62)

Recommendation #24

To enter into a cooperative agreement with The National Leadership Foundation/His Life Campus Ministry according to the proposed cooperative agreement appended to this report.

Grounds: This kind of relationship is already beginning in some EPC churches. HLCM is perfectly in line with the vision and philosophy of making the church the center of ministry for this generation and is successful at doing it. This cooperative agreement will allow us to move much more rapidly into actual ministry.

Referred to the floor (p. 62)

Recommendation #25

To amend the 2004 Benevolence Askings for: \$5,000 for a College Ministry Leadership Summit and \$10,000 for Leadership Development.

Grounds: To better establish momentum for the permanent committee and begin ministry between churches and college campuses, the availability of finances is necessary.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 52)

Recommendation #26

To approve for the 2005 Benevolence Askings: \$5,000 for College Ministry Conference and \$20,000 for Leadership Development.

Grounds: The SYAM Committee thinks it will be important to develop a conference to minister to college students in the near future. SYAM also knows that financial assistance will continue to be needed in placing trained leaders in EPC churches and college campuses.

Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 52)

Recommendation #27

To extend the term of this Ad Interim Committee on College Ministry for a period of one year.

Grounds: There is much work that can be done and needs to be done in the next year in preparation for the permanent committee. Many things can begin in the cooperative agreement with HLCM but there needs to be a team to oversee it. *Referred to the floor (p. 62)*

From the COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

Recommendation #28

That the Preliminary Position on the Sanctity of Marriage, as revised by the Committee according to the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly, be adopted as a Position Paper.

Referred to the Committee on Theology (p. 79)

Recommendation #29

That the contemporary English edition of the Westminster Larger Catechism be commended and included for publication with the *Book of Order* (see Appendix B).

Referred to the Committee on Theology (p. 79)

Recommendation #30

That the Assembly instruct the permanent Theology Committee to disseminate advice and suggested resources for using the catechisms in the life of the church and to develop a pastoral letter on the use of catechisms for recommendation to the 25th General Assembly.

Referred to the Committee on Theology (p. 79)

Recommendation #31

That the 24th General Assembly instruct the Committee on Administration to develop a statement defining the status, scope and purpose of position papers.

Referred to the Committee on Theology (p. 79)

From the COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

No recommendations.

From the COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

Recommendation #32

That the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended in section 412 by replacing the phrase "during a four-year term" in the second sentence with the phrase "every two years." The amended section would then read as follows (change underlined):

Missionary children under age 23 who are single and dependent upon parental support shall be considered part of the missionary's family. Thus they shall be eligible for reimbursement of travel costs to and from the field for one trip every two years. Expenses for such shall be charged to the missionary's support account. *Stricken*

Recommendation #33

That the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended in section 103.4-J

by replacing the first sentence with the following, to be followed by the second sentence and bullet points as already printed:

Agencies may be granted approved status by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the World Outreach Committee on the basis of common goals, strategic opportunities, particular services those agencies may offer to the EPC or other bases judged to be of strategic value to World Outreach. Approved projects and agencies may represent themselves as such to EPC congregations. Projects will only be approved for agencies that have approved status. The status of approved agencies shall be reviewed after three years and every five years thereafter to determine whether it shall be continued. Without a recommendation for renewal, approved status will automatically expire at the end of those time periods. The World Outreach Committee may act at any time for cause to recommend removal of approved status.

Referred to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 50)

Recommendation #34

That the General Assembly approve the cooperative agreement with Footprints, International as defined in attachment 1 of the World Outreach Committee Report.

Referred to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 50)

Recommendation #35

That the General Assembly grant IN Network status as an approved mission agency (cf. Attachment 2 in the World Outreach Committee Report).

Referred to the Committee on World Outreach (p. 50)

Recommendation #36

The World Outreach Committee concurs with the recommendations of the Kazakhstan Commission and asks the General Assembly to approve them.

Received as Information

From the COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW

Regarding the **Presbytery of the Central South**

Recommendation #37:

That the Assembly receive the responses of the Presbytery of the Central South to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly (see PRC-1) as adequate.

Referred to the floor (p. 72)

Recommendation #38:

As the Presbytery of the Central South did not respond to the Presbytery Review Committee's requests for additional information regarding omissions and insufficient information in their minutes subject to review by the 23rd General Assembly, that the Assembly declare these items as exceptions to their minutes requiring presbytery response.

1. 56.13: Insufficient information: no indication that Johnson and Maynard signed the Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L)

2. 56.19: Insufficient information: record of votes on descending overtures is not recorded in the minutes.
3. 56.29: Insufficient information: no record that presbytery acted to change the status of Robert Camenish from out of bounds.
4. 15.14.2: No indication of a commission appointed to install Dennis Flach as Pastor of New Covenant Presbyterian Church.
5. 57.14: Omission: Minutes do not indicate whether or not Morris or Allday had any exceptions to the Westminster Standards and whether such exceptions were approved as required by G.13-6.
6. 58.08: Insufficient information: Minutes do not indicate that the specific steps required by G.5-6 were fulfilled in the case of Redeemer EPC.
7. 58.19: Insufficient information: No indication as to how the call of Steve Bristol as Assistant Pastor was dissolved. Was this done prior to the end of his approved term of service? If so, minutes should reflect that Session dissolved the relationship with concurrence of the minister and the Presbytery (G11-7). *Referred to the floor (p. 72)*

Recommendation #39:

That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 59:23 – Two administrative commissions were formed of 4 Teaching Elders and 2 Ruling Elders, contrary to constitutional standards of a proportion “as near to two Ruling Elders to one Minister as possible.” (G.16-26B.2e). The presbytery did not specify the duration of the commission for Baldwin County Mission Church as required by G.16-2B
2. 60:24 (p. 309) – Presbytery’s action in placing an inactive minister (Rev. McCutcheon) on active roll without call is out of order. Presbytery may take such action only if the minister has a valid call or is being transferred to another presbytery in order to receive a call (G.15-8).
3. 60:24(8) (p. 309 – Formation of a commission (re. Wahlstedt) with a 6:1 ratio of ruling to teaching elders is contrary to constitutional standards of a proportion “as near to two Ruling Elders to one Minister as possible.” (G.16-26B.2e).
4. p. 314 – There is no record of Rev. Hamd signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).
5. 61:22(1.c) – Use of the word “endorse” is inappropriate. The minutes do not include the terms of call approved by presbytery.
6. 61:22 – Commission to ordain Brandon Wells was constituted with a ratio of 2:1 Teaching to Ruling elders, contrary to constitutional standards (G.16-26B.2e). Rev. Chadwick is not a member of the Central South Presbytery. He should be designated as a guest of the commission.

Referred to the floor (p. 72)

Regarding the Presbytery of the East

Recommendation #40:

That the Assembly accept as adequate the responses of the Presbytery of the East to exceptions Issued by the 22nd General Assembly (2002) deemed

inadequate by the 23rd General Assembly (2003) as adequate (see PRC-2) and issue the following comment to the presbytery: *The use of Appendices was not the concern of the Assembly but rather the absence of Appendices referenced in the minutes. The presbytery's response seems to indicate that previously approved minutes were altered, which, if so, is out of order. Once approved, minutes are legal documents which should not be altered with the exception of minor typographical corrections. Corrections to approved minutes should be made in the body of subsequent minutes in the manner specified by the 20th General Assembly (Act of Assembly 00-11, Minutes of the 20th General Assembly 20-46).*

Referred to the floor (p. 73)

Recommendation #41:

That the Assembly accept the responses of the Presbytery of the East to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly (see PRC-2) with the following comments:

1. It appears that previously approved minutes of the Presbytery are being altered, which is an improper practice. Corrections to previously approved minutes should be made in accordance with the standardized method adopted by the 20th General Assembly (*Act of Assembly 00-11, Minutes of the 20th General Assembly*, 20-46).
2. Foye Belyea should not be referred to as "Rev." in the minutes or listed as a TE until he has been ordained or received by the presbytery.

Referred to the floor (p. 73)

Recommendation #42:

That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the East subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 67th Stated Meeting: Appendices referenced in the minutes were not included in the certified minutes. Presbytery is directed to forward these appendices to the Office of the Stated Clerk no later than September 30, 2004.
2. 67th Stated Meeting (pp. 7-8): All actions taken by presbytery when acting as a committee as a whole must then come to the whole body for approval after moving out of committee as a whole (*Roberts Rules of Order*, Section 51). These actions are remanded to the Presbytery for proper approval. In similar situations in the future, presbytery is advised to receive recommendations from a committee member (requiring a second) rather than moving into committee as a whole. The purpose of the committee as a whole is not to compensate when a committee has been unable to meet, but to allow less formal procedural ways of conducting business such as not limiting or requiring pro and con statements on motions, allowing speakers to speak more than once, etc.
3. 69th Stated Meeting: Minutes have not been put in standardized form as per the direction of the 20th and 23rd General Assemblies. A letter from the Office of the General Assembly to presbyteries dated Nov. 17, 2003 reminded presbytery Stated Clerks of this requirement. The Presbytery of the East is directed to utilize the standardized form beginning in September

2004.

4.69th Stated Meeting: Duration and duties as Assistant Pastor for Rev. Shull are not indicated (G.11-7). Minutes do not indicate that Rev. Shull signed the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).

Referred to the floor (p. 74)

Regarding the **Presbytery of Florida**

Recommendation #43:

That the Assembly accept the responses of the Presbytery of Florida to exceptions issued by the 22nd General Assembly deemed inadequate by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-3).

Referred to the floor (p. 74)

Recommendation #44:

That the Minutes of the Presbytery of Florida subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved without exception.

Referred to the floor (p. 74)

Regarding the **Presbytery of Mid-America**

Recommendation #45:

That the Assembly accept the responses of Presbytery of Mid-America to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-4).

Referred to the floor (p. 74)

Recommendation #46:

That the Minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 37.06 (pp. 349-350 – Simon and Cover): Approving a call for a Teaching Elder without EPC group insurance is out of accord with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-06 and 88-08. The terms of call for Rev. Simon and Rev. Cover are remanded to the Presbytery for reconsideration.
2. 38.05 (p. 362 -- Wampler) – Approving a call for a Teaching Elder without EPC group insurance and without pension is out of accord with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-05, 81-06 and 88-08. The terms of call for Rev. Wampler are remanded to the Presbytery for reconsideration.
3. 38.05 (p. 363) – An Administrative Commission may not be chaired by a Teaching or Ruling Elder who is not a member of the Commission. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery is commended for pointing out this irregularity to the Presbytery (p. 359).

Referred to the floor (p. 75)

Regarding the **Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic**

Recommendation #47:

That the General Assembly receive the responses of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-5).

Referred to the floor (p. 75)

Having requested and received further information from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic regarding presbytery's action at its 41st Stated Meeting (41.24O) to approve an exemption for Rev. Carr from required enrollment

in EPC Medical Insurance, the Committee makes the following recommendation:

Recommendation #48:

As Rev. Carr is not eligible for an exemption from EPC medical insurance (*Act of Assembly* 88-08), that the Assembly remand the action (Minutes 41.24O) to the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery for correction.

Referred to the floor (p. 75)

Recommendation #49:

That the Minutes of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 44.09B1 (Dr. Earl Morey; cf. Minutes 43.15) – Presbytery may not receive a minister on its rolls without a call (*Act of Assembly* 82-07, **G.11-10**). The Presbytery is advised that future actions of this nature will not be in compliance with the Constitution and Assembly legislation.
2. 44.22.B.5 – Minutes do not specify the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate Pastor (Smith) (**G.11-6**).
3. 46.24B; 46.27B; 46.29A – Minutes do not record approval of Terms of Call for Rev. Reese.

Referred to the floor (p. 75)

Regarding the **Presbytery of the Midwest**

Recommendation #50:

That the General Assembly receive the responses of the Midwest Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-6) except for the following:

1. That the Assembly remand the matter of Rev. Miller's current status (Minutes 95-12, p. 60), which is unclear in the record, to the Presbytery for correction or clarification.
2. That the Assembly find the response of the Presbytery in the matter of the Commission to install Rev. Porter insufficient (presbytery did not act to correct the record) and remand the minutes to the Presbytery for correction.

Referred to the floor (p. 76)

The Committee requested additional information regarding certain notations forwarded to the Midwest Presbytery in order to determine if constitutional standards were followed. Having received and reviewed the presbytery's responses the Committee makes the following recommendation):

Recommendation #51:

That the Assembly declare an exception to the Minutes of the 95th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest with regard to receiving Greg Moore and Scott Kennaugh as candidates (95-10). Minutes do not indicate that the required six month membership in an EPC congregation was fulfilled or that they received Session endorsement (**G. 12-2A**)

Referred to the floor (p. 76)

Recommendation #52:

That the Assembly declare an exception to the Minutes of the 98th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest. Minutes do not indicate how presbytery carried out its constitutional responsibility (G.5-6) regarding the dismissal of Mercy Christian Fellowship (98-12, p. 60)

Referred to the floor (p. 76)

Recommendation #53:

That the Minutes of the Midwest Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 100-11 – Individual requests for transfer (Hicks) are not actionable items. Such request must come from the court to which transfer is being sought and must be addressed to the clerk of the court from which transfer is being sought (G.11-10).
2. 100-11 – Summary of changes in terms of call are not recorded in the body of the minutes as required by *Act of Assembly* 98-04.

Referred to the floor (p. 76)

Regarding the **Presbytery of the Southeast**

Recommendation #54:

That the Minutes of the Southeast Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exception:

61-22K – The duties of Rev. McCutchen as Assistant Pastor are not specified as required by G.11-7.

Referred to the floor (p. 76)

Regarding the **Presbytery of St. Andrews**

Recommendation #55:

That the General Assembly receive the responses of the St. Andrews Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-7)

Referred to the floor (p. 77)

Recommendation #56:

That the Minutes of the St. Andrews Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved without exception.

Referred to the floor (p. 77)

Regarding the **Presbytery of the West**

Recommendation #57: That the General Assembly receive the responses of the Presbytery of the West to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-8).

Referred to the floor (p. 77)

Recommendation #58: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the West subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 69-10 / 70-16D / 71-15A – Approving a call for a for a Teaching Elder without EPC group insurance is out of accord with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-06 and 88-08. The terms of call for Rev. Everest, Rev.

Wilson and Rev. Nylund are remanded to the presbytery for reconsideration.

2. 69-17 / 71.7 – The term for the Moderator of Presbytery is to be a maximum of one year (G-16-15).
3. 70-16D – No term of service as an Assistant Pastor (Wilson) is specified as required by G.11-7. ***Referred to the floor (p. 77)***

General Advice to Presbyteries and Other Recommendations to the Assembly

Recommendation #59: That the Assembly issue the following advice to presbyteries:

Minutes of called meetings should include a statement of the means by which the meeting was called, the fact that notification was made at least 10 days in advance of the meeting and should include a statement of the call (G.16-17). The written communication of the call may be included as an attachment to the minutes.

Referred to the floor (p. 77)

Recommendation #60: That the Assembly refer the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery’s formation of a Permanent Investigative Committee (Minutes 44:12G, p. 93; 46:18, p. 183) to the Permanent Judicial Commission to determine if that action is in order and/or well advised.

Grounds: Forming an Investigative Committee as a permanent committee of presbytery with members serving for a number of years takes away the court’s freedom to appoint people best equipped to deal with circumstances of a given situation. Further, the *Book of Discipline* seems to assume that a Judicial Committee is formed in response to specific charges. This is a new initiative in presbytery life and is a significant precedent. It merits careful examination for constitutional fidelity and wisdom of practice.

Referred to the floor (p. 77)

Recommendation #61: That *Rules for Assembly* 8-11C regarding reporting of exceptions and notations by the Presbytery Review Committee be amended by adding a new 8-11C.2 and renumbering the current section as 8.11C.3.

Current Rules for Assembly 8-11C	Proposed Rules for Assembly 8-11C (amended section is in <i>italics</i>)
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,	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,

<p>non-prejudicial statements of facts and other variations in form may be reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc, may be included here.</p> <p>2. Exceptions: Violations of constitutional standards of actions which in substance appear not to conform to EPC standards should be reported here.</p>	<p>non-prejudicial statements of facts and other variations in form may be reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc, may be included here.</p> <p>2. Notations requiring response: <i>Insufficient information in the Minutes to determine if an action is constitutional. Such notations are not read to the General Assembly but require a response of the presbytery to the Presbytery Review Committee.</i></p> <p>3. Exceptions: Violations of constitutional standards of actions which in substance appear not to conform to EPC standards should be reported here</p>
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Grounds: The Presbytery Review Committee has noted numerous occasions in which presbytery minutes do not include enough information to determine whether constitutional requirements have been followed. In most cases, the action is constitutional and requires only that minutes be corrected to record what actually happened. In an attempt to cut down on the number of minor items reported to the Assembly as exceptions, the Presbytery Review Committee, in forwarding notations to the Stated Clerks of the Presbyteries, has asked for additional information regarding some items. The amendment formalizes this practice.

Referred to the floor (p. 78)

ON MOTION all Recommendations were referred as noted.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

24-13 INSTRUCTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Committee	Chairman	Recording Clerk
Administration	Rev. Mark Jumper	Rev. Austin Olive, Jr.
	Elder Dick Cowan, Vice Chairman	Rev. David Baer
Christian Education & Publications	Elder Cecil Matthews	Rev. Dan Rose
Fraternal Relations	Rev. Don Mason	Rev. Phil Rowland
Memorials & Appreciation	Elder Jerry Dosh	Rev. Chuck Baynard
Ministerial Vocation	Rev. Brad Strait	Elder Bob O'Brien
National Outreach	Elder Gerry Smith	Rev. Tommy Jordan
Overtures & Resolutions*	Rev. Steve Wilkinson	Elder Rives McCord
Student & Young Adult Ministries	Rev. John Uhl	Elder Roy Schrameck
Theology	Rev. Bill Meyer	Rev. Rich Lanning
Women's Ministries	Elder Jan Bole	Rev. Clint Stockton
World Outreach	Rev. David Dwight	Rev. Dan Weidman

*No referrals were forthcoming to this committee and therefore, the Overtures and Resolutions Committee did not convene.

24-14 INTRODUCTIONS

Rev. George Yates introduced the military and institutional chaplains serving in the EPC and offered prayer for their ministries. The following list includes all EPC chaplains. Those noted with an asterisk were present at this Assembly.

Rev. Robert Balnicky, Civil Air Patrol, USAF*
Rev. Ron Crews, NG
Rev. Bruce Gimbel, Jericho Road Ministries*
Rev. Dave Herbertson, Gaston Hospice*
Rev. Brian Hill, USN
Rev. Mark Ingles, USAF*
Rev. Mark Jumper, USN*
Rev. Scott Kennaugh, USAR*
Rev. Jim Letizia, Civil Air Patrol, USAF*
Rev. Tim Mallard*
Rev. Doug McCready, USAR
Rev. Ron Pierce, FBI*
Rev. Russ Ragon, USAF Academy
Rev. Robert Ralston, US Army*
Rev. Nancy Stewart, Shady Grove Adventist Hospital*
Rev. Ron Tamburri, Gainesville Correctional Institution
Rev. David Todd, USN
Rev. John Torres, USAF*
Rev. Daniel White, ARNG
Rev. George Yates, US Army Reserve*

Rev. Brad Yorton, USN (Marines)*

The Stated Clerk introduced representatives from nine new EPC congregations received this past year.

Florida	Hope EPC mission (Tallahassee) New City Presbyterian (Coconut Creek)
Mid-Atlantic	Castanea EPC, Stanley, NC Faith Liberation Community Christian, Charlotte, NC Rivermont EPC, Lynchburg, VA
Midwest	First EPC, Battle Creek, MI Warsaw EPC, Warsaw, IN
Southeast	Buck Hill Presbyterian, Newland, NC
West	Christ the King Presbyterian, Castle Rock, CO

24-15 FACE TO FACE OPPORTUNITIES

Rev. Art Hunt opened with prayer and gave instructions for churches to communicate their need for staff positions.

Location	Church	Position
Warsaw, IN	Warsaw EPC	Pastor
Livonia, MI	Ward EPC	Associate for Pastoral Care
Arvada, CO	Arvada	Pastor
Battle Creek, MI	First EPC	Pastor
Farmington Hills, MI	Grace Chapel	Pastor
Dundalk, MD	Dundalk	Interim Pastor
Alexandria, VA	Faith	Evangelist
Woodinville, WA	Northwest	Pastor
Anna, IL	First EPC	Assistant Pastor
Mt. Pleasant, MI	Mt. Pleasant	Assistant Pastor (Senior Adults & Pastoral Care)
Wilmington, NC	Myrtle Grove	Assistant Pastor (Missions & Outreach)
Tallahassee, FL	Hope EPC	Evangelist

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

MINUTES - THURSDAY AFTERNOON

**Second Session
June 24, 2004**

24-16 STANDING COMMITTEES MEET

Standing committees met in session from 1:30-5:00 P.M. The Board of Pension and Benefits also held an informational meeting at 3:00 P.M.

24-17 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Assembly convened at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Kempsville Presbyterian Church with music by the Kempsville Presbyterian Church Worship Band and announcements by Elder Gary Boystel, Local

Arrangements Committee Chairman. Rev. Michael Moses, pastor of Lake Forest Community Church (EPC) of Cornelius, NC, introduced the evening speaker. Following a choral introit *Just A Little Talk With Jesus*, Chaplain Brad Yorton gave the invocation and the congregation worshiped through music of praise and adoration. Rev. Yorton offered a prayer of confession and assurance of pardon followed by the processional hymn *All Hail the Power of Jesus ' Name*. The Stated Clerk, Rev. Mike Glodo, along with the retiring Moderator, Rev. Ronald DiNunzio, led the service of investiture for Elder Orin Littlejohn, Moderator of the 24th General Assembly. Rev. Bruce Anderson, Associate Pastor of Kempsville Presbyterian Church, offered prayer and received the evening offering. Rev. Craig Strickland, Pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN, preached from Lamentations 2:22-23 on the theme: *What's In a Name?* Following the closing hymn, Rev. David Dwight, Pastor of Hope Church, Richmond, VA, pronounced the benediction.

Order of Worship **Thursday, June 24, 2004**

Gathering Music		Worship Band
Greetings & Announcements		Elder Gary Boystel
	Local Arrangements Committee Chairman	
Introduction of Speaker		Rev. Michael Moses
Call to Worship	<i>Just A Little Talk with Jesus</i>	Faithful Men
Invocation		Chaplain M. Brad Yorton
Praise and Adoration		Gary Walker, Worship Leader
Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon		Chaplain M. Brad Yorton
Processional	<i>All Hail the Power</i>	KPC Banner Ministry
Investiture of the Moderator		Rev. Michael J. Glodo
		Rev. Ronald DiNunzio
Prayers of the People & Offertory Prayer		Rev. Bruce Anderson
Offering*		
Offertory	<i>Stand Up for Jesus</i>	Faithful Men
Scripture Reading & Ministry of the Word		Lamentations 2:22-23
Response to the Word	"What's In a Name?"	Rev. Craig Strickland
Benediction		Gary Walker
Music Response	<i>Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	Rev. David Dwight
		Faithful Men

*This evening's offering will help defray the meeting expenses of the General Assembly.

MINUTES - FRIDAY MORNING

Third Session
June 25, 2004

24-18 MODERATOR'S SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND PRAYER

The Assembly gathered for worship at 8:30 A.M. in the sanctuary of Kempsville Presbyterian Church with music by the Kempsville Presbyterian Church Worship Band and announcements by Gary Boystel, Local Arrangements Committee Chairman. Dr. Perry Mobley, Past Moderator, opened the service of worship with a call to worship and invocation. After congregational singing, Dr. Ronald DiNunzio, retiring Moderator, preached from Amos 8:11-12 on the Theme: *Good Men Doing Evil*. Following the morning offering, Dr. DiNunzio led the court in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, then invited past Moderators to come forward for a ministry of prayer. Following the closing hymn, Dr. DiNunzio pronounced the benediction.

Order of Worship Friday Morning, June 25, 2004

Gathering Music	Worship Band
Greetings & Announcements	Elder Gary Boystel
	Local Arrangements Committee Chairman
Call to Worship & Invocation	Rev. Perry Mobley
Praise & Adoration	Michelle Hickling
Scripture Reading	Amos 8:11-12
Ministry of the Word "Good Men Doing Evil"	Rev. Ronald DiNunzio
Offertory Prayer	Rev. Neil Ellison
Offering*	
Offertory	<i>What Did He Die For?</i> Michelle Hickling
Holy Communion	Rev. Ron DiNunzio
Music Preparation	<i>It Was the Blood</i> Lyle Helmick
Invitation to Ministry of Prayer	Rev. Ron DiNunzio
Ministry of Prayer	Past Moderators
Concluding Hymn	
Benediction	Rev. Ron DiNunzio

This morning's offering will help defray the meeting expenses of the General Assembly.

24-19 CONVENING OF THIRD SESSION AND ADOPTION OF DOCKET

Moderator Orin Littlejohn called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:40 a.m. The docket for Friday, June 25th was presented for approval.

ON MOTION The docket was adopted as follows:

DOCKET Friday, June 25, 2004

7:00-8:30 Continental breakfast (Refreshment Tent)

Committees reconvene as needed

Third Session

- 8:00-12 Registration continues (Narthex)
8:30 Moderator's Service of Communion & Prayer
9:45 Break and Exhibits
10:30 Business Session (Sanctuary)
 - Call to Order & announcements. Opening Prayer.
 - Enrollment update & Adoption of Docket.
 - Introduction of fraternal guests.
 - Committee reports: Women's Ministries, Women's Ministries Director's Report, Board of Pension and Benefits, Partial Report of the Nominating Comm.

11:30-2:00 Women's Ministries Luncheon; "Women of Faith" (Founders Inn - Ballroom; advance ticket required)
12:00 Luncheon for commissioners, observers & guests; ticket required (Refreshment Tent)

Fourth Session

- 1:30-5:00 Business Session (Sanctuary)
 - Committee & Commission reports: Ministerial Vocation, World Outreach, World Outreach Director, Administration. Permanent Judicial Commission, Ad Interim College Committee, Final Report of Nominating Committee and elections.

5:30-7:00 Dinner for Commissioners and Guests (Founders Inn - Ballroom; ticket required)
7:30 Evening Worship Service (Sanctuary)
24th General Assembly Moderator presiding
 - Rev. Rufus Smith, IV, Keynoter
 - Commissioning of World Outreach missionaries
 - Special order for St. Andrews Presbytery

9:00 Refreshments and Exhibits

24-20 INTRODUCTION OF FRATERNAL GUESTS

Rev. Don Mason, Chairman of the Fraternal Relations Committee, opened with prayer. Representatives from various denominations and ministries were welcomed and brought greetings to the Assembly. Rev. Phil De Jonge represented the Christian Reformed Church of North America. Rev. Frank Hunt, Moderator of the 200th General Assembly of the ARP greeted the Assembly on behalf of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. Dr. John Carson, President of Erskine College, spoke on behalf of the school. Due to schedule considerations, Dr. Carson's remarks were postponed until after the Women's Ministries reports.

24-21 MINISTRY REPORT FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

P.K. Fields reported following prayer. The Women's Ministries statement of purpose is "equipping the saints for works of service, building

up the body of Christ" Eph. 4:12. She encouraged the churches to send their women in leadership to the General Assembly, whether or not they are elders. There are opportunities at the Assembly not only to learn and grow but also to take back valuable information for their own church's women's ministries.

Funds received for the Argentine Conference in October have been received and several women from the U.S. will be attending at their own expense to be part of this training conference to set up a Women's Ministry in their churches. Faith Focus 2004 funds will seed startup ministries for women's ministries programs in Argentina. Goal is \$45,000. The goal for Faith Focus 2005 emphasis will be urban ministries. The Committee is working with National outreach Director, Bob Stauffer, in establishing specific goals for this asking.

"Springs of Living Water" (8th National Women's Conference) was held in San Antonio, Texas last fall. She encouraged the churches to put funds in place for the 9th National Women's Conference in 2005. Donna Alberta will be the keynote speaker.

The *per woman* asking continues to be just \$1. This asking funds projects and publications, such as "Woman to Woman." The website has been updated to include current events and other information. Please visit it at www.epc.org.

24-22 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The report was opened with prayer by the Chairman Elder Jan Bole. The Committee was given a brief overview of Women's Ministries events by director, P.K. Fields-Helm. She informed the committee about Faith Focus 2004 and 2005, and provided information about the expanded web site and shared that the Women's Leadership Manual was available on the Web for download. She also shared information about the *Woman to Woman* publication and encouraged the churches to send their women leaders to the Leadership Training workshop next year.

A. Business Referred to Committee

Minutes of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

The **minutes** of the permanent Committee were approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

No additional recommendations were made.

ON MOTION the report of the Committee on Women's Ministries was adopted.

24-23 REPORT OF THE BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS

The report was opened with prayer by Elder John Baird, Chairman. Mr. Baird highlighted the work and actions of the Board. Elder Ron Horgan

(Central South) and Elder Bob Julin (Midwest), both in the Class of 2004, are retiring at the conclusion of two consecutive, busy terms. The Board thanks them for their wisdom and dedication. Elder Candace McCune (West, Class of 2005), Elder John Baird (Midwest, Class of 2005), Elder Bill Johns (Southeast, Class of 2006), and Elder Will Barnes (West, Class of 2006) continue on the Board along with two people to be elected by the 24th General Assembly. Rev. Mike Glodo, Rev Ed McCallum, and Janet Bain attend Board Meetings and are active resources and leaders. The Board is accountable to the Committee on Administration for changes in Medical Insurance Plan benefits, and to the Assembly for the Pension Plan.

Gratitude Gift

The 17th General Assembly approved the Gratitude Gift Fund that is funded by annual, special Christmas offerings to supplement the income of needy retired missionaries and ministers (*Acts of the Assembly* 87-14). The Board was pleased to authorize one-time or modest monthly funds to 12 individuals totaling \$23,570 for 2003-2004. This is **the highest level distribution in the history of the denomination** and is only possible because of the Assembly's generosity.

The EPC Pension Plan

Pension Plan **membership increased by 100 people** (or 13%) to a total of 845 participants between the last Assembly and year-end 2003. Members may select from among **28 mutual funds in eight groups**:

Short term investments

- Balanced funds
- Growth funds
- Asset allocation funds
- Income producing funds
- Growth & Income funds
- International equity funds
- Life Cycle (Fidelity Freedom) Funds

The Pension Plan is worthwhile for all full time church staff. However, as a 403(b) Plan, it is especially valuable to EPC Ministers since they are eligible to declare housing allowance exclusions from pension payments when calculating their Federal Income Tax. Housing allowance exclusions may not be taken from traditional IRA, Roth IRA, or other tax-deferred pension programs. Only 403(b) plan payments are eligible.

Recommendation #14

That the General Assembly designate up to 100% of a minister's early or normal retirement or disability pension for 2005 as a housing allowance for United States income tax purposes (IRS Ruling I.107-1) but only to the extent that pension is used to rent or provide a home.

Rationale

Counsel has advised that the Assembly go on record each year to approve

retirement housing allowance. Retirees who have tax questions should consult their tax advisor.

EPC Group Medical Insurance Plan

The Medical Insurance Plan was significantly improved on January 1, 2004 when we retained Blue Cross/Blue Shield to process claims. While it is still our own, self-insured, Board/COA designed Plan, the use of “the Blues” to process claims means that many more Plan members are able to utilize “in network” providers. This represents a cost savings to Plan members who, in the past, lived in areas where some/many/all providers did not utilize the Preferred Provider Organization that the Plan had been using. “The Blues” is the largest PPO in the U.S with 90% - 95% of all physicians and hospitals being affiliated with them.

In the past year, **Plan membership grew 19%** (which is on top of the 9% growth experienced in the preceding year). Churches joining the Plan are now reporting that **their detailed analyses are revealing that the value of the Plan (i.e., the cost of premiums versus the extent of coverage) is better than commercially available plans.**

Key financial data in 2003:

- Claims totaling \$3,555,234 were paid out.
- Revenues at \$4.6 million were in balance with expenses at \$4.4 million.
- Net Assets (the amount of assets in excess of liabilities) increased \$263,000 during the 12-month period.

Plan enhancements – In addition to retaining Blue Cross/ Blue Shield to process claims, the Medical Insurance and Prescription Drug Plans are being improved in several ways including:

All life time maximums were reset to zero on 1/1/04. This means, for example, that everyone in the Plan on that date had all prior accumulated expenses “forgiven” and accumulations against their \$1 million lifetime coverage started over. This is especially valuable to people whose membership in the Plan has been maintained over the years.

Medical expenses due to sleep disorders will be covered beginning next year. A “premium holiday” for retirees was observed in February 2004.

Cost containment – The Board and Assembly Offices have taken several actions to contain costs including:

- Working ministers and spouses age 65+ are being encouraged to participate in Medicare.
- Fees charged by Express-Scripts were lowered by an amount approximating 1% of the Plan’s total drug expense.
- Electronic Funds Transfer has been substituted for wire-transfer of funds, saving about \$1,000 each year.

- The process for considering exceptions to the Health Insurance Plan coverage is being focused on situations involving genuine financial hardship and/or genuinely unique medical circumstances.

Pending matters/issues:

The new Medicare prescription drug plan will likely impact the Plan; we are working with our consultant to determine which plan revisions, if any, are appropriate.

Many Plan members are not taking appropriate advantage of the lower co-pays for generic drugs, and for the mail away program. In addition to new educational efforts, alternatives are being explored that could lower the co-pays for generic drugs, and for the mail away program, and increase other co-pays, thus increasing the financial incentive to take advantage of the savings available to members (and to the Plan).

Maintenance of the regional premium structure (Regions A, B, and C) has not occurred in several years. Consideration is being given to moving to 4 regions (rather than 3), and updating the region-assignment of each church to assure that premiums are charged consistently with local health care costs.

Some Presbyteries have been diligent to assure that EPC Ministers in EPC churches participate in the Medical Insurance Plan. Other presbyteries have not. The Board is concerned that some churches are being permitted to purchase less insurance (i.e. lower coverage) for ministers in the name of “good stewardship.” In such cases, ministers are not receiving the compensation prescribed by the Assembly. All presbyteries are urged to assure that the action of the 4th General Assembly be honored so that ministers are assured appropriate health insurance coverage.

An Open Enrollment will be conducted this coming November. Non-participating pastors and churches are urged to give thoughtful, genuine consideration to joining the EPC Plan.

Conclusion

The design and delivery of the EPC Medical and Prescription Drug Plans have improved radically in the past few years. Membership is growing and premium increases have been kept at, or below national averages for the past four years. Increasingly, people are describing the Plan as “the best since the denomination was founded.”

ON MOTION the report of the Board of Pensions and Benefits was adopted.

24-24 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Don Van Dyke, chairman of the Nominating Committee, opened his report with prayer. The chairman noted that all pre-registered commissioners have been assigned to standing committees and that those

assignments were distributed at registration.

The slate of nominations for permanent committees follows:

Committee on Administration

Class of 2007	Elder John Adamson (Central South) Rev. Bill Meyer (Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2005	Elder Allen Roes (Mid-Atlantic) Rev. Bill Flannagan (Southeast)

Committee on Christian Education & Publications

Class of 2007	Rev. Brad Strait (West) Hugo Izzo (Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2005	Rev. David Baer (West)

Committee on Fraternal Relations

Class of 2007	Rev. Craig Vanbiber (Midwest) Elder Frank Johnson (East)
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Committee on Ministerial Vocation

Class of 2007	Rev. George Yates (East) Elder Bill Meeks (Mid-America)
Class of 2005	Elder Jerry Kidd (Mid-Atlantic)

Committee on National Outreach

Class of 2007	Elder Jim Berni (Midwest) Rev. Rodger Woodworth (East) Elder Ted Brandsma (West)
Class of 2005	Rev. Grady Davidson (Southeast)

Committee on Presbytery Review

Class of 2007	Elder Jay Curtis (Florida)
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Committee on Student & Young Adult Ministries

Class of 2007	Brandon Bates (Central South) Rev. George Boomer (Mid-America)
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Committee on Theology

Class of 2007	Rev. Jeff Jeremiah (West) Elder Bill Painter (Midwest)
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Committee on Women's Ministries

Class of 2007	Libby Cooper (Mid-Atlantic) Sandy Gavin (East)
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Committee on World Outreach

Class of 2007	Elder Bern Draper (West) Rev. Gene Huntzinger (Central South) Elder Ted Galyon (Central South)
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Board of Pension and Benefits

Class of 2007	Rev. Roy Zinn (Southeast)
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Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2007

Elder Sam Searcy (West)

Rev. Percy Burns (Mid-Atlantic)

Elder Dale Schaefer (Mid-America)

ON MOTION the nominations were closed, and the partial report of the Nominating Committee was received.

At 12:10 P.M. the Assembly adjourned for lunch following prayer by the Moderator.

MINUTES - FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Fourth Session

June 25, 2004

24-25 ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

At 1:35 p.m. the Assembly reconvened with announcements from the Local Arrangements Committee Chairman, Elder Gary Boystel, and prayer by the Moderator.

ON MOTION the Nominating committee report was reconsidered.

The Moderator opened the floor to further nominations. No further nominations were forthcoming.

ON MOTION the nominations were closed.

24-26 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION

The report was opened with prayer by the chairman, Rev. Brad Strait.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Recommendation #20**
2. **Recommendation #21**
3. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #20** be adopted that, in response to the referral of the 23rd General Assembly, this Assembly finds that provisions for succession of associate pastors (G.11.6) and ministers in temporary relationships with churches (G.11.8 as amended and sent as a descending overture to presbyteries by the 23rd General Assembly) do not create any inequity.

Grounds: The source and terms of call for associate pastors and for ministers serving in temporary relationships are fundamentally different. Associate pastors are called by the congregation and have no term limit. Ministers in a temporary relationship are invited to serve by the session for a specific period of time. While

it is appropriate to require a minister serving in a temporary capacity to step aside in order to be considered for a call, it is not appropriate to ask an associate to step down from the long-term relationship established between the congregation and the minister.

Adopted

2. **Recommendation #21**

The Assembly directs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to adjust the written Theology and Sacraments Examination to include questions on Reformed tradition to account for at least 20% of the examination score and re-title the examination as “Theology, Sacraments and Reformed Tradition.” The new examination shall be implemented in January 2005.

Grounds: Some presbyteries have noted a lack of knowledge of the Reformed tradition in candidates. Written examinations are required in 5 areas: Theology and Sacraments, English Bible, the Book of Order, the Reformed tradition, and the Nature of the Office of Minister of the Word (G.13.2). The EPC has incorporated all five areas in three written examinations. This motion will put appropriate weight on the subject of the Reformed tradition and re-titling the examination will encourage study of the topic in preparation for taking the exam.

The Standing Committee recommends Assembly approval of a substitute motion for Overture 03-B. (See Attachment MVC-1, Ministerial Vocation Committee report.)

ON MOTION the Assembly directs the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation to re-title the written Theology and Sacraments examination as *Theology, Sacraments, and Reformed Tradition*, and to structure the examination so as to adequately measure the candidate’s knowledge of all three areas.

3. That the minutes of the permanent committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

ON MOTION the report of the Ministerial Vocation Committee was adopted.

24-27 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

The chairman, Rev. David Dwight, opened the report with prayer.

The World Outreach standing committee recognized Jeff Chadwick, World Outreach Director, and representatives of the permanent Committee on World Outreach who were present in the meeting.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Recommendation #33**

2. **Recommendation #34**
3. **Recommendation #35**
4. **Minutes of the permanent committee**

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #33 be adopted** amending the *World Outreach Missions Manual* in section 103.4-J by replacing the first sentence with the following, to be followed by the second sentence and bullet points as already printed:

Agencies may be granted approved status by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the World Outreach Committee on the basis of common goals, strategic opportunities, particular services those agencies may offer to the EPC or other bases judged to be of strategic value to World Outreach. Approved projects and agencies may represent themselves as such to EPC congregations. Projects will only be approved for agencies that have approved status. The status of approved agencies shall be reviewed after three years and every five years thereafter to determine whether it shall be continued. Without a recommendation for renewal, approved status will automatically expire at the end of those time periods. The World Outreach Committee may act at any time for cause to recommend removal of approved status. **Adopted**

2. That **Recommendation #34** be adopted that the General Assembly approve the cooperative agreement with Footprints, International as defined in attachment 1 of the World Outreach Committee Report. **Adopted**
3. That **Recommendation #35** be adopted that the General Assembly grant IN Network status as an approved mission agency (cf. Attachment 2 in the World Outreach Committee Report). **Adopted**
4. **Minutes** of the permanent committee were approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

The standing committee commended the permanent committee and Rev. Jeff Chadwick for their diligence in representing the EPC in reaching the world for Jesus Christ.

ON MOTION the report of the Committee on World Outreach was adopted.

24-28 REPORT OF THE WORLD OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Rev. Jeff Chadwick, Director of World Outreach, opened the report with prayer. He noted that the World Outreach missionaries are a subfamily of the larger church and gave a snapshot of the missionaries, where they are serving, the mix of single people, married and widowed. He joyfully

reported on the ministries of these individuals and families and specifically that of the new EPC mission field in Malaysia. This team has been initiated by a Frontiers missionary. Rev. Chadwick asked World Outreach missionary John McCurry to speak about outreach to Muslims in the Arab Gulf. He envisions at least three more teams over the next five years for service in this location.

The challenge before us is recruiting these teams for Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. Rev. Chadwick believes that those team members may be right here in this room and he encouraged commissioners to pray for EPC missionaries and to financially support them. Several are still raising funds so they can be sent to the field.

24-29 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

The report was opened with prayer by the chairman, Rev. Mark Jumper.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Recommendation #1 (Cf. Communication #04-4)**
2. **Recommendation #2 (Cf. Communication #04-5)**
3. **Recommendation #3**
4. **Recommendation #4**
5. **Recommendation #5**
6. **Recommendation #8**
7. **Recommendation #9**
8. **Recommendation #10**
9. **Recommendation #25**
10. **Recommendation #26**
11. **Communication #04-4 (Cf. Recommendation #1)**
12. **Communication #04-5**
13. **Minutes of the permanent committee**
14. **Recommendation #6**

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #1** be adopted that the Assembly accept the invitation of Lookout Mountain Community Church, Golden, CO (**Communication #04-4**) to host the 25th General Assembly with the cooperation of Presbytery of the West and the General Assembly. *Adopted*
2. That **Recommendation #2** be adopted that the Assembly accept the invitation of First Presbyterian Church (Rome, GA (**Communication #04-5**) to host the 26th General Assembly. *Adopted*
3. That **Recommendation #3** that the 24th General Assembly establish a 25th anniversary celebration committee consisting of one member from each presbytery to be named by the Moderator for the purpose of planning and implementing a commemoration of

the EPC's 25th year. (NOTE: The conclusion of the 25th year of the EPC at its 26th General Assembly will coincide with the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the first American presbytery.)

Adopted

4. That **Recommendation #4** that the **2004 Thanksgiving Offering** be designated for the work of denominational urban ministries, to be administered by the National Outreach Committee be adopted.
Adopted
5. That **Recommendation #5** that the *Book of Government* and *Rules for Assembly* be amended to provide for the nomination and election of a Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. (Details of this recommendation are found in the attachment to the Committee on Administration Report).
Adopted
6. That **Recommendation #8** that, pursuant to the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly to study an equitable method of funding the General Assembly budget, the 24th General Assembly take no action at this time in light of the substantial progress in participation of more churches at higher levels of their per member asking. Further, that the Committee be directed to report once again to the 25th General Assembly regarding this matter.
Adopted
7. That **Recommendation #9** that the Proposed 2005 Administration Budget for \$1,272,900 be adopted.
Adopted
8. That **Recommendation #10** that the Proposed 2005 Benevolence Askings for \$484,000 be adopted.
Adopted
9. That **Recommendation #25** to amend the 2004 Benevolence Askings for: \$5,000 for a College Ministry Leadership Summit and \$10,000 for Leadership Development be adopted.

Grounds: In order to better establish momentum for the permanent committee and begin ministry between churches and college campuses, finances must be available. *Adopted*

10. That **Recommendation #26** to approve for the 2005 Benevolence Askings: \$5,000 for College Ministry Conference and \$20,000 for Leadership Development.

Grounds: SYAM believes it will be important to develop a conference to minister to college students in the near future. The Committee also knows that financial assistance will continue to be

needed in placing trained leaders in EPC churches and college campuses. *Adopted*

11. **Communication #04-4** (See Recommendation #1 above.)
12. **Communication #04-5** (See Recommendation #2 above.)
13. The **Minutes** of the permanent committee were approved with minor notations and refers them back to the permanent Committee for correction as needed, and for future standardization.
14. That **Recommendation #6** be adopted that the Assembly dismiss the St. Andrews Presbytery and grant it recognition as a national Reformed and Presbyterian body according to the proposed Articles of Dismissal and Agreement and, by virtue of such, adopt such articles. (The Articles of Dismissal and Agreement are found in an attachment to the Committee on Administration Report).

And, as part of this historic recommendation, full of significance for the world Reformed community, we request opportunity to recognize our brothers from Argentina by giving them opportunity to express their feelings on the floor of the Assembly. Following the vote, we request opportunity for the General Assembly to sing *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, followed by a benediction provided by former EPC moderator John Graham, who has been active in the relationship with St. Andrews. *Adopted*

The Moderator of the St. Andrews Presbytery, Rev. Oswaldo Fernandez, spoke to the motion. His words are included in their totality as follows:

Today that we are considering the process of dismissal of the Saint Andrews Presbytery from the EPC and the “Articles of Agreement and Dismissal,” I am glad to officially express to you that this process and document have been unanimously approved by the Saint Andrews Presbytery and the civil entities that represent the presbytery before the Argentine government.

I would like to present to you the following considerations:

1. We want to express our gratitude to God for you, because you have helped us to approach the goal of becoming a church with Evangelical and Reformed roots that lives and reproduces with fruits from the Holy Spirit.
2. Seventeen years have passed and we are committed to be what the Lord is guiding us to be from now on: two churches with a common mission. We experienced the change from a historic and ethnic church to become a historic and multicultural church. We thank God for this.

3. It is our desire that our fraternal relations may continue and that we can develop networks of cooperation from the standpoint of our ecclesiastical institutions and ministries. We are grateful to you for giving us your support in allowing us to use the Constitutional documents of the EPC and the court of appeal for the five years transition period. Your experience in this regard will be very valuable.
4. Today our life and mission are performed in the midst of suffering and sacrifice for the truth of the Gospel. Let us continue working so our missionaries, men and women, can keep on discovering enriching contexts of mission that can allow the furthering of the Kingdom of God.

ON MOTION the comments of Rev. Freddie Berk and Rev. Julio Lopes are also to be included in the minutes of the Assembly.

From **Rev. Freddie Berk**, Teaching Elder, St. Andrews Presbytery:

I would just like to share some thoughts as one who, 18 years ago, presented and defended the position of bringing the Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andreas into the folds of the EPC. And today, we will vote presumably in favor of the motion to dismiss St. Andrews Presbytery from the EPC. The Argentine presbytery, recognizing that the EPC believes the time has come for this to occur, has also approved the Articles of Dismissal. Personally, I am concerned about this decision. And before it is taken I would like to express some thoughts that I think would be helpful to the EPC.

Those who know me also know of my respect and gratitude for what the EPC has meant in my own life, and in the life of the Presbytery of St. Andrews. So I trust you will take these thoughts as a positive contribution which may stir in you some lines for reflection. I speak as one who stood before you at the 7th General Assembly and pleaded in favor of the motion to incorporate the Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andreas as a presbytery of the EPC. And this is my only credential for speaking at this time. My thoughts are my own and do not necessarily represent the thinking of St. Andrews Presbytery.

Although I could also speak about the great strides the Presbytery has taken in these last 18 years, I want to address these remarks regarding the opportunities that have been missed by the EPC in Argentina, and by doing so discover some lessons that could be learned which might otherwise go unnoticed. At least some of these lessons deal with principles which are at the core of what I understand are at the heart of Presbyterian beliefs.

I want to refer to the principle of authority as against all authoritarianism. To do this I need to remind you of events that occurred nearly 400 years ago between the years of 1661 when the English government issued the Rescissory Act and reinstated episcopacy in Scotland, and 1688, the year of what was called “the glorious English revolution.” During those years, approximately 18,000 people were

martyred in Scotland in defense of the principle of liberty of conscience. Many Presbyterian ministers who would not conform were thrown out of their churches, many common people were sent to jail, many emigrated and many settled in the colonies of North America. I believe these people and their descendants played an important part in the history of your nation. They brought with them the fierce determination to maintain their right to think as they believed. You have to read the stories of the Covenanters as they hid in caves and cemeteries and of the courage of people who used to feed them at the risk of their lives to understand and value the heritage this country possesses as a result of that persecution. Some historians compare it in its fierceness to the persecution of the early Christians under Diocletian toward the end of the Third Century. The outcome of this struggle was the end of the doctrine of the divine right of kings and in England, the institution of constitutional monarchy.

You might well ask, "What does all this do with the Argentina presbytery?" In fact, a great deal. The authoritarianism that was rife at the time of the Stuart kings in the British Isles was continued in Spain throughout the period of colonization of Latin America. Argentine historians make the point that authoritarianism breeds a very virulent form of corruption that pervades all areas of the nation's spirit and conscience. The roots of that authoritarianism, they say, are to be found in the Roman Catholic Church and the legacy left by Spanish colonial rule.

What does the Presbyterian spirit do when it enters this type of scenario? The same as the Covenanters did in Scotland. It denounces any action or belief that attacks the liberty of conscience or affects the outworking of God's sovereign grace in the heart of the individual. This had been in Peru when John Mackay was sent by the Free Church of Scotland in opposition to the World Missionary Congress held in Edinburgh in early 1900s and deliberately ignored the Latin American field partly because it was already dominated by the Roman Catholic Church. He founded schools. His successor wrote a book titled, *The Birth of a Nation*, and a former student battled in Congress for the repeal of laws that affected the liberty of religion. Trumbull Ankilley, a Presbyterian minister thwarted the level of the national congress for the repeal of the laws which affected freedom of religion was evangelizing and working in the field of education.

What, then, are the missed opportunities of 18 years of EPC involvement in Argentina, Precisely this: The spirit which is expected to pervade in a Presbyterian church in this country, the USA, was not transferred to a country which is also seeking equal religious rights with a dominant Roman Catholic church where all non-Roman churches are organized as football clubs and must register in the government office which is a dependency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But most of all, it has not affected the spirit of members of the Presbytery, both old and new, who remain ignorant of their Presbyterian roots. This is not what happened in Chile or Peru or Brazil. Perhaps the reason is that for 15 years the concept of incarnational mission, of people willing to transfer manhood

to men, their being to others, was ignored. That is a pity. That is the great missed opportunity.

But the final question that remains is whether the EPC possesses this spirit at all. Back in 1987 in Rome, Georgia, I sensed the pain of separation. The suffering was there as well as the determination to carry on because of these things of liberty of conscience. God's sovereign rule in the lives of people could not be jeopardized. Alas, as the shadows of time grow longer, often these first spasms which produced noble deeds are forgotten. It happens very often when one generation passes on to the next. I believe personally that the greatest contribution the Argentine presbytery can offer the Evangelical Presbyterian Church at this time is to provide you with a source of reflection, not so much as to lost opportunities in Argentina but rather to the spirit which predominates in the denomination today as it lives and witnesses in this great country. It is still willing to battle against the present post-Christian environment in favor of the reestablishment of the lost Christian consensus. There is still breathed that spirit of outspokenness when confronted with the spirit of the age within which it lives. These are the questions that must be answered, and that, of course, is for you to think about and judge.

This was written in love 500 miles away from the presbytery office in the little place where I live and 12,000 miles from here, about two months ago before I heard the messages at this General Assembly this year. This is given to you with love, as a contribution from one who loves you and who owes all he has in his knowledge of what a Presbyterian is and should be to his relationship with you across the years. Thank you very much, sir.

From **Julio Lopez**, Teaching Elder in the St. Andrews Presbytery:

You were kind with us, you were and we thank you for this. So it's my soul in front of you saying you were doing I guess many good things for us. You met us one night. It was stormy, it was rainy, and we were alone in the night. God's providence put you in the same way and you brought us on the road to home. So you dropped us now some blocks from the very entrance. That's fine. So, thank you very much for this. And you have offered us many things, but the best thing I could say is in terms of training, you have shared your intimacy with us. You have seated us at your tables and we were discussing together with you many things. Good things and bad things. We came to great agreement. Yet here, in the same manner we did one with the other, we were doing this among you so we felt at home with you. It was very, very good for us. It was good training and taught us to look one to the other with more merciful thoughts than judgment thoughts. So it was good for us and helped us much to improve our relationships these last two years. So thank you for all of this. May the Lord bless you in the coming years, and please send us - don't let us just leave - send us with your blessing. Thank you.

Rev. Don Galardi raised the question as to what the reference to "missed opportunities" by Rev. Berk meant. Rev. Tom Masterson offered words of explanation. "In summary, in talking with the Argentine brothers, they are

very pleased with the point at which we have arrived recently, say, in the past 3-5 years in our missions relationship with Argentina. We've been willing to send our people there to invest themselves in their success. That willingness seemed to be absent in our early years of the partnership. That, I think, was the comment being made. If we had been more incarnational in our missions philosophy sooner, we would have arrived at this point of their independency at an earlier date, with a much stronger base of support and teaching elder readiness. I think the other sentiment you may have heard expressed was that they are just now at the point of dismissal only a presbytery. They are not yet their own General Assembly, which was our mutual goal at the beginning if I understand it correctly. So we are a little short of where we wanted to be at the end of our partnership but nonetheless where both sides mutually feel independency is achievable, and reasonable and desirable... The most important thing to know is that the Argentine brothers seem to be of a unanimous consensus that this is in their best interest as well as our best interest. Thank you, Mr. Moderator."

ON MOTION Recommendation #6 was adopted.

The Stated Clerk noted that there will be a suitable observance and commemoration of this historic event at the evening's worship service as well.

The court joined in the singing of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, followed by a benediction provided by former EPC moderator, Elder John Graham

The standing committee commended the permanent Committee for their diligent labors during the past year.

ON MOTION the report of the Committee on Administration was adopted.

24-30 PROGRESS REPORT ON VISION 21

The Moderator exercised the privilege of inviting Elder Bill Johns to give a progress report on Vision 21.

Elder Bill Johns opened with prayer and gave a brief report on the progress of Vision 21. Mr. Johns reported that the initial annual cost for the position of a Stewardship Director has been given. Mr. Johns closed his report with prayer, specifically asking in faith for the \$45,000 additional funding needed for a national search for this new position.

Following a recess, the Assembly joined in prayer for God to provide both a Stewardship Director and the funding necessary to bring that person on board.

24-31 REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Elder Reese Baker, Moderator of the PJC, opened the report with prayer. A

telephonic meeting of the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was held on May 14, 2004. In attendance were commission members RE Reese Baker (Commission Moderator), TE Percy Burns, RE Dale Schaefer, RE Tony Register, RE Jim Rimmel, RE John Graham, TE Jim Letizia. Also in attendance was Mike Glodo, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. RE Barry Smith and TE Don Galardi were unable to participate. Moderator Reese Baker opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The moderator reviewed the responsibilities of the PJC. There were no questions of interpretation of the *Book of Order* for consideration. Proposals to amend the Constitution are to be judged in light of clarity, consistency of language and compatibility with other parts of the Constitution including possible recommendations of changes in wording and advice to accept or reject. There were no judicial cases referred to the General Assembly for consideration.

There were no overtures from presbyteries for Constitutional amendments received to date. (Note: it was observed that a later meeting of the PJC may be justified in order to allow for the completion of all spring meetings of the presbyteries and reception of any Overtures as a result thereof.)

Recommendation from the Kazakhstan Commission

The PJC considered a proposed constitutional change coming from the Kazakhstan Commission formed by the 22nd General Assembly to work with the Partnership of Reformed Churches in Kazakhstan served by World Outreach missionaries to develop constitutional standards, to recognize it as a national Reformed church and to recommend any changes to EPC governing documents which would enable the EPC and World Outreach to work more effectively in future similar situations.

The Commission is recommending that the General Assembly amend the *Book of Government* by inserting the following sentence ahead of the last sentence in G.10-3-C:

In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The paragraph, as amended, would appear as follows, with the addition in bold italics:

Evangelist: 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. ***In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.*** 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.

The PJC recommends the assembly not approve the insertion of the language prepared by the Kazakhstan Commission on the grounds that the language is unclear and that the following language be inserted in place of the language recommended by the Commission:

When an Evangelist is called to be a missionary by the World Outreach Committee of the General Assembly, the General Assembly may request the Presbytery of which the Evangelist is a member to empower the Evangelist to identify, train (prepare for office) and, upon being commissioned by the Presbytery, to ordain and install ruling elders and /or deacons to serve an emerging national church that is not a particular or mission church within the geographical boundaries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The World Outreach Committee of the General Assembly shall determine what constitutes an emerging national church for purposes of this section.

By common consent the motion was split as follows:

1. That the PJC recommend that the Assembly not approve the insertion of the language recommended by the Commission on the grounds that the language is unclear.
2. That the PJC recommend the Assembly amend the *Book of Order* approve the insertion of the following language ahead of the last sentence in **G.10-3-C**, as a substitute to the language recommended by the Commission:

When an Evangelist is called to be a missionary by the World Outreach Committee of the General Assembly, the General Assembly may request the Presbytery of which the Evangelist is a member to empower the Evangelist to identify, train (prepare for office) and, upon being commissioned by the Presbytery, to ordain and install ruling elders and /or deacons to serve an emerging national church that is not a particular or mission church within the geographical boundaries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The World Outreach Committee of the General Assembly shall determine what constitutes an emerging national church for purposes of this section.

Commission Wording	PJC Proposed Wording
In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.	In addition When an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church <u>in accordance with applicable rules and regulations promulgated by the World Outreach Committee.</u>

ON MOTION the recommendation was postponed until the report of the Kazakhstan Commission.

Recommendation from Committee on Administration concerning Moderator-elect.

The PJC considered the following recommendation from the Committee on Administration (COA):

That the *Book of Government* be amended as follows in order to provide for the office of Moderator-elect.

Present wording	Proposed wording
§16-21 Officers of the General Assembly: The General Assembly shall have a Moderator who will be elected at each stated meeting. He may be a Minister or Ruling Elder. The person elected must be a member of the court and is not eligible to succession. The Moderator shall continue to be a member of the court until a successor is elected. In the event of death or disability, the most immediate past Moderator shall serve until a Moderator is elected.	§16-21 Officers of the General Assembly: The General Assembly shall have a Moderator, a Moderator-elect and a Stated Clerk. A. Moderator and Moderator-elect: The General Assembly shall have a Moderator and a Moderator-elect who will be elected at each stated meeting. They may be a Ministers or Ruling Elders. The persons elected must be a member of the court and is/are not eligible to succession to their respective
The General Assembly shall elect a Stated Clerk who shall serve for a	offices. The Moderator They shall continue to be a members of the court until their/a

<p>period of three years, with eligibility for reelection for two additional terms. The Stated Clerk may be elected for additional terms if the General Assembly, by a 2/3 vote, sets aside this limitation for each additional term. The Stated Clerk must be eligible for membership in the court. Past Ruling Elder Moderators continue as members of the court as long as each maintains active membership in a church of the EPC.</p>	<p>successors is/are elected. In the event of death or disability of the Moderator, the most immediate past Moderator shall serve until a Moderator is elected. The Moderator-elect shall normally be the nominee for Moderator at the succeeding Assembly.</p> <p>B. The General Assembly shall elect a Stated Clerk who shall serve for a period of three years, with eligibility for reelection for two additional terms. The Stated Clerk may be elected for additional terms if the General Assembly, by a 2/3 vote, sets aside this limitation for each additional term. The Stated Clerk must be eligible for membership in the court.</p> <p>C. Past Ruling Elder Moderators continue as members of the court as long as each maintains active membership in a church of the EPC.</p>
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Upon motion the PJC found the recommendation from the COA clear, consistent and compatible with other parts of the Constitution and recommends its passage by the General Assembly.

Ordination/installation vow 8 for deacons.

Stated Clerk, Rev. Mike Glodo, raised a question about Vow #7, located in the *Book of Government* §14-1 E. 7 and is stated as follows: “Do you promise subjection to your fellow presbyters in the Lord?”

The Stated Clerk indicated that the phrase “fellow presbyters” would seem not to apply to deacons since they are not presbyters. The substitution of the word “officers” for “presbyters” would be accurate.

ON MOTION the General Assembly approved **Recommendation #22** to amend the ***Book of Government*** §14-1 E.7 by substituting the word “officers” in the place of the word “presbyters.”

Grounds: The vow as currently written is inappropriate in its application to deacons since deacons are not presbyters. Substitution of the word “officers” makes the vow appropriate to elders and deacons.

Information.

The Commission received as information from the Stated Clerk that a proposed procedure manual for the ***Book of Discipline*** would likely come before the PJC next year for consideration and that Commission members be prepared to travel to the Office of the General Assembly for their annual meeting.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted

ON MOTION the Assembly approved the insertion of the remarks of the Argentine Commission in the appropriate places in the record.

24-32 REPORT OF THE AD INTERIM COMMITTEE ON COLLEGE MINISTRIES

Rev. Rick Stauffer, Chairman, opened the report with prayer. Rev. Stauffer highlighted the written report of the Ad Interim Committee as published in the Commissioners' Handbook. Rev. Stauffer invited Rev. Brett Eubank and Rev. David Lovell to describe the ministry of His Life Campus Ministry.

Recommendations to the General Assembly:

1. That **Recommendation #23** be adopted "that the Assembly form a permanent Committee on College Ministry made up of two Ruling Elders, two Teaching Elders, and two non-ordained church members involved with college ministry that will begin at the 25th General Assembly (2005)."

Grounds:

The task before the SYAM Committee in college ministry is too much to add to an already very full plate for this committee. This committee needs to operate on its own to bridge the SYAM committee and National Outreach, training EPC young people to be the next church planters.

Adopted

2. That **Recommendation #24** be adopted "to enter into a cooperative agreement with The National Leadership Foundation/His Life Campus Ministry (HCLM) according to the proposed cooperative agreement appended to this report (cf. pp. 249ff)."

Grounds:

This kind of relationship is already beginning in some EPC churches. HCLM is perfectly in line with the vision and philosophy of making the church the center of ministry for this generation and is successful at doing it. This cooperative agreement will allow us to move much more rapidly into actual ministry.

Adopted

3. That **Recommendation #27** be adopted to extend the term of this Ad

Interim Committee on College Ministry for a period of one year.

Grounds:

There is much work that can be done and needs to be done in the next year in preparation for the permanent committee. Many things can begin in the cooperative agreement with HLCM but there needs to be a team to oversee it. (Cf. pp. 249ff for Agreement) *Adopted*

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

Elder Knox Sherer led the assembly in prayer for EPC college ministry and its leadership.

24-33 FINAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Don Van Dyke, chairman of the Nominating Committee, opened his report with prayer. The slate of nominations for permanent committees follows:

Committee on Administration

Class of 2007	Elder John Adamson (Central South) Rev. Bill Meyer (Mid-Atlantic) Elder Allen Roes (Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2005	Rev. Bill Flannagan (Southeast)

Committee on Christian Education & Publications

Class of 2007	Rev. Brad Strait (West) Hugo Izzo (Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2005	Rev. David Baer (West)

Committee on Fraternal Relations

Class of 2007	Rev. Craig Vanbiber (Midwest) Elder Frank Johnson (East)
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Committee on Ministerial Vocation

Class of 2007	Rev. George Yates (East) Elder Bill Meeks (Mid-America)
Class of 2005	Elder Jerry Kidd (Mid-Atlantic)

Committee on National Outreach

Class of 2007	Elder Jim Berni (Midwest) Rev. Rodger Woodworth (East) Elder Ted Brandsma (West)
Class of 2005	Rev. Grady Davidson (Southeast)

Committee on Presbytery Review

Class of 2007	Elder Jay Curtis (Florida)
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Committee on Student & Young Adult Ministries

Class of 2007	Brandon Bates (Central South) Rev. George Boomer (Mid-America)
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Committee on Theology

Class of 2007

Rev. Jeff Jeremiah (West)
Elder Bill Painter (Midwest)

Committee on Women's Ministries

Class of 2007

Libby Cooper (Mid-Atlantic)
Sandy Gavin (East)

Committee on World Outreach

Class of 2007

Elder Bern Draper (West)
Rev. Gene Huntzinger (Central South)
Elder Ted Galyon (Central South)

Board of Pension and Benefits

Class of 2007

Rev. Roy Zinn (Southeast)
Elder Milton Knowlton (Central South)

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2007

Elder Sam Searcy (West)
Rev. Percy Burns (Mid-Atlantic)
Elder Dale Schaefer (Mid-America)

ON MOTION the slate of nominations was adopted.

ON MOTION the final report of the Nominating Committee was adopted.

ON MOTION nominations by the 23rd General Assembly Moderator
(**Communication 04-1**) were adopted as follows:

Board of Pension and Benefits Chairman:

Elder John Baird (Midwest)

Nominating Committee Class of 2007:

Rev. Dan Weidman (Midwest)
Elder Bob Lloyd (Florida)
Elder Zelda Artz (East)

The appointment of 2004-2005 Nominating Committee chairman, Rev. Darrin "Rocky" Anthony (Central South) was received.

The Moderator adjourned with prayer at 4:15 p.m.

24-34 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Assembly convened at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Kempsville Presbyterian Church with music by the Kempsville Presbyterian Church Worship Band and announcements by Gary Boystel, Local Arrangements Committee Chairman. Rev. Sanders Willson, pastor of Second Presbyterian Church of Memphis, TN introduced the evening speaker. Rev. Julio Lopez, pastor of Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andrés, Temperley, led the congregation in the assurance of pardon and the Lord's Prayer. Elder John Graham, Moderator of the 21st General Assembly made a special presentation on behalf of the Assembly. Rev. Edward Davis, Stated

Clerk Emeritus, led the court in a special time of prayer for St. Andrews Presbytery as it begins a new era as a Reformed Body in Argentina. Rev. Ed Randall and Rev. Jeff Chadwick, on behalf of the World Outreach Committee, conducted a special service of commissioning for new EPC Missionaries. Rev. Rufus Smith IV, pastor of The City of Refuge, Houston, TX, preached from Luke 11:5-13 on the theme ***When God Will Always Answer Prayer***. Rev. Bill Hyer, pastor of Christ Church (EPC), Anderson, SC, closed the service with a benediction.

Order of Worship Friday Evening, June 25, 2004

Gathering Music	Worship Band
Greetings & Announcements	Elder Gary Boystel
	Local Arrangements Committee Chairman
Introduction of Speaker	Rev. Sanders Willson, Pastor
	Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee
Call to Worship	<i>Goin' With Jesus</i> Hands of Praise
Invocation	Rev. Percy Burns, Pastor
	St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC
Praise, Worship & Confession	Lyle Helmick, Worship Leader
Assurance of Pardon & Lord's Prayer	Rev. Julio Lopez, Pastor
	Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andrés, Belgrano
Special Presentation	Elder John Graham, Moderator
	<i>21st General Assembly</i>
Prayers for St. Andrews Presbytery	Rev. L. Edward Davis
	Stated Clerk Emeritus
Song of Missions	Lyle Helmick
Commissioning of New Missionaries	Rev. Ed Randal, Chairman
	World Outreach Committee
	Rev. Jeff Chadwick, World Outreach Director
Offertory Prayer	Elder Orin Littlejohn, Moderator
Offering*	
Offertory	<i>End of the Beginning</i> Chancel Choir
	Robert Klein, soloist
Scripture Reading &	Rev. Rufus Smith IV, Pastor
Ministry of the Word	The City of Refuge, Houston, TX
	“When God Will Always Answer Prayer”
	Luke 11:5-13
Response to the Word	Lyle Helmick
Benediction	Rev. Bill Hyer, Pastor
	Christ Church (EPC), Anderson, S. Carolina
Music Response	

*This evening's offering will help defray the meeting expenses of the General Assembly.

MINUTES - SATURDAY MORNING

**Fifth Session
June 26, 2004**

24-35 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Assembly gathered for worship at 8:30 A.M. in the sanctuary of Kempsville Presbyterian Church with music by the Kempsville Presbyterian Church Worship Band and announcements by Gary Boystel, Local Arrangements Committee Chairman. Rev. Michael Glodo introduced the morning speaker and Levi Bethune, Worship Leader presented the Call to Worship. Rev. Glodo offered an opening prayer with Mr. Bethune leading the congregation in worship through music. Rev. Peter Hielt, Pastor of the Lookout Mountain Community Church (EPC) of Golden CO preached from John 21:1-19 on the theme: *Awesome Obedience and the One Question*. The service concluded at 9:35 A.M.

Order of Worship

Saturday Morning, June 26, 2004

Gathering Music	Worship Band
Greetings & Announcements	Elder Gary Boystel
	Local Arrangements Committee Chairman
Introduction of Speaker	Rev. Michael Glodo, <i>Stated Clerk</i>
Call to Worship	Levi Bethune
	Worship Leader
Prayer	Rev. Michael Glodo
Praise & Worship	Levi Bethune
Scripture Reading &	John 21:1-19
	Rev. Peter Hielt, Pastor
Ministry of the Word	Lookout Mountain Community Church (EPC)
	Golden, Colorado
	“Awesome Obedience and the One Question”
Response to the Word	Levi Bethune

24-36 CONVENING OF THE FIFTH SESSION AND ADOPTION OF DOCKET

Moderator Orin Littlejohn called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:40 A.M. The docket for Saturday, June 26th was presented.

ON MOTION the docket was adopted as follows:

DOCKET

Saturday, June 26, 2004

- 7:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast (Refreshment Tent)
- 8:30 Morning Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Rev. Peter Hielt, Keynoter
- 9:30 Business Session (Sanctuary)
 - Call to Order. Announcements. Approval of Docket.
 - Enrollment update - Stated Clerk
 - Committee Reports: Christian Education & Publications Committee; National Outreach Committee; National Outreach Director's Report; Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee; Student & Young Adult Ministries

Director's Report; Kazakhstan Commission; Presbytery Review Committee; Theology Committee; Fraternal Relations Committee; Committee on Memorials and Appreciation

- Announcements re box lunches
- Concluding worship & adjournment

24-37 FINAL ENROLLMENT

Rev. Mike Glodo, Stated Clerk, updated the court on the final enrollment: 221 Teaching Elders; 181 Ruling Elders; 246 registered observers. The total enrollment is 642. Churches represented numbered 134.

The Moderator recognized Rev. Jim Van Dyke and Rev. Bob Balnicky ministers who have both served more than 50 years in the gospel ministry.

24-38 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

The report was opened with prayer by the Chairman, Elder Cecil Matthews.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Recommendation #15** (Officer Training Manual Draft)
2. **Minutes** of the permanent committee.

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #15** "That the proposed draft Officer Training Manual be adopted on a trial basis with encouragement to the churches to make use of it and provide constructive feedback to both permanent committees for the purpose of bringing a final proposed manual to the 25th General Assembly" be adopted.

ON MOTION the recommendation was amended to include the statement: "...and that the permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications in partnership with the permanent Committee on National Outreach and the National Outreach Director include a new section in the manual to train officers in the leadership skills and techniques needed to lead growing 21st century churches."

ON MOTION the proposed draft Officer Training Manual was adopted on a trial basis with encouragement to the churches to make use of it and provide constructive feedback to both permanent committees and that the Permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications in partnership with the Permanent

Committee on National Outreach and the National Outreach Director include a new section in the manual to train officers in the leadership skills and techniques needed to lead growing 21st century churches for the purpose of bringing a final proposed manual to the 25th General Assembly.

2. That the minutes of the permanent committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.

Adopted

The standing committee commended the permanent committee for their work this past year, especially in producing the draft of the Officer Training Manual.

ON MOTION the report of the Committee on Christian Education & Publications was adopted.

24-39 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

The report was opened with prayer by the Chairman, Elder Gerry Smith.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Overture #04-A**
2. **Communication #04-9**
3. **Recommendation #7**
4. **Minutes of the permanent committee**

B. Recommendations

1. That **Overture 04-A** from the Presbytery of the Southeast “that the shared boundary between the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Presbyteries be adjusted so that the Asheville NC area counties of Buncombe, Henderson and McDowell be included in the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery’s jurisdiction” be adopted.

According to **Communication #04-9**, the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery concurred with the Southeast Presbytery regarding the proposed boundary changes. *Adopted*

2. That **Recommendation #7** be adopted *as amended* with a different effective date for the resolution of financial matters, to wit: That the 24th General Assembly **dissolve the Presbytery of Florida**, effective on the Monday following its fall stated meeting and that its member churches and all ministers on its rolls be reassigned to the Southeast Presbytery;
 - that all matters requiring presbytery oversight be reassigned to the Southeast Presbytery;
 - that all non-monetary assets of the Presbytery of Florida shall be liquidated and after all obligations have been satisfied, its remaining assets shall be forwarded to the Southeast

- Presbytery not later than May 15, 2005;
 - and that the Southeast Presbytery give all possible consideration to the travel and cost requirements of Florida members when planning presbytery meeting venues.
- Not adopted*

3. **ON MOTION** the minutes of the permanent committee were approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.

The Committee wishes to commend the permanent Committee for its fine work during the previous Assembly year.

ON MOTION the report of the Committee on National Outreach was adopted.

24-40 **NATIONAL OUTREACH SPECIAL REPORTS**

Rev. Bob Stauffer, Director of National Outreach, opened these reports with prayer.

- **Bartlett Hess Church Vitality Award**

The National Outreach Director called on the Rev. Marty Fields, chairman of the permanent National Outreach Committee, to present the annual Bartlett Hess Church Vitality Award to this year's recipient, Hope Presbyterian Church, Cordova, Tennessee. Rev. Craig Strickland, pastor, and the ruling elders from Hope came forward to be recognized and to receive the award. Rev. Strickland addressed the Assembly, noting especially the strong support and assistance of its mother church, Second Presbyterian (Memphis), support that has continued over the years.

- **National Outreach Urban Ministry Report:**

Rev. Rufus Smith IV, pastor of The City of Refuge, Houston TX, showed

a slide presentation on the EPC urban churches. There has been a 400% increase of urban churches in the past few years. Last year, the Thanksgiving Offering was designated for National Outreach urban churches, and netted over \$28,000. Rev Smith urged the churches to consider participating in the Thanksgiving Offering this year, also designated for NOC urban churches and their ministries.

- **National Outreach Director's Report**

Rev. Stauffer thanked the NOC secretaries in the Assembly Office – Katrina Kotcher and Kristen Albaugh – as well as the permanent committee members. He updated the Assembly on his work in the Natural Church Development program and the Church Planters Assessment Center. He noted that applications for the Church Loan Fund are available to churches needing help with building or land purchases, and encouraged the churches to make use of this valuable

resource. Rev. Stauffer admonished the Assembly to stand behind the NOC benevolence askings and to pray about their role in supporting the projects.

Point of personal privilege: Rev. Dick Little asked the assembly to pray specifically for the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery and its desire to plant a church in Asheville, NC, a major metropolitan area that needs an EPC presence.

ON MOTION the report of the National Outreach Director was adopted.

24-41 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

The report was opened with prayer by the Chairman, Rev. John Uhl.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Minutes** of the permanent committee.

B. Recommendations

1. The **minutes** of the permanent Committee were approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

The Committee wishes to commend the permanent Committee for their diligent work during this past year and their continued faithfulness to the work to which the Lord has called them.

ON MOTION the report of the Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries was adopted.

24-42 REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Marc Santom, EPC Director of Student and Young Adult Ministries, opened his report with prayer. He thanked the permanent committee members for their work this year, and summarized the mission trips and conferences planned for the year. He noted with pleasure the increasing number of churches getting on board and participating in SYAM opportunities. After 2004, however, Summer Jam conferences will be suspended as participation in this particular event has been declining, even while the mission trip participation is considerably increasing.

24-43 REPORT OF THE KAZAKHSTAN COMMISSION

Elder Bern Draper, Commission chairman, opened the report with prayer. He invited Rev. Dan Burns to review the work done in Kazakhstan over the past ten years.

Recommendations to the Assembly:

Recommendation #17:

That the following sentence be inserted ahead of the last sentence of ***Book of Government*** §10-3-C: In addition, when an Evangelist is called

as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The paragraph, as amended, would appear as follows, with the addition highlighted in bold italics.

Evangelist: 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. ***In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.*** 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.

ON MOTION the Permanent Judicial Commission alternative wording was substituted for the Commission's recommendation. The substituted text is as follows:

Evangelist: 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. ***When an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in accordance with applicable rules and regulations promulgated by the World Outreach Committee.*** 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. ***Adopted***

Recommendation #18:

That the 24th General Assembly extend the duration of the commission until 1) the commission can make its recommendations to the Committee on Administration concerning amendments to the World Outreach Missions Manual at its fall meeting and 2) the commission can make an additional field visit to participate with the national church in the ordination of a teaching elder. *Adopted*

Recommendation #19:

That the August 22-25, 2003, and March 31, 2004, minutes of the Kazakhstan Commission be received. *Adopted*

ON MOTION the report of the Kazakhstan Commission was adopted.

24-44 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW

Elder Jay Curtis, Chairman of the Committee, opened the report with prayer.

Regarding the **Presbytery of the Central South**

Recommendation #37:

That the Assembly receive the responses of the Presbytery of the Central South to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly (see PRC-1) as adequate. *Adopted*

Recommendation #38:

As the Presbytery of the Central South did not respond to the Presbytery Review Committee's requests for additional information regarding omissions and insufficient information in their minutes subject to review by the 23rd General Assembly, that the Assembly declare these items as exceptions to their minutes requiring presbytery response.

1. 56.13: Insufficient information: no indication that Johnson and Maynard signed the Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L)
2. 56.19: Insufficient information: record of votes on descending overtures is not recorded in the minutes.
3. 56.29: Insufficient information: no record that presbytery acted to change the status of Robert Camenish from out of bounds.
4. 15.14.2: No indication of a commission appointed to install Dennis Flach as Pastor of New Covenant Presbyterian Church.
5. 57.14: Omission: Minutes do not indicate whether or not Morris or Allday had any exceptions to the Westminster Standards and whether such exceptions were approved as required by G.13-6.
6. 58.08: Insufficient information: Minutes do not indicate that the specific steps required by G.5-6 were fulfilled in the case of Redeemer EPC.
7. 58.19: Insufficient information: No indication as to how the call of Steve Bristol as Assistant Pastor was dissolved. Was this done prior to the end of his approved term of service? If so, minutes should reflect that Session dissolved the relationship with concurrence of the minister and the Presbytery (G11-7). *Adopted*

Recommendation #39:

That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 59:23 – Two administrative commissions were formed of 4 Teaching Elders and 2 Ruling Elders, contrary to constitutional standards of a proportion “as near to two Ruling Elders to one Minister as possible.” (G.16-26B.2e). The presbytery did not specify the duration of the commission for Baldwin County Mission Church as required by G.16-2B
2. 60:24 (p. 309) – Presbytery’s action in placing an inactive minister (Rev. McCutcheon) on active roll without call is out of order. Presbytery may take such action only if the minister has a valid call or is being transferred to another presbytery in order to receive a call (G.15-8).
3. 60:24(8) (p. 309 – Formation of a commission (re. Wahlstedt) with a 6:1 ratio of ruling to teaching elders is contrary to constitutional standards of a proportion “as near to two Ruling Elders to one Minister as possible.” (G.16-26B.2e).
4. p. 314 – There is no record of Rev. Hamd signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).
5. 61:22(1.c) – Use of the word “endorse” is inappropriate. The minutes do not include the terms of call approved by presbytery.
6. 61:22 – Commission to ordain Brandon Wells was constituted with a ratio of 2:1 Teaching to Ruling elders, contrary to constitutional standards (G.16-26B.2e). Rev. Chadwick is not a member of the Central South Presbytery. He should be designated as a guest of the commission.***Adopted***

Regarding the **Presbytery of the East**

Recommendation #40:

That the Assembly accept as adequate the responses of the Presbytery of the East to exceptions Issued by the 22nd General Assembly (2002) deemed inadequate by the 23rd General Assembly (2003) as adequate (see PRC-2) and issue the following comment to the presbytery: *The use of Appendices was not the concern of the Assembly but rather the absence of Appendices referenced in the minutes. The presbytery’s response seems to indicate that previously approved minutes were altered, which, if so, is out of order. Once approved, minutes are legal documents which should not be altered with the exception of minor typographical corrections. Corrections to approved minutes should be made in the body of subsequent minutes in the manner specified by the 20th General Assembly (Act of Assembly 00-11, Minutes of the 20th General Assembly 20-46).* ***Adopted***

Recommendation #41:

That the Assembly accept the responses of the Presbytery of the East to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly (see PRC-2) with the following comments:

1. It appears that previously approved minutes of the Presbytery are being altered, which is an improper practice. Corrections to previously approved minutes should be made in accordance with the standardized method adopted by the 20th General Assembly (*Act of Assembly 00-11*,

Minutes of the 20th General Assembly, 20-46).

2. Foye Belyea should not be referred to as “Rev.” in the minutes or listed as a TE until he has been ordained or received by the presbytery.

Adopted

Recommendation #42:

That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the East subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 67th Stated Meeting: Appendices referenced in the minutes were not included in the certified minutes. Presbytery is directed to forward these appendices to the Office of the Stated Clerk no later than September 30, 2004.

2. 67th Stated Meeting (pp. 7-8): All actions taken by presbytery when acting as a committee as a whole must then come to the whole body for approval after moving out of committee as a whole (*Roberts Rules of Order*, Section 51). These actions are remanded to the Presbytery for proper approval. In similar situations in the future, presbytery is advised to receive recommendations from a committee member (requiring a second) rather than moving into committee as a whole. The purpose of the committee as a whole is not to compensate when a committee has been unable to meet, but to allow less formal procedural ways of conducting business such as not limiting or requiring pro and con statements on motions, allowing speakers to speak more than once, etc.

3. 69th Stated Meeting: Minutes have not been put in standardized form as per the direction of the 20th and 23rd General Assemblies. A letter from the Office of the General Assembly to presbyteries dated Nov. 17, 2003 reminded presbytery Stated Clerks of this requirement. The Presbytery of the East is directed to utilize the standardized form beginning in September 2004.

4. 69th Stated Meeting: Duration and duties as Assistant Pastor for Rev. Shull are not indicated (G.11-7). Minutes do not indicate that Rev. Shull signed the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).

Adopted

Regarding the **Presbytery of Florida**

Recommendation #43:

That the Assembly accept the responses of the Presbytery of Florida to exceptions issued by the 22nd General Assembly deemed inadequate by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-3).

Adopted

Recommendation #44:

That the Minutes of the Presbytery of Florida subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved without exception. ***Adopted***

Regarding the **Presbytery of Mid-America**

Recommendation #45:

That the Assembly accept the responses of Presbytery of Mid-America to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see

Recommendation #46:

That the Minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 37.06 (pp. 349-350 – Simon and Cover): Approving a call for a Teaching Elder without EPC group insurance is out of accord with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-06 and 88-08. The terms of call for Rev. Simon and Rev. Cover are remanded to the Presbytery for reconsideration.
2. 38.05 (p. 362 -- Wampler) – Approving a call for a Teaching Elder without EPC group insurance and without pension is out of accord with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-05, 81-06 and 88-08. The terms of call for Rev. Wampler are remanded to the Presbytery for reconsideration.
3. 38.05 (p. 363) – An Administrative Commission may not be chaired by a Teaching or Ruling Elder who is not a member of the Commission. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery is commended for pointing out this irregularity to the Presbytery (p. 359).

Adopted

Regarding the **Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic**

Recommendation #47:

That the General Assembly receive the responses of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-5).

Adopted

Having requested and received further information from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic regarding presbytery's action at its 41st Stated Meeting (41.24O) to approve an exemption for Rev. Carr from required enrollment in EPC Medical Insurance, the Committee makes the following recommendation:

Recommendation #48:

As Rev. Carr is not eligible for an exemption from EPC medical insurance (*Act of Assembly* 88-08), that the Assembly remand the action (Minutes 41.24O) to the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery for correction.

Adopted

Recommendation #49:

That the Minutes of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 44.09B1 (Dr. Earl Morey; cf. Minutes 43.15) – Presbytery may not receive a minister on its rolls without a call (*Act of Assembly* 82-07, G.11-10). The Presbytery is advised that future actions of this nature will not be in compliance with the Constitution and Assembly legislation.
2. 44.22.B.5 – Minutes do not specify the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate Pastor (Smith) (G.11-6).
3. 46.24B; 46.27B; 46.29A – Minutes do not record approval of Terms of Call for Rev. Reese.

Adopted

Regarding the **Presbytery of the Midwest**

Recommendation #50:

That the General Assembly receive the responses of the Midwest Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-6) except for the following:

1. That the Assembly remand the matter of Rev. Miller's current status (Minutes 95-12, p. 60), which is unclear in the record, to the Presbytery for correction or clarification.
2. That the Assembly find the response of the Presbytery in the matter of the Commission to install Rev. Porter insufficient (presbytery did not act to correct the record) and remand the minutes to the Presbytery for correction.

Adopted

The Committee requested additional information regarding certain notations forwarded to the Midwest Presbytery in order to determine if constitutional standards were followed. Having received and reviewed the presbytery's responses the Committee makes the following recommendation):

Recommendation #51:

That the Assembly declare an exception to the Minutes of the 95th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest with regard to receiving Greg Moore and Scott Kennaugh as candidates (95-10). Minutes do not indicate that the required six month membership in an EPC congregation was fulfilled or that they received Session endorsement (G. 12-2A). ***Adopted***

Recommendation #52:

That the Assembly declare an exception to the Minutes of the 98th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest. Minutes do not indicate how presbytery carried out its constitutional responsibility (G.5-6) regarding the dismissal of Mercy Christian Fellowship (98-12, p. 60) ***Adopted***

Recommendation #53:

That the Minutes of the Midwest Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 100-11 – Individual requests for transfer (Hicks) are not actionable items. Such request must come from the court to which transfer is being sought and must be addressed to the clerk of the court from which transfer is being sought (G.11-10).
2. 100-11 – Summary of changes in terms of call are not recorded in the body of the minutes as required by *Act of Assembly* 98-04.

Adopted

Regarding the **Presbytery of the Southeast**

Recommendation #54:

That the Minutes of the Southeast Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exception:

61-22K – The duties of Rev. McCutchen as Assistant Pastor are not specified as required by G.11-7.

Adopted

Regarding the **Presbytery of St. Andrews**

Recommendation #55:

That the General Assembly receive the responses of the St. Andrews Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-7) *Adopted*

Recommendation #56:

That the Minutes of the St. Andrews Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved without exception. *Adopted*

Regarding the **Presbytery of the West**

Recommendation #57: That the General Assembly receive the responses of the Presbytery of the West to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-8). *Adopted*

Recommendation #58: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the West subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 69-10 / 70-16D / 71-15A -- Approving a call for a for a Teaching Elder without EPC group insurance is out of accord with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-06 and 88-08. The terms of call for Rev. Everest, Rev. Wilson and Rev. Nylund are remanded to the presbytery for reconsideration.
2. 69-17 / 71.7 -- The term for the Moderator of Presbytery is to be a maximum of one year (G-16-15).
3. 70-16D – No term of service as an Assistant Pastor (Wilson) is specified as required by G.11-7. *Adopted*

General Advice to Presbyteries and Other Recommendations to the Assembly

Recommendation #59: That the Assembly issue the following advice to presbyteries:

Minutes of called meetings should include a statement of the means by which the meeting was called, the fact that notification was made at least 10 days in advance of the meeting and should include a statement of the call (G.16-17). The written communication of the call may be included as an attachment to the minutes. *Adopted*

Recommendation #60: That the Assembly refer the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery's formation of a Permanent Investigative Committee (Minutes 44:12G, p. 93; 46:18, p. 183) to the Permanent Judicial Commission to determine if that action is in order and/or well advised.

Grounds: Forming an Investigative Committee as a permanent committee of presbytery with members serving for a number of years takes away the court's freedom to appoint people best equipped to deal with circumstances of a given situation. Further, the Book of Discipline seems to assume that a Judicial Committee is formed in response to specific charges. This is a new initiative in presbytery life and is a significant precedent. It merits

careful examination for constitutional fidelity and wisdom of practice.

Adopted

Recommendation #61: That *Rules for Assembly 8-11C* regarding reporting of exceptions and notations by the Presbytery Review Committee be amended by adding a new 8-11C.2 and renumbering the current section as 8.11C.3.

Current Rules for Assembly 8-11C	Proposed Rules for Assembly 8-11C (amended section is in <i>italics</i>)
<p>C. The findings of the Committee with respect to the Minutes of each Presbytery shall be reported under the following categories as appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notations: Typographical errors, misspellings, improper punctuation, non-prejudicial statements of facts and other variations in form may be reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc, may be included here.2. Exceptions: Violations of constitutional standards of actions which in substance appear not to conform to EPC standards should be reported here.	<p>C. The findings of the Committee with respect to the Minutes of each Presbytery shall be reported under the following categories as appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notations: Typographical errors, misspellings, improper punctuation, non-prejudicial statements of facts and other variations in form may be reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc, may be included here.2. Notations requiring response: <i>Insufficient information in the Minutes to determine if an action is constitutional. Such notations are not read to the General Assembly but require a response of the presbytery to the Presbytery Review Committee.</i>3. Exceptions: Violations of constitutional standards of actions which in substance appear not to conform to EPC standards should be reported here

Grounds: The Presbytery Review Committee has noted numerous occasions in which presbytery minutes do not include enough information to determine whether constitutional requirements have been followed. In most cases, the action is constitutional and requires only that minutes be corrected to record what actually happened. In an attempt to cut down on the number of minor items reported to the Assembly as exceptions, the Presbytery Review

Committee, in forwarding notations to the Stated Clerks of the Presbyteries, has asked for additional information regarding some items. The amendment formalizes this practice. *Adopted*

ON MOTION the report of the Committee on Presbytery Review was adopted.

24-45 REPORT OF THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Rev. Bill Meyer, chairman, opened with prayer and reported for the committee.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Recommendation 28**
2. **Recommendation 29**
3. **Recommendation 30**
4. **Recommendation 31**
5. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #28** that the Preliminary Position Paper on the Sanctity of Marriage, as revised by the Theology Committee according to the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly be adopted as a position paper. *Adopted*
2. That **Recommendation #29** that the contemporary English edition of the Westminster Larger Catechism be commended and included for publication with the Book of Order be adopted. *Adopted*
3. That **Recommendation #30** that the Assembly instruct the permanent Theology Committee to disseminate advice and suggested resources for using the catechisms in the life of the church and to develop a pastoral letter on the use of catechisms for recommendation to the 25th General Assembly be adopted *Adopted*
4. That **Recommendation # 31** that the 24th General Assembly instruct the Committee on Administration to develop a statement defining the status, scope and purpose of position papers be adopted. *Adopted*
5. That the minutes of the permanent committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee. *Adopted*

C. Additional recommendations

1. That the General Assembly instruct the Stated Clerk's office to find as many ways as possible to inform the nation through its national media of the highlights of the Position on the Sanctity of

Marriage as the position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
as the position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Adopted

2. That the GA encourage the Teaching Elders to make the Position on the Sanctity of Marriage available immediately to their members and visitors and that the Assembly office expedite its publishing.

Adopted

24-46 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS

The chairman, Rev. Don Mason, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Recommendation #16**
2. **Communication #04-7**
3. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #16** that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church accept the invitation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) to send a fraternal observer to its General Assembly, that it confirm the Committee's reciprocation of invitations for the 24th General Assembly and authorize the Committee to establish a regular exchange of observers in coordination with its corresponding committee of the RPCNA.

Adopted

2. That **Communication #04-7** be received as information.
3. The **minutes** of the permanent committee were approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.

Adopted

ON MOTION the report of the Fraternal Relations Committee was adopted.

24-47 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS AND APPRECIATION

Elder Jerry Dosh, chairman, opened with prayer. The 24th General Assembly remembered with gratitude those ministers and ruling elders who died during the Assembly year. (If notification of death is received subsequent to the current Assembly year, the names of those elders are listed as they are received.)

Name	Church	Date of Death	Years of Service (if known)
Elder Howard Bankus	Cedar Springs Knoxville, TN	December 27, 2003	31

Elder Joseph Bradley	Second, Memphis, TN	July 26, 2003	21
Elder J.W. Brakebill	Second, Memphis, TN	December 17, 2003	4
Elder Leonard H. Brown	Grace Community, Surprise, AZ	November 21, 2003	3
Elder Walter C. Brown	Grace Community, Surprise, AZ	December 18, 2003	3
Elder William Bryce, Jr.	Second, Memphis, TN	August 24, 2003	6
Elder Marjorie Carb	Calvary, Flint, MI	October 5, 2003	Unknown
Elder J.B. Claxton	Second, Memphis, TN	October 10, 2003	37
Elder Robert Douglas	First, Homestead, FL	June 26, 2003	46
Reverend Rusty Freeman	Faith Fellowship EPC, Johnstown, OH	January 25, 2004	12 (1 ½ in EPC)
Elder Frank Gough	Rivermont EPC, Lynchburg, VA	November 29, 2003	Unknown
Reverend Daniel Hiett	Retired; Englewood, CO	March 8, 2004	22+ in EPC
Elder Donald H. Hildebrand, Sr (USMC, ret.)	Faith EPC, Alexandria, VA	June 10, 2004	Unknown
Elder Eugene Jordan	Ward, Northville, MI	October 22, 2002	Unknown
Elder Emeritus Charles Kanter	Central, St. Louis, MO	November 19, 2003	12
Elder Ed Kesler	Christ Church EPC, Anderson, SC	August 12, 2003	6
Elder Dale Kistler	Reynolda, Winston-Salem, NC	March 3, 2003	3
Elder Robert Lee	Cherry Creek, Englewood, CO	May 28, 2004	Unknown
Elder Glenn Mattheis	First EPC, Anna, IL	March 13, 2004	5
Elder Doug McWethy	New Covenant EPC, Natchez, MS	December 15, 2003	1
Elder Emeritus Robert M. Metcalf, Jr.	Second, Memphis, TN	March 29, 2004	31
Elder Porter Orr	Cedar Springs, Knoxville, TN	July 22, 2003	39
Elder Eugene Peters	Cherry Creek, Englewood, CO	December 4, 2003	3
Elder William G. Pilson	First, Rome, GA	January 31, 2004	25
Elder Ralph Root	Bear Creek EPC, Lakewood, CO	January 17, 2004	3
Elder Harry Schnabel	Fourth, Bethesda, MD	December 4, 2003	3
Elder Gerald D. Stone	North Grove EPC, Wilmington, NC	May 12, 2003	2
Elder Joseph R. Taylor	Second, Memphis, TN	October 11, 2003	11

Elder Jack Westerbeek	First, Trenton, MI	November 26, 2003	Unknown
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The 24th Assembly extends its deepest sympathy to Rev. George Wood (Presbytery of the West) in the death earlier this year of his beloved wife, Betty.

With deep appreciation, the Assembly acknowledges the services of Dr. Frank Johnson, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the East, who will retire this fall after 13 years as clerk. Thank you, Dr. Johnson!

To Rev. Nate Atwood and his entire church and the staff of Kempsville Presbyterian Church, the Assembly extends its sincere appreciation for this most rewarding and memorable Assembly. A special note of appreciation is extended to all who planned and presented a time of musical worship with the production of “My Utmost for His Highest” on Wednesday evening. Your gracious hospitality has made this Assembly most enjoyable.

Most especially, we would like to thank Elder Gary Boystel who served as Local Arrangements chairman for the past year. We are grateful for his diligence in organizing the entire event—from planning and promotion to recruiting committee leaders who, under his guidance, implemented the myriad of details that made this Assembly so extraordinary. His servant leadership brought life to the vision and. As a result, the KPC congregation was inspired to lend their hearts and hands as committee members and volunteers.

All attempts to create a definitive listing of all involved in the planning and implementation of this 24th Assembly will fall short of that goal. However, we wish to thank these key individuals for their labors in behalf of all to make this Assembly all it could possibly be:

Eric DeGroff – Administration Committee	Laclovia Butler – Hospitality Committee
Brad Wynn – Facilities Committee	Angela Daw – Children/Youth Committee
Valerie Yeager – Media Committee & Brochure Graphic Layout	Bob Truitt – Prayer Committee
Deborah Ellison – Women’s Committee	Georgina Oladokum – Volunteer Arrangements
Jeff Klein – GA Website Developer	Dick Geer – Registration Forms – Computer Design & Input
Debbie Hill – Administrative Assistant to LAC chairman	LaRose Allman – Mentor to Local Arrangements Committee
Gary Boystel – Chairman, Local Arrangements	

The Assembly also extends a word of thanksgiving to Mr. Orlen Stauffer whose artwork and graphic design brought the theme of the Assembly to life. His inspiration and guiding hand defined the commissioners’ view of materials used in preparation for the Assembly.

His eye was on all details, large and small, to bring a sense of unity and peace to the Assembly with glory to God.

Special thanks are extended to Mr. Curtis Cook, Maintenance Supervisor, and his entire staff. Many of these devoted servants have literally spent the last few months with a paintbrush or tool in hand to insure all went well for the Assembly.

To our speakers who added an element of edification and great meaning to our Assembly, we give our sincerest thanks” Rev. Nate Atwood, Rev. Craig Strickand, Rev. Rufus Smith, Rev. Peter Hielt, Rev. Sandy Willson, Mr. David Edling, Rev. Bruce Demarest, Rev. George Yates, Rev. David Dwight and Rev. Mike Glodo. Thanks also to Women’s Ministries speaker, Mrs. Jeane Mobley and the drama group, ‘Women of Faith.’

To all General Assembly staff, permanent committee members and volunteers, the Assembly extends its gratitude for your willingness to labor in the Lord’s vineyard facilitating and enabling the annual Assembly through the selfless giving of yourselves and your time.

To the chairmen, clerks and members of the standing committees the Assembly expresses its appreciation for your willingness and service to the Kingdom of god and this Assembly in this capacity. To all who have made this 24th General Assembly a most memorable time of celebration and worship in Christ, thank you. To God be the glory!

24-48 ADJOURNMENT WITH WORSHIP

The Moderator adjourned the Assembly with prayer and the Assembly closed with a hymn.

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Reports of the Standing Committees

Report of the Committee on Administration

Standing Committee
24th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by the chairman, TE Mark Jumper, on Thursday June 24, 2004. RE Dick Cowan served as vice-chairman. TE Austin Olive and TE David Baer served as committee clerks. The committee convened once during the Assembly.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Recommendation #1 (Cf. Communication #04-4)**
2. **Recommendation #2 (Cf. Communication #04-5)**
3. **Recommendation #3**
4. **Recommendation #4**
5. **Recommendation #5**
6. **Recommendation #8**
7. **Recommendation #9**
8. **Recommendation #10**
9. **Recommendation #25**
10. **Recommendation #26**
11. **Communication #04-4 (Cf. Recommendation #1)**
12. **Communication #04-5**
13. **Minutes of the permanent committee**
14. **Recommendation #6**

B. Recommendations

1. **Recommendation #1**
That the **invitation of Lookout Mountain Community Church (Golden, CO; Communication #04-4) to host the 25th General Assembly** with the cooperation of the Presbytery of the West and the General Assembly be adopted.
2. **Recommendation #2**
That the **invitation of First Presbyterian Church (Rome, GA; Communication #04-5) to host the 26th General Assembly** be accepted..
4. **Recommendation #3**
That the 24th General Assembly establish a **25th anniversary celebration committee** consisting of one member from each presbytery to be named by the Moderator for the purpose of planning and implementing a commemoration of the EPC's 25th year be adopted. (NOTE: The conclusion of the 25th year of the EPC at its 26th General Assembly will coincide with the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the first American presbytery.)

4. **Recommendation #4**

That the **2004 Thanksgiving Offering** be designated for the work of denominational urban ministries, to be administered by the National Outreach Committee be adopted.

5. **Recommendation #5**

That the *Book of Government* and *Rules for Assembly* be amended to provide for the nomination and **election of a Moderator-elect of the General Assembly** be adopted. (Details of this recommendation are found in the attachment to the Committee on Administration Report).

6. **Recommendation #8**

That, pursuant to the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly to study **an equitable method of funding the General Assembly budget**, the 24th General Assembly take no action at this time in light of the substantial progress in participation of more churches at higher levels of their per member asking be adopted. (See the Stated Clerk's report for details of this progress.) Further, that the Committee be directed to report once again to the 25th General Assembly regarding this matter.

7. **Recommendation #9**

That the **Proposed 2005 Administration Budget for \$1,272,900** be adopted.

8. **Recommendation #10**

That the **Proposed 2005 Benevolence Askings for \$484,000** be adopted.

9. **Recommendation #25**

To amend the **2004 Benevolence Askings** for \$5,000 for a College Ministry Leadership Summit and \$10,000 for Leadership Development.

Grounds: In order for us to better establish momentum for the permanent committee and begin ministry between churches and college campuses we need the availability of finances.

10. **Recommendation #26**

To approve for **the 2005 Benevolence Askings:** \$5,000 for College Ministry Conference and \$20,000 for Leadership Development.

- Grounds:
1. We do think it will be important to develop a conference to minister to college students in the near future.
 2. We also know that financial assistance will continue to be needed in placing trained leaders in our churches and college campuses.

11. **Communication #04-4** (See Recommendation #1 above.)
12. **Communication #04-5** (See Recommendation #2 above.)
13. **Minutes of the permanent committee:**
The Standing Committee approved the minutes of the permanent Committee with minor notations and refers them back to the permanent Committee for correction as needed, and for future standardization.
14. **Recommendation #6**
That the Assembly **dismiss the St. Andrews Presbytery and grant it recognition as a national Reformed and Presbyterian body** according to the proposed “Articles of Dismissal and Agreement” and, by virtue of such, adopt such articles. (The Articles of Dismissal and Agreement are found in an attachment to the Committee on Administration Report).

As part of this historic recommendation, full of significance for the world Reformed community, we request opportunity to recognize our brothers from Argentina by giving them opportunity to express their feelings on the floor of the Assembly. Following the vote, we request opportunity for the General Assembly to sing *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*, followed by a benediction provided by former EPC moderator John Graham, who has been active in the relationship with St. Andrews.

The Committee voted to commend the permanent Committee for their diligent labors during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Mark Jumper, Chairman

RE Dick Cowan, Vice Chairman

TE David Baer, Recording Clerk

TE Austin Olive, Recording Clerk

Report of the Christian Education & Publications Committee

Standing Committee
24th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman, Ruling Elder Cecil Matthews, on Thursday, June 24, 2004. Teaching Elder Dan Rose served as committee clerk. The committee convened once during the Assembly. During the meeting Judy Bryson of Pioneer Clubs, Ralph Kelley of Great Commission Publications, and Pete Zickefoose of David C. Cook shared briefly about how their respective organizations could aid EPC churches in the area of Christian Education.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Recommendation #15- Officer Training Manual Draft**
2. **Minutes of the permanent committee**

B. Recommendations

1. The committee recommends that **Recommendation #15** be adopted: That the proposed draft Officer Training Manual be adopted on a trial basis with encouragement to the churches to make use of it and provide constructive feedback to both permanent committees for the purpose of bringing a final proposed manual to the 25th General Assembly. (See Appendix C in the Commissioner's Handbook).
2. The committee recommends that the **minutes** of the permanent committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.

The standing committee wishes to commend the permanent committee for their work this past year, especially in producing the draft of the Officer Training Manual.

Respectfully submitted,

RE Cecil Matthews, Chairman

TE Dan Rose, Recording Clerk

Report of the Fraternal Relations Committee

24TH General Assembly
Standing Committee

The Standing Fraternal Relations Committee convened on Thursday, June 24, 2004. Chairman Don Mason opened the meeting with prayer. Philip Rowland served as committee clerk. The committee convened one time during the Assembly.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Recommendation #16**
2. **Communication #04-7**
3. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee

B. Recommendations

1. That the Evangelical Presbyterian Church accept the invitation of the **Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA)** to send a fraternal observer to its General Assembly, that it confirm the Committee's reciprocation of invitations for the 24th General Assembly and authorize the Committee to establish a regular exchange of observers in coordination with its corresponding committee of the RPCNA.
2. That **Communication #04-7** be received as information.
3. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee
That the minutes of the permanent Committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

Fraternal observers and guests present:

- Phil De Young, Christian Reformed Church of North America.
- Frank Hunt, moderator of the ARP of the 200th General Assembly.
- John Carson, President of Erskine College.
- Each of these men brought greetings from their respective churches.

C. Other recommendations from the Standing Committee:

- a. That we invite Phil De Jonge, Frank Hunt, and John Carson to address the assembly during the report of the Fraternal Relations Committee.

The standing committee commends and thanks the permanent Committee on its work this year.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Don Mason, Chairman

TE Phil Rowland, Recording Clerk

Report of the Ministerial Vocation Committee

Standing Committee
24th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman, TE Brad Strait, on Thursday, June 24, 2004. RE Bob O'Brien served as committee clerk. The committee convened one time during the Assembly.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Recommendation #20**
2. **Recommendation #21**
3. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

1. Recommendation #20

That, in response to the referral of the 23rd General Assembly, the Assembly find that provisions for succession of associate pastors (G.11.6) and ministers in temporary relationships with churches (G.11.8 as amended and sent as a descending overture to presbyteries by the 23rd General Assembly) do not create any inequity.

Grounds: The source and terms of call for associate pastors and for ministers serving in temporary relationships are fundamentally different. Associate pastors are called by the congregation and have no term limit. Ministers in a temporary relationship are invited to serve by the session for a specific period of time. While it is appropriate to require a minister serving in a temporary capacity to step aside in order to be considered for a call, it is not appropriate to ask an associate to step down from the long-term relationship established between the congregation and the minister.

The standing committee recommends that recommendation #20 be adopted.

2. Recommendation #21:

The Assembly directs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to adjust the written Theology and Sacraments Examination to include questions on Reformed tradition to account for at least 20% of the examination score and re-title the examination as "Theology, Sacraments and Reformed Tradition." The new examination shall be implemented in January 2005.

Grounds: Some presbyteries have noted a lack of knowledge of the Reformed tradition in candidates. Written examinations are required in 5 areas: Theology and Sacraments, English Bible, the Book of Order, the Reformed tradition, and the Nature of the Office of Minister of the Word (G.13.2). The EPC has incorporated all five areas in three written examinations. This motion will put appropriate weight on the subject of the Reformed tradition and re-titling the examination will

encourage study of the topic in preparation for taking the exam.

The standing committee recommends that the Assembly approve the following substitute motion for **Overture 03-B** (see Attachment MVC-1, Ministerial Vocation Committee Report):

The Assembly directs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to re-title the written Theology and Sacraments examination as, “Theology, Sacraments and Reformed Tradition,” and to structure the examination so as to adequately measure the candidates’ knowledge of all three areas.

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

The standing committee wishes to commend the permanent committee for its diligence.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Brad Strait
Chairman

RE Bob O’Brien
Recording Clerk

Report of the National Outreach Committee

Standing Committee
24th General Assembly

The meeting began with prayer by the Chairman, RE Gerry Smith, on Thursday, June 24, 2004. TE Tommy Jordan served as committee clerk. The committee convened once during the Assembly.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Overture 04-A**
2. **Communication 04-9**
3. **Recommendation #7**
4. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

1. That **Overture 04-A** from the Presbytery of the Southeast "that the shared boundary between the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Presbyteries be adjusted so that the Asheville NC area counties of Buncombe, Henderson and McDowell be included in the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery's jurisdiction" be adopted.
2. That **Recommendation 7** be adopted *as amended* with a different effective date for the resolution of financial matters, to wit:

Recommendation 7: That the 24th General Assembly **dissolve the Presbytery of Florida**, effective on the Monday following its fall stated meeting and

- that its member churches and all ministers on its rolls be reassigned to the Southeast Presbytery; that all matters requiring presbytery oversight be reassigned to the Southeast Presbytery;
 - that all non-monetary assets of the Presbytery of Florida shall be liquidated and after all obligations have been satisfied, its remaining assets shall be forwarded to the Southeast Presbytery *not later than May 15, 2005*; and that Southeast Presbytery give all possible consideration to the travel and cost requirements of Florida members when planning presbytery meeting venues.
3. The standing committee approved the minutes of the permanent committee with minor notations and referred them back to the permanent committee.

The Committee wishes to commend the permanent Committee for its fine work during the previous Assembly year. The Committee adjourned after prayer by RE Allen Roes.

Respectfully submitted,
RE Gerry Smith, Chairman

TE Tommy Jordan, Recording Clerk

Report of the Overtures and Resolutions Committee

Standing Committee
24th General Assembly

A quorum of the Standing Committee on Overtures and Resolutions convened briefly Thursday, June 24, 2004 and opened with prayer by Chairman Steve Wilkinson

There were no overtures or other business for the committee at the time, though it is prepared to reconvene should the need arise.

For future reference, the *Rules for Assembly* require that overtures to General Assembly be received by the General Assembly Office thirty days prior to Assembly. Resolutions received during Assembly must be received in writing by the Stated Clerk by noon on the Friday of Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Steve Wilkinson, Chairman

RE Rives McCord, Recording Clerk

Report of the Student & Young Adult Ministries Committee

Standing Committee
24th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with a reading from Psalm 71:17-18 and prayer by the Chairman, TE John Uhl, at 1:33 PM on Thursday, June 24, 2004. RE Roy Schrameck served as committee clerk. A quorum was present. The committee convened one time during the Assembly.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Minutes** of the permanent committee.

B. Recommendations

1. That the **minutes** of the Permanent Committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

Marc Santom, EPC Director of Student and Young Adult Ministries, was present at the meeting and presented an executive summary of the Permanent Committee report. Brian Land from the Permanent Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries was present at the meeting to serve as a resource for the Standing Committee.

TE David Lovell, President of the National Leadership Foundation and His Life Campus Ministries, discussed the importance of the presence of the Church in College Ministries. TE Rick Stauffer, Ad Interim Committee Chairman, and David Lovell answered questions regarding college ministry and the recommendations from the Ad Interim Committee for College Ministries.

The Committee wishes to commend the Permanent Committee for their diligent work during this past year and their continued faithfulness to the work the Lord has charged them with.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 2:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

TE John Uhl
Chairman

RE Roy Schrameck
Recording Clerk

Report of the Committee on Theology

Standing Committee
24th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman, TE Bill Meyer on Thursday, June 24, 2004. TE Rich Lanning served as committee clerk. The committee convened once during the Assembly.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Recommendation #28**
2. **Recommendation #29**
3. **Recommendation #30**
4. **Recommendation #31**
5. **Minutes of the permanent committee**

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #28** “That the Preliminary Position Paper on the Sanctity of Marriage” as revised by the Committee according to the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly, be adopted as a Position Paper,” be adopted.
2. That **Recommendation #29** “That the contemporary English edition of the Westminster Larger Catechism be commended and included for publication with the *Book of Order*” be adopted.
3. That **Recommendation #30** “That the Assembly instruct the permanent Theology Committee to disseminate advice and suggested resources for using the catechisms in the life of the church and to develop a pastoral letter on the use of catechisms for recommendation to the 25th General Assembly” be adopted.
4. That **Recommendation #31** as amended, “That the 24th General Assembly instruct the Committee on Administration to develop a statement defining the status, scope and purpose of position papers for recommendation to the 25th General Assembly.
5. The Standing Committee on Theology recommends the GA instruct the Stated Clerk’s office to find as many ways as possible to inform the nation through its national media of the highlights of the *Position on the Sanctity of Marriage* as the position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
6. The Standing Committee on Theology recommends that the GA encourage the teaching elders to make the Position Paper on the Sanctity of Marriage available immediately to their members and visitors and that the Assembly office expedite its publishing.
7. That the **minutes** of the permanent Committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

The Committee commends the permanent Committee for their work this year.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Bill Meyer, Chairman

TE Rich Lanning, Recording Clerk

Report of the Women's Ministries Committee

Standing Committee
24th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman RE Jan Bole on Thursday, June 24, 2004. TE William Clinton Stockton served as committee clerk. The committee convened one time during the Assembly.

The Committee was blessed by the presence of P.K. Fields-Helm, Director of Women's Ministries. P.K. gave a brief overview of what is happening in Women's Ministries. She gave us information about Faith Focus 2004 and Faith Focus 2005. She also provided exciting information about the expanded web site and shared that the Women Leadership Manual was available for down load. She also share information concerning the Woman to Woman publication plus encouraged us to send our ladies to the Leadership Training coming up next year.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

- a. That the **minutes** of the permanent Committee be adopted with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

No additional recommendations were made.

The Committee wishes to commend the permanent Committee for their work this Assembly year.

Respectfully submitted,

RE Jan Bole, Chairman

TE William Clinton Stockton, Recording Clerk

Report of the World Outreach Committee

Standing Committee
24th General Assembly

The Chairman, TE David Dwight, opened the meeting with prayer and a reading of Psalm 96 on Thursday, June 24, 2004. Dan Weidman (TE) served as committee clerk. The committee convened one (1) time during the Assembly.

The World Outreach standing committee recognized Jeff Chadwick, World Outreach Director, and the World Outreach Committee representatives who were present in the meeting.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Recommendation #33**
2. **Recommendation #34**
3. **Recommendation #35**
4. **Minutes of the permanent committee**

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #33 be adopted** that the *World Outreach Missions Manual* be amended in section 103.4-J by replacing the first sentence with the following, to be followed by the second sentence and bullet points as already printed:

Agencies may be granted approved status by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the World Outreach Committee on the basis of common goals, strategic opportunities, particular services those agencies may offer to the EPC or other bases judged to be of strategic value to World Outreach. Approved projects and agencies may represent themselves as such to EPC congregations. Projects will only be approved for agencies that have approved status. The status of approved agencies shall be reviewed after three years and every five years thereafter to determine whether it shall be continued. Without a recommendation for renewal, approved status will automatically expire at the end of those time periods. The World Outreach Committee may act at any time for cause to recommend removal of approved status.
2. That **Recommendation #34 be adopted** that the General Assembly approve the cooperative agreement with Footprints, International as defined in attachment 1 of the World Outreach Committee Report.
3. That **Recommendation #35 be adopted** that the General Assembly grant IN Network status as an approved mission agency (cf. Attachment 2 in the World Outreach Committee Report).
4. **Minutes of the permanent committee**

The Standing Committee approved the minutes of the permanent Committee with minor notations and refers them back to the permanent

Committee.

C. Additional recommendations

There were no additional recommendations.

The standing committee asked Jeff Chadwick and Ed Randal to share their heart for world missions and some of the exciting things happening through the ministry of EPC World Outreach this year.

The Committee wishes to commend the permanent Committee and Jeff Chadwick for their diligence in representing the EPC in our efforts to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

The standing committee closed its time together with prayer for each of our missionaries by name.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

TE David Dwight, Chairman

TE Dan Weidman, Recording Clerk

APPENDICES

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Administration met via telephone conference on September 22, 2003 and at the Office of the General Assembly on November 6-7, 2003 and April 15-16, 2004. It was my great privilege to chair this fine group of dedicated Christian servants during those meetings. During that the time the Committee was able to accomplish the follow items of note to the General Assembly:



Knox Sherer, Chairman

- 1) Approved relocation of the Office of the General Assembly within the city of Livonia due to the expiration of the lease at the current location and highly favorable real estate conditions. The new property will provide a significantly enhanced environment for committee members, staff and visitors. The move will be taking place near the end of July, Lord willing.
- 2) Approved changes in the medical plan as requested by and reported in the Board of Pension and Benefits report.
- 3) Committed to filling the Stewardship Director position as called for by the 21st Assembly's approval of Vision 21 by the end of the calendar year in light of substantial anonymous gift for that purpose and with the following commitments regarding that position.
 - That the position would become self-funding as soon as possible (3-5 years).
 - While the position is working toward self-funding, that every effort be made to provide needed funds out of special gifts so that the administration budget is not affected adversely.
 - That funds raised by the Stewardship be directed to consensus projects of Vision 21 such as new church planting, congregational health and pastoral care of pastors.
 - That the Stewardship Director maintain a high commitment to being a stewardship resource to the churches as expressed in Vision 21.
- 4) The successful resolution of litigation against the EPC and EPC Medical Plan, the specific terms of which are sealed according to the settlement, but which the Committee regards as very favorable given the potential exposure even though it was clear that the EPC had not erred in the matter.
- 5) Update of EPC logo, maintaining our historic elements but with enhanced graphic appeal.
- 6) Approved 25th General Assembly theme of "Hallelujah! Salvation and power and glory belong to our God" drawn from Revelation 19:1.

- 7) Approved 25th General Assembly pre-assembly workshop theme of “Reaching Your Community for Christ.”
- 8) Approved a proposal of the Christian Education & Publication Committee for a denomination-wide prayer ministry in fulfillment of Vision 21 goals.
- 9) In accordance with the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly, adopted a policy regarding use of non-designated investment income that will eliminate the dependence of the administration budget on it by 2009 so that investment income can be allocated toward capital or discretionary projects once funds have been received.
- 10) Authorized the awarding of up to fourteen \$350 Moderator’s Scholarships for this 24th General Assembly.

Recommendations.

The Committee on Administration makes the following recommendations to the 24th General Assembly.

- 1) That invitation of Lookout Mountain Community Church (Golden, CO) to host the 24th General Assembly with the cooperation of Presbytery of the West and the General Assembly be accepted.
- 2) That the invitation of First Presbyterian Church (Rome, GA) to host the 25th General Assembly be accepted.
- 3) That the 24th General Assembly establish a 25th anniversary celebration committee consisting of one member from each presbytery to be named by the Moderator for the purpose of planning and implementing a commemoration of the EPC’s 25th year. (NOTE: The conclusion of the 25th year of the EPC at its 26th General Assembly will coincide with the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the first American presbytery.)
- 4) That the 2004 Thanksgiving Offering be designated for the work of denominational urban ministries, to be administered by the National Outreach Committee.
- 5) That the *Book of Government* and *Rules for Assembly* be amended to provide for the nomination and election of a Moderator-elect of the General Assembly. (Details of this recommendation are found in the attachment to this report.
- 6) That the Assembly dismiss the St. Andrews and grant it recognition as a national Reformed and Presbytery body according to the proposed “Articles of Dismissal and Agreement” and, by virtue of such, adopt such articles.
- 7) That the 24th General Assembly dissolve the Presbytery of Florida, effective on the Monday following its fall stated meeting and

- that its member churches and all ministers on its rolls be reassigned to the Southeast Presbytery;
 - that all matters requiring presbytery oversight be reassigned to the Southeast Presbytery;
 - that prior to the act of dissolution all non-monetary assets of the Presbytery of Florida shall be liquidated and after all obligations have been satisfied, its remaining assets shall be forwarded to the Southeast Presbytery by November 15, 2004;
 - and that Southeast Presbytery give all possible consideration to the travel and cost requirements of Florida members when planning presbytery meeting venues.
- 8) That, pursuant to the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly to study an equitable method of funding the General Assembly budget, the 24th General Assembly take no action at this time in light of the substantial progress in participation of more churches at higher levels of their per member asking. (See the Stated Clerk's report for details of this progress.) Further, that the Committee be directed to report once again to the 25th General Assembly regarding this matter.
 - 9) That the 2005 administration budget of \$1,262,900 be approved as submitted as an attachment to this report.
 - 10) That the 2005 benevolence askings budget of \$484,000 be approved as submitted as an attachment to this report.
 - 11) That the Assembly grant five minutes following the World Outreach Director's report to allow John McCurry to address the Assembly regarding his new responsibilities in World Outreach field development.
 - 12) That the Assembly grant 5 minutes for an urban ministries report and that the Moderator grant an additional five minutes according his discretion (*Rules for Assembly* 8-7).
 - 13) That the Assembly grant 5 minutes for a presentation in conjunction with the introduction of chaplains regarding chaplaincy from an EPC chaplain to be designated by the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee (*Rules for Assembly* 8-7).

Respectfully submitted,

Knox H. Sherer, Chairman

Recommendations of the Committee on Administration for Moderator-elect of the General Assembly

General recommendation:

That the *Book of Government* and *Rules for Assembly* be amended to provide for the nomination and election of a Moderator-elect of the General Assembly.

Grounds:

The additional year of experience prior to becoming Moderator and, subsequently, Chairman of the Committee on Administration, will significantly increase the effectiveness of those who serve as Moderator. Additionally, the Moderator-elect will be able to assist the Moderator by representing the Moderator as requested, spreading the same amount of travel over a two-year period which would lessen the hardship and potentially increase the pool of potential nominees for both offices.

Process:

The process, as proposed below by the Committee on Administration, would require a Moderator-elect nominee at the 25th Assembly if constitutional amendments are ratified at that time. It also proposes that the *Rules for Assembly*, after the 24th Assembly Moderator completes three years of service, be amended to exclude the immediate past chairman, the effect of which would expand the Committee on Administration by one member during the two-year transitional period.

The effect of the change would be that the 24th Assembly Moderator would move from Chairman of the Executive Committee (and Committee on Administration) to off both committees, being effectively replaced that year by the Moderator-elect.

Specific recommendations:

Recommended: That the *Rules for Assembly* be amended to provide for a Moderator-elect subject to and effective immediately upon ratification of related Constitutional changes. The first Moderator-elect would be nominated and elected immediately at that time.

Proposed additions appear in underline format. Proposed deletions appear in ~~strikethrough~~ format.

Current		Proposed	
Rules for Assembly			
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.	2-3	The first order of business shall be the election of a Moderator. <u>Though the Moderator-Elect will normally be the presumptive nominee, the Committee on Nominations must make such nomination.</u> The floor shall be opened for additional nominations. There shall be only one nominating speech per nominee not to exceed five

Current	Proposed
	minutes for each nominee. No seconding speeches shall be permitted.
<i>(No current section.)</i>	2-4 <u>The second order of business shall be the election of a Moderator-elect according to the same procedure as the election of Moderator.</u> <i>(Subsequent sections shall be renumbered as necessary.)</i>
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 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. <u>If there is only one nominee, a motion for a voice vote to elect by acclamation shall be in order.</u>
2-5 As soon as the Moderator shall have been declared elected, he shall assume his duties as Moderator.	2-6 The Moderator and Moderator-elect shall assume their respective duties immediately upon being declared elected.
<i>(No current section)</i>	<u>IV. Moderator-elect.</u> <u>4-1 The Moderator-elect is an officer of the General Assembly and shall ordinarily be the presumptive nominee for Moderator at the succeeding Assembly. The duties of the Moderator-elect shall be to assist the Moderator in the performance of the Moderator's duties as requested by the Moderator.</u> <i>(Subsequent sections shall be renumbered as necessary.)</i>
9-1 The ministries of the Assembly shall	9 10-1 The ministries of the

Current	Proposed
<p>be conducted primarily through permanent committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission, to wit:</p> <p>A. Committee on Administration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 program committees. The chairmen from these committees shall have voice but no vote. 	<p>Assembly shall be conducted primarily through permanent committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission, to wit:</p> <p>A. Committee on Administration</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chaired by most the immediate past Moderator. 2. Committee Membership: Moderator, <u>Moderator-elect</u>, Stated Clerk, immediate past Moderator, immediate past chairman, immediate past chairman,¹ nine elected members, plus the chairmen of other permanent program committees. The chairmen from these committees shall have voice but no vote.
<p>X. Committee on Nominations</p> <p>10-4 Duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>X. Committee on Nominations</p> <p>40 11-4 Duties:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nominees for <u>Moderator-elect</u>: 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 <u>Moderator-elect</u> 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 <u>Moderator-elect</u>. At

¹ As per the following recommendation, the phrase “immediate past chairman” shall be deleted at the adjournment of the 27th General Assembly.

Current	Proposed
<p>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.</p> <p><i>(No current section.)</i></p>	<p>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.</p> <p>2. Nominees for Moderator: Ordinarily, the Committee shall nominate the Moderator-elect for Moderator of the succeeding Assembly. However, if the Moderator-elect is unable or declines such nomination or the Committee deems it unwise to do so, it shall nominate at least one but no more than two candidates for Moderator utilizing the same procedures as for Moderator-elect.</p> <p><i>(Subsequent sections shall be renumbered as necessary.)</i></p>
<p>10.4 Duties</p> <p>4. The Committee shall meet in May each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator of the General Assembly and for permanent committees.</p>	<p>40 11.4 Duties</p> <p>5. The Committee shall meet in May each year to select nominee(s) for <u>Moderator-elect or Moderator of the General Assembly as the case may be</u> and for permanent committees.</p>

Recommended: That, effective at the adjournment of the 27th General Assembly, the *Rules for Assembly* be amended to delete “immediate past chairman” from the newly-numbered 10.1-A-2.

Recommended: That the *Book of Government* be amended as follows in order to provide for the office of Moderator-elect.

Current	Proposed
<p>§G. 16-21 Officers of the General Assembly: The General Assembly shall have a Moderator who will be elected at each stated meeting. He</p>	<p>§G. 16-21 Officers of the General Assembly: The General Assembly shall have a Moderator, <u>a Moderator-elect and a Stated Clerk.</u></p>

Current	Proposed
<p>may be a Minister or Ruling Elder. The person elected must be a member of the court and is not eligible to succession. The Moderator shall continue to be a member of the court until a successor is elected. In the event of death or disability, the most immediate past Moderator shall serve until a Moderator is elected. The General Assembly shall elect a Stated Clerk who shall serve for a period of three years, with eligibility for reelection for two additional terms. The Stated Clerk may be elected for additional terms if the General Assembly, by a 2/3 vote, sets aside this limitation for each additional term. The Stated Clerk must be eligible for membership in the court. Past Ruling Elder Moderators continue as members of the court as long as each maintains active membership in a church of the EPC.</p>	<p>A. <u>Moderator and Moderator-elect:</u> The General Assembly shall have a Moderator <u>and</u> a Moderator-elect who will be elected at each stated meeting. <u>They</u> may be a Ministers or Ruling Elders. The persons elected must be a members of the court and is are not eligible to succession <u>to their respective offices</u>. The Moderator <u>They</u> shall continue to be a members of the court until <u>their a</u> successors is are elected. In the event of death or disability <u>of the Moderator</u>, the most immediate past Moderator shall serve until a Moderator is elected. <u>The Moderator-elect shall normally be the nominee for Moderator at the succeeding Assembly.</u></p> <p>B. The General Assembly shall elect a Stated Clerk who shall serve for a period of three years, with eligibility for reelection for two additional terms. The Stated Clerk may be elected for additional terms if the General Assembly, by a 2/3 vote, sets aside this limitation for each additional term. The Stated Clerk must be eligible for membership in the court.</p> <p>C. Past Ruling Elder Moderators continue as members of the court as long as each maintains active membership in a church of the EPC.</p>

***Recommendation of the Committee on Administration
regarding the Presbytery of St. Andrews***

In April 2002 the Committee on Administration established the “Argentine Consultation” with the following responsibilities:

1. Come to an agreement on the criteria for determining the time for a healthy independence of the St. Andrews Presbytery.
2. Assess the current status of St. Andrews Presbytery in light of the agreed criteria.
3. Come to an agreement on the special situations that govern St. Andrews Presbytery as they work toward independence.

4. Develop a cooperative strategy to achieve the criteria for independence.
5. Monitor the progress toward the objectives.
6. Plan for the nature and structure of the relationship between the two bodies after the formation of the independent Argentine body, including such matters as fraternal relations, cooperation in World Outreach and benevolence projects.

These objectives were the result of numerous conversations between PSA and CoA representatives beginning in September 2000 on how to realize the original 1987 shared goal of the health and independence of the Argentine churches. The CoA and PSA appointed the following representatives, respectively:

<u>Presbytery of St. Andrews</u>	<u>Committee on Administration</u>
Jorge Torres (Moderator)	John Graham (21 st General Assembly Moderator)
Jorge Lumsden (Stated Clerk)	Mike Glodo (Stated Clerk)
Guille Mac Kenzie (Assistant Stated Clerk)	Ed McCallum (Assistant Stated Clerk)
Julio Lopez (Chairman, Missions Committee)	Jeff Chadwick (World Outreach Director)

The Consultation established a protocol for its work and has met two to three times per year in alternating countries since then to accomplish its assignment.

The result of these efforts is the following “Articles of Dismissal and Agreement” recommended to the 24th General Assembly for adoption. These Articles have been approved by the Committee on Administration, Presbytery of St. Andrews and the civil entity under which PSA has its status with the Argentine government.

The Consultation protocol included a dialog process within both CoA and PSA as well as between the two contingents of the Consultation. This process provided an opportunity for input, exchange of perspectives and refinement such that the Articles as they are recommended represent virtual unanimous support from the bodies involved in their production.

These Articles celebrate what God has done in the mutually edifying relationship he established between our respective parts of the Kingdom of God and place that relationship on a new footing which will allow us to continue to expand that Kingdom through the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the reign of Christ over His people.

ARTICLES OF DISMISSAL & AGREEMENT	ARTÍCULOS DE DESVINCULACIÓN Y ACUERDO
Evangelical Presbyterian Church and St. Andrews Presbytery (Argentina)	Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y Presbiterio San Andrés (Argentina)
Preamble	Preámbulo

<p>In 1987, a small Presbyterian church in Argentina, established by a Scottish colony one hundred and fifty six years previously, was accepted by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of the United States as a presbytery with all the benefits and duties corresponding to such a relationship. In the year 2004, the General Assembly of the EPC has on its docket its dismissal to independency. This brief introduction to the Articles of Dismissal describes some of the characteristics of the union approved in 1987 and lessons learned across these years.</p>	<p>En 1987, una pequeña iglesia presbiteriana en Argentina, constituida ciento cincuenta y seis años antes por colonos escoceses, era aceptada por la Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana de Estados Unidos, como uno de sus presbiterios con todos los derechos y obligaciones inherentes a esa relación. En el año 2004 la Asamblea General de dicha Iglesia se apresta a votar su desvinculación. Esta breve introducción al Acta formal de desvinculación tiene por objeto describir algunos rasgos de la vinculación aprobada en 1987 y dejar constancia de las enseñanzas recibidas desde entonces.</p>
<p>The union of these two churches, which no doubt was an act of Divine providence, was achieved within a context where there was little in common. In spite of the disparity, the process was useful for both Churches. Although there were important similarities, the dissimilarities were substantial and these may be summarized as follows:</p>	<p>El encuentro de estas dos iglesias, inscripto sin duda en la providencia Divina, se da con un estado de desarrollo muy diferente dentro de contextos con poco en común. A pesar de lo cual, podemos afirmar que el proceso resultó enriquecedor para ambas. Aún teniendo similitudes importantes, las diferencias eran sustanciales, a saber:</p>
<p>a) Both derive their origin from Scottish immigration: to the United States as a consequence of religious persecution, to Argentina as a result of agreements with the government of that time.</p>	<p>a) Ambas surgen de corrientes inmigratorias de colonos escoceses; a América del Norte por motivos religiosos y a las costas del Plata por convenios gubernamentales.</p>
<p>b) There was a difference in the size of both churches.</p>	<p>b) La diferencia de envergadura de ambas</p>
<p>c) Their stages of development were also different. For the EPC, it was a time of the birth of a new denomination, with the vigor, enthusiasm and the vision characteristic of those events, together with the suffering that every denominational disruption brings about. For IPSA, it was the turning point following a long process suffered in defense of a Biblical and Christ-centered message.</p>	<p>c) La diferencia de momento. En el caso de la EPC, era el tiempo del nacimiento de una denominación, que incluye la pujanza, entusiasmo y visión de esos casos, como así también el sufrimiento que toda separación denominacional produce. Para la IPSA resultaba la culminación de un largo proceso sufrido en defensa de un mensaje bíblico y Cristo céntrico.</p>

<p>d) There were ecclesiastic differences: the traditional Presbyterian style of government of the U.S. Church, in contrast with the chaplaincy administration of the Argentine Churches by the Overseas Council of the Church of Scotland, until the dissolution of the relationship, which occurred in 1985.</p>	<p>d) Las diferencias referidas al funcionamiento eclesiástico: El gobierno manifiestamente presbiteriano de la iglesia en los EEUU, en contraste con un estilo de administración de capellanías de las iglesias en Buenos Aires, que habían dependido del Consejo de Misiones en el Exterior de la Iglesia de Escocia hasta dos años antes,</p>
<p>e) The historic development of Presbyterianism in the United States as a foundational expression of the culture of the country, in contrast to a Protestant and Scottish religious movement in a predominantly Roman Catholic milieu, identified through most of its history as an ethnic Church and not an authentic missionary ministry.</p>	<p>e) La inserción del presbiterianismo en el medio estadounidense como histórica expresión legítima de culto y parte de la cultura fundacional del país, en contraste con el carácter extranjero que caracterizó en el Río de la Plata a una obra protestante entre una mayoría católica romana, que en general a lo largo de su historia se identificaba más con la cultura de Escocia que con un ministerio auténticamente misionero.</p>
<p>For these reasons, when the 1987 General Assembly, not without a lengthy debate and with some opposition, incorporated St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and named it St. Andrews Presbytery, the sentiments of gratitude and responsibility of the new presbytery were great. Sentiments of gratitude because they were now part of a Church with which they shared a common desire for growth, the EPC within the traditional religious setting of the U.S., St. Andrews by introducing concepts of Reformed theology and liberty of conscience within a context in which authoritarianism and Roman Catholic dogma prevailed. Sentiments of responsibility, because from the very beginning the relationship had as its objective the growth of St. Andrews Presbytery so that in a relatively short period of time new presbyteries would be formed in Argentina, thus creating an authentic Presbyterian church,</p>	<p>Por eso, cuando la Asamblea General de 1987, incorporó a la Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andrés, con el nombre de Presbiterio San Andrés, no sin ardua discusión y con alguna oposición, las emociones de gratitud y responsabilidad del nuevo presbiterio fueron grandes. Emoción de gratitud porque ahora eran parte de una Iglesia con la cual compartían anhelos de crecimiento comunes, uno en el marco tradicional de su propio país, el otro en introducir conceptos de teología reformada y de libertad de conciencia en un entorno predominantemente autoritario y Católico Romano. Emoción de responsabilidad, pues desde el principio la relación tuvo un objetivo de crecimiento, de tal manera que en un plazo relativamente breve, el Presbiterio San Andrés pudiera ser acompañado por otros Presbiterios nacidos en la Argentina, para formar entonces una auténtica Iglesia Presbiteriana autónoma y nacional en la República Argentina. Y</p>

autonomous and national in extent. And it was always in the mind of those who promoted this temporary union that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church would benefit by its participation in a profound renewal of the Argentine character and lifestyle, through the work of the Holy Spirit, by the proclamation of the Reformed message.	siempre estuvo presente en la mente de los que impulsaron esta unión transitoria, que el beneficio espiritual que redundaría para la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana consistiría en participar directamente en una renovación profunda en el ser Argentino mediante la obra del Espíritu Santo por medio de la divulgación del testimonio reformado.
Today, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will vote the dismissal of the St. Andrews Presbytery. And because of the sentiments and expectations that emerged in 1987, St. Andrews Presbytery wishes to describe some of the lessons learned during these seventeen years, for the mutual benefit of both Churches, lessons that should not be ignored or forgotten.	Hoy, la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana votará la desvinculación del Presbiterio San Andrés. Y en razón de las emociones despertadas en 1987, y de las expectativas provocadas desde entonces, el Presbiterio San Andrés desea dejar constancia de alguna sabiduría adquirida en estos diecisiete años, para mutuo beneficio de las partes, y para que sirvan de enseñanzas que no se deben ignorar ni olvidar.
These are described below:	Se describen a continuación:
THAT for St. Andrews Presbytery the union with a denomination, Reformed in doctrine and proclaiming a Christ centred message based on the Bible as the Word of God has been of enormous benefit.	QUE para el Presbiterio San Andrés ha sido de inestimable provecho la vinculación con una denominación Reformada que afirma una teología Cristo céntrica basada en la Biblia como Palabra de Dios,
THAT this union has signified the transformation of the Particular Churches of St. Andrews Presbytery, from service to a Scottish ethnic community, to Churches truly concerned with service to all people,	QUE dicha vinculación ha significado la transformación de las Iglesias Particulares del Presbiterio San Andrés, desde el servicio a una etnia Escocesa a Iglesias auténticamente comprometidas con los habitantes del país;
THAT in the area of theology, as a result of the process of ordination, Teaching Elders have learned the central elements of Reformed Theology,	QUE en lo teológico, los Presbíteros Maestros, a través de su proceso de ordenación han debido aprender los fundamentos de la Teología Reformada;
THAT in the area of ecclesiology, the subordination to the <i>Book of Government</i> of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has provided St. Andrews Presbytery the means of learning and practicing the Presbyterian form of government,	QUE en lo eclesiástico la subordinación al Libro de Gobierno de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana ha permitido al Presbiterio San Andrés conocer y practicar la forma de gobierno Presbiterianas;

<p>THAT this system of government is appreciated even more, when experience has taught that when its norms and procedures are not followed the relation between Presbytery and General Assembly have suffered as a consequence,</p>	<p>QUE este sistema de gobierno se valora aun más, pues la experiencia ha enseñado que cuando se aparta de sus normas y procedimientos las relaciones entre Presbiterio y Asamblea General han sufrido en consecuencia;</p>
<p>THAT correctly administered discipline is always beneficial, because experience has taught that its lack of application, especially between courts of the Church, causes a lack of discipline that provokes anarchy,</p>	<p>QUE la disciplina bien administrada siempre es provechosa, pues la experiencia ha enseñado que su falta de aplicación, especialmente entre cortes de la Iglesia, es causa de indisciplina que promueve anarquía;</p>
<p>THAT financial assistance should have as its counterpart thorough accountability,</p>	<p>QUE la asistencia financiera debiera tener como contrapartida una estricta rendición de cuentas;</p>
<p>THAT the “essence” of being Presbyterian is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to transfer to other cultures without the presence on the mission field of Teaching Elders of the denomination and with experience on the mission field, a matter on which the General Assembly was able to assist only in very recent years.</p>	<p>QUE el “ser” Presbiteriano es extremadamente difícil transferir, si no imposible, sin la presencia como misioneros de Presbíteros Maestros de la denominación y con experiencia en el campo de misión, cuestión en la que la Asamblea General tuvo la posibilidad de ayudar solamente en los últimos años.</p>
<p>For these reasons, and perhaps many others, St. Andrews Presbytery wishes that the debt of gratitude which it owes the Evangelical Presbyterian Church be registered and recognized in its historical records. And now it only rests that this Presbytery move into independency, together with the experience it has acquired during these years and with the responsibility of continuing in the paths our Lord will set out for it in the future and that began during this union with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.</p>	<p>Por estos motivos, y quizás muchos otros también, el Presbiterio San Andrés desea que permanezcan y se reconozcan en sus archivos históricos, la deuda de gratitud que ella le debe a la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana. Ahora corresponde que este Presbiterio pasa a la independencia, con el bagaje de experiencias obtenidos, y con la responsabilidad de continuar en el camino que le trace nuestro Señor en el futuro, comenzado juntos durante esta vinculación con la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana.</p>
<p>WHEREAS, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of St. Andrews are one body in Jesus Christ, the Great Head of the Church, made up of many members with diverse gifts and ministries, yet with a single commission</p>	<p>Dado que, la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y el Presbiterio San Andrés son un cuerpo en Jesucristo, la Gran Cabeza de la Iglesia, compuesta por varios miembros con diversos dones y ministerios pero aún así con una única</p>

from our Lord to be His witnesses throughout the world that, through Jesus Christ, our God reigns (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12; Matt. 28:19-20; Is. 52:7; Ps. 93:1);	comisión de nuestro Señor para que seamos sus testigos a través del mundo y a través de Jesucristo, reina nuestro Dios (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12; Mat 28:19-20; Is 52:7; Ps 93:1);
WHEREAS, being led by the Spirit of God and enabled by His Providence, the Seventh General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church approved the request of St. Andrews Presbytery to become a member presbytery though with the registered dissent of some commissioners.	DADO QUE, siendo guiada por el Espíritu de Dios y por su Providencia, la Séptima Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana aprobó, aunque con el registro de la oposición de algunos comisionados, el pedido del presbiterio San Andrés para ser un miembro pleno;
WHEREAS, the Presbytery of St. Andrews was previously an extension of the Overseas Council of the Church of Scotland with a long history in this nation;	DADO QUE, el Presbiterio San Andrés era previamente una extensión del Consejo de Ultramar de la Iglesia de Escocia con una larga trayectoria en esta nación;
WHEREAS, our relationship from the beginning included the mutual objective that the EPC support this work of the Spirit of God, providing spiritual and ecclesiastical coverage, so that in a relatively short time a National Church in Argentina would be developed, and that this cooperation would be also of spiritual benefit to the EPC, as a vital factor in the establishment of a denomination Reformed in theology and Presbyterian in government in a Latin American country;	DADO QUE, desde el principio nuestra relación incluyó el objetivo mutuo que la EPC apoye este accionar del Espíritu, proveyendo una cobertura espiritual y eclesiástica, de tal manera que en un período relativamente breve se desarrolle una Iglesia Nacional en Argentina, y que esta cooperación redundaría en un beneficio espiritual para la EPC, por ser un factor determinante en el establecimiento de una denominación Reformada en teología y Presbiteriano en sistema de gobierno en un país Latino Americano;
WHEREAS, our partnership in the gospel has been mutually beneficial, due to the teachings received and experiences acquired, both positive and negative, resulting in the greater glory of God;	DADO QUE, nuestra cooperación en el evangelio ha sido mutuamente beneficiosa; sea por las enseñanzas recibidas y experiencias positivas y negativas vividas, y ha resultado en una mayor gloria a Dios;
WHEREAS, representatives of the General Assembly and the St. Andrews Presbytery mutually established that having achieved sufficient maturity, St. Andrews Presbytery can now continue its development without the ecclesiastical coverage offered until the	DADO QUE, representantes de la Asamblea General y el Presbiterio San Andrés establecieron mutuamente que habiendo logrado un grado de madurez suficiente, el Presbiterio San Andrés puede ahora continuar su desarrollo sin la cobertura eclesiástica ofrecida hasta

present by the EPC;	ahora por la EPC;
NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that, with thanks to God for His abundant goodness and hope for His continued blessing of our partnership in the Gospel, the St. Andrews Presbytery is dismissed from the General Assembly as a member presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in order to be recognized as a self-governing ecclesiastical body in Argentina.	POR TANTO AHORA, se resuelve que, siendo agradecidos a Dios por su abundante bondad y con esperanza de su continua bendición sobre nuestro compañerismo en el Evangelio, el Presbiterio San Andrés es desvinculado de la Asamblea General como un presbiterio miembro de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana para ser reconocido como un cuerpo eclesiástico auto gobernado en Argentina.
ARTICLE ONE Effective Date	ARTÍCULO UNO Fecha de Inicio
1.1 The effective date of this action will be upon the adjournment of the 24 th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.	1.1 La fecha de inicio de esta acción será luego del cierre de la 24 ^o Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana.
ARTICLE TWO Dismissal	ARTÍCULO DOS Desvinculación
2.1 On the Effective Date the Presbytery of St. Andrews shall be dismissed as a Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in good standing and with the full respect, love and encouragement of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.	2.1 En la Fecha de Inicio el Presbiterio San Andrés será desvinculado como Presbiterio de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana en buena relación y con un completo respeto, amor y ánimo de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana
2.2 On the Effective Date, the Presbytery of St. Andrews shall constitute a self-governing ecclesiastical body in Argentina, hereinafter referred to as “St. Andrews Presbytery,” subject to the will and sovereignty of God, the Constitution and governing documents of such Church.	2.2 En el Día de Inicio, el Presbiterio San Andrés constituirá un cuerpo eclesiásticamente auto gobernado en Argentina, desde aquí en adelante llamado “Presbiterio San Andrés”, sujeto a la voluntad y soberanía de Dios, la Constitución y los documentos de gobierno de tal Iglesia.
2.3 The General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and St. Andrews Presbytery shall exist in full fraternal relationship, which relationship shall be governed by these Articles of Dismissal and Agreement except as amended by a majority vote of both	2.3 La Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana y el Presbiterio San Andrés continuarán una plena relación fraternal, la cual será gobernada por estos Artículos de Desvinculación y Acuerdo excepto que sean modificados por un voto mayoritario de ambos

bodies.	cuerpos.
2.4 After initial adoption, these articles may be amended by the majority vote of both bodies.	2.4 Luego de la adopción inicial, estos artículos podrán ser modificados por un voto mayoritario de ambos cuerpos.
ARTICLE THREE Terms of Dismissal	ARTÍCULO TRES Términos de Desvinculación
3.1 <u>Transitional Period</u> : There will be a transitional period of five years from the Effective Date, the terms of which as specified herein shall govern the relationship during that time.	3.1 <u>Período de Transición</u> : Habrá un período de transición de cinco años desde la Fecha de Inicio, que será gobernado durante ese tiempo por los términos especificados aquí.
3.2 <u>Legal Structure</u> : The legal structure with which St. Andrews Presbytery has operated up to the present is considered adequate for the transitional period. St. Andrews Presbytery will be responsible for establishing steps to consider any new legal entity in the future.	3.2 <u>Estructura Legal</u> : Se considera apta la estructura legal que hasta el presente ha permitido el funcionamiento del Presbiterio San Andrés ante las autoridades civiles argentinas para el período de transición. El Presbiterio San Andrés será responsable de establecer los pasos para considerar cualquier nueva entidad legal en el futuro.
3.3 <u>Governance</u> :	3.3 <u>Gobierno</u> :
3.3.1 The <u>Constitution</u> of St. Andrews Presbytery shall be the <i>The Book of Order</i> , the Westminster Confession, Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and “Essentials of Our Faith.” This Constitution and all other governing documents shall be subordinate to the Holy Scriptures.	3.3.1 La <u>Constitución</u> del Presbiterio San Andrés será el <i>Libro de Orden</i> , la Confesión de Fe de Westminster, los Catecismos Mayor y Menor y el documento Los Esenciales de la Fe. Esta Constitución y cualquier otro documento de gobierno serán subordinados a las Sagradas Escrituras.
3.3.2 <u>Book of Order</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery adopts the Spanish translation of the 2003 edition of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church <i>Book of Order (Book of Government, Book of Discipline, Book of Worship)</i> as already certified by the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly in all its applicable parts for a transitional period of five (5) years from the Effective Date. Subsequent amendments ratified by the General Assembly will be considered for ratification by St. Andrews on a case by case basis. No	3.3.2 <u>Libro de Orden</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés adopta la traducción española de la edición 2003 del <i>Libro de Orden (Libro de Gobierno, Libro de Disciplina y Libro de Adoración)</i> de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana tal como fue certificada por la Oficina del Secretario de la Asamblea General en todas sus partes de aplicación por un período de transición de cinco (5) años desde la Fecha de Inicio. Las subsiguientes modificaciones ratificadas por la Asamblea General serán consideradas para su ratificación por San Andrés caso

additional amendments will be made during the transitional period.	por caso. No se harán modificaciones adicionales durante el período de transición.
3.3.3 <u>Westminster Confession and Catechisms</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery adopts the Mexican Spanish translation of the Westminster Confession and Catechisms with the addition of chapters 24, 34 and 35 of the Summertown Text Modern Language Version (English) until such time that St. Andrews Presbytery may opt for another translation.	3.3.3 <u>Confesión de Fe y Catecismos de Westminster</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés adopta la traducción mexicana de la Confesión de Fe y los Catecismos de Westminster, con el agregado de los capítulos 24, 34 y 35 de la Versión en Lenguaje Moderno de Summertown (en inglés) hasta el momento en que el Presbiterio San Andrés opte por otra traducción.
3.4 <u>Ecclesiastical Structure</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery will begin as one presbytery. When a second presbytery is formed, the provisions of the <i>Book of Order</i> regarding the General Assembly will become applicable.	3.4 <u>Estructura Eclesiástica</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés comenzará como un presbiterio. Cuando se forme un segundo presbiterio, las disposiciones del Libro de Orden concernientes a la Asamblea General serán de aplicación.
3.5 <u>Constitutional Review Committee</u> : St. Andrews Presbytery will establish a Constitutional Review Committee of not less than five members belonging to at least three churches to study the <i>Book of Order</i> and make recommendations to St. Andrews Presbytery at the end of five years regarding any proposed revisions.	3.5 <u>Comité de Revisión Constitucional</u> : el Presbiterio San Andrés establecerá un Comité de Revisión Constitucional de no menos de cinco miembros de al menos tres Iglesias para estudiar el <i>Libro de Orden</i> y, al finalizar los cinco años, hacer recomendaciones al Presbiterio San Andrés concernientes a cualquier revisión propuesta.
3.6 <u>Court of Appeal</u> :	3.6 <u>Corte de Apelación</u> :
3.6.1 The Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall appoint annually a three-member judicial commission to act as the final court of appeal for cases involving the discipline of Teaching Elders who are members of St. Andrews Presbytery. The PJC will appoint members who, to the extent possible, are familiar with St. Andrews Presbytery. This commission may include, but is not limited to, PJC members.	3.6.1 La Comisión Judicial Permanente (CJP) de la Asamblea General de la Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana designará anualmente una comisión judicial de tres miembros para actuar como corte final de apelación en casos que incluyan la disciplina de presbíteros maestros que son miembros del Presbiterio San Andrés. La CJP designará miembros que, dentro de lo posible, estén familiarizados con el Presbiterio San Andrés. Esta comisión puede incluir, pero no se limita a, miembros de la CJP.
3.6.2 This St. Andrews Judicial Commission shall be dissolved at such	3.6.2 Esta Comisión Judicial San Andrés será disuelta al momento en que una

time a general assembly or synod is formed by St. Andrews Presbytery. Its members shall serve one year terms but may be reappointed.	Asamblea General o Sínodo sea formada por el Presbiterio San Andrés. Sus miembros servirán por término de 1 año pero podrán ser reasignados.
ARTICLE FOUR Operational Agreements	ARTÍCULO CUATRO Acuerdos de Operación
<u>4.1 Relationship of World Outreach Missionaries with St. Andrews Presbytery</u>	<u>4.1 Relación de Misioneros de Alcance Mundial con el Presbiterio San Andrés</u>
4.1.1 The placement of World Outreach Missionaries in Argentina shall be governed by applicable provisions in the <i>World Outreach Manual</i> .	4.1.1 El envío de los Misioneros de Alcance Mundial en Argentina será gobernada por las disposiciones de aplicación en el Manual de Alcance Mundial.
4.1.2 World Outreach Missionaries will have voice but no vote in church courts of St. Andrews Presbytery. They may be full members of committees but are not eligible to serve as chairman.	4.1.2 Los Misioneros de Alcance Mundial tendrán voz pero no voto en las cortes eclesiásticas de Presbiterio San Andrés. Podrán ser miembros plenos de comités pero no podrán servir como presidentes.
4.1.3 World Outreach Missionaries in Argentina are subject to the EPC presbytery in which they hold membership in matters of church discipline. In matters of employment they are accountable to EPC World Outreach. In day to day ministry activities they are accountable to St. Andrews Presbytery in consultation with EPC World Outreach.	4.1.3 Los Misioneros de Alcance Mundial en Argentina están sujetos al presbiterio de la EPC donde mantienen membresía en materia de disciplina eclesiástica. En materia de empleo, rendirán cuentas a Alcance Mundial de la EPC. En cuanto a las actividades del ministerio cotidiano rendirán cuentas al Presbiterio San Andrés en consulta con Alcance Mundial de la EPC.
<u>4.2 Missionaries sent from St. Andrews Presbytery:</u> When missionaries from St. Andrews Presbytery are being sent to the world, individual missionaries may, in consultation with World Outreach, seek support from EPC churches for their own support accounts.	<u>4.2 Misioneros enviados desde el Presbiterio San Andrés:</u> Cuando misioneros del Presbiterio San Andrés sean enviados al mundo, los misioneros podrán individualmente, en consulta con Alcance Mundial, buscar apoyo de las iglesias de EPC para su sostén.
<u>4.3 Theological Education:</u>	<u>4.3 Educación Teológica:</u>
4.2.1 <u>Ordination Requirements:</u> The educational requirements for the ordination of teaching elders in Argentina set by the Evangelical	4.2.1 <u>Requisitos de ordenación:</u> Los requisitos educacionales para la ordenación de presbíteros maestros en Argentina establecidos por la Iglesia Evangélica

Presbyterian Church shall continue during the five-year transitional period. Input on possible changes in standards will be directed to the Constitutional Review Committee.	Presbiteriana continuarán durante el período de transición de cinco años. Las contribuciones para posibles cambios en los requisitos serán dirigidas al Comité de Revisión Constitucional.
4.3.2 <u>Written Examinations</u> : The Evangelical Presbyterian Church will supply ordination examinations to St. Andrews Presbytery for translation and use during the Transitional Period. St. Andrews Presbytery will determine a system for grading the examinations.	4.3.2 <u>Exámenes escritos</u> : La Iglesia Evangélica Presbiteriana proporcionará exámenes de ordenación al Presbiterio San Andrés para su traducción y uso durante el Período de Transición. el Presbiterio San Andrés determinará un sistema para evaluar los exámenes.
4.3.3 <u>Theological Institute of St. Andrews</u> : The Theological Institute of St. Andrews, in the early stages of development as of the ratification of these articles, will continue under development as a joint project of General Assembly and St. Andrews Presbytery.	4.3.3 <u>Instituto Teológico San Andrés</u> : El Instituto Teológico San Andrés, en las primeras etapas de desarrollo en la ratificación de estos artículos, continuará en desarrollo como un proyecto conjunto de la Asamblea General y el Presbiterio San Andrés.
4.4 <u>Argentine Consultation</u> : The subcommittee of the Committee on Administration referred to as the “Argentine Consultation” will continue for one year from the Effective Date to oversee the implementation of these Articles of Agreement.	4.4 <u>Consulta Argentina</u> : El subcomité del Comité en Administración llamado “Consulta Argentina” continuará por un año desde la Fecha de Inicio para supervisar la implementación de estos Artículos de Acuerdo.
Now therefore, the parties hereto, by their duly elected and authorized officers, in duplicate and in Spanish and English, hereto set their hands and affix their seals on this _____ day of _____, 2004. BY/POR	Por tanto ahora, las partes establecidas, a través de sus funcionarios debidamente elegidos y autorizados, en duplicado y en Español y en Inglés, firman y aprueban el día _____ de _____ de 2004 BY/POR
Moderator, St. Andrews Presbytery Moderador, Presbiterio San Andrés ATTEST/ CERTIFICACIÓN	Moderator, 24th General Assembly Moderador, 24 Asamblea General ATTEST/ CERTIFICACIÓN
Stated Clerk, St. Andrews Presbytery Secretario, Presbiterio San Andrés	Stated Clerk, General Assembly Secretario, Asamblea General

2005 ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2004 Budget	2005 Adopted
DISBURSEMENTS				
Personnel Disbursements				
Stated Clerk Salary	88,200	88,200	89,900	92,700
Program Staff Salaries	318,000	320,486	324,500	358,000
Support Staff Salaries	103,000	88,914	110,000	118,500
Staff Insurance/Pension	111,900	111,049	135,500	167,000
Executive Expense Allowance	7,300	6,541	7,300	7,300
Staff Travel/Expenses	38,000	46,045	38,000	46,000
Executive Travel	25,000	20,368	25,000	25,000
Taxes/Worker Comp	28,500	26,338	29,500	33,000
Officer/Director Liability	7,000	9,360	8,500	10,500
Total	726,900	717,301	768,200	858,000
Administration Disbursements				
Contingencies	5,000	1,734	5,000	5,000
Telephone/Internet Access	14,000	10,100	13,000	13,000
Office Supplies	11,000	9,125	11,000	11,000
Printing & Promotion	37,500	19,243	35,000	32,000
GA Publications (Reflections)	55,000	-	-	-
Postage	29,000	26,276	29,000	29,000
Technology Support	24,000	31,585	21,400	20,400
Financial Audit	3,800	4,000	4,000	4,000
Professional Fees	5,000	12,206	5,000	5,000
Miscellaneous	4,000	1,607	4,000	4,000
Office Development	6,000	7,729	6,000	6,000
Committee Travel/Expense	75,000	57,132	72,000	70,000
GA Administration	23,000	15,998	23,000	21,000
Staff Technical Training	3,000	-	3,000	3,000
Pension Fund Admin.	9,000	2,318	12,000	9,000
Fraternal Relations	10,000	7,059	10,000	10,000
Presbytery Devel/Support	3,000	2,814	3,000	3,000
Leadership Development	1,000	30	3,000	3,000
Christian Ed/Resource	2,000	412	2,000	2,000
Buckingham Rent	129,000	128,908	150,500	154,000
Buckingham Utilities	9,000	6,820	9,000	-
Buckingham Maint/Insurance	15,400	12,203	16,800	8,000
Van Expense	2,000	1,272	2,500	2,500
Total	475,700	358,571	440,200	414,900
GRAND TOTAL	1,202,600	1,075,872	1,208,400	1,272,900

2005 BENEVOLENCE ASKINGS

Vision 21 Implementation	\$100,000
Vision 21 - Ministerial Vocation	
Care of Pastors & Spouses	\$8,000
National Outreach	
Church Planting	\$100,000
Church Loan Fund	<u>\$25,000</u>
	\$125,000
Ad Interim Committee on College Ministries	
College Leadership Summit	\$5,000
College Ministry Leadership Development	<u>20,000</u>
	\$25,000
Student & Young Adult Ministries	
Ministry development	\$8,000
Student scholarships	\$3,000
Youth Worker Leadership Development	<u>\$10,000</u>
	\$21,000
Women's Ministries	
Per Woman Asking	\$20,000
Faith Focus 2005	<u>\$45,000</u>
	\$65,000
World Outreach	
Argentina Leadership Development	\$5,000
Argentina–World Outreach Church Planting	\$7,500
Argentina–Pastoral Local Scholarships	\$10,000
Argentina–St. Andrews Church Planting	\$15,000
Kazakhstan–Team Development	\$7,500
Kazakhstan–Outreach & Mercy Ministry	\$10,000
Muslim Team Development	\$25,000
Muslim Field Agricultural Development Project	\$10,000
East Asia Seminaries	\$15,000
Ethiopia Youth Center	\$10,000
Joint Committee on Mission (EPC/IPB)	
RTS/IPB D.Min. Support	\$30,000
Edward Davis Library (Andrew Jumper Center)	<u>\$20,000</u>
World Outreach Total	\$165,000
Grand Total	\$509,000

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the General Assembly of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (a non-profit organization) as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years 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 audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with United States 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 that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the changes in net assets and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental information on pages 12-17 is presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Karl L. Drake

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

February 20, 2004

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

	2003	2002
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Equivalents:		
Unrestricted	\$ 2,013,561	\$ 1,822,705
Restricted	1,332,265	1,025,834
Investments:		
Unrestricted	655,944	560,316
Restricted	1,151,660	881,877
Accounts Receivable	202,850	62,125
Inventory	62,411	55,614
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	5,418,691	4,408,471
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and Equipment	105,928	87,433
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-75,811	-61,160
NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	30,117	26,273
OTHER ASSETS		
Notes Receivable	54,590	99,261
Deposits	6,129	6,129
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	60,719	105,390
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 5,509,527	\$ 4,540,134
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 420,708	\$ 176,014
Accrued Expenses	1,003	5,070
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	421,711	181,084
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	436,543	257,832
Temporarily Restricted	4,607,560	4,057,505
Permanently Restricted	43,713	43,713
TOTAL NET ASSETS	5,087,816	4,359,050
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 5,509,527	\$ 4,540,134

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2003 Total	2002 Total
REVENUES					
Contributions	\$ 1,068,064	\$ 2,560,035	\$ ---	\$ 3,628,099	\$ 3,263,441
Investment Income	-12,691	86,940	---	74,249	37,453
Program Income	47,729	4,500,823	---	4,548,552	3,382,500
Other Income	14,243	---	---	14,243	10,790
Assets Released From Restrictions	6,751,353	-6,751,353	---	---	---
TOTAL REVENUES	7,868,698	396,445	---	8,265,143	6,694,184
EXPENSES					
Program Expenses	6,716,831	---	---	6,716,831	5,353,629
General and Administrative	1,063,648	---	---	1,063,648	959,287
Fund Raising	8,382	---	---	8,382	12,386
TOTAL EXPENSES	7,788,861	---	---	7,788,861	6,325,302
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN <LOSS>					
	79,837	396,445	---	476,282	368,882
UNREALIZED GAIN <LOSS> IN MARKET VALUE					
	98,874	153,610	---	252,484	-146,043
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	178,711	550,055	---	728,766	222,839
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	257,832	4,057,505	43,713	4,359,050	4,136,211
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 436,543	\$ 4,607,560	\$ 43,713	\$ 5,087,816	\$ 4,359,050

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002**

	Program Services	General and Administrative	Fund Raising	2003 Total	2002 Total
Compensation	\$ ---	\$ 497,600	\$ ---	\$ 497,600	\$ 446,552
Employee Benefits	---	117,590	---	117,590	84,964
Payroll Taxes	---	26,338	---	26,338	24,653
Repairs and Maintenance	---	12,203	---	12,203	19,497
Travel	---	66,413	---	66,413	46,180
Committee Expenses	---	57,132	---	57,132	52,492
Contingencies	---	1,734	---	1,734	1,863
Printing and Promotion	---	10,861	8,382	19,243	24,843
Professional Fees	---	16,206	---	16,206	4,634
Rent and Property Taxes	---	128,908	---	128,908	125,536
Van Expense	---	1,272	---	1,272	1,934
Office Supplies	---	9,125	---	9,125	9,884
Telephone	---	10,100	---	10,100	9,126
Utilities	---	6,820	---	6,820	7,444
Insurance	---	9,360	---	9,360	7,800
Postage	---	26,276	---	26,276	26,524
Development	---	10,986	---	10,986	1,625
Fraternal Relations	---	7,059	---	7,059	7,569
Support and Training	---	---	---	---	2,450
General Assembly Expenses	---	15,998	---	15,998	21,360
Miscellaneous	---	1,607	---	1,607	2,389
Premiums	570,429	---	---	570,429	565,139
Claims	3,554,234	---	---	3,554,234	2,553,188
Administrative Expenses	119,338	2,318	---	121,656	151,417
Program Expenses	2,360,330	---	---	2,360,330	2,095,788
Settlement	112,500	---	---	112,500	---
Technology Support	---	31,585	---	31,585	20,897
TOTALS BEFORE ADJUSTMENTS	\$ 6,716,831	\$ 1,067,491	\$ 8,382	\$ 7,792,704	\$ 6,315,748
Fixed Asset Capitalization	---	-20,480	---	-20,480	-4,457
Depreciation	---	16,637	---	16,637	14,011
ADJUSTED TOTALS	\$ 6,716,831	\$ 1,063,648	\$ 8,382	\$ 7,788,861	\$ 6,325,302

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

	2003	2002
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase <Decrease> in Net Assets before Unrealized Gain <Loss>	\$ 476,282	\$ 368,882
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	16,637	14,011
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease <Increase> in Accounts Receivable	-140,725	-56,100
Decrease <Increase> in Inventory	-6,797	3,188
Increase <Decrease> in Accounts Payable	244,694	-347,119
Increase <Decrease> in Accrued Liabilities	-4,068	4,080
Decrease <Increase> in Notes Receivable	44,671	49,583
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	630,694	36,525
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Sale <Purchase> of Fixed Assets	-20,480	-4,457
Sale <Purchase> of Investments	-365,411	329,641
Unrealized Gain <Loss> on Investments	252,484	-146,043
NET CASH FLOWS FROM <USED BY> INVESTING ACTIVITIES	-133,407	179,141
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	---	---
INCREASE IN CASH	497,287	215,666
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	2,848,539	2,632,873
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 3,345,826</u>	<u>\$ 2,848,539</u>
OTHER DISCLOSURES		
Cash used for:		
Income taxes	\$ ---	\$ ---
Interest	\$ ---	\$ ---

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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 or 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 United States 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 reports expirations of donor restrictions when the donated or acquired assets are placed in service

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

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 2003 and 2002 totaled \$16,637 and \$14,011 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 consists of mutual funds, and are valued at market value, including accrued interest.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES

During the year ended December 31, 2003, 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 are included in the Church Loan Fund. Details of this account consist of the following:

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Argentina	\$ ---	\$ 8,750
North Park EPC	4,583	9,583
Elkton EPC	---	10,000
Tabernacle EPC	6,329	13,083
Cornerstone EPC	10,833	15,833
Covenant Community	12,845	17,429
Covenant	<u>20,000</u>	<u>24,583</u>
Total	<u>\$ 54,590</u>	<u>\$ 99,261</u>

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 4 - NET ASSET RESTRICTIONS

At December 31, 2003 and 2002, temporarily restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	2003	2002
World Outreach	\$ 1,544,543	\$ 1,442,874
Church Development	95,040	107,616
Church Loan	781,707	732,802
Programs	1,602,591	1,546,108
Medical Insurance Plan	583,679	228,105
	<u>\$ 4,607,560</u>	<u>\$ 4,057,505</u>

At December 31, 2003 and 2002, permanently restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	2003	2002
Ministerial Endowment	<u>\$ 43,713</u>	<u>\$ 43,713</u>

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 re-insurance policy.

Following is a summary of transactions for the self-insurance program for 2003 and 2002.

	2003	2002
Premiums Billed	\$ 4,064,652	\$ 3,227,998
Interest Income	16,933	14,422
Gain <Loss> in Market Value	153,423	-81,229
Insurance Stoploss	383,351	152,813
Premiums Expense	-570,429	-565,139
Claims Expense	-3,554,234	-2,553,188
Administrative Expense	-118,338	-138,514
Settlement	-112,500	---
Excess Of Revenues Over Expenses	<u>\$ 262,858</u>	<u>\$ 57,163</u>

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 2003 and 2002 were \$46,647 and \$41,752 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 2003 and 2002.

	2003	2002
Contributions	\$ 2,840,969	\$ 2,497,946
Dividends and Interest	353,907	283,504
Gain <Loss> in Market Value	3,604,973	-3,345,097
Transfers In <Out>	-193,193	22,021
Pension Payments	-900,449	-865,321
Administrative Expense	-7,438	-9,364
Excess of Revenues Over <Under>Expenses	<u>\$ 5,698,769</u>	<u>\$ -1,416,311</u>

NOTE 7 - CHANGES TO PRIOR YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Certain 2002 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:

2004	\$ 65,730
Thereafter	---

A security deposit of \$6,129 was paid to secure the lease. Total lease expense for 2003 and 2002 was \$113,640 and \$111,932, respectively.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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, 2003, cash and cash equivalents included:

	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Book Value</u>
Amounts covered by FDIC Insurance	\$ 126,668	\$ 100,000
Amounts covered by SIPC Insurance	300,000	300,000
Amounts covered by brokerage company insurance	500,000	500,000
Amounts uninsured	<u>2,349,869</u>	<u>2,445,826</u>
Total Cash and Equivalents	<u>\$ 3,276,537</u>	<u>\$ 3,345,826</u>

Deposits in transit and outstanding checks cause differences between bank carrying value and book value.

NOTE 10 - SUBSEQUENT EVENT

The Medical Insurance Plan was involved in a lawsuit. This lawsuit was settled in December 2003 for \$112,500.

NOTE 11 - PROGRAM SERVICES EXPENSES

The following is a breakdown of the Program Services expenses for the year ending December 31, 2003 and 2002:

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Medical Insurance Plan	\$ 4,355,501	\$ 3,256,841
World Outreach	1,743,938	1,428,862
Church Assistance	406,825	479,935
Church Development	58,667	15,453
Special Projects	150,900	171,538
Church Loan Fund	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
	<u>\$ 6,716,831</u>	<u>\$ 5,353,629</u>

The details for the Medical Insurance Plan are detailed in a separate audited financial statement.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADMINISTRATION

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2003

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Comerica Checking Account	\$ 544,062
Comerica Payroll Account	125,879
Comerica Money Market	602,743
Petty Cash	500
Vanguard - General Fund MM	740,377
Fidelity AM - General Fund	129,308
Comerica Investment	250,447
Manning and Napier Investment	276,189
Vanguard Thompson Fund	33,565
Fidelity Puritan - Knox Fund	176,932
American Centuries - Knox Fund	441,006
Fidelity Puritan - Medical Benevolence	59,991
American Centuries - Medical Benevolence	200,319
Smith Barney - Ministerial Endowment	54,394
Literature Inventory	62,411
Accounts Receivable	<u>2,603</u>

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>3,700,726</u>
-----------------------------	-------------------------

LAND, BUILDING AND FIXTURES

Furniture and Fixtures	105,928
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-75,811</u>

TOTAL LAND, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT	<u>30,117</u>
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OTHER ASSETS

Deposit	<u>6,129</u>
---------	--------------

TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$ 3,736,972</u></u>
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LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

LIABILITIES	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	\$ 13,539
Payroll Taxes Payable	<u>1,003</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	14,542
DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS	<u>3,190,847</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>3,205,389</u>
FUND BALANCE	<u>531,583</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u><u>\$ 3,736,972</u></u>

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ADMINISTRATION

INCOME STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
REVENUE			
Per Member Giving	\$ 1,027,000	\$ 1,068,063	\$ 41,063
Interest Income	36,600	13,911	-22,689
Market Value Adjustments	60,000	94,732	34,732
Missionary Administration	41,000	49,635	8,635
Knox Fund Interest	30,000	10,157	-19,843
Other Income	8,000	14,243	6,243
TOTAL REVENUE	1,202,600	1,250,741	48,141
EXPENSE			
PERSONNEL			
Stated Clerk Salary	88,200	88,200	---
Program Staff Salaries	318,000	320,486	-2,486
Support Staff Salaries	103,000	88,914	14,086
Staff Insurance/Pension	111,900	111,049	851
Professional Expense Allowance	7,300	6,541	759
Staff Travel/Expenses	38,000	46,045	-8,045
Executive Travel	25,000	20,368	4,632
Taxes/Workers Compensation	28,500	26,338	2,162
Officers and Directors Liability Insurance	7,000	9,360	-2,360
TOTAL PERSONNEL	726,900	717,301	9,599
ADMINISTRATION			
Contingencies	5,000	1,734	3,266
Telephone	14,000	10,100	3,900
Office Supplies	11,000	9,125	1,875
Printing and Promotion	37,500	19,243	18,257
EPC Reflections	55,000	---	55,000

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
ADMINISTRATION (CONTINUED)			
Postage	\$ 29,000	\$ 26,276	\$ 2,724
Technology Support	24,000	31,585	-7,585
Financial Audit	3,800	4,000	-200
Professional Fees	5,000	12,206	-7,206
Miscellaneous	4,000	1,607	2,393
Office Development	6,000	7,730	-1,730
Committee Travel	75,000	57,132	17,868
General Assembly Administration	23,000	15,998	7,002
Staff Technical Training	3,000	---	3,000
Pension Fund Administration	9,000	2,318	6,682
Fraternal Relations	10,000	7,059	2,941
Presbytery Development	3,000	2,814	186
Leadership Development	1,000	30	970
Christian Education Resources	2,000	412	1,588
Buckingham Rent/Taxes	129,000	128,908	92
Buckingham Utilities	9,000	6,820	2,180
Buckingham Maintenance/Insurance	15,400	12,203	3,197
Van Expense	2,000	1,272	728
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	475,700	358,572	117,128
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,202,600	1,075,873	126,727
NET SURPLUS	\$ ---	\$ 174,868	\$ 174,868

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2003

ASSETS	
Cash Bank - Checking	<u>\$ ---</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>---</u></u>
 FUND BALANCE	
Inter Fund Account	<u><u>-95,040</u></u>
Net Surplus	<u><u>95,040</u></u>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	<u><u>\$ ---</u></u>

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

INCOME STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
REVENUE			
Central South Presbytery	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ ---
East Presbytery	1,200	1,300	100
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery	6,400	5,600	-800
Midwest Presbytery	6,000	6,000	---
Southeast Presbytery	5,280	5,280	---
West Presbytery	4,800	4,800	---
Florida Presbytery	1,000	1,000	---
Mid-America Presbytery	5,000	5,000	---
CPAC Income	7,000	5,188	-1,812
CDC Other Income	---	1,923	1,923
CDC Carryover	107,616	107,616	---
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>154,296</u>	<u>153,707</u>	<u>-589</u>
EXPENSE			
Church Consultation/Travel	5,000	300	4,700
CPAC Training	23,000	23,983	-983
Presbytery Development/Travel	19,000	13,887	5,113
Church Planters Retreat	3,500	155	3,345
Research/Development	4,000	2,508	1,492
Church Development Miscellaneous	2,000	971	1,029
Church Planter's Development	3,500	3,329	171
Urban Ministries	10,000	2,957	7,043
Communication	5,000	242	4,758
Evangelism	2,000	335	1,665
CDC Website Development	5,000	---	5,000
V21 Video and Miscellaneous Expense	14,300	10,000	4,300
Operational Reserve and Other	57,996	---	57,996
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>154,296</u>	<u>58,667</u>	<u>95,629</u>
NET SURPLUS	<u>\$ ---</u>	<u>\$ 95,040</u>	<u>\$ 95,040</u>

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH LOAN FUND

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2003

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Comerica Checking Account	\$ ---
Fidelity AM - CLF	224,300
Salomon SB - CLF Money Market	<u>502,817</u>

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 727,117

OTHER ASSETS

Notes Receivable - Argentina	---
Notes Receivable - Faith EPC	---
Notes Receivable - North Park EPC	4,583
Notes Receivable - Elkton EPC	---
Notes Receivable - Tabernacle EPC	6,329
Notes Receivable - Cornerstone EPC	10,833
Notes Receivable - Covenant Community	12,845
Notes Receivable - Covenant Presbyterian	<u>20,000</u>

TOTAL OTHER ASSETS 54,590

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 781,707

TOTAL FUND BALANCE \$ 781,707

CHURCH LOAN FUND

INCOME STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
REVENUE			
Contributions	\$ 10,500	\$ 11,438	\$ 938
Investment Income	12,000	35,672	23,672
Argentina Interest	260	197	-63
Argentina Challenge	175	---	-175
Faith EPC Interest	---	---	---
Faith EPC Challenge	---	---	---
North Park EPC Interest	112	105	-7
North Park EPC Challenge	200	8	-192
Elkton EPC Interest	98	49	-49
Elkton EPC Challenge	200	100	-100
Tabernacle Interest	400	404	4
Tabernacle Challenge	275	233	-42
Cornerstone EPC Interest	135	169	34
Cornerstone EPC Challenge	300	317	17
Covenant Community Interest	275	191	-84
Covenant Community Challenge	350	327	-23
Covenant Presbyterian Interest	250	236	-14
Covenant Presbyterian Challenge	500	458	-42
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>26,030</u>	<u>49,904</u>	<u>23,874</u>
EXPENSE			
Administration Fee	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>---</u>
NET SURPLUS	<u>\$ 25,030</u>	<u>\$ 48,904</u>	<u>\$ 23,874</u>

THE BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS REPORT



John Baird, Chairman

TE Ron Horgan (Central South) and **RE Bob Julin** (Midwest), both in the Class of 2004, are retiring at the conclusion of two consecutive, busy terms. The Board thanks them for their wisdom and dedication. **RE Candace McCune** (West, Class of 2005), **RE John Baird** (Midwest, Class of 2005), **RE Bill Johns** (Southeast, Class of 2006), and **RE Will Barnes** (West, Class of 2006) continue on the Board along with two people to be elected by the 24th General Assembly. **Mike Glodo, Ed McCallum, and Janet Bain** attend

Board meetings and are active resources and leaders. The Board is accountable to the Committee on Administration for changes in Medical Insurance Plan benefits, and to the Assembly for the Pension Plan.

Gratitude Gift

The 17th General Assembly approved the Gratitude Gift Fund that is funded by annual, special Christmas offerings to supplement the income of needy retired missionaries and ministers (Acts of the Assembly 87-14). The Board was pleased to authorize one-time or modest monthly funds to individuals totaling \$23,570 for 2003-2004. This is **the highest level distribution in the history of the denomination** and is only possible because of your generosity.

The EPC Pension Plan

Pension Plan **membership increased by 100 people** (or 13%) to a total of 845 participants between the last Assembly and year-end 2003. Members may select from among **28 mutual funds in eight groups**:

Short term investments	Balanced funds	Growth funds
Asset allocation funds	Income producing funds	Growth & income funds
International equity fund	Life Cycle (Fidelity Freedom) Funds	

The Pension Plan is worthwhile for all full time church staff. However, as a 403(b) Plan, it is **especially valuable to EPC Ministers since they are eligible to declare housing allowance exclusions from pension payments when calculating their Federal Income Tax**. Housing allowance exclusions may not be taken from traditional IRA, Roth IRA, or other tax-deferred pension programs. Only 403(b) plan payments are eligible.

Recommendation #1

That the General Assembly designate up to 100% of a minister's early or normal retirement or disability pension for 2005 as a housing allowance for United States

income tax purposes (IRS Ruling I.107-1) but only to the extent that pension is used to rent or provide a home.

Rationale

Our counsel has advised us that we should go on record each year to approve retirement housing allowance. Retirees who have tax questions should consult their tax advisor.

EPC Group Medical Insurance Plan

The Medical Insurance Plan was significantly improved on January 1, 2004 when we retained Blue Cross/Blue Shield to process our claims. While it is still our own, self-insured, Board/COA designed Plan, the use of “the Blues” to process claims means that many more Plan members are able to utilize “in network” providers. This represents a cost savings to Plan members who, in the past, lived in areas where some/many/all providers did not utilize the Preferred Provider Organization that the Plan had been using. “The Blues” is the largest PPO in the U.S with 90% - 95% of all physicians and hospitals being affiliated with them.

In the past year, **Plan membership grew 19%** (which is on top of the 9% growth experienced in the preceding year). Churches joining the Plan are now reporting that **their detailed analyses are revealing that the value of the Plan (i.e., the cost of premiums versus the extent of coverage) is better than commercially available plans.**

Key financial data in 2003:

- Claims totaling \$3,555,234 were paid out.
- Revenues at \$4.6 million were in balance with expenses at \$4.4 million.
- Net Assets (the amount of assets in excess of liabilities) increased \$263,000 during the 12-month period.

Plan enhancements – In addition to retaining Blue Cross/Blue Shield to process claims, the Medical Insurance and Prescription Drug Plans are being improved in several ways including:

- All life time maximums were re-set to zero on 1/1/04. This means, for example, that everyone in the Plan on that date had **all prior accumulated expenses “forgiven” and accumulations against their \$1 million life time coverage started over.** This is especially valuable to people whose membership in the Plan has been maintained over the years.
- Medical expenses due to **sleep disorders will be covered beginning next year.**
- A **“premium holiday” for retirees** was observed in February, 2004.

Cost containment – The Board and Assembly Offices have taken several actions to contain costs including:

- Working ministers and spouses age 65+ are being encouraged to participate in Medicare.
- Fees charged by Express-Scripts were lowered by an amount approximating 1% of our total drug expense.

- Electronic Funds Transfer has been substituted for wire-transfer of funds, saving about \$1,000 each year.
- The process for considering exceptions to the Health Insurance Plan coverages is being focused on situations involving genuine financial hardship and/or genuinely unique medical circumstances.

Pending matters/issues:

- The **new Medicare prescription drug plan will likely impact our Plan**; we are working with our consultant to determine which plan revisions, if any, are appropriate.
- Many Plan **members are not taking appropriate advantage of the lower co-pays for generic drugs, and for the mail away program**. In addition to new educational efforts, alternatives are being explored that could lower the co-pays for generic drugs, and for the mail away program, and increase other co-pays, thus increasing the financial incentive to take advantage of the savings available to members (and to the Plan).
- Maintenance of the regional premium structure (Regions A, B, and C) has not occurred in several years. **Consideration is being given to moving to 4 regions (rather than 3), and updating the region-assignment of each church** to assure that premiums are charged consistently with local health care costs.
- Some Presbyteries have been diligent to assure that EPC Ministers in EPC churches participate in the Medical Insurance Plan. Other Presbyteries have not. **The Board is concerned that some churches are being permitted to purchase less insurance (i.e. lower coverage) for Ministers in the name of “good stewardship.”** In such cases, ministers are not receiving the compensation prescribed by the Assembly. All Presbyteries are urged to assure that the action of the 4th General Assembly be honored so that ministers are assured appropriate health insurance coverage.
- An **Open Enrollment will be conducted this coming November**. Non-participating pastors and churches are urged to give thoughtful, genuine consideration to joining the EPC Plan.

Conclusion

The design and delivery of our Medical and Prescription Drug Plans have improved radically in the past few years. Membership is growing and premium-increases have been kept at, or below national averages for the past four years. Increasingly, people are describing the Plan as “the best since the Denomination was founded.”

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Baird, Chairman

Board of Pension & Benefits

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

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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, 2003 and 2002. 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 United States 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 United States 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, 2003 and 2002, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.



Karl L. Drake, PC
Certified Public Accountant

February 19, 2004

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PENSION PLAN

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
ADDITIONS TO PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Contributions	\$ 2,840,969	\$ 2,497,946
Dividends and Interest	353,907	283,504
Transfers in	104,374	27,271
Realized Gain <Loss> in Market Value	<u>-218,672</u>	<u>-400,894</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	<u>3,080,578</u>	<u>2,407,827</u>
 DEDUCTIONS FROM PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Pension Payments	900,449	865,321
Transfers Out	297,567	5,250
Account Fees	<u>7,438</u>	<u>9,364</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>1,205,454</u>	<u>879,935</u>
 INCREASE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN <LOSS>	1,875,124	1,527,892
 UNREALIZED GAIN <LOSS> IN MARKET VALUE	<u>3,823,645</u>	<u>-2,944,203</u>
 INCREASE <DECREASE> IN NET ASSETS	5,698,769	-1,416,311
 NET ASSETS		
Cash and Investments - Beginning of Year	<u>19,230,539</u>	<u>20,646,850</u>
Cash and Investments - End of Year	<u>\$ 24,929,308</u>	<u>\$ 19,230,539</u>

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PENSION PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2003 AND 2002

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

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

Basis of Presentation

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

Eligibility

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

Plan Funding

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

NOTE B - TAX STATUS

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

NOTE C - PRIOR YEAR INFORMATION

The 2002 information has been restated from the originally published financial statement to properly reflect amounts transferred out of the plan.

NOTE D - PLAN INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 2003 and 2002, the Plan's assets were invested in Merrill Lynch and Fidelity investment accounts as follows. All assets are valued at market value.

	2003	2002
Merrill Lynch	\$ 126,394	\$ 25,410
Fidelity Retirement Government MMKT	1,494,801	1,623,637
Fidelity Asset Manager	2,259,266	1,819,883
Fidelity Intermediate Bond	1,684,028	1,674,811
Fidelity Growth & Income	4,250,221	3,753,548
Fidelity Contrafund	2,903,164	2,129,721
Fidelity Magellan	5,389,241	4,613,417
Fidelity Puritan	1,109,921	821,696
Fidelity Fund	49,351	23,947
Fidelity Equity Income	223,820	59,620
Fidelity Cap and Income	130,841	33,172
Fidelity Value	679,294	315,425
Fidelity Overseas	165,698	37,431
Fidelity Blue Chip	377,823	167,511
Fidelity Worldwide	84,775	42,058
Fidelity Aggressive Growth	458,166	252,644
Fidelity Diversified International	468,336	189,081
Fidelity Diversified Growth	433,394	192,993
Fidelity Small Cap	358,901	131,260
Fidelity Mid Cap	585,927	364,873
Fidelity Freedom Income	238,969	34,222
Fidelity Freedom 2000	8,779	4,023
Fidelity Freedom 2010	238,116	169,549
Fidelity Freedom 2020	162,973	96,883
Fidelity Freedom 2030	79,300	22,875
Fidelity Freedom 2040	20,023	5,020
Fidelity Retirement MMKT	628,905	496,545
Spartan US Equity Index	318,881	129,284
	<u>\$ 24,929,308</u>	<u>\$ 19,230,539</u>

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

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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 financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Insurance Plan as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the years 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 audits in accordance with United States 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 audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Insurance Plan as of December 31, 2003 and 2002, and the changes in net assets and cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with United States generally accepted accounting principles.

Karl L. Drake

Karl L. Drake, PC
Certified Public Accountant

February 19, 2004

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2003 and 2002

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 133,729	\$ 30,287
Investments	656,872	454,491
Accounts Receivable	<u>200,247</u>	<u>152,813</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	990,848	637,591
OTHER ASSETS	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 990,848</u>	<u>\$ 637,591</u>
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,920	\$ 1,188
Claims Payable	<u>404,249</u>	<u>315,582</u>
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	407,169	316,770
NET ASSETS	<u>583,679</u>	<u>320,821</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 990,848</u>	<u>\$ 637,591</u>

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 and 2002

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
REVENUES		
Premiums	\$ 4,064,652	\$ 3,227,998
Dividends and Interest	16,933	14,422
Gain <Loss> in Market Value	88,936	-30,497
Other Additions	<u>383,351</u>	<u>152,813</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	<u>4,553,872</u>	<u>3,364,736</u>
 EXPENSES		
Claims	3,554,234	2,553,188
Premiums	570,429	565,139
Administrative Expenses	118,338	138,514
Settlement	<u>112,500</u>	<u>---</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>4,355,501</u>	<u>3,256,841</u>
 INCREASE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN <LOSS>	 198,371	 107,895
 UNREALIZED GAIN <LOSS> IN MARKET VALUE	 <u>64,487</u>	 <u>-50,732</u>
 INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	 262,858	 57,163
 NET ASSETS		
Beginning of Year	<u>320,821</u>	<u>263,658</u>
End of Year	<u>\$ 583,679</u>	<u>\$ 320,821</u>

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003 and 2002

	2003	2002
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 262,858	\$ 57,163
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to		
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease <Increase> in accounts receivable	-47,434	-148,186
Increase <Decrease> in accounts payable	1,732	1,054
Increase <Decrease> in claims payable	88,667	-207,417
NET CASH FLOWS FROM <USED BY> OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>305,823</u>	<u>-297,386</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Sale <Purchase> of Investments	<u>-202,381</u>	<u>213,105</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
INCREASE <DECREASE> IN CASH	103,442	-84,281
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>30,287</u>	<u>114,568</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 133,729</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 30,287</u></u>
OTHER DISCLOSURES		
Cash used for:		
Income taxes	\$ ---	\$ ---
Interest	\$ ---	\$ ---

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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 presented in this report are based on the accrual basis method of accounting whereby revenue and the related assets are recognized when earned rather than when received, and expenses are recognized when the obligation is incurred rather than when paid.

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).

NOTE C - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Organization considers all highly liquid debt instruments with maturities of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

At December 31, 2003, cash and cash equivalents included:

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Merrill Lynch Money Market Account	\$ 211,192	\$ 30,287
Midwest Guaranty Bank Account	<u>-77,463</u>	<u>---</u>
	<u>\$ 133,729</u>	<u>\$ 30,287</u>

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE C - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS (CONTINUED)

The Merrill Lynch account is used to collect premiums, and pay insurance premiums and administrative costs. The Midwest Guaranty Bank account is used to pay claims.

	Carrying Value	Book Value
Amount covered by FDIC Insurance	\$ 26,668	\$ ---
Amount covered by SIPC Insurance	100,000	100,000
Amounts uninsured	111,192	33,729
	<u>\$ 237,860</u>	<u>\$ 133,729</u>

NOTE D - INVESTMENTS

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

	2003	2002
Comerica Investments	\$ 247,774	\$ 213,627
Manning and Napier Investments	276,189	234,267
Fidelity S & P Index Investments	132,909	6,597
	<u>\$ 656,872</u>	<u>\$ 454,491</u>

Investment accounts are maintained with Comerica, Manning and Napier, and Fidelity. These accounts are managed by fund administrators from each company. At December 31, 2003, the make-up of each account was as follows:

	Cash	Stocks	Mutual Funds	Total
Comerica Investment	\$ 5,671	\$ 116,585	\$ 125,518	\$ 247,774
Manning and Napier	137,564	86,244	52,381	276,189
Fidelity S&P Index	---	---	132,904	132,909
	<u>\$ 143,240</u>	<u>\$ 202,829</u>	<u>\$ 310,803</u>	<u>\$ 656,872</u>

NOTE E - CLAIMS PAYABLE

The Organization books a liability for claims relating to a year that are not paid until the next year. Total claims payable at December 31, 2003 and 2002 were \$404,249 and \$315,582.

NOTE F - SETTLEMENT

A lawsuit was filed in 2002 naming the Organization for unpaid medical bills. This lawsuit was settled in December 2003. To settle the lawsuit, the Organization paid \$112,500 plus legal fees. The legal fees are included in administrative expenses.

NOTE G - INVESTMENT INCOME <LOSS>

Investment	Interest and Dividends	Fees	Realized Gain <Loss>	Unrealized Gain <Loss>
Comerica Investment	\$ 5,411	\$ -2,691	\$ -24,719	\$ 56,147
Manning and Napier	6,250	-2,352	29,684	8,341
Fidelity S & P Index	4,340	---	56,927	27,044

NOTE H - 2002 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The information presented for 2002 has been adjusted from the originally issued financial statements, to reflect \$92,716 of additional accounts receivable from a stop loss insurance payment related to 2002 but not received until 2003.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE



Waring Porter, Chairman

DVD Completed: The Committee completed its work producing a DVD featuring two presentations: *A Family of Churches – Introducing the EPC* and *A Growing Family of Churches: Church Planting in the EPC*. *A Family of Churches* is a resource for new members classes and for those interested in learning more about the EPC denominational family. *A Growing Family of Churches*, produced in conjunction with the National Outreach Committee, will be of interest to churches, presbyteries and church planters as they consider planting new churches. Complimentary DVD's were mailed to each EPC congregation. Additional copies are available from the General Assembly

Office. The Committee expresses its thanks to Doug Balch who put in countless hours as producer of this project. The Committee also thanks the presbyteries who funded this project.

Committee Endorsements:

Sonship and Gospel Transformation (World Harvest Mission): The Committee met with Dr. Neil Williams of World Harvest Mission and approved Sonship and Gospel Transformation as Committee Endorsed Resources for EPC congregations. World Harvest Mission will have an exhibit at the 24th General Assembly and is hosting a breakfast for those who wish to know more about their material.

A Reason for Hope: The Committee approved this newly published book by EPC minister Dr. Michael Berry (Hope Church of Lake County, Libertyville, IL) as a committee commended resource. Coming from a practical framework, the book offers cancer patients a basis for faith and hope as they seek healing. The book is written to encourage anyone who has lost hope in the midst of a serious illness.

For information on the EPC's endorsement policy see
www.epc.org/ministries/education-publishing/endorse-policy.html.

Vision 21 Progress

The CE&P Committee has been working on two Vision 21 goals:

Mobilize a Family-wide Prayer Ministry. The Committee approved a framework for a family-wide prayer ministry to be implemented following its fall 2004 meeting. The prayer ministry will utilize a prayer page on the EPC web site that will include articles and recommended resources on prayer ministry and a prayer calendar focusing on outreach ministries of General Assembly, Presbyteries and

local congregations. The Committee will survey churches and identify those that can serve as resources for others who want to develop congregational prayer ministries. The Committee will also identify a group of EPC prayer partners willing to be contacted by e-mail to pray for emergency needs of EPC leaders.

Provide an Online resource library. The Committee is working on developing an online curriculum evaluation tool that will be part of the EPC web site by the end of the year. The Committee is also working on ways to provide resources for men's ministries and children's ministries online.

Curriculum Developments: The General Assembly has endorsed a family of five curricula for use in the EPC: Great Commission Publications, CRC Publications (Faith Alive Resources – Christian Reformed Church), Bible-in-Life (Cook Communication Ministries), Scripture Press (Cook Communication Ministries) and Gospel Light. CRC Publications has recently published a new curriculum, “Walk With Me,” which will replace Bible Way. Cook will be publishing a new Reformation Press edition of their Bible-in-Life Curriculum. The student material will be the same, but teachers' guides have been rewritten from a Presbyterian/Reformed perspective.

Officer Training Material: The Committee met jointly with the Theology Committee to develop EPC Officer Training Material. The two committees are offering a recommendation to the Assembly (see below) to adopt a draft Officer Training Manual for use and input during the coming year.

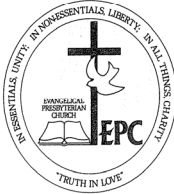
RECOMMENDATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Recommendation: That the Assembly approve a trial edition of an EPC Officer Training Manual for use and comment by EPC congregations and that the CE&P and Theology Committees develop a final version to recommend to the 25th General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Waring Porter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Waring Porter, Chairman



COMMUNICATION 04-1

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 2004

The Reverend Mr. Michael Glodo
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154

Dear Mike:

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:** 2004-2005 Board of Pension and Benefits Chairman
RE John Baird (Midwest)
2. **Nominations:** Nominating Committee, Class of 2007
TE Dan Weidman (Midwest)
RE Bob Lloyd (Florida)
RE Zelda Artz (East)
3. **Appointment:** 2004-2005 Nominating Committee Chairman
TE Darrin "Rocky" Anthony (Central South)

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,

Ronald C. DiNunzio, Moderator
23rd General Assembly



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

COMMUNICATION 04-2

Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

440 West Jubal Early Drive, Suite 130 • Winchester, VA 22601

August 26, 2003

Rev. Michael Glodo
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham St Ste 5
Livonia, MI 48154-4482

Dear Rev. Glodo,

I am pleased to inform you that your ministry's 2003 Annual Membership Review (AMR) has been approved. Evangelical Presbyterian Church has faithfully demonstrated its continued compliance with the ECFA Standards of Responsible Stewardship. ECFA appreciates your ongoing participation with nearly 1,100 other evangelical organizations exhibiting excellence and accountability in ministry. We humbly believe God is honored by the unity of so many within the Body of Christ in this regard.

As a service to the giving public, ECFA continues to enhance its Web site (www.ECFA.org). The site provides in-depth information about ECFA, its Standards, and the importance of membership. In addition to the public site, ECFA will soon announce a new "members only" Web site. It will be a one-stop Web site loaded with information for parachurch ministries and churches. Watch for an announcement in *FOCUS on Accountability*.

A CD containing the graphics files of the new ECFA seal will soon be sent to you. Please incorporate the new seal as you reprint your materials, revise your Web site, etc. The new seal will also be available in a format that can be affixed to a glass door, perhaps at the entrance to your ministry.

We are proud to count Evangelical Presbyterian Church among those organizations that, through its membership, set the example of integrity within the evangelical community. May God continue to bless your ministry as you do His work.

Sincerely,

David Brugger
Manager of Member Certification

Enclosures

540-535-0103 • 800-323-9473 • fax: 540-535-0533 • web: www.ECFA.org • email: info@ECFA.org



COMMUNICATION 04-3

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

—The Westminster Shorter Catechism, Question 27

November 2003

Dear Clerk of Session:

Each Christmas season we celebrate the glory of the Incarnation—that the eternal Son of God “did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,” but became a servant to secure our salvation (Phil. 2:6). Just as Paul commended the same attitude among us, the EPC has commended an annual Christmas offering for the sake of those who have served the church but are now retired. This **Gratitude Gift Offering** assists some of the fifty-nine retired ministers who, along with spouses, make up more than one hundred members of the EPC family.

Last year, 43 churches and individuals participated in this offering, contributing \$35,950 to the **Gratitude Gift Fund**. I hope your session will agree to participate this year. Please put this communication and a sample bulletin insert and offering envelope, on your session docket at its next meeting.

Once you have decided to participate, please complete the enclosed postcard indicating how many bulletin inserts and offering envelopes you would like. Because time is short, you may prefer to email your request for materials to epchurch@epc.org. Your inserts and envelopes will be sent to you just as soon as we receive your request.

I hope your session will take this opportunity to have the mind of a servant toward the servants of the church who have labored as ministers of the gospel in our part of Christ's kingdom.

In Christ's common service,

Michael J. Glodo,
Stated Clerk



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*



COMMUNICATION #04-4

The Office of the General Assembly
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Ave., Ste. 5
Livonia, MI 48154

April 6, 2004

To the General Assembly:

We, the Session of Lookout Mountain Community Church, would like to officially extend an invitation to host the 25th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church here in Golden, Colorado, in June of 2005. A motion made at our last Session Meeting on March 23, 2004 to extend you this invitation was approved unanimously. We are excited at the prospect of hosting this Assembly, and look forward to working closely with you in the days ahead as we begin our planning.

As mentioned in preliminary discussions with Cecil Matthews and Mike Glodo, we need to state that the financial responsibility of this event cannot be borne entirely by Lookout Mountain Community Church; and that the Presbytery of the West and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly are working to identify needed funds.

Sincerely in Christ,

Peter Hiatt, Pastor

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

William M. Flannagan
Pastor

COMMUNICATION #04-5

Committee on Administration
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue
Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154-4586

Greetings in the blessed name of Christ our Lord:

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Rome, Georgia, at the Stated Meeting on March 29, 2004, voted unanimously to extend a cordial invitation for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church 2006 General Assembly to meet in Rome, Georgia.

There is one condition which needs to be resolved prior to the invitation being officially extended to the Committee on Administration. First Presbyterian Church needs additional facility space for the luncheons and break time gathering (during the last General Assembly held in Rome, this was provided by cooperation from the First United Methodist Church. We are in the process of negotiating the possibility with the Methodist Church.)

We are confident that sufficient space will be available but would be more comfortable having this detail confirmed.

We shall contact the General Assembly office as soon as this detail is resolved.

Sincerely,


William M. Flannagan
Moderator



COMMUNICATION 04-6



Reformed Theological Seminary

RTS/EPC Partnership

Andrew Jumper Graduate School of Theology, Mackenzie University

June 1, 2004

We have just completed the first year of the partnership between Reformed Theological Seminary, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Andrew Jumper Graduate School of Theology at Mackenzie University in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Together we have been able to establish a Doctor of Ministry program to help further train Brazilian pastors for ministry.

We rejoice in our partnership, and we want to give special thanks to the EPC for their encouragement of this special project and for providing the financial resources that are necessary to offer this training in Brazil. We look forward to the ways God will use the future graduates of this joint program in their leadership in the Presbyterian Church of Brazil.

Program

For our first year of operation we have forty Brazilian pastors currently enrolled in the D.Min. program and actively taking classes. The following courses were taught during 2003-2004:

- Church Planting – Dr. Elias Medeiros (RTS faculty)
- Expository Preaching in a Postmodern World – Dr. Augustus Nicodemus Lopes (Chancellor, Mackenzie University)
- Theology of Ministry – Dr. Allen Curry (RTS faculty)
- Cultural Anthropology – Dr. Valdeci dos Santos (Andrew Jumper faculty)
- Pastoral Ministry in a Global World – Dr. Sam Larsen (RTS faculty)

Additional classes scheduled for the current year include:

- August 2004, Effective Pastoral Preaching – Dr. David Jussely (RTS faculty)
- October 2004, Developing Leadership in the Brazilian Church – Dr. Frans Schalkwijk (Andrew Jumper faculty)

Finances

Expenses for the program are budgeted presently at \$54,000.00 per year. The largest sources of revenue toward these expenses for this past year were gifts from the EPC General Assembly of \$30,000, other church contributions of \$7,500, and tuition revenue of \$5,500. The remainder of the expenses was covered by gifts from individuals. The ability of RTS to offer this program is a direct result of the vision and generous support of the EPC for the church in Brazil.

Looking toward next year

Accreditation of the D.Min./Brazil program is currently in process. We are optimistic that the program will be approved by the Association of Theological Schools some time in the fall.

In addition to RTS faculty, by God's provision, there are a number of qualified Brazilian professors able to teach in the D.Min. program. It should be noted that these are all men whom the EPC previously sponsored for their advanced training in the U.S. This past investment by the EPC in these Brazilian professors is now being greatly multiplied by the training of other Brazilians. In further expanding course offerings next year, RTS plans to enlist a minister from the EPC to teach one of the courses in the program for 2005. This will further expand the EPC's contribution to the program.

Our partnership with the Andrew Jumper Graduate School of Theology at Mackenzie University in Brazil is extraordinarily strategic. Brazil is a large nation and the church in Brazil has the potential to make a tremendous contribution toward missions. Brazilians in general are already penetrating every part of the world and many of those Brazilians are evangelical Christians. The evangelical Christian community, although still a minority, is growing explosively. However, the Church in Brazil needs trained leadership. We hope for expanded enrollment during 2004-2005.

Conclusion

The Doctor of Ministry program is designed to train proven leaders who in turn will be equipped to train other developing leaders. RTS considers the EPC to be particularly well positioned to help us make this strategic impact in Brazil. The combination of evangelistic zeal and Biblical world view which the EPC has helped to nurture within the Presbyterian Church of Brazil provides a distinctive and much-needed contribution to Christ's Kingdom in that unique part of the world.

We give thanks for the impact of the ministry of the EPC and look forward to continuing our work together in Brazil.

/s/Dr. Robert C. (Ric) Cannada
Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer

COMMUNICATION 04-7

INTERCHURCH RELATIONS COMMITTEE
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORTH AMERICA
R. BRUCE PARNELL, CHAIRMAN
BRUCE C. STEWART, SECRETARY

May 31, 2004

Reverend Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154

Dear Michael,

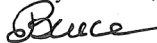
Thank you for your gracious invitation to send a fraternal delegate from our Synod to the meeting of the 24th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

However, since all of our ministers are delegates to Synod, and since the meeting dates of your General Assembly coincide with the meeting dates of our Synod, I am sorry to have to report that we have not been able to find some one who can represent us.

Please convey our greetings to your General Assembly and our prayers for the blessings of our Sovereign Lord Jesus Christ upon your deliberations. We rejoice in your firm stand upon the Scriptures and the historic Reformed faith. We trust that God will lead us in working together more effectively for His kingdom and glory.

On a personal note, it was good to be with you in Colorado Springs!

Cordially in Christ,



Bruce C. Stewart
Secretary, Interchurch Relations Committee



National Outreach
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

COMMUNICATION 04-8

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5 • Livonia, Michigan 48154

(734) 261-2001 • Fax (734) 261-3282

E-mail: bob.stauffer@epc.org

Website: www.epc.org

June 17, 2004

Dr. Craig Strickland
Hope Presbyterian Church
8500 Walnut Grove Rd
Cordova, TN 38017

Dear Pastor Strickland:

Greetings in the name of the Lord and congratulations.

Several years ago, the General Assembly established the Bartlett Hess Award for Church Vitality for the purpose of recognizing those EPC churches that demonstrate "vitality" and encourage others to learn from their example. The National Outreach Committee has the privilege of granting the award.

This year several churches were nominated for the award. Hope Presbyterian Church was nominated by Rufus Smith, Pastor of City of Refuge Church in Houston, TX and by John Adamson, the New Church Development Chairman of the Presbytery of the Central South. The NOC decided to grant the Bartlett Hess Award for Church Vitality to your church.

Hope Presbyterian Church has been chosen because of the commitment to the vision the Lord has given you for multifaceted outreach. We are overwhelmed by the enormous growth your church has been blessed with over the past eight years. Perhaps even more extraordinary than your exponential growth is your commitment to continue to reach the desperate thousands in your city who still do not know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We believe your willingness to give to the needs of others and your genuine Kingdom focus has led to your being a very "vital" church in every sense of the word.

The Bartlett Hess Award will be presented during the National Outreach Committee Director's Report at the 24th General Assembly. I trust you and your elder commissioners will be available to receive the award.

Your church and the achievements made by you and your staff will be outlined in The EP News. It is our prayer that other churches will be stimulated to greater faith and outreach as they learn more about the work of Hope Presbyterian Church.

May the Lord continue to bless Hope Church.

In the joy of Christ,

Dr. Robert A. Stauffer
National Outreach Director

Cc: Mike Glodo, Rufus Smith, John Adamson

Laboring with God to build a movement of growing and multiplying churches.



OVERTURE 04-A

Presbytery of the Southeast Evangelical Presbyterian Church

1222 Village Green Drive • Chattanooga (Hixson), Tennessee 37343
Phone (423) 847-3215 • Fax (423) 842-9970

Bill Sharp, Stated Clerk
John Perry, Treasurer

16 May 2004

Rev. Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Ave., Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRESBYTERY BOUNDARY CHANGE

Dear Mike,

At its 62nd stated meeting earlier this month the Presbytery of the Southeast concurred with, and now recommends to the 24th General Assembly, a boundary change proposal jointly developed by the Church Development principals and Stated Clerks of both the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Presbyteries. Specifically, we **RECOMMEND THAT THE SHARED BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE MID-ATLANTIC AND SOUTHEAST PRESBYTERIES BE ADJUSTED SO THAT THE ASHEVILLE, NC AREA COUNTIES OF BUNCOMBE, HENDERSON AND MCDOWELL BE INCLUDED IN THE MID-ATLANTIC PRESBYTERY'S JURISDICTION.**

The primary reason for this recommended boundary change is facilitation of emerging church-planting possibilities in Asheville, which would more readily be pursued by the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery. Currently there are no EPC churches or mission groups located in this three-county Asheville area. It is further noted that the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery's office and Stated Clerk's residence are located in Asheville.

I have previously written to the Chairman of the Committee on Administration with this recommendation. It is our intention to send representatives, along with those from Mid-Atlantic Presbytery, to speak to this matter before the Standing Committee on Administration at the 24th General Assembly.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Rev. William R. (Bill) Sharp
Stated Clerk
Presbytery of the Southeast

cc: Mr. Knox Sherer, Chairman, Committee on Administration
Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk, Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

DESCENDING OVERTURES

Sent to the Presbyteries by Order of the 23rd General Assembly

OVERTURE 03-A

Shall the **Book of Government** be amended in §11-8 by

- 1) inserting the word “currently” before the phrase “serving in a temporary relationship” and,
- 2) following the words “that church,” add the following sentence:

“Moreover, should a Search Committee desire to consider any person who has served in a temporary capacity since the pulpit most recently became vacant, approval by a three-fourths vote of the Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee to proceed”

[The proposed text appears underscored in the Proposed Wording and will not appear so in the **Book of Order**.]

Present wording (G.11-8)	Proposed wording (G.11-8)
11-8 Temporary pastoral relationships. A Church Session may invite a Minister to preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and perform needed pastoral duties. The invitation must be approved by the Presbytery on recommendation of the Ministerial Committee unless stipulated. No person serving in a temporary relationship is eligible to be called as Pastor of that church. The various relations are as follows...	11-8 Temporary pastoral relationships. A Church Session may invite a Minister to preach the Word, administer the Sacraments, and perform needed pastoral duties. The invitation must be approved by the Presbytery on recommendation of the Ministerial Committee unless stipulated. No person <u>currently</u> serving in a temporary relationship is eligible to be called as Pastor of that church. <u>Moreover, should a Search Committee desire to consider any person who has served in a temporary capacity since the pulpit most recently became vacant, approval by a three-fourths vote of the Session and a three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee to proceed.</u> The various relations are as follows...

Grounds:

The addition of the word “currently” clarifies the intent of the sentence. Those who have served and completed a temporary relationship are eligible to be considered as pastor. However, those who are actively serving in a temporary relationship are not eligible to be considered as pastor.

The proposed final sentence adds a provision similar to the succession requirement for associate pastors in G.11-6.

OVERTURE 03-B

Shall the **Book of Government** be amended in §11-5F.8 to include after “book allowance,” the phrase “reimbursement for expenses incurred in attending presbytery and General Assembly meetings”? (Underscore indicates amended text and will not be underlined in the Book of Government)

Present Wording (G.11-5F.8)	Proposed Wording (G.11-5F.8)
<p>F. The call of the congregation shall be stated in the following or like terms:</p> <p>The _____ Evangelical Presbyterian Church of _____, feeling led by the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, have covenanted together to call you, _____, as Pastor (or other office). In issuing this call to you to be our Pastor and spiritual leader, we commit ourselves to support you in every way. We commit ourselves to support you in prayer, in participation in the work of ministry, and in your material needs.</p> <p>In meeting your material needs, we initially commit ourselves as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Salary _____(and frequency of payment) 2. Housing or housing allowance _____ 3. Utilities and maintenance _____ 4. Car and expense allowance _____ 5. Full portion of the denominational retirement program _____ 	<p>F. The call of the congregation shall be stated in the following or like terms:</p> <p>The _____ Evangelical Presbyterian Church of _____, feeling led by the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit, have covenanted together to call you, _____, as Pastor (or other office). In issuing this call to you to be our Pastor and spiritual leader, we commit ourselves to support you in every way. We commit ourselves to support you in prayer, in participation in the work of ministry, and in your material needs.</p> <p>In meeting your material needs, we initially commit ourselves as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Salary _____(and frequency of payment) 2. Housing or housing allowance _____ 3. Utilities and maintenance _____ 4. Car and expense allowance _____ 5. Full portion of the denominational retirement _____

<p>6. Medical insurance for you and your family _____</p> <p>7. Annual vacation leave of _____</p> <p>8. Others shall be stipulated, such as: study leave (required), book allowance, etc.</p> <p>We commit ourselves to continue this remuneration as long as you continue as our Pastor (or other). We commit ourselves to review this pledge annually and to adjust it appropriately, with the consent of Presbytery. In addition, we commit ourselves to paying the expense related to your move.</p>	<p>program_____</p> <p>6. Medical insurance for you and your family _____</p> <p>7. Annual vacation leave of _____</p> <p>8. Others shall be stipulated, such as: study leave (required), book allowance, <u>reimbursement for expenses incurred in attending presbytery and General Assembly meetings</u>, etc.</p> <p>We commit We commit ourselves to continue this remuneration as long as you continue as our Pastor (or other). We commit ourselves to review this pledge annually and to adjust it appropriately, with the consent of Presbytery. In addition, we commit ourselves to paying the expense related to your move.</p>
---	---

Grounds:

One means of expressing the EPC’s identity as a “family of churches” is meeting together in presbyteries and General Assembly. Travel costs are a necessary part of being a connexional family. Churches should take these facts and values into account when issuing terms of call for their ministers and also plan to reimburse the costs of sending its full representation of ruling elders to church courts. Reimbursement of expenses for Teaching Elders attending meetings of church courts should be encouraged by making explicit mention of it as a possible allowance in terms of call.

OVERTURE 03-C

Shall the **Book of Discipline** be amended in §6-1C by changing the term “Judicial Committee” to Judicial Investigative Committee” and in all other places in the Book of Order where the former term is used (also **D.8-7B**)? (Underscore indicates amended text and will not appear so in the Book of Discipline.)

Present wording (D.6-1C)	Proposed wording (D.6-1C)
<p>6-1C. Judicial Committee</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>6-1C. Judicial <u>Investigative</u> Committee</p> <p>The court may appoint a judicial <u>investigative</u> committee to serve as a finder of fact, which shall report its findings to the court with its recommendations. The <u>judicial investigative</u> committee shall have no authority to act for the court other than as an investigative body.</p>
Present wording (D.8-7B)	Proposed wording (D.8-7B)
<p>8-7B. Witness Inconvenience</p> <p>When the alleged offense took place at a distance, and it is inconvenient for the witnesses to appear before the court having jurisdiction, that court may either appoint a judicial committee or request the coordinate court contiguous to the place where the facts occurred to take the testimony for it.</p> <p>Due notice of the time and place of the taking of testimony by the judicial committee or the coordinate court shall be given to the opposite party. Testimony may be taken by questions asked to the witness with answers recorded in writing or recorded by electronic or other means. All parties shall have the right to examine the witness.</p>	<p>8-7B. Witness Inconvenience</p> <p>When the alleged offense took place at a distance, and it is inconvenient for the witnesses to appear before the court having jurisdiction, that court may either appoint a judicial <u>investigative</u> committee or request the coordinate court contiguous to the place where the facts occurred to take the testimony for it.</p> <p>Due notice of the time and place of the taking of testimony by the judicial <u>investigative</u> committee or the coordinate court shall be given to the opposite party. Testimony may be taken by questions asked to the witness with answers recorded in writing or recorded by electronic or other means. All parties shall have the right to examine the witness.</p>

Grounds:

By definition, this committee is limited to investigating charges and serving as a finder of facts and does not act as a judicial body in the administration of church discipline. It is instructed to report its findings to the court with its recommendations (if any). Its limited authority is clearly stated that it “shall have no

authority to act for the court other than as an investigative body (D.6-1C). Calling the committee an “Investigative Committee” would more clearly conform its title to its constitutional definition and purpose.

The retention of the term “Judicial” makes clear the intent and possible results of the Committee’s activity.

VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIES

OVERTURE	PRESBYTERY	YES	NO
03-A	Central South	66	0
	East	47	0
	Florida	26	0
	Mid-America	27	0
	Mid-Atlantic	74	0
	Midwest	47	0
	Southeast	56	0
	St. Andrews	Abstained*	
	West	33	0
Passed			
03-B	Central South	66	0
	East	51	0
	Florida	26	0
	Mid-America	27	0
	Mid-Atlantic	74	0
	Midwest	49	2
	Southeast	59	0
	St. Andrews	Abstained*	
	West	35	0
Passed			
03-C	Central South	66	0
	East	51	0
	Florida	26	0
	Mid-America	27	0
	Mid-Atlantic	76	0
	Midwest	48	0
	Southeast	59	0
	St. Andrews	Abstained*	
	West	33	0
Passed			

**The St. Andrews Presbytery abstained from the vote on these overtures since this presbytery is becoming a national church apart from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. It did not believe it appropriate to vote on matters that will affect the denomination after the presbytery is no longer part of the EPC.*

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Work of the Committee:

The Fraternal Relations Committee met two times this Assembly year via teleconference. The first teleconference took place on October 28, 2003 and the second on April 2, 2004. Both teleconferences had full participation of the Committee (Paul Heidebrecht, Perry Mobley, Russ Ragon, Steele Stewart, Craig Vanbiber, and Frances Wall) as well as *ex officio* members Mike Glodo (Stated Clerk) and Ron DiNunzio (EPC Moderator). The following report summarizes the work of the Committee for the year.



Craig Vanbiber, Chairman

Fraternal relations with the **Christian Reformed Church in North America** (CRCNA) were bolstered as Mike Glodo, Paul Heidebrecht, and Craig Vanbiber met with Dr. David Engelhard, CRC General Secretary, and Phil DeJong, Interchurch Relations Chairman, at the CRCNA Headquarters in Grand Rapids. Several weeks later Rev. Glodo, Dr. Heidebrecht, and Rev. Vanbiber reconnected with Dr. Engelhard at the NAE Convention. EPC Moderator Ron DiNunzio was appointed as the fraternal delegate to the June 2004 CRCNA Synod.

Healthy fraternal relations continue with the **Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church** (ARP). The ARP and EPC have two joint-ministry events scheduled: this summer the ARP and EPC will share a Junior High conference and a ministers' conference will be held in September 2005. Rev. Don Fortson was appointed as the fraternal delegate to the ARP General Synod in June 2004.

Greetings and an invitation to send Observers to the **Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America** (RPCNA) Synod in June have been received from their Interchurch Relations Committee. Our designated Observer will have the opportunity to address their meeting on the Synod floor. The EPC Fraternal Relations Committee has recommended Dr. Ed Davis as the Observer. A motion was approved that the EPC reciprocate the fraternal invitation from the RPCNA. Besides the EPC, PCA and CRC, the RPCNA is the only other explicitly evangelical, Reformed body in the NAE.

We have not had an exchange of delegates with the **Presbyterian Church in America** (PCA) General Assembly since 2001. In the past, the frequency of our exchanges has been every other year. The Committee has asked the Stated Clerk to inquire about the interest of the PCA in an exchange for this year. ...

Mike Glodo and Steele Stewart attended the **National Association of Evangelicals** (NAE) Board of Directors meeting on October 16, 2003. Mike, Paul Heidebrecht and Craig Vanbiber attended the NAE Convention in March 2004. The new NAE President, Ted Haggard, inaugurated his first year with an enthusiasm that was reflected at the Convention. His efforts have revitalized the organization and

improved its financial picture. EPC minister Richard Cizik continues to lead the governmental affairs of the NAE in Washington, D.C., providing a distinctive evangelical voice on Capital Hill. In fact, this year marked his 25th in that role.

The World Relief Corporation, wholly owned by the NAE, provides important avenues for relief ministry by the EPC. The NAE is important to the EPC for nondenominational and interdenominational, joint ministry efforts; at the same time, the EPC and other Reformed members are important to help the NAE keep a theological balance. The Committee feels that continued participation by the EPC in the Board of Directors at the annual NAE Convention is worthwhile.

Steele Stewart made contact with the **World Evangelical Alliance** (WEA; of which the EPC is an Associate Member) in order to research the possibility and strategic benefits of more active involvement. This research continues.

Research also continues on our membership in the **World Alliance of Reformed Churches** (WARC). Although there is nothing in the constitutional documents incompatible with the EPC, certain views and emphases of WARC have raised some concern. The stress of WARC's position papers and pronouncements since their last General Council (1997) have a great deal to do with issues of global justice, global economic policies, and ecology. WARC has a General Council every 7 years, with the next being held this summer (i.e., 24th General Council in Accra, Ghana, from July 30 to August 13, 2004). Therefore, the Committee believes that assessment of our membership would be best done after this General Council.

Research into the advisability of membership in the **Reformed Ecumenical Council** (REC) included a visit to their headquarters by Mike Glodo, Paul Heidebrecht, and Craig Vanbiber for a meeting with REC General Secretary, Richard van Houten. The REC has a strong Reformed identity, including a position against the ordination of practicing homosexuals. However, a few years ago one founding member denomination in the Netherlands began that practice and the REC chose to take no action against that member church. The Committee is not recommending that the EPC pursue REC membership at this time, but will continue to familiarize itself with the REC.

The Committee reviewed past Assembly actions, with attention directed to the progress of relationships with the Association of Presbyterian Churches in Puerto Rico (full fraternal relations), the Evangelical Covenant Church (*Minutes 18-22*), and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (*Minutes 14-18*). These relationships have become dormant, with no subsequent initiatives taken by any of the parties involved. No action was taken by the Committee to review, pursue, or develop these relationships at this time.

The Fraternal Relations Committee completed its business by appointing Paul Heidebrecht as chairman for the coming year.

Recommendations:

- 1) That the Evangelical Presbyterian Church accept the invitation of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA) to send a fraternal observer to its General Assembly, that it confirm the Committee's reciprocation of invitations for the 24th General Assembly and authorize the Committee to establish a regular exchange of observers in coordination with its corresponding committee of the RPCNA.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Vanbiber, Chairman

KAZAKHSTAN COMMISSION

The Kazakhstan Commission met in two meetings since the last General Assembly: August 22-25, 2003 in Almaty, Kazakhstan and March 31, 2004 by conference call. The members of the commission are TE Dan Burns, TE Jeff Chadwick, RE Bern Draper, TE Mike Glodo, TE Bill Hampton, RE Dick Oestreicher, RE Jim Thomason, and TE Allen White.



Bern Draper, Chairman

The commission was formed by the 21st General Assembly and given the power to:

- Examine, ordain, and install officers on the Kazakhstan field according to the legislative principles of the EPC, as appropriate to that field. This would include the power to examine, ordain, and install teaching elders who have satisfied educational requirements consistent with those outlined in the World Outreach Missions Manual 302.3 (C).
- Establish a provisional, indigenous, national presbytery in Kazakhstan of which the particular churches and the teaching elders referred to above would be members.
- Administer the government of such a presbytery according to biblical principles as reflected in the principles of Presbyterian government.
- Work in partnership with national leadership to develop a form of government that is biblically sound and missiologically appropriate.

The duration of the committee was until the 23rd General Assembly, subject to extension at that time. At the 23rd General Assembly the commission requested, and was granted, an extension in order to continue its work, with a report to be brought to the 24th General Assembly.

With thanks to God, the commission is very pleased to be able to report to this 24th General Assembly, that in just over a decade, the work in Kazakhstan of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has resulted in the establishment of the nascent Association of Reformed Churches of Kazakhstan (ARCK) as a national church Reformed in theology, Presbyterian in polity, evangelical in spirit and vital in mission.

It is with great joy that we report that in these ten years the following developments have taken place which have lead the commission to that assessment:

- The formation of four particular churches: Almagul, Light of Life (Orbita), Rakim, and Light of Truth; and three mission churches or mission works: Shanirach, Suyinshi (Good News), and the Kazakh fellowship in Chimulgan.
- The preparation, examination, and ordination of two national teaching elders: Ura, ordained as a part of a Mission to the World work in Orbita that was later absorbed into the ARCK, and Ruslan, the first national teaching elder ordained by the ARCK, serving as Associate Pastor at Almagul.

- The preparation, examination, and ordination of seven national ruling elders, and two national deacons.
- The preparation and reception of two teaching elder candidates and at least two current ruling elder candidates.
- The development of appropriate governing documents, reflecting the national church's commitment to Presbyterian polity and the adoption of the Westminster Standards as their confessional documents, reflecting their Reformed theological foundations.
- The development of a valid process for the training of national leadership, including a program of candidacy through which national teaching elders might be well prepared and then examined for ordination.
- The demonstration in practice that this partnership of churches actually functions as a presbytery in such matters as oversight of its churches, mutual accountability among the churches, corporate spiritual nurture, vision for church planting and church development, and church discipline.

The commission commends the work of the World Outreach team and the current and past World Outreach Directors whom God has used to bring the ARCK into existence as a healthy, viable, vital national church. We can only look forward with great anticipation to the ways that God will use this part of the Church in the continuing work of the Kingdom.

In forming the commission, the 21st General Assembly also asked it to bring recommendations to the General Assembly regarding any legislative actions which might facilitate future similar works. It is our hope and prayer that the way that the Holy Spirit has used the EPC in Kazakhstan will not be an isolated situation, but that we might see God use us to establish the Church in places throughout the world where it does not yet exist or there is no Reformed presence. The World Outreach Master Plan calls the EPC to be at work in some of the more remote places in the world, where there is no viable church and no witness to the gospel.

As charged by the assembly, this commission has prayerfully sought what proposals for legislative action it might bring that would facilitate the establishment of national churches in those places where God has called us as a denomination to be at work. The commission was pleased to find that the documents already approved by the assembly provide a strong foundation for this work. We do, however, bring one recommendation for a change in the Book of Government which we believe is necessary for the work of our teaching elders called as evangelists who serve as missionaries in cross-cultural church planting work where the church does not already exist. We will also bring several proposals to the Committee on Administration for changes in the World Outreach Missions Manual that will provide the structure through which our missionaries might be enabled to do such work, while also specifying a structure of accountability to the Assembly, through its World Outreach Committee in the ways they carry out that work.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ASSEMBLY:

Recommendation #1:

That the following sentence be inserted ahead of the last sentence of *Book of Government* 10-3-C:

In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The paragraph, as amended, would appear as follows, with the addition highlighted in bold italics.

10-3-C Evangelist: 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. ***In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.*** 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.

Recommendation #2:

That the 24th General Assembly extend the duration of the commission until 1) the commission can make its recommendations to the Committee on Administration concerning amendments to the World Outreach Missions Manual at its fall meeting and 2) the commission can make an additional field visit to participate with the national church in the ordination of a teaching elder.

Recommendation #3:

That the August 22-25, 2003, and March 31, 2004, minutes of the Kazakhstan Commission be received.

Respectfully submitted,



Bern Draper, Chairman

Minutes of the Kazakhstan Commission

March 31, 2004

The Kazakhstan Commission met via telephone conference call at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2004. Members present were TE Dan Burns, TE Allen White, RE Dick Oestreicher, RE Bern Draper, TE Bill Hampton, TE Jeff Chadwick and TE Mike Glodo. RE Jim Thomason was not able to participate.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bern Draper who led in prayer. By common consent, the minutes of the August 22, 2003 meeting were approved.

The members of the commission who live in Kazakhstan reported on field progress there. Two church plants are on the horizon which, if successful, would make the sixth and seventh churches in the presbytery: Shanirach, being planted by Allen and Pat White and a Kazakh fellowship meeting in Chimulgan, one hour outside of Almaty. This latter group is being led by a Kazakh named Kairot who has some connection with the Presbyterian church in Turkey where his sister lives. This was the basis of his Reformed interest. The group is a young and lively congregation. Three candidates are under care—Ruslan Velilayev, will be examined May 14 for ordination as a teaching elder, Azim Shanbakeev is awaiting the return of his mentor (Bill Hampton), probably to be examined some time this summer or early fall, and Sasha Knyaskova, the pastor candidate who came into the presbytery with the Light of Truth church which he was leading. The presbytery will meet again on July 9 and September 10. It is probable that the examination of Azim Shanbakeev will take place at one of these two meetings.

Allen reported on the progress of the work at Shanirach. The worship site is almost finished with remodeling. The leadership team has had some changes but is working well. In addition to their regular Sunday morning worship, they have started outreach ministries including a business club, a film club, a youth club and an English club that has been particularly successful. A seminary-trained Kazakh man and his wife will be joining the team soon.

Recommendations to the General Assembly.

The Commission took the following actions in order to complete the charge given by the 21st General Assembly.

Upon motion, the Commission recommends that the General Assembly insert the following sentence ahead of the last sentence of *Book of Government* 10-3-C:

In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The paragraph, as amended, would appear as follows, with the addition in bold italics.

Evangelist: 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. ***In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.*** 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.

Upon motion, the Commission recommends that the Committee on Administration amend the World Outreach Missions Manual by adding the following sentence to the end of Section 309.3, paragraph 2:

EPC missionaries may participate with the national church throughout the varying stages of its development toward these goals, including the formation of indigenous connectional systems of church government and that church's administration of the sacraments and the ordination of national teaching elders in the emerging national church.

Therefore, the entire paragraph as amended would read as follows with the addition in bold italics:

The WOC strongly supports the development of national churches which are truly indigenous, progressing from the beginning toward self-government, self-support, and self-propagation. ***EPC missionaries may participate with the national church throughout the varying stages of its development toward these goals, including the formation of indigenous connectional systems of church government and that church's administration of the sacraments and the ordination of national teaching elders in the emerging national church.***

Upon motion, the Commission recommends that the Committee on Administration add the following sentence to the end of the first paragraph in *World Outreach Missions Manual* 309.3

The World Outreach Committee will determine in conjunction with the missionary team which structures will be established in each field when the needs of the emerging national church require them.

Upon motion, the Commission recommends that the Committee on Administration add an additional bullet point under 309.2 of the *World Outreach Missions Manual* as follows:

If the missionary has been empowered to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons in emerging national churches, he will report on the circumstances and judgments involved in choosing to exercise those powers and the nature and extent of preparation of candidates.

By common consent, the recommendations to the Committee on Administration will be made after the Commission's report to the 24th General Assembly.

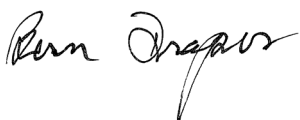
By common consent, the Commission requests that the 24th General Assembly extend its duration until 1) the Commission can make its recommendations to the Committee on Administration at its fall meeting and 2) the Commission can make an additional field visit to participate with the national church in the ordination of a teaching elder.

Dan Burns reported that the presbytery (formally known as the Association of Reformed Churches of Kazakhstan) has been implementing the provisions of order reviewed by the Commission at its last meeting, including the preparation of candidates for ordination and the organization of churches. The need for book of worship provisions has become more evident in such practical needs as the conduct of funeral services.

The Commission discussed its next field visit and meeting date. At present it appears September or October might be the earliest time frame possible. This is dependent on the assembly approving the request of the Commission to extend its duration as noted above.

Having concluded its business, the Commission adjourned at 11:45 a.m. with prayer led by Bill Hampton.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bern Draper", is written over a horizontal red line.

TE Bern Draper, Chairman

Minutes of the Kazakhstan Commission

August 22, 2003

The Kazakhstan Commission met at the Almagul Church in Almaty, Kazakhstan on Friday, August 22, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. local time. Members present were TE Dan Burns, TE Alan White, RE Dick Oestreicher, RE Bern Draper, TE Bill Hampton, TE Jeff Chadwick, RE Jim Thomason and TE Mike Glodo. The meeting was opened with prayer.

The Commission began by hearing prayers needs of the Association of Reformed Churches (presbytery) and praying for those needs one by one.

Three new candidates for ministry are now under care: Azim, Ruslan, and Sasha. It was the issue of ordination which drew them to a Presbyterian connection. Allen

White has trained and ordained two ruling elders at Orbita, Peter and Alexei, a father and son. Attendance at Orbita is the same. An offer has been made on property and they are awaiting documents.

A women's ministry has been officially organized. Every youth leader at Almagul must be trained in Evangelism Explosion. The Kazakh service has lost an intern due to other professional demands. Almagul has had a surge in national leadership. Dan perceives this as an opportunity for his role to change as these national leaders handle more responsibilities. The elders are getting a vision for being elders/leaders. Arman will take the evening CALTC (seminary) program. Dan could pull back and get more involved in teaching in different places. Almagul has begun a men's ministry.

The Commission reviewed the necessary business items before it. They are:

- 1) look at progress in documents;
- 2) draft any changes needed in the *EPC Book of Order* and/or *World Outreach Missions Manual* for future fields.
- 3) Review and plan the schedule from here.

Dan reported that the August 11 meeting of the presbytery approved a draft copy of a book of order, including sections on government, discipline and worship. The Commission reviewed a “back-translated” draft in English. Discussion brought to light the following items:

- The Book of Discipline is essentially that of the Presbyterian Church in America as it has been translated for use in Ukraine.
- The Book of Worship needs further development to be of maximum usefulness. The World Outreach team was encouraged not to underestimate the importance of worship principles for the organic oneness of the churches.

After extended review and discussion, upon motion, the Commission affirmed this draft book of order as consistent with and promoting Reformed and Presbyterian order with commendation to the presbytery. The Commission adjourned with prayer at 4:45 p.m., to reconvene tomorrow at 10:00 a.m.

The Commission reconvened at 10:00 a.m. with all members present. Jim Thomason led in prayer. The Commission discussed 1) what the needs of the field are beyond formal organization and 2) what additional EPC fields might need in terms of policy and governance. At noon the Commission adjourned with prayer, to reconvene on Monday, August 25, at 9:30 a.m.

The Commission reconvened at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, August 25 with group prayer. The Commission discussed its schedule between now and the completion of its work. Plans were made to convene via telephone conference early in the new year. It hopes to be able to return for an association meeting and/or ordination service.

Upon motion, the Commission will report with thanks to God the establishment of the nascent Association of Reformed Churches of Kazakhstan (ARCK) as a national church Reformed in theology, Presbyterian in polity, evangelical in spirit and vital in mission.

Upon motion, the Commission commends the work of the World Outreach team and the current and past World Outreach Directors whom God has used to bring the ARCK into existence.

It is understood that, through WO Manual section 309.3, WO personnel on the field may continue to participate in the identification, training and ordination of ARCK officers according to the wishes of the ARCK.

309.3 Responsibility to the National Church

The pattern of the missionary's official relationship with national churches should vary from field to field. The ideal is to move toward such a stage of relationship in which missionaries and nationals are laboring as brothers and sisters in Christ, with equal standing in the membership and service of the national church structure. Conditions on a field may require, however, varying relationships at different stages. This could include parallel structures between mission field organizations and the national church, or even an independent status enabling the mission to serve more than one national church, or to serve as a service organization to one or more national churches.

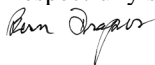
The WOC strongly supports the development of national churches which are truly indigenous, progressing from the beginning toward self-government, self-support, and self-propagation.

As the national church and the EPC seek to be faithful to the Great Commission, it may be necessary for each of the two churches to receive missionaries from and send missionaries to the other.

Upon motion, the Commission commends the ARCK for the development of a *Book of Church Administration* reflecting biblical principles and the Reformed heritage of church government.

By common consent, the Commission adjourned at noon with group prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bern Draper".

TE Bern Draper, Chairman

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Pre-Assembly Workshop for the 24th General Assembly: The Committee planned and coordinated the Pre-Assembly Workshop for 2004 on the theme “Shepherds, Coaches or CEO’s? Leadership Models for the Church.”

Candidates Educational Equivalency Program (CEEP): The Committee interviewed and made educational recommendations for candidates with extraordinary status (G. 12-2H): Fred Albaugh (Midwest), Michael Zerkich (Midwest), Paul Wise (Central South), and Greg Browning (Southeast).

Chaplains: Rev. George Yates served as chairman of the Chaplains Subcommittee and was reappointed by the Committee for 2004-5. A number of EPC chaplains have served in overseas deployments during the past year.

Vision 21 Implementation:

Conduct Pastors’ Conferences Bi-Annually. The Committee, in cooperation with the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, is planning a joint Ministers Conference Sept. 19-22, 2005 at Bonclarken (Hendersonville, NC). Steve Brown (Key Life Ministries) will be the speaker. The Conference will include a component for newly ordained ministers.

Identifying a team of experts who are gifted and skilled to minister to pastors. The Committee will use EPC’s endorsement policy to evaluate a number of agencies during the upcoming year.

Providing a web-based information center and ministry network. As organizations are approved as Committee Endorsed or Committee Commended Resources they will be included on the Ministerial Vocation section of the EPC web site.

Establishing a mentoring program for pastors. Mentoring was a topic of discussion at the joint meeting of the MVC with presbytery committee chairmen in February 2004. The Committee will utilize that input as it continues to formulate plans during the coming year.

Interim Minister roster and pool: An annual interim ministers workshop began at the 21st General Assembly (2001).

Committee Endorsements: The Committee approved Nehemiah Ministries, (Owosso, MI) as a Committee Endorsed Resource and Covenant Eyes (Corunna, MI) as a Committee Commended Resource. For more information see www.nehemiahm.org and www.covenanteyes.com.

Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees. The 5th Edition of the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* incorporating revisions approved by the Committee and the General Assembly

was published in print and electronic formats. It is available for download from the EPC web site at www.epc.org/general-assembly/documentation.html.

Jumper Scholarship Fund: The Scholarship Fund for EPC candidates in the M.Div. program at Reformed Theological Seminary provided \$20,000 for six students. Nine former Jumper Scholarship recipients are now serving in EPC ministries.

Presbytery Chairmen Training: The Committee met jointly with presbytery Ministerial and Candidates Care Chairmen in February 2004 for resourcing and idea sharing.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Regarding referrals from the 23rd General Assembly:

- A. The 23rd General Assembly instructed the Ministerial Vocation Committee to study the parity of succession limitations for associate pastors and interim supply ministers (G.11-6 and G.11-8, as amended by the 23rd Assembly and sent to the presbyteries as a descending overture). In response, the Committee offers the following recommendation:

Recommendation #1: That the Assembly find that provisions for succession of associate pastors (G.11.6) and ministers in temporary relationships with churches (G.11.8 as amended and sent as a descending overture to presbyteries by the 23rd General Assembly) do not create any inequity.

Grounds: The source and terms of call for associate pastors and for ministers serving in temporary relationships are fundamentally different. Associate pastors are called by the congregation and have no term limit. Ministers in a temporary relationship are invited to serve by the session for a specific period of time. While it is appropriate to require a minister serving in a temporary capacity to step aside in order to be considered for a call, it is not appropriate to ask an associate to step down from the long-term relationship established between the congregation and the minister.

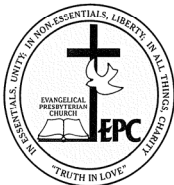
- B. The 23rd General Assembly referred Overture 03-B from the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery (see MVC-1) to the Ministerial Vocation Committee for further study. In response, the Committee offers the following recommendation:

Recommendation #2: That the Assembly approve the following substitute motion for Overture 03-B:

The Assembly directs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to adjust the written Theology and Sacraments Examination to include questions on Reformed tradition to account for at least 20% of the examination score and re-title the examination as “Theology, Sacraments and Reformed Tradition.” The new examination shall be implemented in January 2005.

Grounds: Some presbyteries have noted a lack of knowledge of the Reformed tradition in candidates .Written examinations are required in 5 areas: Theology and Sacraments, English Bible, the Book of Order, the Reformed tradition, and the Nature of the Office of Minister of the Word (G.13.2). The EPC has incorporated all five areas in three written examinations. This motion will put appropriate weight on the subject of the Reformed tradition and re-titling the examination will encourage study of the topic in preparation for taking the exam.

[Note: In the absence of a current chairman, the Office of the Stated Clerk prepared this report.]



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

OVERTURE To 23rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY From PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

The Rev. Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk
Office of the General Assembly, EPC
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154-4572

Dear Mike:

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic, at its 44th Stated Meeting held April 25-26, 2003 approved the following overture upon recommendation by the Ministerial Committee:

Whereas, G13-2 specifies that a Candidate for the Ministry shall be examined in writing and orally in the following areas: Theology and Sacraments, English Bible, The Book of Order, The Reformed Tradition and the nature of the office of Minister of the Word, and

Whereas, G13-5 specifies that a "a person coming from any other tradition shall be examined in the same manner as a candidate for ordination," and

Whereas, the Procedure Manual for Ministerial & Candidates Committee (p. 32) specifies that a candidate for ordination "shall take written exams in the following areas:

- (1) Theology
- (2) English Bible
- (3) Sacraments
- (4) **Book of Order**
- (5) Reformed tradition
- (6) Nature of the office of Minister of the Word;"

Therefore, that the written exams as administered by the General Assembly include a distinct category or a comparable body of questions on Reformed Tradition including questions on pre-Reformed historical events and persons contributing to our Reformed tradition and be reported as a distinct category along with scores in other required areas.

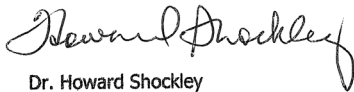
58 Bear Trail • Fairview, NC 28730 • (828) 628-1944 • Fax (828) 628-0019
hshockley@msn.com

Overture to 23rd GA
April 26, 2003
Page 2

Grounds: Reformed Tradition is recognized as a vital area containing the historic roots of who we are and how we arrived as a denomination within the Reformed family. Without clear measurable evidence that a candidate possesses a working knowledge of this important area, he/she may be severely handicapped as a Teaching Elder. We believe our history to be of such importance as to warrant a distinct category within GA administered tests. These tests, as currently reported to Presbytery, reflect scores on other areas, but do not include a separate score for Reformed Tradition.

Further, our experience with candidates in oral examinations conducted by the Ministerial Committee and the Presbytery has often revealed weaknesses or deficiencies in Reformed Tradition by candidates who nevertheless do very well in the other required areas. We sense that were there a separate category with an equally significant body of questions on Reformed Tradition as the other areas, and examinees are aware of that, we would find candidates better prepared for their exams and ultimately more knowledgeable of our history.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Howard Shockley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dr. Howard Shockley
Stated Clerk

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Although I have served in the EPC for almost 18 years on various committees, nothing has given me the opportunity to experience the awesome workings of our denomination as much as serving as your 23rd Moderator. Traveling to the various presbyteries, churches, and meetings, has given me an even greater awareness of our diversity. Over this past year, I have become even more cognizant of our God's faithfulness to us in all that we do.



*Ron DiNunzio,
Moderator*

Taken from Jeremiah's Book of Lamentations, the theme for the 24th General Assembly is "Great is Thy Faithfulness." "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him." (KJV Lam. 3:21-25).

Reading newspapers and magazines, listening to the radio and watching television only serves to strengthen my view of how blessed we are as a denomination. Many of the denominations are struggling with issues as they meet relating to the inerrancy of the Bible or whether or not to ordain individuals biblically forbidden by Scripture. It appears that our biggest issue this year may be how to re-align a presbytery. I praise God that we are in agreement about the things that matter most. No matter where in our fellowship I traveled, one thing was wonderfully clear---we are a people fiercely committed to God's Holy Word! Truly God is Faithful.

My year with the permanent staff of the Assembly, under the capable leadership of our Stated Clerk, Mike Glodo, has been one of great pleasure for me. I am truly thankful for the dedicated service of our staff. No one can really appreciate all that they do without observing it first hand. I only hope that we will continue to support them in their endeavors, not only verbally, but also with our funding of the various programs and ministries for which they are responsible.

As I have traveled during the past several months, one thing became abundantly clear to me. I could have spent almost every weekend away from my own church and still not accomplished all that I would have like to have done. It would have been great to spend time with each and every one of our churches and their staffs. Presbytery visits were especially good times for making contacts with many of you. My experiences have shown me that we have many churches struggling for survival. Some of them are in great need of financial assistance, others of staff, still others of people in the pews willing to "come along side" paid staff and use their gifts for the Kingdom.

One of the highlights of my term as Moderator has been to see what a wonderful spirit this denomination has toward missions, both locally and abroad. In his book

The Next Christendom, Philip Jenkins relates facts and figures reminding us of the fact that Christianity is not just Western, but is in fact global. Our future is shaped by our desire to send missionaries to the far corners of the earth. In size the EPC may be seen as a “small” denomination, but few denominations have such a “big” heart for missions as we do. Overseas missionaries are God’s gift to us as well as our gift to the Kingdom.

Along with our desire to send workers to foreign lands, we are developing a heart for inner city and urban ministries. National Outreach has and is developing programs to assist presbyteries in planting new churches, not only in the inner city, but throughout the country.

Finally, I want to publicly take this opportunity to thank my wife Jeanna and son Charles for enduring all of the times they have needed me when I was not available because of denominational duties. Both of you have been as much a part of this endeavor as I have been. I love you both very much.

Ministering in the 21st century will present new and varied challenges to the Church of Jesus Christ. I believe if we will continue to stay biblically focused and firmly committed to the essentials of our Reformed tradition we will indeed be the light and salt that Christ calls each of us to be.

As we begin this 24th General Assembly, my prayer is that we will do all things decently and in order, but most importantly to the Glory of God.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. DiNunzio', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ronald C. DiNunzio, Moderator
23rd General Assembly

June, 2004

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH



Bob Stauffer,
Director

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

It would be impossible to share with you all of the exciting opportunities and the challenges that face us as your National Outreach Committee. So please allow us to try and update you as best we can on the areas of progress and the areas of challenge that face us in the work of the NOC.



Eli Morris, Chairman

Areas of Progress:

1. The Lord has placed our denomination in a wonderful position that is attractive to churches of other denominations, independent churches, and potential church planting groups and individuals. We receive many inquiries about joining the denomination and attempt to hand those inquiries over as efficiently as possible to the various Presbyteries.
2. The Natural Church Development process continues to gain momentum. We now have 34 coaches across the country trained to help churches diagnose the health of their body and equip them to move toward greater health. Each Presbytery now has an implementation plan in place to enable their churches to move to a place of greater health. In addition, the NOC has endorsed Project 6:15 and Vision Planners for use in our churches in the areas of church health and church planting.
3. Church planting is definitely gaining momentum in our Presbyteries. As of this writing, there are approximately 23 EPC church plants somewhere in the formative stages. While there is much more to be done (particularly in the funding mechanisms), we are encouraged that processes and procedures are being successfully administered, resulting in our plants seeing good success. It seems that church planting is becoming a priority for our Presbyteries. We hope that the days ahead will bring a climate where our large churches will all catch the vision for mothering churches around the country as well.
4. We had a great church planters retreat with the ARP. We are encouraged that we can build this experience into our yearly calendar and make it a special part of our encouragement to church planters.
5. The Church Planters Assessment Center continues to go well and this winter we had 5 couples that rated to various degrees as qualified. We do need to do a better job of identifying and recruiting qualified candidates through our Presbyteries. It also looks quite likely that we will be holding a summer CPAC as well.
6. The Thanksgiving offering was of great encouragement to the Urban Ministry Leaders. The offering was distributed among 3 churches in the following manner:

- New Hope Church in Pittsburgh received \$18,000 to hire a youth pastor.
 - The City of Refuge in Houston received \$5,000 for a Christian Summer Vocational Training Program.
 - Community Evangelistic Church in Knoxville received \$5,000 for a Christian Mobile Learning Center
7. We have made the urban ministries group an official sub-committee of the NOC. This group has been doing important work in the area of urban ministry and in helping us realize our goal of establishing 1 in 5 church plants in an urban setting.
 8. We have received positive feedback on the distribution of the “Personal Peace” booklets to our churches for their use as an evangelistic tool.
 9. We have seen an increase in the applications for, and use of, the Church Loan Fund.
 10. The NOC has awarded the 2004 Bart Hess Award to Hope Presbyterian Church in Cordova Tennessee for their excellent work in church growth and, in particular, their outstanding efforts in the area of evangelism.
 11. We have completed the church-planting portion of the DVD to be distributed to our churches.
 12. We have elected Rev. Marty Martin as the new NOC Chairman.

Areas of Challenge:

1. We are not anywhere close to accomplishing the goals outlined in Vision 21. In fact our growth as a denomination is relatively flat. The concepts detailed in Vision 21 are very hard to keep alive and in front of our Presbyteries and churches. Significant structural, organizational and funding changes must be made in order for Vision 21 goals to be realized.
2. We continue to struggle with Presbytery Church Development leadership. Leadership is overwhelmed with other responsibilities, is inexperienced and rotating off their term just when progress is being made. It is often inefficient due to other responsibilities. In order for us to make any progress denominationally, we must continue to pursue the possibility of qualified, trained, competent and accountable Presbytery Church Development Staff.

The rationale, the responsibilities and the profile for these positions are outlined in a document entitled “Talking Points.” While no one wants to create a bureaucracy, it should now be clear that without these positions we will not be able to move forward in accomplishing the goals of Vision 21 and, more importantly, accomplish all that God may have for us as this part of the Kingdom.

3. There is serious need to look at the funding process for the NOC. We have formed a sub-committee to look carefully at this issue. The funding of the work of the NOC is at a critical stage and we are currently operating on reserves to meet our budget.
4. We must either generate new revenue streams for helping with church planting from the NOC or hand over all the responsibility for church planting to the Presbyteries.

Conclusion:

We believe there is real cause for optimism at the progress being made in many areas of the work of the NOC. Enthusiasm for church revitalization and church planting are at the highest levels we have seen for quite some time. The urban ministries group has made great progress in helping us think through and respond to the areas of need within our urban centers. Our church planting process is getting to the point where some well thought-out strategies for the ultimate effectiveness of our plants are being established. Our recommended resources for revitalization are beginning to show their effectiveness across many of our churches in need. Many of our churches are showing effective results through evangelistic programs and resources being recommended and used. There is much to rejoice over in the life of the EPC!

At the same time, however, we remain deeply concerned that our current structures and realities will not allow us to accomplish the goals of Vision 21. At our recent meeting with the Presbytery Church Development Committees, we discovered that over half of the EPC churches are in need of revitalization! Many of our pastors are discouraged and barely hanging on. The financing of important areas of ministry throughout the denomination is at a critical stage. And many of our larger churches are not well engaged in the work of our presbyteries. We believe that we are at a critical juncture as a denomination. We are at a time when we must truly pray for the Lord's wisdom as to the next steps we take. If Vision 21 is ever to be anything but an obsolete document, there must be changes made in a number of critical areas. But most of all, we must be brought to a time of deep prayer to seek the wisdom of the Lord on matters crucial to the Kingdom. We are genuinely excited by the possibilities and where the Lord has placed us as a denomination. But critical decisions are now upon us and we pray that the Lord will show us the next steps for the sake of the Kingdom and the glory of the King.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

None.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Eli Morris, Chairman

/s/Bob Stauffer, Director

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SLATE OF NOMINATIONS – PERMANENT COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Class of 2007	RE John Adamson (Central South)
	TE Bill Meyer (Mid-Atlantic)
	RE Allen Roes (Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2005	TE Bill Flannagan (Southeast)

COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

Class of 2007	TE Brad Strait (West)
	Hugo Izzo (Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2005	TE David Baer (West)

COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Class of 2007	TE Craig Vanbiber (Midwest)
	RE Frank Johnson (East)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION

Class of 2007	TE George Yates (East)
	RE Bill Meeks (Mid-America)
Class of 2005	RE Jerry Kidd (Mid-Atlantic)

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

Class of 2007	RE Jim Berni (Midwest)
	TE Rodger Woodworth (East)
	RE Ted Brandsma (West)
Class of 2005	TE Grady Davidson (Southeast)

COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY REVIEW

Class of 2007	RE Jay Curtis (Florida)
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COMMITTEE ON STUDENT & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Class of 2007	Brandon Bates (Central South)
	TE George Boomer (Mid-America)

COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

Class of 2007	TE Jeff Jeremiah (West)
	RE Bill Painter (Midwest)

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Class of 2007	Libby Cooper (Mid-Atlantic)
	Sandy Gavin (East)

COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

Class of 2007	RE Bern Draper (West)
	TE Gene Huntzinger (Central South)
	RE Ted Galyon (Central South)

BOARD OF PENSION AND BENEFITS

Class of 2007	TE Roy Zinn (Southeast)
	RE Milton Knowlton (Central South)

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2007	RE Sam Searcy (West)
	TE Percy Burns (Mid-Atlantic)
	RE Dale Schaefer (Mid-America)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - STANDING COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Administration	RE Wally Schram	RE Kurt Schoenbacher
RE David Ackerson	RE Jerry Seager	TE Juan Singh
TE Michael Allday	RE Eddie Seaton	TE Rufus Smith, IV
TE David Baer, Clk.	TE Bill Sharp	RE Donald Summers
RE John Baird	RE Robert Siegel	TE Wayne Uppendahl
RE Rich Bankston	RE James Slyman	TE Gregory Ward
TE Freddie Berk	TE Nancy Stewart	RE Nevin Webster
RE Doug Carlson	RE Ron Strohkorb	TE Sanders Willson
RE Dick Cowan, Vice Chmn.	TE Don Sweeting TE Jim Van Dyke	TE George Wood RE Richard Wyatt
RE Peter Fay	RE Massie Ware	
TE David Fenska		Fraternal Relations
RE Wayne Grace RE Mark Guinup	Christian Education & Publications	TE Jerry Alpert TE Michael Anderson
RE Lanah Hamrick	RE Benny Arogyaswa	TE Robert Balnicky
RE Joe Hartzog	TE Craig Babb	RE Michael Brown
TE Robert Hopper	TE James Banks	TE Kent Bull
RE Jim Hunter	RE Shelby Bankston	RE Rich Gell
RE Hawley Ingram	RE Jay Barrington	TE Daniel Gilbert
RE Bill Johns	RE Robert Biddle	RE John Hocker
TE Mark Jumper, Chmn.	RE Merrill Blackburn	RE Harvey Landholm
RE Jerry Kidd	RE Lampkin Butts	TE Dick Little
RE Scott Knight	RE Neil Carmichael	RE Anne Litzenberger
RE David Larson	RE Jim Crewdson	TE Tony Marseglia
TE Ian Leslie	RE Gordon Doughman	TE Don Mason, Chmn
RE Greg Lester	RE James Eckert	TE Jack Maxwell
TE Greg Livingstone	TE Dennis Flach	TE Perry Mobley
TE Julio Lopez	RE George Gorman	TE Jeffrey Morrison
TE Jorge Lumsden	TE Aram Haroutunian	TE Mike Moses
RE Curt Mackey	TE Bill Hyer	TE Tom Musselman
RE John Manon	TE Scott Kennaugh	RE Glenn Parker
TE Tom Masterson	RE Joseph Kyle	TE John Quigley
TE Ron Meyer	TE Joe Laher	TE Phil Rowland, Clk.
RE Charles Miller	RE Cecil Matthews, Chmn	RE Richard Sleeman
RE Carolyn Nystrom	RE Ken Millice	TE Bud Sparling
TE Austin Olive, Clk.	TE Edward Murrey, IV	TE Ramona Spilman
RE Charles Overstreet	TE Don Neighbours	TE Craig Strickland
RE Keith Parkhill	RE Brian Nelms	RE Jerry Strohkorb
RE Henry Phelps	TE Erik Ohman	RE Malcolm Tanigawa
RE Philip Reitano	RE Michael Owen	TE Jim Thyne
TE Tom Ricks	TE Bruce Robinson	TE Ken Van Kampen
TE Jerry Robinson	TE Dan Rose, Clk.	RE Ed Wedin
TE Marcelo Robles	TE Ron Sadlow	TE Dan Wilburn

Memorials & Appre.	National Outreach	Overtures & Resolutns
TE Chuck Baynard, Clk	RE John Adamson	RE James Bacon
RE Henry Beck	RE Brian Altmeyer	RE Don Batchelor
TE Patrick Dare	TE Duane Armistead	TE James Blaha
RE Wilbur Davis	TE David Beaty	RE A.C. Cummings
RE Jerry Dosh, Chmn	RE Richard Blair	RE Seaton Garrett, Jr.
TE Brett Garretson	RE Gwynn Blair	TE Kurt Gebhard
RE Milton Knowlton	TE Ben Borsay	RE Rives McCord, Clk
RE Dawson Mosley	RE David Bottorff	TE David McLean
TE John Patterson	TE Brad Buescher	RE Don Phillips
RE Joan Pennock	RE Bob Burgher	RE Leonard Pilgrim
	TE Jim Carr	TE Robert Ralston
Ministerial Vocation	RE Sherri Carswell	RE David Reihner
RE Gil Allewelt	RE Frank Carter	RE Alva Steffler
TE Pete Bowell	TE Jamie Cupschalk	RE Joe Teague
TE Darden Caylor	RE Elsie Demarest	RE Clifford Thomas
TE Keith Cobb	RE Donna Durham	TE Phil Thrash
RE Steve Cooper	RE Terry Edwards	RE John Ward, Sr.
TE Ron Cox	TE Mike Frison	TE Brandon Wells
RE June Davies	TE David Galbraith	TE Steve Wilkinson, Chr.
TE Dan Doriani	TE Jeffrey Gardner	
TE Mateen Ellass	TE Guy Glass	
RE Raymond Elder	TE Jim Holland	
TE Neil Ellison	TE Gene Huntzinger	
TE Oswaldo Fernandez	TE Mark Ingles	
TE Glen Francis	TE Scott Jackson	
TE Bruce Gimbel	RE Rister Jenkins	
TE Ken Glasier	TE Woody Johnson	
RE Richard Holcomb	TE Tommy Jordan, Clk.	
RE Blaine Hughes	RE Tim Jordan	
TE Gary Koerth	TE Jeff Juday	
TE David Martin	RE Dexter Kuhlman	
TE Tom Melton	TE Bill McCutchen, III	
TE Bill Moore	TE Scott McKee	
RE Bill Morgan	RE Bill Meeks	
RE Bob O'Brien, Clk	RE Charles Rausch	
RE Bill Painter	RE C. Scott Sauls	
RE W.A. Ray	RE Gerry Smith, Chmn	
TE Jarvis Ross	TE Marc Swan	
RE Buck Russell	TE John Torres	
RE Lawrence Steele.		
TE Brad Strait, Chmn		
TE Stan Van Den Berg		
TE Bob Vincent		
TE Alan Wright		
TE Bradley Yorton		

Student & Young Adult Ministries	Theology	TE Louis Woods
RE Bruce Andrews	TE Greg Anthony	Women's Ministries
TE Nate Atwood	TE Mike Barry	RE Bill Blackley
RE Charles Brady	RE Dale Briggs	RE Jan Bole, Chmn
TE Robert Buchanan	TE Steve Brown	TE Grady Davidson
TE Tom Dages	TE Dan Burns	RE John Dewald
TE Ed Davis	TE David Chadwick	RE Diane Fiazza
RE Larry Doak	TE Jim Dixon	TE Robert Hamd
TE Brett Eubank	RE Bern Draper	RE Nan Henderson
TE David Franklin	TE Marty Fields	RE Louise Hunt
RE Helen Franssell	RE Mike Fike	TE Chris Kiepe
RE Chris Furr	TE Don Fortson, III	TE David Long
TE Chris Gibson	RE Dan Fritzsich	TE Kenneth Murray
TE James Glasgow	TE Doug Graham	RE John Perry
TE Steve Jessen	TE Jules Grisham	RE Betty Jo Rausch
TE Kenneth Jones	RE Jim Harris (IL)	RE Sandy Russell
RE Art Kaufmann	RE Jim Harris (TX)	TE Tom Ryan
TE Steve Keller	RE Ron Hartman	RE Joe Slesinski
TE David Lovell	RE Thomas Henson	TE Clint Stockton, Clk.
RE Diane Manon	TE Peter Hiatt	RE Hillard Strong
RE Don Marshall	TE Ron Horgan	RE Robert Swanbeck
TE Adger McKay	TE Paul Husband	
RE Steve Rockwell	TE Richard Lanning, Clk.	
RE Roy Schrameck, Clk.	TE John Mabray	
RE James Solka	TE Guille Mac Kenzie	
TE Rick Stauffer	RE Jim Mann	
RE Steele Stewart, Jr.	TE Bruce Marcey	
RE Jerald Vanderkooi	TE Travis Martin	
TE John Uhl, Chmn	TE Bryan Maynard	
RE Johnny Walker	RE Jim McCormick	
RE Lew Witt	TE Bill Meyer, Chmn.	
	RE Gordon Miller	
	TE Ron Odum	
	TE Tommy Overton	
	TE Steve Riser	
	RE Ken Roberts	
	TE James Rose	
	RE Ray Sawmiller	
	TE Mark Vanderput	
	TE Scott Waters	
	TE Brad Werner	
	TE Gary Westra	
	TE Bob Wilbur	
	RE Fred Williams	

World Outreach
TE Bruce Anderson
RE Malcolm Bain
RE Thomas Bates
TE Del Belcher
RE William Bumford
RE Carroll Coakley
RE Mike Coleman
TE Bruce Demarest
RE Terry Dikkers
RE Josef Dorfler
TE David Dwight, Chmn.
RE Vaughn Engle
TE Robert Fischer
TE Don Hardman
RE Dick Heidtman
RE John Holmes
TE Chuck Jacob
RE William Johnson
RE Gloria Joiner
RE David Jonckheere
RE Matt Kunze
RE Jack Loflin
RE Craig Lyle
TE Tim MacGowan
RE Will Martin
TE Mark Moore
TE Jeffrey Park
RE Carol Plueddeman
RE Pete Seward
TE Peter Stam
RE Walt Stevenson
RE A.J. "Sandy" Stuart
RE Stephanie Thayer
TE Richard Vroon
RE Roby Wallin
TE Dan Weidman, Clk.
RE Earle Woodberry

Minutes of the Permanent Judicial Commission

May 14, 2004

A telephonic meeting of the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was held on May 14, 2004. In attendance were commission members RE Reese Baker (Commission Moderator), TE Percy Burns, RE Dale Schaefer, RE Tony Register, RE Jim Rimmel, RE John Graham, TE Jim Letizia. Also in attendance was Mike Glodo, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. RE Barry Smith and TE Don Galardi were unable to participate. Moderator Reese Baker opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer.

The agenda was adopted as distributed. Tony Register was appointed clerk of the meeting by consent.

The moderator reviewed the responsibilities of the PJC. There were no questions of interpretation of the *Book of Order* for consideration. Proposals to amend the Constitution are to be judged in light of clarity, consistency of language and compatibility with other parts of the Constitution including possible recommendations of changes in wording and advice to accept or reject. There were no judicial cases referred to the General Assembly for consideration.

There were no overtures from presbyteries for Constitutional amendments received to date. (Note: it was observed that a later meeting of the PJC may be justified in order to allow for the completion of all spring meetings of the presbyteries and reception of any Overtures as a result thereof.)

Recommendation from the Kazakhstan Commission.

The PJC considered a proposed constitutional change coming from the Kazakhstan Commission formed by the 22nd General Assembly to work with the Partnership of Reformed Churches in Kazakhstan served by World Outreach missionaries to develop constitutional standards, to recognize it as a national Reformed church and to recommend any changes to EPC governing documents which would enable the EPC and World Outreach to work more effectively in future similar situations.

The Commission is recommending that the General Assembly amend the *Book of Government* by inserting the following sentence ahead of the last sentence in

G.10-3-C:

In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The paragraph, as amended, would appear as follows, with the addition in bold italics.

Evangelist: 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. ***In addition, when an Evangelist is called as a World Outreach missionary, the Presbytery may also empower the evangelist to ordain and install ruling elders and deacons to serve in emerging national churches that are not particular or mission churches of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.*** 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.

After discussion, John Graham made the following motion, seconded by Jim Letizia:

That the PJC recommends the assembly not approve the insertion of the language prepared by the Kazakhstan Commission on the grounds that the language is unclear and that the following language be inserted in place of the language recommended by the Commission:

When an Evangelist is called to be a missionary by the World Outreach Committee of the General Assembly, the General Assembly may request the Presbytery of which the Evangelist is a member to empower the Evangelist to identify, train (prepare for office) and, upon being commissioned by the Presbytery, to ordain and install ruling elders and /or deacons to serve an emerging national church that is not a particular or mission church within the geographical boundaries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The World Outreach Committee of the General Assembly shall determine what constitutes an emerging national church for purposes of this section.

By common consent the motion was split as follows:

1. That the PJC recommend that the Assembly not approve the insertion of the language recommended by the Commission on the grounds that the language is unclear.
2. That the PJC recommend the Assembly amend the *Book of Order* approve the insertion of the following language ahead of the last sentence in G.10-3-C, as a substitute to the language recommended by the Commission:

When an Evangelist is called to be a missionary by the World Outreach Committee of the General Assembly, the General Assembly may request the Presbytery of which the Evangelist is a member to empower the Evangelist to identify, train (prepare for office) and, upon being commissioned by the Presbytery, to ordain and install ruling elders and /or deacons to serve an emerging national church that is not a particular or mission church within the geographical boundaries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The World Outreach Committee of the General Assembly shall determine what constitutes an emerging national church for purposes of this section.

The motion to recommend that the Assembly not approve the insertion of the language recommended by the Commission on the grounds that the language is unclear failed 3-4.

Upon motion and second, action on the second motion was postponed until the PJC is able to develop alternative wording and meet subsequently to consider it. Further, that John Graham, Jim Rimmel and Reese Baker would develop alternative wording for consideration at that time.

Recommendation from Committee on Administration concerning Moderator-elect.

The PJC considered the following recommendation from the Committee on Administration (COA):

Recommended: That the *Book of Government* be amended as follows in order to provide for the office of Moderator-elect.

Current	Proposed
<p>§G.16-21 Officers of the General Assembly: The General Assembly shall have a Moderator who will be elected at each stated meeting. He may be a Minister or Ruling Elder. The person elected must be a member of the court and is not eligible to succession. The Moderator shall continue to be a member of the court until a successor is elected. In the event of death or disability, the most immediate past Moderator shall serve until a Moderator is elected. The General Assembly shall elect a Stated Clerk who shall serve for a period of three years, with eligibility for reelection for two additional terms. The Stated Clerk may be elected for additional terms if the General Assembly, by a 2/3 vote, sets aside this limitation for each additional term. The Stated Clerk must be eligible for membership in the court. Past Ruling Elder Moderators continue as members of the court as long as each maintains active membership in a church of the EPC.</p>	<p>§G.16-21 Officers of the General Assembly: The General Assembly shall have a Moderator, a Moderator-elect and a Stated Clerk.</p> <p>A. Moderator and Moderator-elect: The General Assembly shall have a Moderator and a Moderator-elect who will be elected at each stated meeting. They may be Ministers or Ruling Elders. The persons elected must be a member members of the court and is are not eligible to succession to their respective offices. The Moderator They shall continue to be a member members of the court until their a successors is are elected. In the event of death or disability of the Moderator, the most immediate past Moderator shall serve until a Moderator is elected. The Moderator-elect shall normally be the nominee for Moderator at the succeeding Assembly.</p> <p>B. The General Assembly shall elect a Stated Clerk who shall serve for a period of three years, with eligibility for reelection for two additional terms. The Stated Clerk may be elected for additional terms if the General Assembly, by a 2/3 vote, sets aside this limitation for each additional term. The Stated Clerk must be eligible for membership in</p>

	<p>the court.</p> <p>C. Past Ruling Elder Moderators continue as members of the court as long as each maintains active membership in a church of the EPC.</p>
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Upon motion the PJC found the recommendation from the COA clear, consistent and compatible with other parts of the Constitution and recommends its passage by the General Assembly.

Ordination/installation vow 7 for deacons.

The next order of business was the consideration of vow 7 for the ordination and installation of elders and deacons. A concern was introduced by Stated Clerk Mike Glodo. The vow is located in the *Book of Government* §14-1 E. 7 and states as follows:

“Do you promise subjection to your fellow presbyters in the Lord.”

Mike indicated that the phrase “fellow presbyters” would seem not to apply to deacons since they are not presbyters.

Upon motion, the Commission will recommend that the General Assembly amend *Book of Government* §14-1 E.7 to substitute the word “officers” in the place of the word “presbyters.”

Grounds: The vow as currently written is inappropriate in its application to deacons since deacons are not presbyters. Substitution of the word “officers” makes the vow appropriate to elders and deacons.

Information.

The Commission received as information from the Stated Clerk that a proposed procedure manual for the Book of Discipline would likely come before the PJC next year for consideration and that Commission members be prepared to travel to the Office of the General Assembly for their annual meeting.

Election of PJC Moderator for 2004-2005.

Upon motion, Jim Rimmel was elected PJC Moderator for 2004-2005.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by John Graham.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/Reese Baker, Moderator

/s/Tony Register, Clerk of Meeting

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE



Jay Curtis, Chairman

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Presbytery Review Committee (RE Jay Curtis, TE Ed Davis, TE George Woodcock) is established to implement our governmental principle of review and control. Prior to its meeting May 27-28, 2004, Committee members received minutes (sometimes provisional minutes) from the presbyteries. At its meeting, the Committee first reviewed presbytery responses to exceptions issued by the 22nd General Assembly (2002) deemed inadequate by the 23rd General Assembly (2003), then responses to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly and finally reviewed certified copies of approved Minutes from stated and called meetings of presbyteries subject to

review as per *Rules for Assembly* 8-11 and *Acts of the Assembly* 98-05.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Regarding the Presbytery of the Central South

Recommendation #1: That the Assembly receive the responses of the Presbytery of the Central South to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly (see PRC-1) as adequate.

Recommendation #2: As the Presbytery of the Central South did not respond to the Presbytery Review Committee's requests for additional information regarding omissions and insufficient information in their minutes subject to review by the 23rd General Assembly, that the Assembly declare these items as exceptions to their minutes requiring presbytery response.

1. 56.13: Insufficient information: no indication that Johnson and Maynard signed the Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L)
2. 56.19: Insufficient information: record of votes on descending overtures should be recorded in the minutes.
3. 56.29: Insufficient information: no record that presbytery acted to change the status of Robert Camenish from out of bounds.
4. 15.14.2: No indication of a commission appointed to install Dennis Flach as Pastor of New Covenant Presbyterian Church.
5. 57.14: Omission: Minutes do not indicate whether or not Morris or Allday had any exceptions to the Westminster Standards and whether such exceptions were approved as required by G.13-6..
6. 58.08: Insufficient information: Minutes do not indicate that the specific steps required by G.5-6 were fulfilled in the case of Redeemer EPC.
7. 58.19: Insufficient information: No indication as to how the call of Steve Bristol as Assistant Pastor was dissolved. Was this done prior to the end of his approved term of service? If so, minutes should reflect that Session dissolved the relationship with concurrence of the minister and the

presbytery (G11-7).

Recommendation #3: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 59:23 – Two administrative commissions were formed of 4 Teaching Elders and 2 Ruling Elders, contrary to constitutional standards of a proportion “as near to two Ruling Elders to one Minister as possible.” (G.16-26B.2e). The presbytery did not specify the duration of the commission for Baldwin County Mission Church as required by G.16-2B.
2. 60:24 (p. 309) – Presbytery’s action in placing an inactive minister (Rev. McCutcheon) on active roll without call is out of order. Presbytery may take such action only if the minister has a valid call or is being transferred to another presbytery in order to receive a call (G.15-8).
3. 60:24(8) (p. 309 – Formation of a commission (re. Wahlstedt) with a 6:1 ratio of ruling to teaching elders is contrary to constitutional standards of a proportion “as near to two Ruling Elders to one Minister as possible.” (G.16-26B.2e).
4. p. 314 – There is no record of Rev. Hamd signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).
5. 61:22(1.c) – Use of the word “endorse” is inappropriate. The minutes do not include the terms of call approved by presbytery.
6. 61:22 – Commission to ordain Brandon Wells was constituted with a ratio of 2:1 Teaching to Ruling elders, contrary to constitutional standards (G.16-26B.2e). Rev. Chadwick is not a member of the Central South Presbytery. He should be designated as a guest of the commission.

Regarding the Presbytery of the East

Recommendation #4:

That the Assembly accept as adequate the responses of the Presbytery of the East to exceptions Issued by the 22nd General Assembly (2002) deemed inadequate by the 23rd General Assembly (2003) (see PRC-2) and issue the following comment to the presbytery: *The use of Appendices was not the concern of the Assembly but rather the absence of Appendices referenced in the minutes. The presbytery’s response seems to indicate that previously approved minutes were altered, which, if so, is out of order. Once approved, minutes are legal documents which should not be altered with the exception of minor typographical corrections. Corrections to approved minutes should be made in the body of subsequent minutes in the manner specified by the 20th General Assembly (Act of Assembly 00-11, Minutes of the 20th General Assembly 20-46).*

Recommendation #5: That the Assembly accept the responses of the Presbytery of the East to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly (see PRC-2) with the following comments:

1. It appears that previously approved minutes of the presbytery are being altered, which is an improper practice. Corrections to previously approved minutes should be made in accordance with the standardized method

adopted by the 20th General Assembly (*Act of Assembly* 00-11, *Minutes of the 20th General Assembly*, 20-46).

2. Foye Belyea should not be referred to as “Rev.” in the minutes or listed as a TE until he has been ordained or received by the presbytery.

Recommendation #6: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the East subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 67th Stated Meeting: Appendices referenced in the minutes were not included in the certified minutes. Presbytery is directed to forward these appendices to the Office of the Stated Clerk no later than September 30, 2004.
2. 67th Stated Meeting (pp. 7-8): All actions taken by presbytery when acting as a committee as a whole must then come to the whole body for approval after moving out of committee as a whole (*Roberts Rules of Order*, Section 51). These actions are remanded to the presbytery for proper approval. In similar situations in the future, presbytery is advised to receive recommendations from a committee member (requiring a second) rather than moving into committee as a whole. The purpose of the committee as a whole is not to compensate when a committee has been unable to meet, but to allow less formal procedural ways of conducting business such as not limiting or requiring pro and con statements on motions, allowing speakers to speak more than once, etc.
3. 69th Stated Meeting: Minutes have not been put in standardized form as per the direction of the 20th and 23rd General Assemblies. A letter from the Office of the General Assembly to presbyteries dated Nov. 17, 2003 reminded presbytery Stated Clerks of this requirement. The Presbytery of the East is directed to utilize the standardized form beginning in September 2004.
4. 69th Stated Meeting: Duration and duties as Assistant Pastor for Rev. Shull are not indicated (G.11-7). Minutes do not indicate that Rev. Shull signed the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).

Regarding the Presbytery of Florida

Recommendation #7: That the Assembly accept the responses of the Presbytery of Florida to exceptions issued by the 22nd General Assembly deemed inadequate by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-3).

Recommendation #8: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of Florida subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved without exception.

Regarding the Presbytery of Mid-America

Recommendation #9: That the Assembly accept the responses of Presbytery of Mid-America to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-4).

Recommendation #10: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 37.06 (pp. 349-350 – Simon and Cover): Approving a call for a for a Teaching Elder without EPC group insurance is out of accord with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-06 and 88-08. The terms of call for Rev. Simon and Rev. Cover are remanded to the presbytery for reconsideration.
2. 38.05 (p. 362 -- Wampler) – Approving a call for a for a Teaching Elder without EPC group insurance and without pension is out of accord with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-05, 81-06 and 88-08. The terms of call for Rev. Wampler are remanded to the presbytery for reconsideration.
3. 38.05 (p. 363) – An Administrative Commission may not be chaired by a Teaching or Ruling Elder who is not a member of the Commission. The Stated Clerk of the presbytery is commended for pointing out this irregularity to the presbytery (p. 359).

Regarding the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

Recommendation #11: That the General Assembly receive the responses of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-5).

Having requested and received further information from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic regarding presbytery's action at its 41st Stated Meeting (41.24O) to approve an exemption for Rev. Carr from required enrollment in EPC Medical Insurance, the Committee makes the following recommendation:

Recommendation #12: As Rev. Carr is not eligible for an exemption from EPC medical insurance (*Act of Assembly* 88-08), that the Assembly remand the action (Minutes 41.24O) to the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery for correction.

Recommendation #13: That the Minutes of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 44.09B1 (Dr. Earl Morey; cf. Minutes 43.15) – Presbytery may not receive a minister on its rolls without a call (*Act of Assembly* 82-07, G.11-10). The Presbytery is advised that future actions of this nature will not be in compliance with the Constitution and Assembly legislation.
2. 44.22.B.5 – Minutes do not specify the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Associate Pastor (Smith) (G.11-6).
3. 46.24B; 46.27B; 46.29A – Minutes do not record approval of Terms of Call for Rev. Reese.

Regarding the Presbytery of the Midwest

Recommendation #14: That the General Assembly receive the responses of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-6) except for the following:.

1. That the Assembly remand the matter of Rev. Miller's current status (Minutes 95-12, p. 60), which is unclear in the record, to the presbytery for correction or clarification.
2. That the Assembly find the response of the presbytery in the matter of the

Commission to install Rev. Porter insufficient (presbytery did not act to correct the record) and remand the minutes to the presbytery for correction.

The Committee requested additional information regarding certain notations forwarded to the Midwest Presbytery in order to determine if constitutional standards were followed. Having received and reviewed the presbytery's responses the Committee makes the following recommendations (#15 and 16):

Recommendation #15: That the Assembly declare an exception to the Minutes of the 95th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest with regard to receiving Greg Moore and Scott Kennaugh as candidates (95-10). Minutes do not indicate that the required six month membership in an EPC congregation was fulfilled or that they received Session endorsement (G. 12-2A).

Recommendation #16: That the Assembly declare an exception to the Minutes of the 98th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest. Minutes do not indicate how presbytery carried out its constitutional responsibility (G.5-6) regarding the dismissal of Mercy Christian Fellowship(98-12, p. 60)

Recommendation #17: That the Minutes of the Midwest Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 100-11 – Individual requests for transfer (Hicks) are not actionable items. Such request must come from the clerk of the court to which transfer is being sought and must be addressed to the clerk of the court from which transfer is being sought (G.11-10).
2. 100-11 – Summary of changes in terms of call are not recorded in the body of the minutes as required by *Act of Assembly* 98-04.

Regarding the Presbytery of the Southeast

Recommendation #18: That the Minutes of the Southeast Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exception:

61-22K – The duties of Rev. McCutchen as Assistant Pastor are not specified as required by G.11-7.

Regarding the Presbytery of St. Andrews

Recommendation #19: That the General Assembly receive the responses of the St. Andrews Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-7).

Recommendation #20: That the Minutes of the St. Andrews Presbytery subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved without exception.

Regarding the Presbytery of the West

Recommendation #21: That the General Assembly receive the responses of the Presbytery of the West to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly as adequate (see PRC-8).\

Recommendation #22: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the West subject to review by the 24th General Assembly be approved with the following exceptions:

1. 69-10 / 70-16D / 71-15A -- Approving a call for a for a Teaching Elder without EPC group insurance is out of accord with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-06 and 88-08. The terms of call for Rev. Everest, Rev. Wilson and Rev. Nylund are remanded to the presbytery for reconsideration.
2. 69-17 / 71.7 -- The term for the Moderator of Presbytery is to be a maximum of one year (**G-16-15**).
3. 70-16D – No term of service as an Assistant Pastor (Wilson) is specified as required by **G.11-7**.

General Advice to Presbyteries

Recommendation #23: That the Assembly issue the following advice to presbyteries:

Minutes of called meetings should include a statement of the means by which the meeting was called, the fact that notification was made at least 10 days in advance of the meeting and should include a statement of the call (G.16-17). The written communication of the call may be included as an attachment to the minutes.

Other Recommendations to the Assembly:

Recommendation #24: That the Assembly refer the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery’s formation of a Permanent Investigative Committee (Minutes 44:12G, p. 93; 46:18, p. 183) to the Permanent Judicial Commission to determine if that action is in order and/or well advised.

Grounds: Forming an Investigative Committee as a permanent committee of presbytery with members serving for a number of years may take away the court’s freedom to appoint people best equipped to deal with circumstances of a given situation. Further, the *Book of Discipline* seems to assume that a Judicial Committee is formed in response to specific charges. This is a new initiative in presbytery life and is a significant precedent. It merits careful examination for constitutional fidelity and wisdom of practice.

Recommendation #25: That Rules for Assembly 8-11C regarding reporting of exceptions and notations by the Presbytery Review Committee be amended by adding a new 8-11C.2 and renumbering the current section as 8.11C.3.

Current Rules for Assembly 8-11C	Proposed Rules for Assembly 8-11C (amended section is in <i>italics</i>)
C. The findings of the Committee with respect to the Minutes of each Presbytery shall be reported under the	C. The findings of the Committee with respect to the Minutes of each Presbytery shall be reported under

<p>following categories as appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notations: Typographical errors, misspellings, improper punctuation, non-prejudicial statements of facts and other variations in form may be reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc, may be included here. 2. Exceptions: Violations of constitutional standards of actions which in substance appear not to conform to EPC standards should be reported here. 	<p>the following categories as appropriate:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notations: Typographical errors, misspellings, improper punctuation, non-prejudicial statements of facts and other variations in form may be reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc, may be included here. 2. Notations requiring response: Insufficient information in the Minutes to determine if an action is constitutional. Such notations are not read to the General Assembly but require a response of the presbytery to the Presbytery Review Committee. 3. Exceptions: Violations of constitutional standards of actions which in substance appear not to conform to EPC standards should be reported here
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Grounds: The Presbytery Review Committee has noted numerous occasions in which presbytery minutes do not include enough information to determine whether constitutional requirements have been followed. In most cases, the action is constitutional and requires only that minutes be corrected to record what actually happened. In an attempt to cut down on the number of minor items reported to the Assembly as exceptions, the Presbytery Review Committee, in forwarding notations to the Stated Clerks of the Presbyteries, has asked for additional information regarding some items. The amendment formalizes this practice.

Improving Governing Documents

In its review of Minutes the Presbytery Review Committee noted several places where the *Book of Order* is unclear or lacks sufficient provisions. The Committee will communicate these observations to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly for appropriate reference for study.

1. The *Book of Order* lacks wording on the definition and enrolling of corresponding members at meetings of presbytery and serving on presbytery commissions.
2. Checklists and sample motions in Appendix of the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* need to be revised for scope, clarity and inclusion of recent amendments to the Book of Order.
3. The *Book of Order* lacks language giving authority to presbyteries to drop

a minister from the roll without divesting that minister of office and without first moving that minister to inactive status (**G.15-4; 15-8**).

4. There may be a discrepancy between **G.11-12** and **G.10-3** (last paragraph) regarding term length for out of bounds call. Do presbyteries need to approve out of bounds calls annually or may they set a different duration for the call?
5. The language of **G.11-8B** regarding when a Session may invite an interim supply minister to serve is unclear. Does the language refer in general to the time the church is without a pastor or specifically to the time during which a search committee is active?

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Harold “Jay” Curtis

PRC-1

Presbytery of the Central South

Responses of the Central South Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly:

1. Called meeting June 14, 2002: Minutes do not indicate the reason for the called meeting or indicate that the meeting was called in accordance with G. 16-17.
Presbytery Response: The exception has been so noted for subsequent called meetings to be in accordance with G.16-17.
2. Called meeting September 7, 2002: No reason for the called meeting is indicated, no indication that the meeting was called in accordance with G. 16-17, and minutes are not signed.
Presbytery Response: The exception has been so noted for subsequent called meetings to be in accordance with G. 16-17 and signatures have been obtained.
3. 57.14, 58.08: Presbytery acted beyond its authority in installing Michael Allday in a church outside the jurisdiction of the court. Presbyteries ordain ministers with an approved call outside its bounds, but there is no authority to install.
Presbytery Response: The exception has been so noted that the Presbytery cannot install any EPC minister to work outside its ecclesiastical boundaries. Rev. Allday serves an independent Presbyterian church.
4. 57.14: No terms of call (Gunter) were presented or approved, no area of primary responsibility was specified as associate pastor and no commission was appointed to install (G. 11-6).
Presbytery Response: Rev. Gunter's terms of call as Associate were unchanged from those of his ordination and installation as Assistant. His duties were likewise unchanged from the areas of responsibility originally assigned. The exception has been noted and clarification will be provided in subsequent status changes of ministers.

PRC-2

Presbytery of the East

Responses from the Presbytery of the East to exceptions Issued by the 22nd General Assembly (2002) deemed inadequate by the 23rd General Assembly (2003).

1. That the action of the Presbytery of the East in constituting a commission for the ordination and installation (Lee, minutes, p.52) is out of order and the Presbytery is instructed to conform to constitutional requirements of G.16.26.B in the future. Commissions must have at least five members from no fewer than two churches. In this case, all members of the commission are from the same church with the exception of one, who was not a part of a member church (see response to notation #10 PRC-2)
Presbytery Response: Rev. Neil Smith, pastor of Faith Church, a member church of the Presbytery, was a member of the commission thus meeting constitutional requirements. He is included in notation #10, PRC-2. Please be assured that neither the Stated Clerk nor the Presbytery will ever purposely not conform to the constitution.
2. That the Assembly remand the minutes of the 62nd meeting to the Presbytery

of the East for correction. The certified minutes of the 62nd Stated Meeting are missing appendices three and four. Further, *Rules for Assembly* (8-11F) require that presbyteries “take note in their minutes of exceptions and notations conveyed from the Assembly of the disposition they have made of such.” These actions should be in the body of the minutes, not an appendix (Act of Assembly 98-04). (See response to notation #17, PRC-2)

Presbytery Response: The missing appendices are included with this submission. The responses to the PRC exceptions and notations have been moved into the body of the minutes of the 62nd meeting of the Presbytery.

Responses to exceptions to minutes of the Presbytery of the East issued by the 23rd General Assembly.

1. 64-1 (p.95): For the reception of Smith, McGraw and Thompson as candidates, minutes do not indicate church membership, fulfilling the six- month membership requirement, and that a charge was given (G.12).

Presbytery Response: addendum stating all candidates have been members of their respective churches longer than the required time; and, that an appropriate charge was given by TE Neil Smith

2. 64-1: The record does not indicate that Andrew Meinen was approved for extraordinary status by the required 2/3 majority.

Presbytery Response: addendum stating that the vote was unanimous.

3. 64-3: The record does not indicate that the Rev. Leo Jaloszynski signed the Ministerial Obligation (G16-1 6.1)

Presbytery Response: Addendum stating that Rev. Jaloszynski subsequently signed the Ministerial Obligation.

4. 64-3: By approving an out-of-bounds call for a retired minister (Pohlman), presbytery set for itself a number of requirements it has not met: removing the minister from the retired roll, evaluating the calls, annually extending the call if the minister is over 70. Situations such as these should be treated as temporary pastoral relationships, requiring only that presbytery concur with the invitation to the pastor. Retired ministers may serve in a temporary pastoral relationship without changing the status on the roll of presbytery.

Presbytery Response: Presbytery chose to reinstate Rev. Pohlman to active status and approve his out-of-bounds ministry to three small United Methodist churches in Sullivan County, near his home. It took this action at its January 24, 2004 meeting.

5. 65-4 (Nominating Committee): The minutes do not conform with Acts of the Assembly 98-04 requiring that a basic understanding of actions taken by presbytery be obtained from the body of the minutes without reference to attachments. Names of people elected by the presbytery should be listed in the body of the minutes as well as a motion to elect those nominated

Presbytery Response: Amendment to include the nominees of the Class of 2005 plus two members of the Class of 2004.

6. 65-1 The Ministerial Committee, not the Church Development Committee, has the constitutional responsibility to examine ministers and potential candidates and make recommendations to the presbytery (G.16-27A.6).

Presbytery Response: The Ministerial Committee also evaluated Rev. Belyea in this instance. The action taken by Presbytery involved the approval of a church plant the pastor of which was ordained but who did not meet the EPC requirements for ordination but also who had a plan to finish his education at Gordon-Conwell Seminary. Procedurally, the two committees agreed that the CDC would conduct the entire evaluation for church approval, which also had included the evaluation of ruling elders. The Ministerial Committee concurred with actions of the CDC.

7. Special Meeting of 11-16-2002: The minutes do not indicate that the Presbytery appointed a moderator of the Session of the Reston Church.

Presbytery Response: The Session of Reston Church, prior to the action of calling an interim pastor, had appointed RE James Ferguson as its Moderator. This was continued until a permanent pastor was called.

8. 66-13 (p113): Presbytery does not have the authority to appoint a ruling elder to moderate a session of a church (G.16-9).

Presbytery Response: The Presbytery of the East concurs. In this case there were some circumstances which led the Presbytery to take the action it did. Andrew Meinen, the stated supply, could not moderate; the nearest pastor (Goodwill), an hour away, was anticipating being called to active duty with the Air Force and his church had recently gone from one service to three; the next nearest pastor was 2.5 hours away; and, the Session members at Christ Community Church were inexperienced in EPC polity and asked for help having just transferred into the EPC from the RCA. The Chairman of the Ministerial Committee, RE Joseph Slesinski (Goodwill), volunteered to serve as moderator. The Presbytery of the East, in its wisdom, and wanting to provide leadership to a brand new congregation in the denomination, approved the arrangement.

9. Special Meeting of August 24, 2002: Terms of the approved call for Rev. Cupschalk do not contain the required 10 percent pension contribution and the minutes do not indicate he signed the required Ministerial Obligation.

Presbytery Response: Amendment to the minutes indicating that the 10% contribution is part of Rev. Cupschalk's call and that he subsequently signed the Ministerial Obligation.

PRC-3

Presbytery of Florida

Responses from the Presbytery of Florida to Exceptions Issued by the 22nd General Assembly (2002) deemed Inadequate by the 23rd General Assembly (2003).

The 22nd General Assembly instructed the presbytery to clarify its minutes as to the ongoing status of Rev. Mouritzen. After the 31st Stated Meeting, Rev. Mouritzen ceased to be listed on the roll of presbytery but there is no record of action to remove him from the rolls (see PRC-3)

Original Response to the 22nd General Assembly:

Jurisdiction in judicial cases ends upon receipt of written notice of renunciation by the Clerk or Stated Clerk of the court of original jurisdiction. [BOD3-5J. Such correspondence requires no referral. The correspondence was presented as information to the court.

Response to the 23 General Assembly:

BD §3-5-A states that: “Renunciation of Jurisdiction” shall have the effect of terminating membership in the church and shall immediately dissolve the relationship of Ruling Elder, Deacon, or Minister. [underlining added]

It has been the understanding of Florida Presbytery that Renunciation of Jurisdiction is a unilateral action requiring no additional action by the court. The wording, *Shall have the effect of...* along with *immediately dissolve...*, constitutes an automatic termination of membership and dissolution of relationship. We therefore can find no constitutional requirement for further action than to report the event as a completed action. Such report was made to the court at the 31st Stated Meeting, hence Mr. Mouritzen was no longer a member of the Presbytery and would not be listed in any subsequent attendance reports. Further, we understand Renunciation of Jurisdiction to have the effect described in **BD3-5-A** upon receipt of written notice by the Clerk. That would mean that membership in the court would have terminated upon receipt of such correspondence and, therefore, Mr. Mouritzen could have been omitted from the attendance information of the 31st Stated Meeting as well.

If the PRC believes that Florida Presbytery has misunderstood the constitutional definition of Renunciation of Jurisdiction or the application thereof, we would request that the matter be referred to the PJC for constitutional interpretation.

Presbytery Review Committee comment: The Committee concurs with the presbytery’s understanding of BD 3-5 including the requirement to report the event as a completed action. The committee cannot find such reporting in the Minutes of the 31st Stated Meeting. The record of the presbytery shows that Dr. Mouritzen’s name ceases to be in the attendance roll as of the 32nd stated meeting, but has no record of his renunciation being reported to presbytery.

PRC-4

Presbytery of Mid-America

Responses to exceptions to minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America issued by the 23rd General Assembly

33.02.14 - The duration of the commission is not stated (G-16-26-B). Further, it is impossible to determine from the record if the commission was properly constituted. The Presbytery is strongly advised against leaving commission members unnamed in such circumstances.

Presbytery Response: The duration of the commission was to be until the next Presbytery and minutes will be corrected to reflect this addition. Presbytery recognizes the authority of naming a commission cannot be delegated and will make sure this will not be done in the future.

PRC-5

Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

Responses to exceptions to minutes of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic issued by the 23rd General Assembly

1. 41.27 (P. 401-402): No terms of call or written specification of powers (G.10-3C) were approved for a minister called as Evangelist (Neighbours).

Presbytery Response: Error by omission. Minutes are corrected to read, “In accord with G.10-3C, TE Neighbours is empowered to share the Gospel; administer the sacraments; to oversee the reorganization and development of the remnant of Grace EPC, including the creation of a steering committee; to oversee the required preparation of Elders and Deacons. The terms of call are as follows: Annual salary, \$5400; annual housing allowance, \$7200; EPC pension, \$2400; EPC medical insurance, \$2100.”

2. 43.15E (p. 58): The call of an Associate Pastor fails to include the primary responsibilities to be exercised (Jessen) (G.11-6).

Presbytery Response: We cannot find a reference to “Jessen” in 43.15C. There is recorded in that section Presbytery’s approval of a call to TE Steve Keller as Associate Pastor, Trinity EPC, Florence, SC, with his primary responsibilities recorded in accord with G.11-6

PRC-6

Presbytery of the Midwest

Responses to exceptions to minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest issued by the 23rd General Assembly

1. 95-12 (p. 33, 35,1: No specific area of responsibility as associate pastor specified in the minutes for Timothy Brown. No length of service or specific area of responsibilities as assistant pastor included for Weidman and Taylor.

Presbytery response: Timothy Brown’s areas of responsibility remained the same as when he was assistant pastor; Adult education, membership, counseling and congregational care. Dan Weidman’s call as assistant was for one year and his areas of responsibility were small groups, adult Christian education, pre-marital counseling, teaching and preaching once per month. Mark Taylor’s call as assistant was for one year and his areas of responsibility were ministering to young singles adults, assimilation task force, counseling, and leading worship

2. 95-12 (p. 60): Presbytery did not act on the matter of Bob Miller status as a presbytery member following dismissal of Mercy Christian Fellowship, yet he was dropped from the attendance record.

Presbytery response: Presbytery erred. Bob Miller had not attended Presbytery for a great length of time and his name was unintentionally dropped for the attendance record.

3. 98-13 (p. 61): Commission to install Waring Porter did not include the required 5 members (G.16-27B,2e)

Presbytery Response: TE Jimmy McGuire’s name was omitted in the minutes but did appear on the commission to install minutes.

4. 98-13 (p. 62): Minutes do not indicate that Richard Lanning signed the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).

Presbytery Response: The required signed Ministerial Obligation form is on file in the Presbytery office and hereby included in the minutes.

5. 99-8 (p. 71): Minutes do not indicate that John Oelze met the six-month membership requirement.

Presbytery Response: TE John Quigley, Chairman of the Candidates Care Committee states that his records indicate that an examination of the candidate was postponed until this meeting so he would meet the six month requirement as a member at Grace Chapel.

PRC-7

Presbytery of St. Andrews

Responses of the St. Andrews Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly:

1. Minutes do not record excused and unexcused absences as required by *Rules for Assembly* 8.11G-
2. Presbytery should have called Reverend Mac Kenzie as an evangelist, not pastor, since he was being called to develop a mission church (G.10-3C).
3. The Presbytery of St. Andrews did not make available a translation of the Minutes of the 66th Stated Meeting five weeks prior to the 23rd General assembly (*Acts of Assembly* 98-05)

Presbytery response: Concerning the exceptions sent, we apologize for realizing that the PRC is correct in every one of them. We are going to record in the minutes the excused and unexcused absences from now on, and we will be more careful in the other two matters.

PRC-8

Presbytery of the West

Responses of the Presbytery of the West to exceptions issued by the 23rd General Assembly:

1. 68-20A (p. 6-136): The record does not indicate that presbytery examined Brian Hill on views as required by G.13-4.

Presbytery response: Chaplain Brian Hill was examined on views by the Presbytery of the West at the 68th meeting and a statement reflecting this has been added to the minutes of that meeting via an upcoming errata statement.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK TO THE 24TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

It is my great privilege as Stated Clerk to report to you, the 24th General Assembly, on the state of the church. It would be most appropriate this year to begin by acknowledging the permanent committees of the Assembly, especially their chairmen, and the staff of the Office of the General Assembly. This has been a year marked by a number of very constructive and valuable accomplishments on their part, some in their actual implementation and some which are before you as recommendations for your deliberation and action. Among these are:

- A significant overhaul of the EPC web site, including the addition of numerous resources.
- Bi-weekly publication of *EPNews*, an electronic newsletter of the Office of the General Assembly.
- A trial version of an officers training manual.
- A denomination-wide prayer ministry in fulfillment of Vision 21 objectives.
- Completion of the National Outreach video and, along with last year's completed EPC informational video, distributed on DVD and videotape.
- Renewal of terms of call for World Outreach Director Jeff Chadwick and Assistant Stated Clerk Ed McCallum.
- Natural Church Development training for over 50 EPC leaders.
- Significant enhancement in the ways in which OGA staff resource the Assembly's permanent committees.
- Transition of the EPC Medical Plan to Highmark/Blue Cross-Blue Shield network and administration. (Special thanks to Board of Pension and Benefits Chairman John Baird.)
- Addition of a World Outreach field development missionary.
- The completion of the Kazakhstan commission's work in recognizing the Association of Reformed Churches in Kazakhstan.
- Recommendation regarding dismissal of the Presbytery of St. Andrews to the status of a national Argentine Reformed denomination.
- Identification of new leased office space for the Office of the General Assembly of significantly higher quality at comparable or slightly less cost than the present facilities. (The move will take place near the end of July.)

In addition to acknowledging all who contributed to these commendable outcomes, I also must acknowledge God's continued provision of moderatorial leadership to the EPC. Each successive moderator contributes in his own unique way by supporting, encouraging, offering wisdom and—very significantly—sacrificing to be present in and among the churches and presbyteries. The 23rd Assembly Moderator, Dr. Ron DiNunzio, has done this as faithfully and effectively as any, yet with a family younger than has been typical. Ron, I commend you before this Assembly and acknowledge my gratitude to you and to God for your commitment to your calling as our Moderator. With this year's nominee, the Assembly's tradition of able, faithful moderators is well-perpetuated.

Membership Analysis

Membership: At the end of 2003, the EPC consisted of 65,669 active members, 6,086 baptized members and 498 active ministers in 190 churches for a total of 72,253 souls.¹ With a net gain of four churches since year end, we consist of 194 churches today. The inclusive membership total represents an increase of 2,157, or 3%, over the previous year.

The number of congregations lost this year is down significantly over the previous two (13, 7 and 3, respectively) as anticipated in previous years' reports.

Presbyteries, especially their Church Developments Committees and Stated Clerks, should be commended for concluding what seemed to be a period of winnowing, both in terms of bringing some congregations to grips with their belief in independence and a preference for voluntary, conditional relationships rather than connectional ones as well as tending to the difficult work of dissolving non-viable congregations.

I have observed directly the training of dozens of elders and pastors in church revitalization. I am optimistic that the addition of these denominational assets coupled with a reduction in the number of critically declining congregations will provide measurable improvements in overall congregational health in the near future.

I commend Bob Stauffer and the National Outreach Committee for the skill and energy they have brought to this training process. I hope you will join me in waiting expectantly to see a marked increased in congregational health across the EPC. Key to the realization of this hope will be the concentrated,

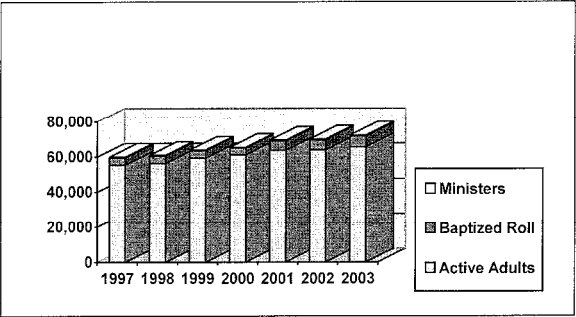


Figure 1--Inclusive Membership

Total churches as of June 19, 2003	189*
Received from independence	1
Received from other denominations	4
New mission churches or mission groups	3
Dismissed to other denominations	(1)
Dismissed to independence	(1)
Dissolved	(1)

Total churches as of June 18, 2003 194

*This beginning number varies by one from last year's reported ending total of 190

Summary of Churches Received & Dismissed

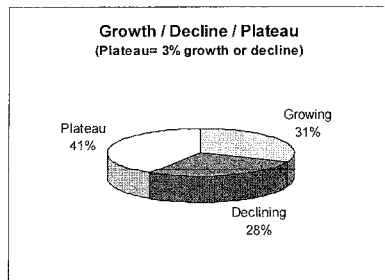
¹ The total reported varies from that in the annual statistical reports of the Commissioners Handbook in that the reported number above includes churches reporting after the Handbook was published.

sustained efforts of trained workers. I endorse Bob's appeal, which you have or will hear about elsewhere, through whatever means necessary, for presbyteries to find ways to provide qualified, proven people to improve the health of congregations.

The urgency of this appeal becomes all the more apparent in light of two realities. The first is the leadership challenge. With the geographical spread of our presbyteries, a host of socio-cultural pressures upon time availability and the acute organizational challenges to organizational health, church wellbeing does not come easily through the traditional workings of committees. Those who faithfully serve in presbytery leadership find that, after personal and local demands have been met, there is less and less time and energy available for effectively leading and serving elsewhere.

The second reason for urgency is the growth profile of EPC congregations individually. As the graph at right shows, only one third of EPC congregations grew in 2003.

We must once again repeat the qualifier about equating growth with health or even fidelity to one's mission. However, to the extent that health and growth do correlate, two thirds of EPC congregations should be closely examining their congregational trends.



We have many congregations that hold their own and even grown modestly in locales where populations are declining. We cannot neglect to acknowledge that in those and similar circumstances there is, effectively speaking, growth. But the uneven distribution of congregational growth is unsettling.

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	+/-
<i>Churches...</i>									
...reflecting gains	45%	53%	54%	59%	48%	43%	44%	31%	-30%
...reflecting losses	32%	29%	32%	30%	37%	34%	30%	28%	-7%
...with no change	8%	13%	14%	11%	15%	23%	26%	41%	+58%
<i>Professions of faith</i>									
Adult	1,062	566	1,117	1,102	906	1,280	1,087	1,101	1%
Youth	456	540	541	575	473	603	535	569	6%
Total	1,518	1,106	1,658	1,677	1,393	1,883	1,622	1,670	3%
<i>Baptisms</i>									
Adult	576	691	688	756	860	649	824	620	-25%
Infant	889	843	946	1,087	1,030	1,330	1,194	1,294	8%
Total	1,465	1,534	1,634	1,843	1,973	1,979	2,018	1,914	-5%
Sunday school enrollment	35,075	37,158	35,758	34,251	33,021	32,726	34,898	31,889	-9%

I especially appeal to those of you in congregations that are on a plateau. The best time for addressing decline is not when one has entered it. The time to act is now. Find out

Report of the Stated Clerk

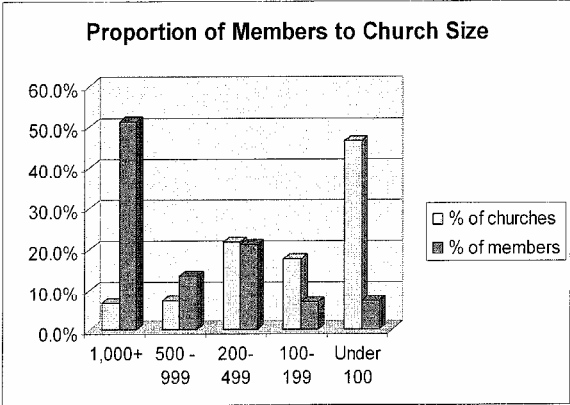
who has been trained in your presbytery or call the National Outreach office to hear what you already should be doing.

The sources of gains and losses during 2003 paint a mixed picture. There were 1,670 professions of faith (adult and youth combined) in 2003 along with 1,450 received by transfer and 2,403 by reaffirmation of faith. Reaffirmations and transfers were almost two and a half times professions, not counting additions due to churches received into the EPC.

Among the third of churches which did experience growth last year are some very encouraging stories. I count approximately twenty one congregations who saw a 10% or more increase in attendance. Nearly thirty churches had significant growth both in membership and attendance over the last five years. In the spirit of Vision 21, I would urge the presbyteries to allow opportunities for these congregations to share what God has done so that the whole body would benefit. Among those are Hope Presbyterian Church which has doubled its membership and seen attendance increase more than double since the end of 1999 and City of Refuge whose results are no less remarkable given its unique identity and vision. These churches will be ably represented from the pulpit both tonight and tomorrow night when their pastors preach for this Assembly.

It bears mentioning once again our unique makeup as a denomination. The chart at right shows the percentage distribution of total membership in terms of congregation size. The largest 14% of churches contains 65% of members. The largest 7% of congregations contain 47% of members.

In some respects, large congregations are not unique. For example, only slightly over one third of them have grown over the last year while the majority is in plateau, this makeup, which is distinctive of the EPC, has at least one absolutely critical implication.



The EPC has put itself forward as an evangelical denomination—not just evangelical in belief, but placing the highest priority on the Great Commission. Vision 21 articulated that conviction in the context of the first decade of this new century and in terms of our unique identity and opportunity. I have described Vision 21 as a beautifully-crafted wagon built with great forethought and wisdom...but without horses. One might be tempted to press the analogy—the horses weren't invited to pull, they are in reality race horses which prefer to race alone, the ponies wanted pride of place, etc. I won't push the analogy because I really can't say which is the case and because it doesn't really matter...except to the extent that we do or do not realize our vision in the future.

It has been mistakenly asserted that Vision 21 was a top-down plan. One must only read the plan as a whole to see that is a mischaracterization. It is about service and resources and it set ambitious common goals. Even though Vision 21 was adopted by the 21st General Assembly as our common vision, we are still in the process of assuming full ownership of those goals. Those who have the means to lead must be invited and encouraged to do so, they must lead and that leadership must be followed.

Church Gains and Losses.

The EPC welcomed eight new congregations, mission churches or mission groups this past year and dismissed or dissolved three, resulting in an increase in congregations from 189 to 194.² Those churches are as follows:

Churches Received and Organized, June 20, 2003—June 24, 2004

Florida

1. Hope EPC, Tallahassee FL (mission church)

Mid-Atlantic

2. Castanea EPC, Stanley NC (received from PCA)
3. Faith Liberation Community Christian, Charlotte NC (received from PCA)
4. Rivermont EPC, Lynchburg VA (received from PCUSA).

Midwest

5. First EPC, Battle Creek MI (received from independence)
6. Warsaw EPC, Warsaw IN (received from PCUSA)

Southeast

7. Buck Hill Presbyterian Church, Newland NC (newly organized)

West

8. Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Castle Rock CO (mission church under Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood CO)

Churches Dissolved or Dismissed June 20, 2003 – June 24, 2004

Central South:

1. Grace Covenant, Opelousas LA (dismissed to ARP)

Mid-Atlantic

2. Grace Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg VA (dissolved)

West

3. Clear View Community Church, Buena Vista CO (dismissed to independence)

In addition to the mission churches described above, there are three additional church planting projects under way in the Central South Presbytery (Carbondale, IL; Mobile, AL and Franklin, TN), one in the Midwest Presbytery (Manistee, MI), one in Presbytery of

²This total will differ slightly from the Statistical Reports in the Commissioner's Handbook because the latter are based on calendar year reporting while the former are reported on an assembly, or current, basis. This assembly year's beginning number of 189 is one less than reported last year.

Report of the Stated Clerk

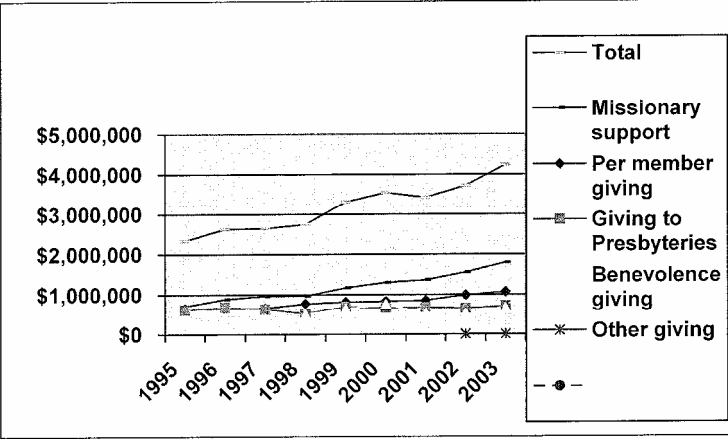
the East (Greater Washington, D.C.) and one in the Southeast Presbytery (Paulding County, GA).

Financial Analysis.

Denominational Giving:

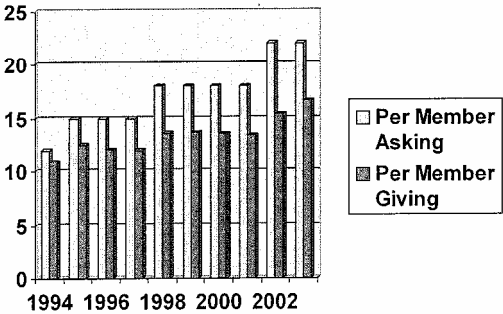
Churches and individuals fund the work of the Assembly in three primary ways: Per Member Asking (which is currently \$23 per member per year, raised from \$22 by the 23rd Assembly), Missionary Support and Benevolence Askings (special project funds associated with a wide range of Assembly ministries).

Per Member Asking is the primary source of funding for the administrative budget of the Assembly. The administrative budget funds the operation of the Office of the General Assembly including committee expenses, office operations and personnel costs for all departments.



Total Denominational Giving

Missionary Support provides the funds for World Outreach missionaries to serve. *Benevolence Askings* fund a variety of projects related to Assembly program areas and initiatives and include special offerings as well.



Under the EPC's commitment to a unified budget (see Act of the Assembly 83-08), all departments are funded in their virtual entirety from the administration budget. This means that program areas are more unified, but it also means each department does not independently raise funds

24th General Assembly

for operations. Thus the EPC, in comparison to some denominations, is both fiscally-constrained and fiscally dependent upon the participation of all the churches.

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Giving to presbyteries	709,694	652,405	678,312	664,307	692,171	512,885	629,344
Giving to General Assembly							
Per member asking	1,068,063	986,297	856,903	830,030	810,427	768,340	656,393
Benevolence Giving							
Missionary Support	1,796,918	1,556,454	1,364,610	1,297,961	1,167,192	968,183	968,551
World Outreach	76,439	73,236	62,269	126,428	156,879	212,368	161,667
Women's Ministries	44,925	62,797	49,477	69,299	66,087	41,368	62,294
Special Offerings	277,105	158,581	163,698	96,601	65,179	37,407	36,807
National Outreach	122,022	140,150	170,040	317,752	223,045	71,320	78,668
Church Loan Fund	11,438	11,488	11,105	11,170	10,040	11,012	10,553
Church Development	38,980	40,980	36,730	50,810			
Youth Ministries	3,550	1,700	2,657	3,971	3,292	3,742	3,290
Other Designated Giving	83,957	35,000	29,858	75,399	114,648	75,087	52,041
Total Benevolence Giving	658,416	523,932	525,834	751,430	639,170	452,304	405,320
Other income	6,673	3,457					
Total Giving to EPC	3,530,070	3,070,140	2,747,347	2,879,421	2,616,789	2,188,827	2,030,264
Other designated giving:							
Vision 21 Implementation	42,447	8,900	--				
Vision 21 Pastoral Care	275	50	--				
Medical Benevolence	1,200	1,375	1,375				
Moderators Scholarship Fund	2,870	3,203	2,479				
Reflections Magazine	--	--	1,550				
Jumper Scholarship	4,615	7,250	16,801				
Staff Support & Development	152	877	--				
Designated Miscellaneous	21,898	2,175	3,825				
Publications	--	--	3,503				
Ministerial Endowment	--	325	325				
Chaplains' Activities	--	845	--				
Christian Education/Library	10,500	10,000	--				
Total Other Designated Giving	83,957	35,000	29,858				
Special offerings							
Emergency relief	207,058	78,362					
Lenten offering	3,490	1,078					
Gratitude Gift (Christmas)	26,493	31,849					
Thanksgiving	34,924	41,627					
GA Offering	5,140	5,665					
Total Special Offerings	277,105	158,581					

Report of the Stated Clerk

Total Denominational Giving: Total denominational giving—giving to both the General Assembly and presbyteries—amounted to \$4,239,764 in 2003. This represents an increase of 14% over the previous year and a 54% increase over five years ago. The components of this giving appear in the above graph. In addition to Per Member Giving, the increase was attributable to a surge in emergency relief and a large gift toward the funding of the Stewardship Director provided for in Vision 21.

Missionary Support—funds going directly to the support of missionaries—has increased by double digit percentages four out of the last five and five out of the last seven years, approximately commensurate with increases in missionary personnel. Giving to presbyteries and Assembly benevolences have increased by 9% and 26% respectively after two years of flat levels.

Approved 2003 Benevolence Askings Projects	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
<u>National Outreach</u>			
Church Planting	\$250,000	43,560	17%
Church Loan Fund	25,000	11,438	46%
World Impact/Military Avenue	30,000	34,795	116%
<u>Student & Young Adult Ministries</u>			
Ministry Development	10,000	3,100	31%
Scholarships	7,000	250	4%
Youth worker/leader development	13,000	200	2%
College conference	5,000	--	0%
<u>Women's Ministries</u>			
Per Woman Asking	20,000	11,206	56%
Faith Focus	45,000	33,719	75%
<u>World Outreach</u>			
East Asia Seminaries	20,000	7,825	39%
Argentina Leadership	5,000	6,200	124%
Argentina WO Church Planting	10,000	8,920	89%
St. Andrews Mercy Ministries	10,000	2,500	25%
St. Andrews Presbytery Church Planting	15,000	13,419	89%
Muslim Field Development	10,000	1,656	17%
Kazakhstan Team Ministry	7,500	7,021	94%
Ethnic Outreach Projects	5,000	--	0%
Brazil RTS/IPB D. Min. Program	15,000	10,000	67%
WCF—Russian Translation	10,000	--	0%
Rakum Church Building & Land	10,000	500	5%
<u>Other Benevolences</u>			
Vision 21—Pastoral Care of Pastors	8,000	--	0%
Vision 21 Implementation	100,000	42,447	42%

Per Member Asking.

Giving to the Per Member Asking was up 8% in 2003, reflecting the second year of the increase in asking from \$18 to \$22 per member per year as approved by the 21st Assembly. On a per member basis denomination-wide, this meant an increase from \$15.43 to \$16.65, or 76% of the asking goal. As the graph following will show, the second

year response to that increase has been very good compared to virtually no effect in the second year of the previous two increases.

The 23rd Assembly instructed the Committee on Administration to study a more equitable method of funding in light of what some may perceive as disproportionate participation. The implicit question is whether the low or non-participation of some congregations is fair in light of the full or near-full participation of others. With that question is asked whether greater participation is preferable to increasing the per member amount. Without doubt greater participation is the goal.

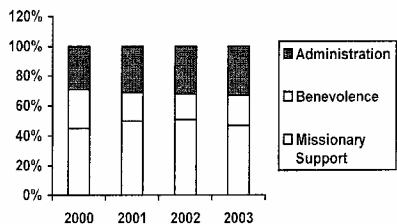
The Committee on Administration (CoA) is requesting an additional year to continue to work on increasing participation. That recommendation, which I wholeheartedly support, is not one of inaction. A good deal has been done to try to understand the reasons why churches don't participate more fully and there is a good deal that still can be done. For example, for the the third year in a row the Office of the Stated Clerk has asked churches to provide some good faith estimate of their plans for per member participation. For the most part, churches have communicated their intentions and, in some cases, described particular reasons for their level of participation.

The Office of the Stated Clerk specifically and the Office of the General Assembly has been working hard to be responsive to the churches and communicate effectively so that you see your per member participation as more than an obligation—to see it as a beneficial investment. After three years of leading your Assembly office, I believe it has sufficiently demonstrated its good will and servant approach to leadership. The next step toward resolving this issue is for communication to be reciprocated.

If you are not sure how your church participated in the Per Member Asking in 2002, multiply the beginning membership number in the Annual Statistical Report by \$22 and compare it to the actual amount received.

If you approve the Committee on Administration's request to extend its assignment an additional year, it is with the understanding that specific, targeted communications will attempt to precisely identify the specific reasons behind each local church decision not to fully participate in the per member asking .

As the accompanying graph shows, administration costs have maintained proportion with benevolence and missions spending over the last five years. Of the funds entrusted to the Office of the General Assembly in 2003, 67% went directly to benevolence and missions support. The remainder was used to fund the work and administration of the Assembly. This administrative budget is funded by of congregations gave over 90% of all per member asking gifts.



Percentage Distribution of Giving to GA

The wisdom in extending the CoA's assignment for another year takes into account several realities:

Report of the Stated Clerk

- During the investment boom of the 1990's, the administration budget had become reliant upon investment returns for approximately fifteen per cent of its budget. This source of operational revenue disappeared almost overnight in August of 2001 and the following months. Only late last year did the situation materially improve such that invested funds were back to 2001 levels in investment values.
- Even though investment returns are rebounding, the Assembly has instructed the CoA to wean itself off dependence on them to the extent it had been.
- The voluntary nature of the Per Member Asking is deeply imbedded in the founding sentiments of the EPC. It would prove ironic to move toward changing that given even the PC(USA) has determined its per capita amounts are voluntary.

Having observed these factors that merit additional time, there are some signs of improvement.

- Of our largest churches (over 1,000 members), all but four are contributing at a high percentage of their per member goal (80% or more). Of the remaining four, all increased their per member giving to anywhere from 22% to 72% over 2002.
- Two of those churches, if they were to come to the 50% level of their goal, would be equivalent to a \$1 per member per year increase in the asking and, based on historical averages, an increase in actual per member giving of 50¢ denomination-wide per member per year.

However, it is clear that Per Member Giving is not on its way to solving itself.

- Seventeen congregations constituting 15% of total membership gave less than half their goal.
- One quarter of churches gave nothing toward the Per Member Asking. Granted they represent only 8% of total membership, yet not all of these congregations are undergoing financial hardship.

In his final report as Stated Clerk, Ed Davis acknowledged the EPC's frugality. "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.'" (*20th General Assembly Minutes*, p. 19). We are still lean by any reasonable measure, though somewhat less so than our early years when your Assembly staff made significant personal sacrifice to serve. Our thanks is to God for the generous participation of those of you who have taken part so heartily in the Per Member Asking. The staff and volunteer committee members of the General Assembly will continue to pledge their best efforts at being good steward of those gifts.

Broader Observations.

I hope these organization observations help you to assess both the hope and the concern we share as members of the EPC. In a post-institutional age, we continue to be solid and stable, though not so vital and strong as we can be. We have an array of resources within

the EPC family to encourage and strengthen one another organizationally. On the other hand, we should have some real concern that we are not seizing fully the opportunity our beliefs, identity and history proffer. While we are admired by our ecclesiastical neighbors on both sides we are only modestly extending the kingdom of Christ, the increase of whose reign will have no end we have been told (Isaiah 9:7).

But let us be certain not to be mistaken about the relationship of organizational health to the advance of the gospel. In fact, may God preserve us from organizational advancement that is not the result of, or at the very least in service to, the Kingdom of God.

We profess that the visible church is the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ (WCF 25.2). The Gospel is not only the announcement of the coming of that kingdom through Christ's saving work, but it is itself the means by which the kingdom comes. The Gospel is our glory. The Gospel is the means by which God takes dominion over sinners and converts us into worshipers. The Gospel is not that Jesus died for our sins, but that the Kingdom of God has come through Christ's work.

Believing the Gospel means believing in the presence of the Kingdom of God through the Church of Jesus Christ. Believing this changes entirely how we look at what we are about as officers and leaders in the church, be it here this week or throughout the year. We are stewards of that Kingdom guarding, keeping and extending that it on behalf of the risen Christ.

As such, the Church deserves your best efforts, not just locally but beyond. Discipleship includes a full life in the visible church, not just personal application of God's word. Our need for leadership will become more pressing in the years to come unless we intentionally attack the problem. We will especially need what Jim Collins calls "Level 5" leadership, leaders "who are incredibly ambitious—but *their ambition is first and foremost for the institution.*"³ We need Level 5 leaders, not because we are in pursuit of a capitalist definition of greatness or because we are attempting to maximize shareholder value, but because we serve the institution which was destined to be the object of divine affection according to the eternal decrees, in particular the vicarious work of Christ in his death, burial and resurrection.

Being a Presbyterian is not painting an otherwise finished house, it is a way of believing and living in Christ's kingdom. Some of those whom you lead to Christ this year will be the presbyters of the next decade. Don't wait until it's time to send commissioners to presbytery or General Assembly to tell them what a Presbyterian believes. Kindle it in their hearts so our children will inherit Zion.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk
June 2003

³ Jim Collins, *Good to Great*, p. 21.

24th General Assembly

Church Name	Membership					1yr Growth	Attendance					5yr Growth	1yr Growth
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		
Central South													
All Saints Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN													
Atoka Presbyterian Church, Atoka TN	34	30	31	34	50	0.0%							0.0%
Christ EPC, Houston TX	468	440	436	356	388	-17.1%	54	57	40	45	50	7.4%	11.1%
Christ Presbyterian Church, Cape Girardeau MO	53	55	58	46	46	-13.2%	339	330	282	267	268	-20.9%	0.4%
Church of the King, Corpus Christi TX (dismissed)	52	52				0.0%	48	53	51	49	46	-4.2%	-6.1%
Cornerstone EPC, Katy TX	124	138	125	133	132	6.5%	70						
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Columbus MS	42	42	42	42	45	7.1%	157	144	156	170	153	-2.5%	-10.0%
CrossPointe Community Church, Carrollton TX	145	152	149	122	94	-35.2%	59	74	73	35	30	-49.2%	-14.3%
Crossroads Community Church, Austin TX	18					-23.0%	170	180	181	130	100	-41.2%	-23.1%
EPC of Marshall, Marshall TX	251	254	188	182	146	-41.8%	75						
Faith Presbyterian Church, Covington LA			120	106	110	3.8%	170	162	161	150	160	-5.9%	6.7%
First EPC, Anna IL	196	210	211	217	224	14.3%			82	81	97	19.8%	
First Presbyterian Church, Houma LA	63	65	57	53	54	-14.3%	196	190	218	210	196	0.0%	-6.7%
First Presbyterian Church, Meridian MS	374	389	389	394	404	8.0%	44	47	47	53	53	20.5%	0.0%
First Presbyterian Church, Waskom TX	27	27	28	30	29	7.4%	370	430	250	215	215	-41.9%	0.0%
First Presbyterian Church, West Point MS	120	121	123	130	146	21.7%	22	19	19	21	21	-4.5%	
Golden Rule Presbyterian Church, Elysian Fields TX	14	17	17	28	34	142.9%	100	100	100	120	130	30.0%	8.3%
Grace Covenant, Opelousas LA (dismissed)						21.4%	35	31	35	40	45	28.6%	12.5%
Grace Presbyterian Church, Alexandria LA	54	57	57	32		0.0%	50	45		30			
Grace Presbyterian Church, Montgomery AL	277	237	232	244	244	-11.9%	225	225	200	175	175	-22.2%	0.0%
Grace Presbyterian Church, Montgomery AL	88	112	93	73	53	-39.8%	85	113	96	81	53	37.6%	-34.8%
Hope Church, San Antonio TX	40	25	70	101	114	185.0%	100	100	140	157	150	50.0%	-4.5%

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Church Name	Membership					Attendance				
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Hope Presbyterian Church, Cordova TN	2260	3035	3626	4355	4730	2501	3913	5129	5485	5670
Iglesia Hispana Cristo el Rey, Brandon MS				48	20				40	30
Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Brandon MS	534	555	560	568	566	300	300	315	300	300
Louisville Presbyterian Church, Louisville MS	39	38	34	33	23	47	50	40	40	25
New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Natchez MS	47	47	47	48	46	85	52	55	58	59
Providence Presbyterian Church, Rowlett TX	83					150				
Redeemer EPC, Birmingham AL (dismissed)	69	62	62			85	65			
Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis TN	3351	3477	3555	3627	3724	1337	1631	1570	1710	1705
St. Patrick Presbyterian Church, Collierville TN	168	185	203	230	204	235	250	250	275	225
Sylvania Presbyterian Church, Ward AR				73	78				45	60
The City of Refuge (EPC), Houston TX	71	78	90	112	126	85	114	110	120	160
Trinity Presbyterian, Mobile AL (dissolved)										
Tunica Presbyterian Church, Tunica MS	119	123	115	124	119	95	100	100	100	100
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Laurel MS	268	248	246	255	243	185	180	150	155	150
Zachary Presbyterian Church, Zachary LA (dismissed)	71	71				50				
Churches	9,520	10,342	11,164	11,846	12,231	7,524	8,855	9,860	10,386	10,475
	31	29	28	30	29					
East										
Ashland EPC, Voorhees NJ	348	304	289	259	253	215	225	150	140	177
Cakary Presbyterian Church, Butler PA (dismissed)	116	117	103			57	49	40		
Christ Community Church,				50	50				50	50

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Church Name	Membership					Attendance					1yr Growth
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
EPC, Highland Lakes NJ*											
Christ the King EPC, Westfield MA*				50	50				50	50	0.0%
Circleville Presbyterian Church, Circleville NY*				100	100				100	100	0.0%
Dundalk Presbyterian Church, Dundalk MD	247	237	226	228	214	200	190	180	150	150	-25.0%
Faith Presbyterian Church, Kingstowne VA	292	299	289	292	300	295	277	288	280	299	1.4%
Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda MD	2504	2579	2651	2699	2738	1290	1475	1490	1495	1490	15.5%
Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Montgomery NY	142	160	205	258	289	197	305	437	470	562	185.3%
Montclair Community Church, Montclair VA (dissolved)	38	53	53			50					
New Covenant EPC, New Castle PA	251	250	250	251	256	207	224	212	219	213	2.9%
New Hope EPC, Pittsburgh PA	22	29	41	45	51	90	85	90	85	90	0.0%
North Park EPC, Wexford PA	448	483	509	456	508	520	538	511	544	563	6.3%
Princeton EPC, Duaneburg NY	285	307	330	327	358	230	241	276	277	283	23.0%
Reston Presbyterian Church, Reston VA			250	86	85						
	4,893	4,818	5,196	5,101	5,252	3,351	3,609	3,724	3,710	4,017	19.9%
Churches	11	11	12	13	13						8.3%
Florida											
Cypress Pointe E.P.C., Oviedo FL*	70	82	82	82	82	130	130		130	130	0.0%
EPC of Plant City, Plant City FL	391	366	365	373	368	350	380	350	350	350	0.0%
Faith EPC, Brooksville FL	321	292	331	336	349	360	510	500	500	500	38.9%
First Presbyterian Church of Homestead, Homestead FL	129	126	128	76	88	90	90	77	80	80	-11.1%
Glendale Presbyterian Church, DeFuniak Springs FL	61	72	66	67	66	75	80	68	65		
Hope EPC, Tallahassee FL	0				30	0	0	0	0	30	

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Church Name	Membership					5yr Growth	1yr Growth	Attendance					5yr Growth	1yr Growth
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003			1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		
Jacob's Well, Kansas City MO (dismissed)	60	70	70											
Lakeand Community Church, Lee's Summit MO	38	53	79	83	111	192.1%	33.7%	205	309	292	361	416	102.9%	15.2%
New Harvest Community Church, Ballwin MO (dissolved)	30							30						
Sutter Presbyterian Church, Bridgeton MO*	119	118	123	127	127	6.7%	0.0%	102	103	105	108	108	5.9%	0.0%
The Crossing, Columbia MO*	50	39	39	39	39	-22.0%	0.0%	50			39	39	-22.0%	0.0%
Trinity Fellowship Church, Alton IL*	12	37	16	16	16	33.3%	0.0%	45	45	45	40	40	-11.1%	0.0%
West Highlands Pres. Church, Lenexa KS (dissolved)	58							70						
Westkirk EPC, Des Moines IA (dismissed)	310	340	340					193	231					
Churches	5,218	5,168	3,951	3,797	3,977	-23.8%	4.7%	4,149	3,279	4,312	4,824	4,559	9.9%	-5.5%
	19	16	15	14	14	-26.3%	0.0%							
Mid-Atlantic														
Abundant Life Church, Chesapeake VA	93	115	117	117	72	-22.6%	-38.5%	160		150	100	75	-53.1%	-25.0%
Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Florence SC	39							30						
Bridgeway EPC, Chesapeake VA* (dissolved 2004)	52	57	61	42	42	-19.2%	0.0%	70	64	64	75	75	7.1%	0.0%
Brunswick Presbyterian Church, Brunswick NC (dismissed)	18	18	18					15						
Castanea EPC, Stanley NC**					43							35		
Christ Church EPC, Anderson SC	124	114	141	157	163	31.5%	3.8%	165	175	175	195	225	36.4%	15.4%
Christ Fellowship, Southern Pines NC	69	69	70	90	51	-26.1%	-43.3%	79	80		128	85	7.6%	-33.6%
Cleveland Presbyterian Church, Abingdon VA	47	47	48	59	73	55.3%	23.7%	35	35	35	52	60	71.4%	15.4%
Clover EPC, Clover SC	46	36	41	41	52	13.0%	26.8%	57	29	36	30	32	-43.9%	6.7%
Covenant Community Church,	53							63						

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Church Name	Membership					1yr Growth	Attendance					5yr Growth	1yr Growth	
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		5yr Growth	1999	2000	2001	2002			2003
Charlotte NC (dissolved)														
Graneton Presbyterian Church, Graneton NC (dismissed)	34	29	26				32	25	15					
Gregmore Presbyterian Church, Columbia SC (dissolved)	69	51	55				70	75	60					
Emmanuel Church, Laurens SC (dismissed)	8						8							
EPC of Elton, Elton VA	146	141	150	153	150	2.7%	135		125	100	100	-25.9%	0.0%	
Faith Liberation Community Christian, Charlotte NC**					100						100			
Fellowship of Christ, Cary NC	156	166	170	140	143	-8.3%	250	250	300	300	280	12.0%	-6.7%	
First EPC of Monroe, NC, Monroe NC*	79	63	74	79	79	0.0%	647	65	75	60	60	-90.7%	0.0%	
Forest Hill Church, Charlotte NC	1694	1699	1730	1803	1974	16.5%	1767	1495	1767	2102	2178	23.3%	3.5%	
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, Wilson NC	68	68	68	72	82	20.6%	60			65	67	11.7%	3.1%	
Grace Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg VA (dissolved)	35	42	44	25			50	60	45	25				
Hope Church EPC, Richmond VA	102	144	191	209	242	137.3%	310	310	343	371	380	22.6%	2.4%	
Kempville Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach VA	1317	1323	1488	1469	1442	9.5%	1090	1500	1320	1390	1300	19.3%	-6.5%	
Lake Forest Community Church, Cornelius NC	100	198	229	326	389	289.0%	307	320	417	502	540	75.9%	7.6%	
Lebanon Presbyterian Church, Greenwood VA	92	98	89	92	89	-3.3%	85	90	70	85	71	-16.5%	-16.5%	
LifeSong Christian Fellowship, Garner NC*				51	51	0.0%				65	65		0.0%	
Linwood Presbyterian Church, Gastonia NC	41	44	41	48	57	39.0%	35		35	40	45	28.6%	12.5%	
Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, Wilmington NC	1469	1487	1427	1184	1125	-23.4%	1048	1014	854	735	757	-27.8%	3.0%	
New Covenant Church, Burgaw NC	41	62	106	128	115	180.5%	75	110	126	149	100	33.3%	-32.9%	
North Grove EPC, Wilmington NC		120	136	166	158		150	148	135	146	136	-9.3%	-6.8%	

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Church Name	Membership					5yr Growth	1yr Growth	Attendance					5yr Growth	1yr Growth
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003			1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		
Northampton Presbyterian Church, Hampton VA	94	70	72	79	82	-12.6%	3.8%	45	45	47	54	58	28.9%	7.4%
Overbrook Community Church, Gaffrey SC	84	88	88	78	48	-42.5%	-38.5%	80	80		50			
Peace Presbyterian Church, Durham NC			76	65	61		-6.2%			75	57	45		-21.1%
Pewow Presbyterian Church, Cross Lanes WV	272	265	281	284	257	-5.5%	-9.5%	609	540	337	283	257	-57.8%	-9.2%
Reynolds Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem NC	925	883	777	819	638	-31.0%	-22.1%	575	700	500	500	419	-27.1%	-16.2%
River Oaks Community Church, Lewisville NC	127	208	285	301	359	182.7%	19.3%	350	550	575	618			
Rivemont EPC, Lynchburg VA					879							703		
St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Charlotte NC	282	285	270	276	288	-5.0%	-2.9%	263	271	224	225	221	-16.0%	-1.8%
Threshold, Charlotte NC				44	72		63.6%	200	254			254		
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Florence SC	424	339	353	374	397	-6.4%	6.1%	275	195	225	227	250	-9.1%	10.1%
Warehouse 242, Charlotte NC	140	140	150	135	140	0.0%	3.7%	375	600	600	500	350	-6.7%	-30.0%
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bluefield WV	474	445	467	461	481	1.5%	4.3%	353	294	294	303	285	-19.3%	-5.9%
Woodside Presbyterian Church, Roanoke VA*	34	34	33	33	33	-2.9%	0.0%	32	28	29	29	29	-9.4%	0.0%
Churches	8,848	8,929	9,372	9,400	10,407	17.6%	10.7%	9,950	9,402	9,053	9,561	9,637	-3.1%	0.8%
	35	33	34	33	35	0.0%	6.1%							
Midwest														
Calvary Presbyterian Church, Flint MI	596	608	610	606	575	-3.5%	-5.1%	384	384	380	376	375	-2.3%	-0.3%
Community EPC, Owosso MI	95	101	100	98	93	-2.1%	-5.1%	247	250	155	145	140	-43.3%	-3.4%
Cornerstone EPC, Brighton MI	1433	1572	1616	1713	1832	27.8%	6.9%	1801	1677	1781	1722	1760	-2.3%	2.2%
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor MI	95	101	103	104	104	9.5%	0.0%	130	171	200	210	160	23.1%	-23.8%
DaySpring Community Church, Newark OH (dismissed)	150							150						
Evangelical Community Church, Cincinnati OH			283	248	225		-9.3%			215	222	212		-4.5%

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Church Name	Membership					Attendance					1yr Growth	5yr Growth
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		
Faith EPC, Orion MI	289	276	297	249	220	850	348	348	304	264	-11.6%	-68.9%
Faith EPC, Richmond OH	101	101	104	115	92	110	120	100	100		-20.0%	-13.2%
Faith Fellowship, Johnstown OH				72	84				86	87	16.7%	
Fellowship EPC, South Lyon MI	242	247	250	235	251	325	275	257	259	250	6.8%	-23.1%
First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Battle Creek MI					44					40		
First Presbyterian Church, Trenton MI	861	813	839	811	833	477	514	508	500	520	2.7%	9.0%
Gateway EPC, Findlay OH				335	418				425		24.8%	
Grace Chapel, Farmington Hills MI	275	300	237	200	194	254		208	223	189	-3.0%	-25.6%
Grace Community Church of Oscoda, Oscoda MI	11	20	31	38	41	43	44	45	60	70	7.9%	62.8%
Kensington Community Church, Rochester Hills MI (dismissed)	990	1132				3275	3275					
Knox Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor MI	381	402	464	520	488	535	747	742	676	711	-4.2%	32.9%
Knox Presbyterian Church, Harrison Township MI	565	543	557	469	427	550			329	345	-9.0%	-37.3%
Lake City EPC, Lake City MI	63	64	73	69	70	130	165	77	80	74	1.4%	-43.1%
Mercy Christian Fellowship, Walled Lake MI (dismissed)	28	30	30			70						
Military Avenue EPC, Detroit MI	87	81	77	83	86	100	100	110	100		3.6%	-1.1%
Mt. Pleasant Community Church, Mt. Pleasant MI	300	293	288	323	413		475	579	709	791	27.9%	11.6%
New Heart Community Church, Muskegon MI	50	30	30	63	40		54	62	63	65	-20.0%	-36.5%
New Hope Church, Auburn Hills MI	57	55	44	54	33	110	106	109		60	-38.9%	-46.5%
North Oaks Community Church, Clarkston MI	57	63	63	62	79	95	101	100	100	127	27.4%	33.7%
Oakland Avenue EPC, Pontiac MI	199	164	153	141	100	150	168	158	125	108	-49.7%	-28.0%
Peace Presbyterian Church, Flint MI	91	85	80	92	80	85	70	72	75	64	-13.0%	-24.7%

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Church Name	Membership					Attendance					1yr Growth	5yr Growth	1yr Growth	
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5yr Growth	1yr Growth	1999	2000	2001				2002
St. Andrew EPC, Auburn IN	201	190	150	138	121	-39.8%	-12.3%	148	109	116	98	91	-38.5%	-7.1%
Stonebridge Church, Perrysburg OH	55	57	64	69	74	34.5%	7.2%	42	60	90	63	63	50.0%	
Tabernacle EPC, Youngstown OH	516	532	485	408	428	-17.1%	4.9%	485		425	420	373	-23.1%	-11.2%
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Columbia City IN	123	122	125	122	131	6.5%	7.4%	125	120	120	120	125	0.0%	4.2%
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Plymouth MI	625	641	655	631	631	1.0%	0.0%	600	650	650	650			
Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville MI	4192	4171	4075	4147	4225	0.8%	1.9%	3223	2881	2867	2988	3033	-5.9%	1.5%
Warsaw Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Warsaw IN***					640			0	0	0	0	600		
Churches	12,728	12,794	11,883	12,215	13,082	2.8%	7.1%	14,494	12,864	10,484	11,165	10,697	-26.2%	-4.2%
Southeast														
Brainerd Presbyterian Church, Chattanooga TN	566	583	571	518	517	-8.7%	-0.2%	350	370	410	300	275	-21.4%	-8.3%
Buck Hill Presbyterian Church, Newland NC**					50							50		
Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Knoxville TN			3543	3648	3562		-2.4%			2682	3035	2829		-6.8%
Christ Presbyterian Church, Knoxville TN	18	19	24	25			-100.0%	35	33	33	35			
Community Bible Church, Highlands NC	199	184	179	197	195	-2.0%	-1.0%	290	475	530	495	350	20.7%	-29.3%
Community Evangelistic Church, Knoxville TN				441	466		5.7%				450	325		-27.8%
Cornerstone EPC, Franklin NC	78	75	64	60	60	-23.1%	0.0%	83	96	60				
Faith Presbyterian Church, Knoxville TN	75	71	71	98	104	38.7%	6.1%	48	50			50	11.1%	
Faith Presbyterian Church, Lavonia GA	102	103	103	75	48	-52.9%	-36.0%	71	76	95	21	18	-74.6%	-14.3%
First Presbyterian Church, Rome GA	935	994	1010	1055	1029	10.1%	-2.5%	592	640	610	741	509	-14.0%	-31.3%
Flatrock Covenant Presbyterian Church, Denniston KY*	5	6	7	7	7	40.0%	0.0%	14	16	18	18	18	28.6%	0.0%

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Church Name	Membership					Attendance								
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5yr Growth	1yr Growth	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5yr Growth	1yr Growth
Grace Community Presbyterian, Marietta GA (dismissed)	69	67						40	40					
Grace EPC, Asheville NC (dissolved)	37	0							40					
Grace Presbyterian Church, Franklin NC	99	97	99	66	74	-25.3%	12.1%	40	105	75	45			
Lookout Valley Presbyterian, Chattanooga TN	105	112	111	144	94	-10.5%	-34.7%	75	75	65	65	65	-13.3%	0.0%
Lynn Garden Presbyterian Church, Kingsport TN	88	61	52	47	40	-54.5%	-14.9%	50		40	35	30	-40.0%	-14.3%
Mt. Calvary Presbyterian Church, Kingsport TN*	49	52	52	52	52	6.1%	0.0%	67	74	74	74	74	10.4%	0.0%
New Beginning EPC, Erlanger KY	75	66	62	66	62	-17.3%	-6.1%		55	55	55	55	0.0%	0.0%
Plumtree Presbyterian Church, Plumtree NC	106	112	110	95	104	-1.9%	9.5%	115	120	125	126	125	8.7%	-0.8%
Trion Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Trion GA		50	50	50	33		-34.0%			46	46	40		-13.0%
Valleybrook Presbyterian Church, Hixson TN	111	101	84	96	96	-13.5%	0.0%	105	70	80	74	79	-24.8%	6.8%
Churches	2,717	2,753	6,192	6,740	6,593	142.7%	-2.2%	1,975	2,335	4,924	5,615	4,892	147.7%	-12.9%
St. Andrews														
Belgrano Church*	45	35	35	45	45	0.0%	0.0%	55			50	50	-9.1%	0.0%
Iglesia 'Dios es mi Refugio', Mar de Ajo*				17	17		0.0%				20	20		0.0%
Iglesia Trinidad, Gualeguaychu, Entre Rios*	120	75	75	200	200	66.7%	0.0%				150	150		0.0%
La Mision*				4	4		0.0%				15	15		0.0%
Mision Betesda - La Plata*	20	15	15	15	35		0.0%				35	35		0.0%
Mision Concepcion del Uruguay, Entre Rios*	60	60	60	54	57	-5.0%	5.6%				25	25		0.0%
San Antonio de Padua Church*	154	185	198	209	225	46.1%	7.7%	175	175	230	50	40		-20.0%
City Church														
Olivos Church														

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Church Name	Membership							Attendance						
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5yr Growth	1yr Growth	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5yr Growth	1yr Growth
Quilmes Church*	36	36	36	40	40	11.1%	0.0%	24			50	50	108.3%	0.0%
Temperley Church	225	252	252	188	190	-15.6%	1.1%		255		252	195		-22.6%
Urdinarain Mission Church, Entre Rios	30	25	25	41	41	36.7%	0.0%	30			40	40	33.3%	0.0%
Churches	690	708	721	857	878	27.2%	2.5%	284	430	230	687	645	127.1%	-6.1%
West														
Aravada Community Church, Aravada CO	59	44	32	33	26	-55.9%	-21.2%	85	50	50	65	60	-29.4%	-7.7%
Bear Creek EPC, Lakewood CO	511	498	493	468	420	-17.8%	-10.3%	413	418	431	397	366	-11.4%	-7.8%
Canyon Creek Community Church, Chandler AZ	87	102	106	122	111	27.6%	-9.0%	178	200	125	166			
Celebration Community Church, Denver CO	52	66	75	75	81	55.8%	8.0%	91	135	163	102	196	115.4%	92.2%
Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood CO	1229	1318	1213	1182	1229	0.0%	4.0%	943	940	1262	1274	1219	29.3%	-4.3%
Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch CO	4152	4519	4574	4535	4670	12.5%	3.0%	3300	3800	4100	4100	4100	24.2%	0.0%
Christ Covenant Church, Leoti KS	87	96	101	99	83	-4.6%	-16.2%	99	102	94	90	85	-14.1%	-5.6%
Christ Fellowship Church, Ft. Collins CO	33	36	28	28	29	-12.1%	3.6%	60	70	57	57	40	-33.3%	-29.8%
Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Castle Rock CO**					50							50		
Christ's Family Presbyterian Church, Tempe AZ	55	60	58	41	41	-25.5%	0.0%	45		30	32	32	-28.9%	0.0%
Clayton Community Church, Clayton CA	250	250	296	310	394	57.6%	27.1%	600		477	391	500	-16.7%	27.9%
Clear View Community Church, Buena Vista CO (disnissed)	50	250	350	355				50		250	300			
Cornerstone Community Church, Denver CO	310	255	230	56	44	-85.8%	-21.4%	260	140	145	42	42	-83.8%	0.0%
Covenant Community Church, Aurora CO	81	83	85	43	34	-58.0%	-20.9%	100	80	80	75	70	-30.0%	-6.7%
Covenant Presbyterian Church, San Diego CA	304	301	300	223	193	-36.5%	-13.5%	300			222	205	-31.7%	-6.8%

Report of the Stated Clerk

Church Name	Membership					1yr Growth	Attendance					1yr Growth		
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003		5yr Growth	1999	2000	2001	2002		2003	5yr Growth
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Vail CO	30	30	38					50	80	80	45	45	-10.0%	
Faith Evangelical Church, Loveland CO	475	483	478	458	422	-11.2%	-7.9%	500	490	448	447	446	-10.8%	-0.2%
Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Folsom CA (dissolved)	38	44	44	29				48	43	37	31			
Faith Presbyterian Church, Aurora CO	1004	858	834	759	673	-33.0%	-11.3%	850	550	490	480	460	-29.2%	-4.2%
First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Renton WA	641	608	608	630	637	-0.6%	1.1%	646	704		664	651	0.8%	-2.0%
Grace Community Church, Surprise AZ	136	106	93	123	149	9.6%	21.1%	119	85	100	135	165	38.7%	22.2%
Grace Presbyterian Church, Gig Harbor WA				45	45		0.0%				45	54		
GracePoint Community Church, Littleton CO	183	177	152	163	178	-2.7%	9.2%	189	170	166	177	170	-10.1%	-4.0%
Greenwood Community Church, Greenwood Village CO	660	726	697	591	630	-4.5%	6.6%	1150	1150	1150	1150	1150	0.0%	0.0%
Highline Community Church, Centennial CO	100	200	109	153	166	66.0%	8.5%	200	200	250	275	250	25.0%	-9.1%
Ken Caryl Community Church, Sedalia CO*	0	25	12	12	12		0.0%		35	41	52	52		0.0%
Lookout Mtn. Community Church, Golden CO	464	589	450	513	638	37.5%	24.4%	785	1015	978	1325	1410	79.6%	6.4%
Morningside Presbyterian Church, Phoenix AZ	135	130	129	93	90	-33.3%	-3.2%	70	63	66	65	70	0.0%	7.7%
New Community Christian Church, Englewood CO*	128	139	23	120	120	-6.3%	0.0%	330	225	225	180	180	-45.5%	0.0%
New Covenant Church, Tucson AZ (dissolved)	60	60						60						
Northwest EPC, Redmond WA	54	57	57	50	48	-11.1%	-4.0%	113	120	119	112	103	-8.8%	-8.0%
Parker Presbyterian Church, Parker CO	369	431	457	469	478	29.5%	1.9%	570	565		703	792	38.9%	12.7%
San Ramon Presbyterian Church, San Ramon CA*	484	458	396	357	357	-26.2%	0.0%	421	450	412	338	338	-19.7%	0.0%
Sanger Community Church, Sanger CA*				135	135		0.0%				75	135		80.0%
Santa Maria Community Church, Santa Maria CA*	91	98	95	105	105	15.4%	0.0%	62	65	65	70	70	12.9%	0.0%

24th General Assembly

Church Name	Membership						Attendance							
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5yr Growth	1yr Growth	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	5yr Growth	1yr Growth
Thai EPC, Monrovia CA*	27	24	24	24	24	-11.1%	0.0%	45	35	35	35	35	-22.2%	0.0%
Valley Community Church, San Jacinto CA	72	58	71	63	61	-15.3%	-3.2%	90	75	80	75	70	-22.2%	-6.7%
West Bowles Community Church, Littleton CO (dismissed)	648	692	692					1400	1400					
Churches	13,059	13,871	13,400	12,462	12,373	-5.3%	-0.7%	14,022	13,455	11,971	13,745	13,611	-2.9%	-1.0%
TOTALS														
Churches	195	187	185	191	194	-0.5%	1.6%							
Members / Attendance	59,393	61,195	63,748	64,251	66,478	11.9%	3.5%	57,398	56,007	56,131	61,343	60,145	4.8%	-2.0%

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES



Freddie Albaugh, Chairman



Marc Santom, Director

General Overview

The Student & Young Adult Ministries (SYAM) Committee met twice during this Assembly year: October 3-4, 2003 and March 5-6, 2004 at the Office of the General Assembly. Current committee members include Freddie Albaugh, Chair (MI), Brian Land (TX), Scott Brewer (TN), Smokey Ridgely (CO), Pete Howell (VA) and Mike Owen (OH). Chairman Freddie Albaugh is rotating off the Committee, and Brian Land will take his place as chairman at the October '04 SYAM Committee meeting. Rev. Pete Howell is also rotating off the Committee after serving his appointed term. Brandon Bates (MS) will be joining the SYAM Committee for the October '04 meeting. SYAM Director Marc Santom and Administrative Assistant Sue Ferrell were also present at the committee meetings. In April, Sue Ferrell resigned after seven years of faithful service. SYAM has since hired a summer intern to help the SYAM Director facilitate the smooth operation of the many summer trips.

Form follows function. Since 1985, the form of SYAM has been gradually taking shape to express the heart of its responsibilities to the many faces of student and young adult ministries across the denomination. Because SYAM cannot always be on the front lines of ministry, its essential functions exist for the benefit of those who are--whether they're ministering to junior highers, senior highers or college-aged adults. These essential functions can be best summed up by the following three words:

Inspiration. We want to inspire youth and young adult ministers to do ministry with passion, excellence and joy, while enabling the global EPC family to celebrate what God is doing in our ministries.

Connection. We desire to connect all EPC youth and young adult ministers to one another in love, service, communication and partnership—from church to church, presbytery to presbytery, and from church and presbytery to SYAM.

Empowerment. We want to empower youth and young adult ministers who need support, advice, training and resources in seeing their ministerial visions come to pass.

SYAM recognizes that that it can best accomplish its mission to transform students by inspiring, connecting and empowering those who regularly minister to them—the youth and young adult ministers, full-time, part-time and volunteer alike.

College Committee Update

In the Spring 2003 meeting, the SYAM Committee made a motion to the Committee on Administration concerning the formation of a General Assembly appointed ad interim Committee on College Ministry. As it turned out, the 23rd General Assembly did approve the formation of the ad interim committee in June of 2003. Between July and November, Ron DiNunzio, Mike Glodo and Marc Santom collaborated and assembled the 6-member committee:

- Rick Stauffer (TE) Tabernacle EPC, Youngstown, OH
- David Cover (TE) The Crossing, Columbia, MO
- Steve Jessen (TE) Myrtle Grove EPC, Wilmington, NC
- James Paternoster (RE) Knox Presbyterian, Ann Arbor, MI
- Scott Waters (TE) Forest Hill EPC, Charlotte, NC
- Bill Vogler (TE) Grace EPC, Lawrence, KS

The Committee met at the General Assembly Office on January 22-23, 2004. The National Leadership Foundation's David Lovell was also in attendance to serve as a resource for the Committee's questions about potentially partnering with His Life Campus Ministry. By the time the meeting had adjourned on the 23rd, Rick Stauffer had been elected as chairman, many philosophical, theological and pragmatic issues had been discussed, a denomination-wide survey on college ministry was drafted, partnering with His Life Campus Ministry unanimously seemed wise step to take. The Committee met again on April 29-30. After that meeting, the Committee decided to recommend that its ad-interim status be extended for the length of one year, at which time the inaugural year of a permanent committee on college ministry would commence.

Summer Missions Overview

Approximately 500 EPC students and leaders are currently signed up for SYAM's nine trips (mission trips and summer conferences). The following are overviews on the current status of each mission trip:

Appalachian Impact

Overall, sixteen EPC churches comprised of 300 students and leaders are participating in all four weeks of Appalachian Impact. Here are the four scheduled weeks of SYAM's most popular mission trip:

- June 12 – 19
- June 26 – July 3
- July 3 – 10
- July 17 – 24

Reverend Glenn Ferrell is excited about the strong response and has communicated that he feels that, in contrast to last year's difficult and emotional time, he will be better organized and conduct a better system of screening work project applicants by using referrals from pastors in and around Frenchburg.

Tunica Impact

Overall, five EPC churches comprised of 65 students and leaders are participating in the two weeks ministering alongside Paul Husband in Tunica, Mississippi. Because of the strong turnout and high praise from last year's mission week in Tunica, SYAM added another week this year, which will most likely not fill up to capacity. Tunica Impact will be held from June 12 – 18 and from July 10 – 16 this summer.

Houston Refuge

Our first partnership with The City of Refuge (Houston, TX) is underway. Right now we have two churches comprised of 25 students planning on serving alongside Pastor Rufus Smith and Youth & Children's Director, Dan Walmer from July 31–August 6.

Mission Argentina

From July 5 – 15, Lebanon Presbyterian Church (Greenwood, VA) and Forest Hill EPC will be sending 18 of its senior high-ers and leaders to minister alongside EPC missionaries Chuck Creech and Paul Branch in Gualaguaychu, Argentina.

Mission Mexico

Overall, three EPC churches comprised of 73 senior high students and leaders are preparing for their trip to Reynosa, Mexico. This trip, although sponsored by SYAM, is actually run and facilitated by A.I.M. (Adventures In Missions). Last year's feedback on the Mission Mexico trip with AIM was extremely positive, so we decided to offer it again. The three churches heading to Mexico are: First EPC (Anna, IL), Fourth Presbyterian (Bethesda, MD) and Gateway EPC (Findlay, OH).

Summer Conference Overview

This summer, SYAM is offering a summer conference option for senior higher: Summer Jam, and an option for junior higher: Quest. This will be the 18th annual Summer Jam conference and our first year in partnering with the Associate Reformed Presbyterians in offering Quest to 6th – 8th graders of the EPC.

Summer Jam

Summer Jam is scheduled for July 19 – 23 at Awanita Valley Christian Retreat Center in Marietta, South Carolina. Our theme this year is "Inside Out," based upon David's declaration in Psalm 84:10. We reserved 175 spots at Awanita Valley for our students. To date, we have about 150 of those spots tentatively filled up by eight churches. Our speaker is Summer Jam veteran, Brett Ray (who will be accompanied by his wife, nanny and five children. Our worship leader is Preston Coles, who is on part-time ministry staff at Kempsville Presbyterian Church (Virginia Beach, VA). His wife, Sara, will accompany Preston.

The Summer Jam Planning Team is comprised of the following people:

- Brandon Bates (Lakeside Presbyterian: Brandon, MS)

- Mike Gorr (Grace Chapel: Farmington Hills, MI)
- James Sinsel (Trinity Presbyterian: Florence, SC)
- Marc Santom (SYAM Director, GA Office)

To date, these are the churches planning on attending Summer Jam 2004:

- EPC of Marshall (TX)
- Fellowship EPC (MI)
- First Presbyterian (MI)
- First Presbyterian (MS)
- Grace Chapel (MI)
- Lakeside Presbyterian (MS)
- Trinity EPC (SC)

At its March meeting, the SYAM Committee unanimously decided to indefinitely suspend Summer Jam. Because of such factors as declining attendance, a strained budget, and questions over whether Jam was still a relevant way to meet the spiritual needs of the denomination. The hope of the Committee is to investigate the possibility of raising up a new senior high conference in the summer of 2006 with at least 10 EPC churches who are willing to take ownership of the event long term.

Quest

The ARP's Quest Junior High Conference is scheduled for June 21-26 at Bonclarken, the ARP's conference center in Flat Rock, NC. On any given year, Quest attracts approximately 400 ARP students. SYAM estimates that the EPC will send about 50 students to join them this summer. The SYAM Director will be on site at Quest for its first three days to see how things run and find out how our EPC students respond. In October, the SYAM Committee will decide whether or not to offer Quest to our denominational middle school students in 2005.

Youthworker Oasis

After a successful Youthworker Oasis last fall in Virginia Beach, SYAM is gearing up for this year's Oasis—to be held at the Woodfield Suites in downtown San Antonio, TX from October 17 – 19. This year's Oasis will be “hosted” by nearby Hope Church, where Tom Masterson is the senior pastor and Christy Tayloe is the youth and college ministry director. We will continue to assert more of a “soul care” emphasis, instead of implementing more of a youth ministry “nuts and bolts” training model. The overarching sentiment from last years’ attendees was that there are many venues and opportunities for training year round—but very few contexts for soul care and reconnecting with God and family. We will again anticipate between 30-40 participants from around the EPC. Rev. Richard Kidd from Lake Pointe Church (an EPC church plant north of Atlanta) will be the featured speaker for this event.

Benevolence Askings

SYAM Benevolence gifts almost doubled in 2003. At the end of 2002, SYAM accrued \$1600 in Benevolence gifts. At the end of 2003, we took in \$3100. The following churches gave to SYAM in 2003 (and continue to give in 2004):

- EPC of Marshall (Marshall, TX)
- Grace EPC (Franklin, NC)
- Northwest EPC (Redmond, WA)
- St. Giles Presbyterian (Charlotte, NC)
- Tabernacle EPC (Youngstown, OH)
- University EPC (Lutz, FL)

The SYAM Committee has decided on its current Benevolence Askings goals:

- Ministry Development (YM 2401): \$8000
- Student Scholarships (YM 2403): \$3000
- Youth Worker Leadership Development
(YM 2406) \$10,000

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

None.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Freddie Albaugh, Chairman

Marc Santom, Director

AD INTERIM COMMITTEE FOR COLLEGE MINISTRIES

The 23rd General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church approved the recommendation of the Student and Young Adult Ministry Committee to appoint an ad interim committee to discuss how we as a denomination might move forward in the area of college ministry. The following were the specific responsibilities given to this ad interim committee:

- Explore the potential of establishing a cooperative agreement with His Life Campus Ministries
- Conduct a study to ascertain the denomination's willingness and ability to successfully place one or two HLCM campus ministers on a trial basis
- Offer the names of specific churches that would serve as strategic bases for a trial period partnership with HLCM
- Raise Benevolence funds for SYAM to be used as seed money for a college students conference which will serve to heighten the awareness of SYAM's commitment to college ministry and recruit college students to serve vocationally in the EPC after graduation
- To develop a strategic plan, for GA approval, in implementing a college ministry for the EPC

The following were appointed to this committee by Moderator Ron Dinunzio:

- David Cover (TE) The Crossing, Columbia MO
- Steve Jessen (TE) Myrtle Grove EPC, Wilmington, NC
- James Paternoster (RE) Knox Presbyterian, Ann Arbor, MI
- Rick Stauffer (TE) Tabernacle EPC, Youngstown, OH
- Bill Vogler (TE) Grace EPC, Lawrence, KS
- Scott Waters (TE) Forest Hill EPC, Charlotte, NC

Also joining us in these meetings in an advisory capacity were David Lovell (TE) President of the National Leadership Foundation and His Life Campus Ministries, Marc Santom, Director of Student and Young Adult Ministries and Mike Glodo, EPC Stated Clerk.

The Ad Interim Committee for College Ministries met twice since last year's assembly. At our first meeting we spent a lot of time discussing the task that was laid before us. We searched the Scriptures to establish a Biblical foundation for doing college ministry as the church, as opposed to depending on a para-church structure to reach these young adults. We discussed areas that the church had obviously fallen short in training up covenant children and exercising the Great Commission among young adults. And we looked with anticipation at the potential of the church to build kingdom leaders.

Our discussions also led us to some assessment of the culture of college students: considering who they are, what are their strengths, what are their weaknesses, and how do we build on all of this?

Much of our discussion led us to the conclusion that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is in a great position to move forward in reaching and training this generation of God's people. We are a young denomination that is open to change and innovation. We recognize that a handful of our churches are actively involved in this kind of ministry and having great success. In considering Vision 21 we feel that the church planters needed to aggressively address this plan will come from trained leaders doing college ministry.

However, as we wrapped up this first meeting we also recognized that our conclusions were somewhat subjective, and we needed a more objective way to stand behind them. Therefore, the remainder of our meeting was used in developing a short survey to get feedback from our denomination as a whole.

Our second meeting had us evaluating feedback that we received from our churches across the nation. We were pleased to see the support and interest for college ministry in a variety of geographic settings and church sizes. It allowed us in this meeting to move forward with a number of recommendations to bring to this assembly. Those are as follows:

Recommendation #1

To form a permanent committee on College Ministry made up of two Ruling Elders, two Teaching Elders, and two non-ordained people involved with college ministry that will begin at the 25th General Assembly (2005).

GROUND:

- We believe that the task before us in college ministry is too much to add to an already very full plate for the SYAM committee
- This committee needs to operate on its own in order to bridge the SYAM committee and National Outreach, training our young people to be our next church planters.

Recommendation #2

To enter into a cooperative agreement with The National Leadership Foundation/His Life Campus Ministry according to the proposed cooperative agreement appended to this report:

GROUND:

- This kind of relationship is already beginning in some EPC churches.
- HLCM is perfectly in line with the vision and philosophy of making the church the center of ministry for this generation ... and is successful at doing it.
- This cooperative agreement will allow us to move much more rapidly into actual ministry

Recommendation #3

To amend the 2004 Benevolence Askings for: \$5,000 for a College Ministry Leadership Summit and \$10,000 for Leadership Development.

GROUND:

- In order for us to better establish momentum for the permanent committee and begin ministry between churches and college campuses we need the availability of finances.

Recommendation #4

To approve for the 2005 Benevolence Askings: \$5,000 for College Ministry Conference and \$20,000 for Leadership Development.

GROUND:

- We do think it will be important to develop a conference to minister to college students in the near future.
- We also know that financial assistance will continue to be needed in placing trained leaders in our churches and college campuses.

Recommendation #5

To extend the term of this Ad Interim Committee on College Ministry for a period of one year.

GROUND:

- There is much work that can be done and needs to be done in the next year in preparation for the permanent committee.
- Many things can begin in the cooperative agreement with HLCM but there needs to be a team to oversee it.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Rick Stauffer, Chairman

**Proposed Cooperative Agreement with National Leadership
Foundation/His Life Campus Ministry
and the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church**

**Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154
Phone: 734-261-2001 FAX: 734-261-3282**

His Life Campus Ministry is committed to setting direction for ministry by mutual agreement between staff and the church partner. It is clear that each ministry situation presents a unique blend of needs, opportunities and gifts. However, each situation must reflect in its ministry the goals of His Life Campus Ministry and the church partners. The following standards are an attempt to elaborate upon the goals of His Life Campus Ministry in order to provide staff and churches, with a framework for planning and evaluating ministries. These standards are meant to be used as a guide for ministry while serving with His Life Campus Ministry.

General Guidelines

1. The HLCM staff shall have dual membership status with both the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and National Leadership Foundation/HLCM. In most circumstances, HLCM staff will be on an ordination track within the EPC.
2. The appointment of the HLCM staff shall be subject to the approval of both agencies in accordance with the standards established by each agency.
3. In the event that the one agency requests confidential materials gathered by the other, such materials shall be shared with the understanding that the materials shall be kept confidential by that agency.
4. The HLCM staff shall participate in the full candidate and training program of National Leadership Foundation.
5. An appropriate time shall be allowed the candidate for itineration or deputation within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church churches in order that adequate prayer and financial support can be realized.
6. For the guideline purposes, funding will be structured as follows: 1/3 personal support raising, 1/3 from local EPC church(es) partnership, 1/3 from Presbytery and other funding sources, all of which funds will be given on a voluntary basis.
7. Funds raised by participating HLCM staff shall be remitted to HLCM for purposes of payroll administration. A full accounting of each staff's personal ministry account (PMA) shall be provided by HLCM upon request or at least annually.

8. Terms of call for ordained HLCM staff shall conform to all legislative requirements of the EPC.
9. The EPC College Committee shall be the sponsoring agency for financial and prayer support of HLCM staff.
10. Whenever a change is being considered in the major thrust of the HLCM staff's ministry assignment, the National Leadership Foundation shall consult with the EPC College Committee and church partner(s) prior to any decision. The concerns of all agencies will be given due consideration in reaching mutually acceptable decision.
11. Participating HLCM staff will be ecclesiastically accountable, including for matters of church discipline, to his/her court of membership in the EPC.
12. The HLCM staff is to have liberty in the full and free presentation of the Gospel as contained in and understood in the Reformed faith.
13. While on the field, the HLCM staff shall be operationally accountable to National Leadership Foundation and the local EPC church partner.
14. While on the field, the HLCM staff shall be an integral part of the field staff, sharing equally in privileges and responsibilities as any other member and being subject to the policies and direction of the EPC church partner, who shall provide the EPC College Committee and National Leadership Foundation annually with a report on the missionary's progress, field evaluation and the following year's projected goals.
15. The HLCM staff shall not solicit homeland constituencies of either agency for personal funds or field needs without the permission of the EPC College Committee and National Leadership Foundation.
16. Compensation, hospitalization, retirement, and insurance plans shall be provided to the EPC College Committee and the partner church by mutual agreement of all agencies.

Ministry Guidelines

17. The purpose of our discipleship is the development of students who are mature in Christ and unified with other Christians in community. Our discipleship is to be guided by the Reformational understanding of Christ as Lord of every area of life. Our staff should model for their students lives of integrity, repentance from sin, commitment to the pursuit of reconciliation and mutual support in community and honest attempts to embody whole life discipleship, including nurturing their own spirituality through disciplines of prayer, Bible study and worship.
18. Over the course of a possible four years in our ministry, a Christian student should expect to receive nurture in biblical literacy, understanding the Scriptures in his/her cultural context, basic Christian theology, healthy piety, worldview ministry and calling, Christian community and the Church.
19. It is expected that some Christian students involved in each ministry will develop and begin implementing a Christian perspective in some area

of life and participate in our Summer Project and other training opportunities.

20. Some students on each campus should be taking ownership and participating actively in providing ministry. These student leaders should be encouraged to work together as a team to plan the ministry, lead Bible studies, lead large-group meetings, share the Gospel, disciple others and involve themselves in local churches. Leadership, however, should not be limited to what takes place within our ministry programs. Students must be challenged to exercise leadership and influence in other areas of campus life. These might include residence life, student government, clubs, judicial council, multicultural affairs, athletics, Greek life, gospel choir, media, the classroom and the community. Staff should seek to train their students so that there would be virtually no activity led by staff which a student couldn't also lead.
21. Staff should be helping graduating students make vocational and career decisions based on Christ's calling. Within that context, staff are expected to recruit, from their campuses, students who are gifted for ministry to work with His Life Campus Ministry. They should seek to nurture and equip their students so that they would be qualified to work not only in full time Christian service but other careers as God leads.
22. Each staff person is expected to be intentional about developing personal relationships with a significant number of non-Christian students, as is possible from a variety of ethnic, cultural or racial backgrounds on their campus. An annual goal for this number is to be decided in conjunction with the cooperative organization.
23. When sharing the gospel, we are to relate the message in a way that is true to the Scriptures and therefore broad in scope. Any format that is true to the biblical message in its entirety may be used.
24. Staff is expected to explore the use of a variety of evangelistic forms, including one-on-one, small group Bible studies, retreats, conferences and public forums such as speakers, newspaper articles, etc. We realize that not all forms are always appropriate for each campus, but a variety should be considered and tried when planning ministry over the course of three or more years.

Church Partnership Guidelines

25. Staff are expected to be members of a church congregation, whether at home or near their campus and must regularly attend worship at a church near their campus.
26. Staff and students are strongly encouraged to be involved in the life of the congregation in other ways, as time permits. They may choose to engage in service projects, mission trips, committees, Sunday school, evangelism, financial giving, holding office, etc.
27. Staff are expected to involve students in their local church service as permitted by the church.

28. Staff are expected to find and make personal contact with every student on their campus referred to them by individuals, local churches or other sources. Following initial contacts, a reasonable effort should be made to continue the development of relationships with non-Christian as well as Christian students.
29. His Life Campus Ministry seeks to serve Church partners in real and concrete ways. Staff must not view these positions as only "platforms for ministry," but as avenues of service and ministry in and of themselves. Staff should seek to discover and implement a Christian perspective of their particular position during the time that they serve the church.
30. Staff should seek to win the trust of key people in the church by demonstrating appropriate loyalty and involvement with the church. Staff should do this by demonstrating personal integrity, excellence in the discharging of their duties, punctuality and appropriate dress and knowing and caring for pastors, administrators, secretaries, support staff and other key persons. The service a staff member provides is for the Church partner and is to help in the fulfillment of the Church partner's goals for ministry.
31. Staff should seek to share their ministry with the congregation and to develop ownership of the ministry on the part of the churches.
32. Staff are expected to make a reasonable effort to work cooperatively with other Christian ministry efforts on campus, including those that represent other ethnic, cultural or racial groups and to foster reconciliation and Christian unity. Staff should seek opportunities to fellowship with leaders of other groups, to plan common activities and events and to share information and resources.
33. Staff are expected to raise sufficient funds for their Personal Ministry Account (PMA) to provide for full paid salary and ministry expenses. PMA fundraising is to be seen as an integral part of each staff person's job description and ministry.
34. Church partners need to understand the goals of His Life Campus Ministry and endorse fully the doctrinal statement and philosophy of ministry. Both His Life Campus Ministry and the Church partner must provide a list of expectations (job description) for each staff member. This will provide clarity as to the expectations and desires of both organizations.
35. HLCM Staff are expected to meet regularly with the Church partner staff that oversees the relationship with His Life Campus Ministry.
36. Church partner are strongly encouraged to use His Life Campus Ministries, training programs for current college students (i.e. Summer Projects, Retreats, Staff Training etc.).

REPORT OF THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

With gratefulness to God for his Word and for our rich heritage as a denomination, and with a desire to assist our churches in carrying out their ministry, the Theology Committee set about to complete a busy agenda. We finalized a position paper, approved a new language edition of the Larger Catechism, and are recommending a model for officer training.

It has been my privilege as chairman to work with Tom Werner, Dr. Bruce Demarest, Dr. Bob Warburton, Paul Husband, Thom Schultz, Stated Clerk Mike Glodo and the good staff at the Office of the General Assembly. Many thanks to them for all they have done.



*Don Sweeting,
Chairman*

Work of the Committee:

Finalizing the EPC Position paper on marriage

This project has been in the works for the past three years. When we first started it, some in the Assembly had questioned whether it was necessary for the EPC to have a position paper on marriage. In today's political climate, the committee rejoices at the providential timing of this paper's approval.

It is important to remember that the 2003 General Assembly approved the teaching and substance of this position paper, but asked that we do another review of the paper for style and editing. They also asked that we add an additional paragraph on domestic violence and pre marital counseling. With this work completed we submit this slightly revised paper to the 2004 General Assembly.

Recommending a modern language of the Larger Catechism

For several years, the EPC has been working with a contemporary version of the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Westminster Shorter Catechism included in the *Book of Order*, but with no modern language version of the Larger Catechism. This became somewhat problematic in that our constitution includes both catechisms, and our officers are supposed to be familiar with them as well. When we were approached by the publisher of the modern language editions we concurred that there was a need to have a contemporary version of the Larger Catechism placed in the *Book of Order* and easily accessible to our officers. After reviewing the new contemporary version of the Larger Catechism by Summertown Texts, the committee agreed to unanimously recommend adoption by the GA.

Recommendation on Catechism training in the EPC

At the conclusion of our evaluation of the new modern language edition of the Larger Catechism, our committee discussed the need to advise churches on how to utilize these old, yet rich resources in our churches for the training of adults and

children. The committee is asking the GA to authorize us to draft a pastoral letter on how to use the catechisms in our churches.

Officer Training recommendations

Our second project was to work with the CE&P committee to recommend officer training materials to the Assembly. After reviewing numerous available materials, we selected a model written largely by Tom Werner of Greentree Community Church (EPC). This model was re-written with the input of both committees. The document presented to the 24th Assembly is recommended on the condition of further editing and input. It is a preliminary draft, a work in process. We recommend it be used on a trial basis by any churches willing to do so in the coming year. We look forward to feedback from other churches and pastors.

New Chairman for 2004-2005

The Committee elected Tom Werner chairman for the coming year. It also expressed a need to have a vice chair to be appointed at our fall meeting.

Recommendations:

1. That the Preliminary Position on the Sanctity of Marriage, as revised by the Committee according to the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly, be adopted as a Position Paper (See Attachment to Theology Committee Report).
2. That the contemporary English edition of the Westminster Larger Catechism be commended and included for publication with the *Book of Order*.
3. That the Assembly instruct the permanent Theology Committee to disseminate advice and suggested resources for using the catechisms in the life of the church and to develop a pastoral letter on the use of catechisms for recommendation to the 25th General Assembly.
4. Jointly with the Christian Education and Publication Committee, that the proposed draft officer training manual be adopted on a trial basis with encouragement to the churches to make use of it and provide constructive feedback to both permanent committees for the purpose of bringing a final proposed manual to the 25th General Assembly.
5. That the 24th General Assembly instruct the Committee on Administration to develop a statement defining the status, scope and purpose of position papers.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/s/ Don Sweeting, Chairman

Proposed Position Paper on the Sanctity of Marriage

As adopted by the 22nd General Assembly as a preliminary position paper and as revised according to the instructions of the 23rd General Assembly by the permanent Theology Committee on 10/18/03

I. Introduction.

We believe marriage is a gift from God for the blessing of men, women and children and for the good of society. However, given the present practice of cohabitation outside of marriage, the prevalence of same-sex unions and the disintegration of marriages in Western culture, we of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church offer the following Biblical principles relative to the sanctity of the institution of marriage. In this position paper we seek to think about marriage under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and God's written Word, the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16). We believe that God has revealed to all people in all cultures at all times a sense of morality in the ordering of human relationships. Therefore, there is a moral imperative which governs all human relationships, including marriage.

II. Marriage as a Creation Ordinance.

When God created Adam and Eve, He ordained marriage as the fundamental institution of society (Genesis 1:27-28). In marriage, a man and woman leave their families of origin and become united as "one flesh" in a new family unit (Genesis 2:24). The judgment of Scripture is that marriage is to be honored by all (Hebrews 13:4).

Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman and between the participants and God (Malachi 2:14-16). It is therefore more than a temporary agreement of convenience, a contract or a well-intentioned promise. As a binding relationship established by promises, the marriage covenant is solemnly sealed by a ceremony witnessed by family and friends and regulated by the state. When a believer marries, it is God's will that he or she should be united only with another believer (2 Corinthians 6:14). Because God has created and instituted marriage as a lifelong covenant (Matthew 22:23-30) and because the marriage covenant is to reflect the strength of God's covenant love for His people (Hosea 3:1), any variation from His ordained decree is harmful to the participants and in violation of God's mandates for all people (Mark 10:11-12).

God ordained marriage for the following ends:

The Glory of God: Marriage exists first and foremost to glorify God. Human beings individually are image bearers of God (Genesis 1:26), but man and woman in marriage also display His glory (vv. 27-28). Marriage as a creation ordinance glorifies God as creator. Beyond that, however, marriage is to glorify God as redeemer, for Christian marriage is the consummate illustration of the redeeming grace of God in Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33). To the degree that Christians live out

this pattern of God's love through His grace in Christ (Ephesians 5:1-2), they witness to one another, their children, the church and the world the gospel of God's redeeming love in Christ. However, God's glory and our good are complementary. For this reason, marriage exists also for our good in the following ways.

Companionship: Genesis 2:18a teaches that "it is not good for a man to be alone." Therefore, from the beginning God called men and women to promote mutual care and friendship within their marriage relationship.

Mutual Assistance: Genesis 2:18b adds "I will make a helper suitable for him," reminding us that we are to be a help to one another in the marriage relationship. Also, each husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her (Ephesians 5:25).

The Bearing, Nurturing & Training of Children: Genesis 1:28 and Ephesians 6:4 teach that the marriage relationship is also for procreation and moral teaching of children (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

Promoting the Stability of Society: When marriage, the foundational human relationship, is degraded, the family unit disintegrates and the fabric of any nation unravels (cf. Genesis 2).

Affirming the Proper Context of Human Sexuality: Hebrews 13:4 clearly teaches that sexual intimacy should be reserved for a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage.

III. The Biblical View of Singleness.

The sanctity of marriage does not negate the gift of celibacy (1 Corinthians 7:6). While marriage is a great blessing, it is not God's will that all should be married. This was certainly the case for the Lord Jesus and probably for Paul.

Singleness in Scripture is also a great blessing and offers unique opportunities for an undivided devotion to the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:1,35). Consequently, those whom God has called to be single for His sake should be recognized and honored in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

IV. The Biblical View of Marriage.

Scripture teaches that the one-flesh union of marriage constitutes an intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual unity. "So they are no longer two, but one" (Matthew 19:5-6). When the two become one flesh, the God-created individualities of the husband and wife are not lost; rather they complement and enrich each other. Furthermore, the Apostle Paul demonstrates that this "profound mystery" is analogous to the spiritual relationship between Christ and His church. "I am talking about Christ and the church (Ephesians 5:31-33)."

From Genesis to Revelation, sexual union in marriage is to be between a man and a woman. Scripture emphatically condemns same-sex unions and sexual intercourse between people of the same sex. In the Old Testament a homosexual relationship was a capital offense, and in the New Testament it is repeatedly condemned (Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, Romans 1:24-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, and see the EPC “Position Paper on Homosexuality”).

God designed marriage to be a lifelong relationship. Jesus said, “What God has joined together, let not man separate (Mark 10:9).” The marriage covenant should be kept sacred and unbroken under those conditions stated in the Bible. Given the complexities and challenges inherent in the merging of two lives into one, pastoral counseling or guidance is strongly recommended in the period prior to the marriage ceremony. (See the EPC “Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage” and *Book of Worship* 5.5.).

God-ordained marriage should remain pure in thought, motive and practice. The seventh commandment prohibits adultery (Exodus 20:14). Jesus sets an even higher standard in his statement: “...anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery” (Matthew 5:27-28). Furthermore, sexual relations outside of marriage are forbidden by Scripture (1 Corinthians 6:16-20 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4). The Apostle Paul specifically commands believers to “abstain from sexual immorality” (1 Thessalonians 4:3). In contemporary culture infidelity all too frequently occurs with tragic consequences. Thus, the author of Hebrews solemnly warns that “God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral (Hebrews 13:4).” The modern axiom that “everyone is doing it, so it must be okay” is condemned by unequivocal Biblical teaching. Emotional unfaithfulness to one’s spouse is equally sinful and hence, destructive to the marriage relationship. In order to strengthen their covenant relationship, couples are encouraged to seek godly and practical ways to enrich their relationship through marriage retreats, couples seminar or classes and pastoral counsel. (See the EPC “Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage.”)

All forms of emotional and physical abuse violate the one-flesh covenantal relationship. We urge abused persons to consider their own safety and that of family members first and to seek help from the church and, as necessary, professional and legal resources, to bring healing to the individuals and to the marriage relationship. (See “Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage.”)

God’s Word indicates how husbands and wives should relate to one another in the home. Ephesians 5:21 states that Christians should “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Mutual submission means that Christian husbands and wives must respect and honor one another, acknowledge one another’s gifts, mobilize one another’s strengths and build one another up.

Out of reverence for Christ as savior and lord of their marriages, Christian wives are to respect and subject themselves to their husbands as to the Lord. And Christian husbands are to love their wives even “as Christ loved the church and gave himself

up for her (Ephesians 5:22-26).” In such a marriage bond in Christ, husbands and wives seek together the Spirit’s guidance in family decisions, in the nurturing and training of their children in the Christian faith and in all aspects of the well being of their family and as a witness to the grace of God in their life together. This relationship between the man and the woman in marriage is informed by the relationship of the three persons of the Trinity, where Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal in essence, power and glory, while admitting different functional roles.

V. Conclusion.

The Bible teaches that marriage is a covenant, formal and sacred, and is to be held in honor among all people. Marriage is a serious commitment, involving vows taken publicly before the God of truth and covenant.

The familiar text of the wedding liturgy states, “Dearly beloved we are assembled here in the presence of God to join this man and this woman in Holy marriage, which is instituted by God, regulated by His commandments and to be held in honor among all.”

May the words of our Lord Jesus Christ rule in our hearts: “What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate (Mark 10:9).”

Soli Deo Gloria

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



Vicki Oliver, Chairman

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

(Ephesians 3:20 NIV)



P.K. Fields-Helm, Director

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Isn't it a wonderful blessing that we are not expected to do anything under our own power? It is only in God's power that we can accomplish anything. Women's Ministries throughout our denomination is working to redefine its purpose and mission. Our churches are struggling to meet the ever-changing needs of women. Churches with vital women's ministries are experiencing a depth of spiritual growth among their women. It is exciting to see how the Holy Spirit is working in our churches as we carry out the Women's Ministries' Statement of Purpose *“...equipping of the saints for the work of service, building up the body of Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:12)

Faith Focus 2003

“Labors Together with God in Argentina: Equipping the Saints” Women's Ministries, in partnership with the women of St. Andrews Presbytery, hope to increase awareness of their connection to one another and to provide training and resources to encourage and enhance leadership, discipleship, evangelism, missions and community service in their home churches and at the Presbytery level. The U.S. team of 27 women will be traveling to Argentina Oct 5-15, 2004 to serve along side their Argentine sisters. The team will prepare for and participate in the conference October 8-10 in Buenos Aires on “Inner Healing.” Approximately 300 women will be in attendance. All funds (\$32,815) for the conference were provided by EPC giving. In addition to participating in the conference, the U.S. team will visit our sisters' churches and the mercy ministries that have been developed and discuss the ministry needs that could be funded through Faith Focus 2004 giving.

Faith Focus 2004: “Equipping Women's Ministries in Argentina”

The *benevolence asking* goal is \$45,000. The money raised will provide resources to establish a fund to be used for the development of, and funding for, women's ministries projects and programs in Argentina as identified by the Presbytery of St.

Andrews in coordination with World Outreach and Women's Ministries departments.

Faith Focus 2005:

Women's Ministries in consultation with National Outreach Urban Leaders has selected "Urban Ministries" as the 2005 mission emphasis. The urban leaders have proposed that the purpose be "To facilitate bringing the whole gospel (meeting both spiritual and material needs) through the venues of Vacation Bible School (VBS) and/or corresponding Single Parent Courses or activities. In addition we will leave behind resources to establish Learning Center legacies for these beleaguered believers continued biblical and academic growth."

8th National Women's Ministries Conference

The conference "Springs of Living Water," was held July 17-21, 2003 in San Antonio, Texas. Our conference chairperson Debbie Williams and her team exemplified true Texas hospitality to all participants. Susan Hunt was the keynote speaker on the topic of "The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood." Kim Jackson (First Presbyterian Church, Rome, Ga.) was the Praise and Worship leader. Donna Alberta (Cornerstone, EPC, Brighton, Mich.) gave the opening address. Eight workshops were provided for spiritual and leadership development. Although attendance was low the evaluation of the women participating was very positive.

9th National Women's Ministries Conference

The 9th National Conference will be held October 20-23, 2005. Sandy Gavin (Fourth Presbyterian, Bethesda, Md.) will serve as chairman of this event. The permanent committee has selected the Arlington, Virginia Sheraton National Hotel as the site for this conference. The conference theme is "Refreshed in His Love" Zephaniah 3:17, with Donna Alberta as the keynote speaker. We encourage each EPC church to participate in this opportunity for enrichment, fellowship and spiritual growth. Conference information will be posted to the website www.epc.org for updates and registration information.

General Assembly 2004

Women's Ministries will offer a full complement of programs at the Assembly for women's leadership development. Once again this year, Women's Ministries will offer programs ranging from general knowledge to leadership development. Jodie Nelson and Deborah Ellison (Kempsville Presbyterian) have provided excellent leadership in arrangement coordination. We encourage each church to send representatives from their Women's Ministries leadership to facilitate the growth and support for Women's Ministries in the local church.

Publications:

Fourteen thousand copies of the fall issue of *Woman to Woman*, with the focus of "Mentoring," were published and distributed to our churches. The spring/summer issue had the theme "Singled Out" and was distributed in June. *Woman to Woman* is also available on the EPC website.

Website:

For information concerning past or future Women's Ministries programs and events, please refer to the EPC website www.epc.org. Faith Focus promotional materials and information and *Woman to Woman* magazine issues are archived on the Women's Ministries site.

Director of Women's Ministries Travel

During 2003-2004, P.K. Fields-Helm traveled to San Antonio, Texas for the national conference and visit to Hope Presbyterian Church. P.K. also participated in the Southeast Presbytery Women's Retreat. P.K. visited the Florida, East, Midwest, and West Presbyteries. P.K. also spoke and consulted with numerous churches desiring to start, develop and empower their Women's Ministry.

Commendations

The Women's Ministries committee would like to commend Vicki Oliver and Sue Smith for their faithful years of committed service. Their leadership, enthusiasm and wisdom will be missed and will be difficult to replace.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

None.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Vicki Oliver, Chairman

P. K. Fields-Helm, Director

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH



Jeff Chadwick, Director

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The World Outreach Committee met in three stated meetings since the last General Assembly: September 4-6, 2003; January 8-10, 2004; and March 19-21, 2004. The members of the committee are TE Thom Burbridge, RE Howard Hjelm, RE Louise Hunt, TE Gene Huntzinger, RE Hawley



Ed Randal, Chairman

Ingram, RE Rister Jenkins, RE Bob Kuseski, TE Ed Randal, and RE Jim Thomason, along with Stated Clerk Michael Glodo and General Assembly Moderator Ron DiNunzio.

EPC Missionary Family

Much of the work of the World Outreach Committee involves recruiting and placing new missionaries, overseeing the work of the missionaries and providing pastoral care for them and their families. Currently, these are our missionaries:

Missionary

Adamson, Dave and Wendy

(Wendy is awaiting final appointment at a meeting just prior to this GA.)

Anthis, Joel and Cindy

Antonucci, Rob and Iris

Barany, Dick and Linda

*Barber, John and Barbara

*Branch, Paul and Elizabeth

*Burns, Dan and Catherine

Christie, Laurie

Clark, Dan and Jan

Cole, Allison

(This is a pseudonym used for security purposes.)

*Creech, Chuck and Kim

Fain, John and Dawn

Gibson, Chris and Debbie

Haines, John and Margy

Halbedl, Randy and Martha

*Hampton, Bill and Janie

Field of Service

Kazakhstan

Nigeria

Central Asia

Uganda

SE Asia

Argentina

Kazakhstan

England – Muslims

US based/International

Arab Gulf

Argentina

SE Asia

Hungary

US based/Muslim ministry

SE Asia

Kazakhstan

Hill, Travis and Stephanie	SE Asia
Holt, Brian and Ginny	Ethiopia
Juday, Jeff and Lynne	Middle East
Kelley, Stephen and Belinda	England/Muslim World
Klakulak, Matt and Michelle	Central Asia
Lawrence, Lance and Lisa	Middle East
Livingstone, Greg and Sally	SE Asia
*McCurry, John and Carlene	Arab Gulf
McKelvey, Sean and Angie	SE Asia
*Meade, Jeff and Nancy	SE Asia
*Meeks, Gina	US (Currently on leave of absence.)
	Argentina
*Meyer, Ross and Sandy	Central Asia
Mindling, Tim and Karen	Central Asia
Mitchell, Tim and Kim	Middle East
North, Tim	Ethiopia
Nykamp, Jon and Kristi	Argentina
*Robles, Azucena	US based/East Asia
Rowen, Sam and Ruth	Middle East
Shane, Ryan and Kelly	US based/International
Sparling, Bud and Carol	Germany
*Thrash, Phil and Diane	Singapore
Walker, Dave and Deb	Eastern Europe
Ward, Greg and Peggy	Arab Gulf
Wells, Brandon and Liz	Kazakhstan
*White, Allen and Pat	Russia
Young, Jonathan and Fozia	

**Indicates a worker working directly under World Outreach, and not through a cooperative agency.*

Included in the list above are the following new missionaries, appointed since the 23rd General Assembly:

- Dave (and Wendy) Adamson (Cherry Hills, Denver, CO) – Kazakhstan
- Allison Cole (Christ EPC, Houston, TX) – Arab Gulf
- Jeff and Nancy Meade (Ward EPC, Northville, MI) – SE Asia

Offsetting this gain of three missionary units in our EPC family is the loss of the following three units who have had changes in their ministry over the past year and are no longer serving as missionaries under World Outreach:

- Robert and Joyce Hamd, who have left World Outreach after many years of faithful service to accept the new call to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian (EPC), Houma, LA
- Juan and Adriana Singh, who continue to pastor the Cristo el Rey mission church in Brandon, MS, now, however, under the oversight of the Presbytery of the Central South. (World Outreach continues to receive and distribute funds for the support of their work.)
- Mark and Melissa Vogan, who completed their two-year appointment in Kazakhstan and are now living and working in Houston, TX

With these changes over the past assembly year, the current number of World Outreach workers is 79, living in or serving more than 25 different nations. In keeping with our emphasis on ministry to Muslim peoples, fully 70% of our workers have this as their ministry focus.

Fields of Service

Kazakhstan

Three World Outreach families have been working in this field over the past year. Dan and Catherine Burns continue to lead Almagul church and train potential church leaders. By the time this assembly convenes, a national TE will have been (Lord willing) ordained as the Associate Pastor of Almagul church. This will be the first national teaching elder ordained by the Association of Reformed Churches of Kazakhstan (ARCK). Bill and Janie Hampton left the church they planted, Rakum, fully under national direction while they were on home service. This leadership proved very strong and capable, as anticipated. If the way be clear, a national TE will be ordained in the fall of 2004, leaving Bill and Janie available to advance the work of church planting in other areas that will strengthen the association. Allen and Pat White have embarked on a challenging new ministry, planting a church in the region of the city where they live. A core group has been meeting since September and is making good progress toward the planting of the Shanirock church.

In addition to these churches, our team members work with the Orbita church, planted by a Mission to the World missionary and left under the supervision of our workers, and the Association of Reformed Churches, when that missionary left the field. This church has struggled a bit over the past couple of years and is at a fairly critical stage in its development. The Association of Reformed Churches is giving good oversight to this church and is working together as a body to address the needs of this congregation. One other church, Light of Truth, has joined the association, and another church is talking with the association about a possible affiliation with them.

By action of the 21st General Assembly, a commission was appointed to partner with the emerging national church in Kazakhstan to establish itself as a national presbytery, with a form of government that is both biblically sound and missiologically appropriate. It is with great joy that we report that we have seen the fruits of that partnership, as evidenced by the items reported above, among others. The EPC can take great pleasure in seeing the development of this emerging national church as a result, at least in part, of the prayers, commitment, and sacrifice of the denomination, and the hard and strategic work of our World Outreach missionaries who have served in this field. The full report of the work of the Kazakhstan Commission can be found elsewhere in the General Assembly handbook.

Argentina

At the request of the Presbytery of St. Andrews, World Outreach missionaries are being assigned in church planting and leadership development. Chuck and Kim

Creech have just returned to the field after an extended furlough to resume duties as pastor of the mission church in Gualeyguaychú, Entré Rios. Paul and Elizabeth Branch have served in dual roles while the Creeches have been on home assignment. They served to give interim leadership to the Gualeyguaychú church in the Creeches' absence, while also continuing to focus on their primary work of developing and implementing a program of theological education and training for national teaching and ruling elders. At the request of the Presbytery of St. Andrews, Paul took on the additional duty of serving as chairman of the Theological Institute of St. Andrew. Ross and Sandy Meyer returned from home service in September 2003. Since that time they have resumed their responsibilities in giving leadership/pastoral care and oversight to the Padua church. In addition, Sandy has been very involved in facilitating the Faith Focus initiatives of Women's Ministries. Both Ross and Sandy have also served as liaison for several short-term mission teams from the United States.

Azucena Robles has continued to serve as a World Outreach missionary following the unexpected death of her husband, Miguel, in May 2003. She has completed the writing of a book recounting their experiences in church planting, which will be available for purchase in English and in Spanish at this year's General Assembly. In addition, she has ministered in a variety of ways throughout the presbytery, and among the churches of Argentina. "Siempre un estudiante" (always a student) she has continued her work toward an advanced degree through the Bible Institute of Buenos Aires (IBBA).

Elsewhere in this handbook you will see that the Presbytery of St. Andrews is petitioning the General Assembly to dismiss it to independence as a national Presbyterian church, as has been the goal and plan since the beginning of the partnership between the EPC and the Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andres. The Articles of Agreement and Dismissal, however, lay out a continued partnership between World Outreach and the Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andres. As a part of this ongoing partnership, the EPC, through its World Outreach ministries, will continue to send missionaries and mission teams to Argentina, and to continue to ask the churches of the EPC to partner financially with the church planting and leadership development ministries of our brothers and sisters there.

Malaysia

This developing EPC field continues to present an exciting opportunity for us to be involved in planting the church in a culture where it does not yet exist, among the Malay Muslims of Malaysia, and to serve as a springboard to the establishment of the Church among all of the 24 million Malay Muslims of Southeast Asia. Our workers on this field report that they find this people group to be very open to relationships, but very hesitant toward discussions that may lead to opportunities for the sharing of the gospel. Though the progress has been very slow going, some hopeful signs are emerging. Two small groups of Malay believers are meeting regularly. Three years ago, not one of the many Chinese and Indian churches in the region was reaching out to the Malay. Now, one church has a team of ten devoted to this work, and several other churches and pastors are developing plans through which their congregations might share the gospel with Malay Muslims.

Greg and Sally Livingstone lead the EPC team, as well as a team from the mission organization they founded. In addition, they are investing great thought and energy into the larger picture of recruitment and placement of workers throughout the region through a variety of agencies, and mobilizing the Chinese Malay churches for this effort, as well. Their most crucial need is more workers to share in the work, and especially for a new team leader to be raised up for each of the teams they are currently leading, in order that Greg and Sally might focus on the broader picture. Recruitment of this new team leader is one of the highest priorities for World Outreach at this time. Greg is attending this year's General Assembly to keep this crucial need before the denomination and to discuss the position with interested individuals and key mission leaders.

In addition to the Livingstones, John and Barbara Barber are serving on our Malaysia team. They have done an excellent job of entering into the culture and God has given them some very strategic friendships with their Muslim neighbors. They have had the chance to sow many seeds into the lives of their group of friends, which we pray, by God's grace, will grow to maturity, producing the fruit of faith. Jeff and Nancy Meade, along with their children, are ready to join the team in Malaysia as soon as God raises up their prayer and support team. The Meades will also be attending this General Assembly and would welcome the opportunity to talk with you about the work in Malaysia, and their desire to join that work as quickly as possible.

Muslim and Ethnic Ministry

The revised Master Plan for World Outreach, approved by the 23rd General Assembly, calls us to a continued emphasis, though not an exclusive one, on the Muslim World. That Master Plan includes some very ambitious goals for recruitment and placement of new EPC World Outreach church planting teams among Muslim peoples, as well as for partnering with other agencies to place new missionaries to serve in the Muslim World through our cooperative agreements. In addition, it calls us to take steps to investigate ways that we might be a catalyst among the churches of the EPC to bring the Good News of the Gospel to their Muslim neighbors in the US.

Last September, the World Outreach committee asked John McCurry to take on the new responsibility of coordinating the Muslim ministry focus of World Outreach, helping us to implement the Muslim ministry goals and objectives of the General Assembly as contained in the revised Master Plan. In this new role he will have the primary responsibility to recruit, train, and place new church-planting missionaries and missionary teams among Muslim peoples throughout the world. John brings to this new role twenty years of experience serving as a church-planting missionary in the Muslim World, and of raising up and training others for this work. As a part of his new responsibilities, John is leading a consultation just prior to this 24th General Assembly, gathering input from other World Outreach missionaries and EPC mission leaders as to what strategies we might implement to mobilize the denomination to accomplish the goals that we have been given by the assembly.

World Outreach is also communicating with several of our churches and presbyteries that are planning and developing ethnic ministries among Hispanics. Within the next eighteen months, we hope to convene a consultation of churches involved in or pursuing church planting among Hispanic peoples in the United States in order to develop a network that will resource and strengthen the EPC for this vital ministry.

In addition to these fields of service and areas of ministry, World Outreach partners with a number of cooperative agencies to fulfill the goals and objectives of our Master Plan. God has used this partnership with other agencies to open up opportunities for us to be a part of establishing the church of Jesus Christ in many areas of the world.

Missionary Care and Development

Missionary care continues to be an issue of great need among our missionaries, and of great importance to World Outreach. We covet the prayers of the denomination for our missionaries, as well as the concrete and tangible demonstrations of the value we place on them, and of our commitment to stand with them in their calling.

Missionary Giving

We are grateful to the churches and presbyteries of the EPC for their continued support of our World Outreach missionaries. Total giving to missionary support increased in 2003 by 17% to a total of \$1,797,016. However, after a large increase in giving to World Outreach Benevolence Askings projects in 2002, income for those projects in 2003 had a 27% decrease, with a year end total of \$60,992.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Amend section 103.4-J of the *World Outreach Missions Manual* by replacing the first sentence with the bold italicized section below, to be followed by the second sentence and bullet points as already printed, so that the entire section would now read:

Agencies may be granted approved status by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the World Outreach Committee on the basis of common goals, strategic opportunities, particular services those agencies may offer to the EPC or other bases judged to be of strategic value to World Outreach. Approved projects and agencies may represent themselves as such to EPC congregations. Projects will only be approved for agencies which have approved status. The status of approved agencies shall be reviewed after three years and every five years thereafter to determine whether it shall be continued. Without a recommendation for renewal, approved status will automatically expire at the end of those time periods. The World Outreach Committee may act at any time for cause to recommend removal of approved status. ~~Projects will be approved only from agencies nominated for approval by the WOC and ratified by the General Assembly.~~ An approved mission organization is an organization created to serve the church of Jesus Christ and identified by the following:

- an authentic evangelical confessional identity,
 - historical integrity and an explicit mission statement,
 - mission objectives which are compatible with the EPC mission statement,
 - clarity in ministry goals and objectives,
 - financial credibility as measured by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) or by comparable standards, and membership in the Evangelical Foreign Mission Association (EFMA) or having met comparable standards.
2. Approve a cooperative agreement with **Footprints, International**. (See attachment 1)
 3. Grant **IN Network** status as an approved mission agency. (See attachment 2)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Ed Randal, Chairman

Jeff Chadwick, Director

ATTACHMENT 1

Cooperative Agreement with Footprints, International

**World Outreach Committee
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue, Suite 5
Livonia, Michigan 48154
Phone: 734-261-2001 FAX: 734-261-3282**

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 Footprints, International.
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 the one agency requests confidential materials gathered by the other, such materials shall be shared with the understanding that the materials shall be kept confidential by that agency.
4. The missionary candidate shall participate in the full candidate and training program of Footprints, International.
5. An appropriate time shall be allowed the candidate for itineration or deputation within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church churches in order that adequate prayer and financial support can be realized.
6. Footprints, International 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. Whenever a change is being considered in the major thrust of the missionary's ministry assignment or field, Footprints, International shall consult with EPC World Outreach prior to any decision. The concerns of both agencies will be given due consideration in reaching mutually acceptable decision.
9. Final discipline as relates to theology and morals rests in the proper church court of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
10. The World Outreach missionary is to have liberty in the full and free presentation of the Gospel as contained in and understood in the Reformed view.
11. While on the field, the missionary shall be under the jurisdiction of Footprints, International.
12. While on the field, the missionary shall be an integral part of the field staff, sharing equally in privileges and responsibilities as any other member and being subject to the policies and direction

of Footprints, International, who shall provide the Evangelical Presbyterian Church annually with a report on the missionary's progress, field evaluation and the following year's projected goals.

13. The missionary's field director will initiate home service planning in consultation with World Outreach and also with Footprints, International's North American Director.
14. While on home service (excluding while traveling to and from the field), the missionary shall be under the jurisdiction of World Outreach. Among the missionary's home service responsibilities, consideration will be given by World Outreach to assignments, projects, additional study or training requested by Footprints, International. Progress and activity information during home service will be provided for Footprints, International.
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 constituencies of either agency for personal funds or field needs without the permission of the respective agency.
17. The financial relationship of the missionary with Footprints, International 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 by which they shall receive and receipt the missionary's funds from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and transfer them to Footprints, International monthly to be transmitted to the field by that agency. Footprints, International shall inform World Outreach monthly or quarterly of support funds designated for the missionary from other sources.
18. At the time of departure and periodic review, World Outreach will commit itself to a level of monthly support with adjustments to the missionary subject to available funds.
19. Compensation, hospitalization, retirement, and insurance plans shall be provided to Evangelical Presbyterian Church World Outreach missionaries by mutual agreement of both agencies.

Signed:

Ron Restum
President
Footprints, International

Jeffrey Chadwick
World Outreach Director
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Date: _____

Date: _____



ATTACHMENT 2

P.O. Box 8845 • Grand Rapids, MI 49518
Phone: 616-538-4465 • Fax: 616-538-3992
email: rodyrinusa@cs.com

May 17, 2004

Dr. Jeff Chadwick
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
29140 Buckingham Avenue
Suite 5
Livonia, MI 48154

Dear Dr. Chadwick:

I am exceptionally pleased with the World Outreach Committee's decision to endorse and to recommend the IN Network/USA to the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as an approved agency. Your committee was very thorough and insightful as we discussed our potential relationship.

It is a pleasure to lay out how the IN Network/USA meets your criteria for an approved agency and, thereby, worthy of endorsement by your General Assembly.

We share the following criteria:

An authentic evangelical confessional identity.

Our organization is committed to the Statement of Faith of the National Association of Evangelicals. All chartered countries, staff and board members must annually agree to the Statement of Faith in writing as part of our accountability practice.

Commitment to the Word of God, world evangelism and discipleship are core values on which the IN Network has built since its founding in 1974.

Historical integrity and an explicit mission statement

Historical Integrity

In 1974, the IN Network, then called International Needs, was founded by Dr. Ray Harrison to link Christians and churches in the developed world with Chris-

Dr. Jeff Chadwick
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tians in the developing world. Impressed by the effectiveness of the indigenous church and its national leaders in reaching their own people for Christ, Dr. Harrison's desire was to develop partnerships that would expand the impact of the church worldwide.

Explicit Mission Statement

The IN Network is not a sending agency, but is an organization that connects Christian nationals worldwide in Evangelism, Discipleship and Community Development.

Mission Objectives which are compatible with the EPC Mission Statement.

Twelve hundred indigenous staff members working in thirty-five countries provides cooperation and consultation resources for EPC missionaries working in various regions of the world. The IN Network has ministry in a number of Muslim countries like Egypt, Turkey, Jordan and Morocco.

IN Network church planters are actively engaged in preaching the Gospel of Christ and establishing new Christ exalting churches. Sometimes, these church plants are taking place in areas of the world that are inaccessible to ex-patriots, like Vietnam and Nepal.

Clarity in ministry goals and objectives.

The IN Network maintains a strenuous process of accountability policies that require a local board of directors in each of the countries in the IN Network, audited financial statements and an annual strategic ministry plan. The format of the strategic ministry plan is to measure ministry effectiveness and project sustainability.

Financial credibility is measured by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA)

As a long-time member of the ECFA, we are committed to the highest standards in the financial area of our ministry. Each autonomous country in the IN Network is required to submit to an annual independent audit by a qualified licensed auditing firm.

PART III
DOCUMENTS

Rules for Assembly
As amended through the 24th General Assembly

I. Date and Place of Meeting

- 1-1** The General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall meet annually on the date and at the place fixed by the preceding General Assembly, between May 1 and June 30.
- 1-2** The place of meeting shall be rotated among the various areas of the church as much as practical. Any Presbytery or church of Presbytery that desires to entertain the General Assembly shall forward an invitation to the Stated Clerk no later than three years before the preceding Assembly. If two or more Presbyteries or churches submit invitations to host the General Assembly for the same year, the Committee on Administration will submit a recommendation to the General Assembly naming the host church or Presbytery. The Committee on Administration will make its recommendation based on the following criteria:
- a. Capability to host, i.e., availability of housing, costs, travel arrangements, committee meeting rooms, availability of food service for breaks and meals, space for exhibitors and General Assembly staff, and local transportation.
 - b. Priority will be given to the Presbytery or church which has never hosted a General Assembly or which hosted General Assembly the greatest number of years ago.

II. Organization of a General Assembly's Meetings

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

III. The Moderator

- 3-1** The Moderator shall preside at all sessions of the Assembly except for those times when the Moderator may temporarily invite another Commissioner to act as the presiding officer.
- 3-2** The Moderator shall call the succeeding Assembly to order and preside until a successor has been elected. An address from the retiring Moderator is

appropriate. If the Moderator is unable to act, the most immediate past Moderator present, or in the absence of any, the Stated Clerk, shall call the Assembly to order and preside over its session until a Moderator has been elected.

IV. The Stated Clerk

- 4-1** The Stated Clerk shall be elected on the last day of the Assembly. A new Stated Clerk shall assume office at the end of the Assembly, or at such time thereafter as designated by the General Assembly (cf. Acts 82-09).
- 4-2** The Stated Clerk shall perform the duties assigned by the **Book of Government** and by the **Rules for Assembly**, and such other duties as are assigned by action of the Assembly.
- 4-3** The Stated Clerk shall assemble the items of business to come before the Assembly and prepare a daily docket for the receiving of committee reports and consideration of all appropriate business to come before the Assembly.
- 4-4** The Stated Clerk shall keep the **Minutes** of the General Assembly. He shall publish them annually with statistical reports of the Church and reports of the committees of the Assembly.
- 4-5** The Stated Clerk shall have the privilege of the floor in all matters pertaining to his office and at such times when the Moderator, chairmen of assembly committees, or any Commissioner request clarification of Assembly business.
- 4-6** The Stated Clerk shall be the parliamentarian of the General Assembly.
- 4-7** The Stated Clerk shall have surveillance over denominational archives and historical documents on behalf of the General Assembly, and shall be responsible for the right of access to such documents.

V. The Assembly Arrangements

- 5-1** The Moderator of the last General Assembly and the Stated Clerk shall plan the periods of worship at the meeting of the Assembly, including the celebration of the Lord's Supper and public services. A brief worship service shall be included at the beginning of each day's session.
- 5-2** The Lord's Supper shall be celebrated by the General Assembly. The retiring Moderator shall preside on this occasion and shall preach a sermon or deliver an appropriate address. The newly elected Moderator shall assist in this service.
- 5-3** The first order of the day, except the opening day, at the beginning of the business session shall be the presentation of a docket listing the business that 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 may be reported here. Also, failure to provide sufficient or proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc., may be included here.
 - 2. **Notations requiring response:** Insufficient information in the Minutes to determine if an action is constitutional. Such notations are not read to the General Assembly but require a response of the presbytery to the Presbytery Review Committee.

3. **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.

The Presbyteries shall take note in their **Minutes** of exceptions and notations conveyed from the Assembly and of the disposition they have made of such.
- G. **Guidelines for Presbytery Minutes**
 1. Date, time, place of meeting, Presbytery must meet at least three (3) times a year (**G.16-17**). Presbytery review year shall include those minutes approved by Presbytery up to June 1 of each Assembly year. **Minutes** should reflect the names of Ruling and Teaching Elders present, visitors present, and include excused and unexcused absences. Minutes should reflect the number of the stated meeting.
 2. Meeting opened and closed with prayer.
 3. Declaration of quorum (**G.16-18**).
 4. Accurate record of motions passed and actions taken (**G.16-19**).
 5. Minutes should be typed with complete sentences, correct spelling and bound in hard cover.
 6. Minutes should be signed by Stated Clerk and Moderator.
 7. Minutes should reflect an accurate record of candidates received and dismissed.
 8. Minutes should reflect an accurate record of ministers received and dismissed including proper examination procedures leading to ordination and/or installation.
 9. Record of approved pastoral calls and any changes in calls and the granting of permission to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery (**G.16-16A**).
 10. Minutes must reflect an annual review of sessional records.
 11. Minutes must reflect establishing, dissolving, dividing, uniting, receiving, and dismissing of churches (**G.16-16E**).
 12. Minutes must reflect observations of and carrying out of General Assembly injunctions and instructions.
 13. Overtures to the General Assembly must be recorded.
 14. Minutes will reflect any judicial cases before Presbytery and the disposition thereof in accordance with the **Book of Discipline**.
 15. Minutes will include all actions of Presbytery-appointed commissions.
 16. Minutes should include annual approved Presbytery budget and related financial reports.

- 8-12** The minutes of each day will not be read at the beginning of each day of Assembly but will be proofread by a committee of three Commissioners in consultation with the recording clerks of the Assembly. The committee of three shall be nominated by the convening Moderator and the minutes shall be posted in a public place where they can be read by interested Commissioners.

IX. Permanent Committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission

- 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 permanent program committees. The chairmen from these 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 & 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.
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.
1. 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.
 2. 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 is 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.

<p>A Digest of the ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1981-2004</p>
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“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) (Cf. Act 97-01 for adoption of new *Book of Discipline*.)
- 82-13 The Assembly approves criteria to guide selection of the location of General Assembly meetings (**Minutes** 2-46; Appendix I)
 Geographical suitability, including accessibility to long distance transportation
 Capability of accommodating 350 delegates
 Facilities for seating a minimum of 750 people for public services
 Adequate financial and personnel resources
 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:
 - A. To do the business of the Assembly;
 - B. To be a time of celebration and fellowship;
 - C. 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 is 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 titled, "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 with at least one former stated clerk of presbytery. (**Minutes** 17-46) *The 21st General Assembly amended the Rules for Assembly, §9-1K.1, deleting the words "of presbytery."* (**Minutes** 21-43)
- 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 the 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 a 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 the 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 to the Assembly by the Committee on Administration. (**Minutes**, 10-28).
- 91-04 The General Assembly approves the establishment of a full-time Director of Youth Ministries. (**Minutes**, 11-27) (*Cf. Act 90-02.*)
- 92-03 The Assembly approves the continuation of the General Assembly Office in the Detroit, Michigan area, specifically one of the western suburbs, and to continue

monitoring the needs of and services to the particular churches to determine any shifts in location criteria. (**Minutes** 12-25)

- 92-22 The Assembly approved the division of the Department of Outreach into two departments: World Outreach and National Outreach. Each is to have its own director. (**Minutes**, 12-46)
- 96-17 The Assembly approves the designing of a procedure to create a position description for an Assistant Stated Clerk, with financing arrangements, and to report to the 17th (1997) General Assembly. The Assembly's desire is to have this person in place by the 18th (1998) General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 16-36)
- 97-10 The Assembly adopts a position description for an Assistant to the Stated Clerk. (**Minutes**, 17-25)
- 98-16 Search Process for Stated Clerk, Position Description and Time Line for Selection of New Stated Clerk are adopted. (**Minutes**, 18-39)
- 01-12 The Vision 21 Strategic Plan is adopted, with adjusted dates for implementation. (**Minutes**, 21-40)

CONFESSIOAL MATTERS

- 81-01 *The Essentials of Our 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 Our Faith." (**Minutes**, 5-28)
- 87-03 The Assembly endorses the addition of the **Westminster Confession of Faith**, the "Essentials of Our Faith," and the Shorter Catechism to separate sections in the loose leaf *Book of Order*. (**Minutes**, 7-36)
- 88-19 The Assembly adopts as resource for its congregations "The Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy." (**Minutes**, 8-56; text of statement pp. 70-73 of 8th Assembly **Minutes**)
- 88-20 The Assembly endorses for distribution to its churches *The Children's Catechism: A New Modern Version*, published by Summertown Texts, Signal Mountain, Tennessee (1988). (**Minutes**, 8-55)
- 88-29 The Assembly concurs with the Committee on Theology, which was given the task of studying the relationship between "The Essentials" and the **Westminster Confession of Faith**. This referral came out of a motion to the 7th General Assembly to make "The Essentials" a part of our Constitution.

The Committee concurs with the Stated Clerk that "The Essentials" should not be made a part of our Constitution and given that authority. This document now carries the authority of an Act of the Assembly (reference Acts of the Assembly §81-01).

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 their responses to the questions proposed to a congregation. Further, it may not be done unless:
- A. 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.3-2G.1**.
 - B. 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 (I 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 Our Faith*:

The purpose of the *Essentials of Our Faith* is to provide an explicit and concise expression of the essentials of the Christian faith, but also leave room for Christians to disagree on non-essentials. It is never to be used as an explicit standard for a minimal core of beliefs for candidates, ordination, or ministerial exams. It is not to duplicate the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, or to be construed as a substitute for the WCF. Because it is not part of the Constitution, it is never to be used as such. Theoretically, a person could affirm the *Essentials*, as all knowledgeable Christians would do, but disagree with the WCF. Such a person would be unacceptable as a Teaching or Ruling Elder in the EPC, being out of accord with its Constitution. On the other hand, a person cannot affirm the WCF and disbelieve any part of the *Essentials*. *The Essentials* are to be subscribed to in addition to the full WCF (G.14-1A.4). (**Minutes** 13-38)

(The 16th General Assembly (1996) voted to delete the last sentence of this Act #93-17. (**Minutes**, 16-26)

- 97-11 The Assembly adopts the ruling of the Permanent Judicial Commission that the current form of the fourth ordination vow is the result of an unauthorized

typographical alteration and that the words “essentials of the faith” should be printed in small case and plain letters. Future editions of the *Book of Government* are to be printed to conform to this correction. (**Minutes** 17-26)

- 97-12 The Assembly instructs the permanent Committee on Theology to undertake a comprehensive study of the relationship that now exists and that should exist between the “Essentials of Our Faith” and the Westminster Confession of Faith to include, but not be limited to, an examination of the relevance of each to the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the vows of ordination for pastors and elders, relations with other denominations and the teaching and edification of lay persons. (**Minutes** 17-29)
- 98-02 That Assembly adopts a report entitled, “Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the 17th General Assembly Instructions Regarding ‘The Essentials’ and the Westminster Confession.” (**Minutes** 18-25)
- 99-07 The Assembly strongly exhorts churches to diligently train officers and ordinands in the essential tenets of the Reformed faith and recommends that sessions and presbyteries familiarize themselves with the “Response of the Permanent Theology Committee to the 17th 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)
- 02-01 The Assembly adopts a “Pastoral Letter on Open Theism” (the openness of God). (**Minutes**, 22-28)
- 02-02 The Assembly commends the paper, “What It Means to Receive and Adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith” by S. Donald Fortson, III for use in the churches as a resource in understanding this subject. (**Minutes**, 22-28)

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:
1. To develop fellowship and support for pastors and elders;
 2. To share resources with other churches;
 3. To encourage church planting strategies. (**Minutes**, 1-24)
- 81-08 The first two presbyteries are constituted: The Presbytery of the Midwest and the Presbytery of the West. The boundaries are as follows:
1. Presbytery of the Midwest consists of the states of Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri.
 2. Presbytery of the West consists of Colorado and the states north, south, and west of Colorado. (**Minutes**, 1-24)
- 82-04 The Presbytery of the East is constituted and shall include the states of Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC. (**Minutes**, 2-32, 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 that 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 that 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 that 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 a 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) (Cf. *Act 90-11 for formation of Florida Presbytery*.)
- 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 that 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 Burton, 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 large church (1000+ members); twelve organized churches; 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 bylaws.
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 Administrative 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-IE,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 convenient way of recording that required actions have been taken. (**Minutes** 18-30)

- 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** 18-30)
- 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** 18-30)
- 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)
- 02-03 The Assembly amends the boundaries of the Presbytery of the West to include Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nevada, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii. (**Minutes**, 22-27)
- 02-04 The Assembly forwarded the following advice and observations to the Presbyteries:
1. Commissions are representative of the Presbytery and give an opportunity for particular churches to appreciate the fact that they are part of a larger church. Even though the constitutional minimum for commissions is five people from two churches, presbyteries should give due consideration in forming commissions to make them more broadly representative.
2. Most presbyteries are struggling with poor attendance, especially of Ruling Elders. Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders alike are urged to more diligently exercise their ordination vows and be active in the larger church family.
3. In a number of cases, housing allowances approved in terms of call seem to be far above the accepted IRS standard cap of fair rental value (furnished) plus utilities. Pastors, sessions and presbyteries are urged to be diligent in conforming to established regulations.
4. Presbyteries are urged to be diligent to insure that constitutional requirements are met in terms of call for Assistant and Associate Pastors. In particular, G.11-6, 7 require that terms of call stipulate the particular areas of responsibilities for Assistant and Associate Pastors and a definite period of time for a term of service for Assistants.

5. In exercising their discretionary authority (e.g., waiving the ordinary requirement of one year under care for a candidate), presbyteries should indicate the grounds for doing so in their minutes.
 - a. Presbyteries are reminded that a change in call from Assistant to Associate Pastor is a significant change. It is the congregation that calls, not the session. An installation service is required and appropriate when such a change occurs.
 - b. *The Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* contains a number of checklists and templates for minutes to insure that constitutional steps are followed and reported. Presbyteries are strongly urged to utilize those resources. (**Minutes**, 22-27)
- 02-05 The Assembly adopts a Permanent Judicial Commission ruling that the term “governing body” when used in the **Book of Order** to refer to bodies within the EPC is always intended to refer to 1) a court of the church, or 2) a commission or evangelist duly authorized to act on the Court’s behalf. (**Minutes**, 22-27)
- 02-06 The Assembly instructs each Presbytery World Outreach Committee to review the World Outreach Master Plan and consider setting policy/goals in accordance with it and with Vision 21. (**Minutes**, 22-27)
- 02-07 The Assembly adopts a Permanent Judicial Commission ruling that a presbytery must evaluate the transferee’s educational credentials, including the requirements pertaining to biblical languages and either 1) require “appropriate courses in the original languages” and an exegesis paper assigned by the presbytery; or 2) exempt the transferee from such requirement by a two-thirds vote. (**Minutes**, 22-24)
- 03-04 The Assembly forwards the following advice to all presbyteries:
 - A. When a minister or candidate states no exceptions to the Westminster standards, presbytery minutes must state that fact so that the record reflects that presbytery has fulfilled its constitutional responsibility.
 - B. It appears in many cases presbytery moderators may be making motions of a routine nature or making motions arising from presbytery council reports. Presbyteries should be advised that the moderator should yield the chair in order to make a motion or should entertain a motion from the floor.
 - C. In general, number of notations to presbytery minutes would be reduced and the quality of minutes would be improved by adopting the practice of using readers to review provisional minutes before Stated Clerks submit them to presbytery.
 - D. Presbyteries should take note of those visiting teaching and ruling elders from other presbyteries or General Assembly and enroll them as corresponding members with the privilege of the floor. (**Minutes**, 23-26)
- 04-05 The Assembly dismisses the St. Andrews Presbytery and grants it recognition as a national Reformed and Presbyterian body according to the Articles of Dismissal and Agreement (see Documents section of *Minutes of the 24th General Assembly*). (**Minutes**, 24-29)
- 04-08 Assembly adjusts the shared boundary between the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Presbyteries so that the Asheville NC area counties of Buncombe, Henderson and McDowell are included in the bounds of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery. (**Minutes**, 24-39)

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

- 81-04 Terms of call for any minister of member churches shall provide for participation in the denominational hospitalization and disabilities programs. (**Minutes**, 1-32)
- 81-05 Terms of call for any minister shall provide a minimum of 18% benefit to provide for group hospitalization, disability, and pension. The pension factor shall be not less than 10%. This benefit shall be computed on the gross effective salary base, i.e., salary and housing/utilities allowance. (**Minutes**, 1-32)
- 81-06 The denominational group insurance plan providing health, disability, and life coverage shall be mandatory for all ministers within member churches. (**Minutes**, 1-36)

82-07 *Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination*

1. Requirements for ordination shall be:
 - a. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university;
 - b. Seminary degree – M.Div. or equivalent including Koine Greek and Hebrew;
 - c. Care of presbytery for a minimum of one year;
 - d. Examinations – four written and one oral examination must be sustained;
 - e. Valid call;
 - f. Other evidence – Assurance those spiritual gifts needed for effective ministry are present and being developed.
2. All exceptions to fulfilling standards for ordination (extraordinary circumstances) will be referred to the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation for a recommended course of action, including continuing education and reading requirements. The presbytery of jurisdiction shall, in conjunction with the Committee on Ministerial Vocation:
 - 2-1. Mail necessary documentation (personal history, etc.) to the permanent committee for its review and counsel, and
 - 2-2. Proceed with process of ordination only after receiving recommendations from the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation.
3. Persons seeking membership within a presbytery may be received as enrolled members only upon evidence of a call endorsed by the presbytery.
4. Terms of call: The amount of annual vacation time: one month.
5. Terms of call: The amount of time to be given for study leave: two weeks, cumulative up to six weeks.

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

*Cf. Act 94-25. The 14th General Assembly amended this document, originally adopted in 1982 (**Minutes**, 2-42), by dropping "Licensure" from the title as well as paragraphs 1, 4, and 5 having to do with licensure. (**Minutes**, 14-37) The 19th General Assembly further amended this document in #5, "Terms of Call," by adding provision for career missionaries. (**Minutes**, 19-31)*

- 82-10 The General Assembly approves the concept of self-funding insurance and instructs its Committee on Administration to execute a plan in trust as appropriate. Individual churches are urged to assume the deductible portion of the health

insurance program and cost of co-insurance as part of a minister's compensation. (**Minutes**, 2-52, Appendix I)

- 83-01 The Committee on Ministerial Vocation shall 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)
- 83-13 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:
- 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 14th General Assembly amended this document by dropping the provision for licensure. Minutes*, 14-37)

- 84-03 General Assembly approves for printing the proposed *Manual for Candidates for the Gospel Ministry*. (**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)
- 88-07 Chaplains are encouraged to hold membership in the presbytery allowing the greatest participation and most effective ministry. (**Minutes**, 8-41)

- 88-08 Assembly amends participatory requirements for group health insurance plan by requiring participation of all ministers on the rolls of presbyteries with the exception of:
1. missionaries laboring in cooperative agreements with mission agencies;
 2. ministers laboring in institutional agencies providing their own group insurance plan;
 3. ministers afforded group insurance coverage as part of retirement benefits from a previous employer;
 4. ministers without call, and ministers laboring less than 20 hours in a place of ministry. (**Minutes**, 8-24)
- 89-15 The Assembly approves the establishment of a General Assembly benevolence fund for medical care costs, concentrating its benevolence health care efforts on ministers without call, mission church pastors, and retired ministers and their families (**Minutes**, 9-33).
- 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)
- 90-18 The Assembly endorses the LOGOI/FLET program as an acceptable equivalency program of theological education for candidates pursuing ordination in Argentina. (**Minutes**, 10-43).
- 90-19 The Assembly grants to the Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church (North Carolina) a one-time exception to Act #85-05 in order that the present co-pastors of Myrtle Grove may be received when church and pastors are dismissed to the EPC by virtue of Article 13. Such exception shall not be understood as precedent setting and shall pertain exclusively to this church and these two pastors only. (**Minutes**, 10-43)
- 91-03 *The Candidates Care Manual* in Section 11, "Ordination Exams," shall be amended by requiring that in the event an exam is not sustained, it may not be retaken sooner than 30 days thereafter. If 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 re-designating 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 in its annual report statistical and/or narrative summaries in its five areas of responsibility (*Rules for Assembly*, 9-1D)
- Issues noted in monitoring/aiding Ministerial Committees of presbyteries;
 - Number of churches seeking pastors, number of active PIFs 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**, 16-36)
- 97-03 The Assembly amends the Group Insurance Plan to double the current life insurance cap provided EPC pastors and employees from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for an additional premium. (**Minutes** 17-20)

- 97-22 The Ministerial Vocation Committee is instructed to evaluate the issue of pastoral vocational pressures from the perspective of identifying warning signs and seeking preventive measures for creating healthier church environments. (**Minutes** 17-41)
- 98-03 The Assembly instructs all Presbyteries to use the forms included as attachments to the *EPC Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committee* (Third Edition) both as a checklist 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 manner 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)

- 01-04 The Pension Plan is amended to allow all active ministers to participate in the Pension Plan. (**Minutes**, 21-30)
- 01-10 The document "Guidelines for Intentional Interim Pastoral Ministry" is approved for inclusion in the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*. (**Minutes**, 21-33)
- 01-11 A revised "Advisory Paper on Performance Review" is approved for inclusion in the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*. (**Minutes**, 21-33)
- 02-07 The Assembly adopts a Permanent Judicial Commission ruling that a presbytery must evaluate the transferee's educational credentials, including the requirements pertaining to biblical languages and either 1) require "appropriate courses in the original languages" and an exegesis paper assigned by the presbytery; or 2) exempt the transferee from such requirement by a two-thirds vote. (**Minutes**, 22-24)
- 03-07 The Assembly approves the addition of a new section 1 under "Temporary Pastoral Offices" to the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* (p. 14, Fourth Edition):
1. Calling a Minister who has served in a temporary pastoral relationship
A minister should not be serving in a temporary pastoral relationship with the intent of becoming the pastor of the church. To do so diminishes the minister's ability to accomplish the tasks necessary in the interim period as defined by the Assembly's "Guidelines for Intentional Interim Pastoral Ministry" (p. 85). The **Book of Order** (G.11-8 above) prohibits any minister being called as pastor of the church while actively serving in a temporary relationship. If the church desires to consider calling the minister as pastor, the temporary relationship should be ended and an appropriate length of time be allowed for serious consideration of the call (normally a minimum of two months). (**Minutes**, 23-39)
- 03-08 The Assembly approves the addition of a new section 15 under "Process of Candidacy and Ordination" to the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* (p. 30, Fourth Edition):
15. Reinstatement of Candidacy
A person's candidacy may be reinstated through the following procedure:
 - 1) If the person seeking reinstatement is a member of an EPC church other than the original sponsoring church, the person should be a member for a time sufficient for the Session to give a credible endorsement. The person's previous EPC membership may be considered adequate to fulfill the requirements of G.12-2A by the presbytery for purposes of reinstatement.
 - 2) The Session of the church at which the former candidate is currently a member, having satisfied itself that the potential candidate shows evidence of a call to ministry and a commitment to pursue that call, endorses the member according to the procedures outlined above.
 - 3) The Ministerial/Candidates Committee proceeds according to the procedures outlined above, requiring updated forms as necessary, and may recommend the candidate's reinstatement to the presbytery.
 - 4) The potential candidate is examined by the presbytery according to the provisions of G.12-2.

16. Preparation for Ordination...
(**Minutes, 23-39**)

03-09 The Assembly approves the addition of a new section 15.b.4 under “Preparation for Ordination” to the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* (p. 33, Fourth Edition).

4. Written statement of any exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms

G. 13-6 The candidate or transferring Teaching Elder shall provide a written statement of any exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms of this Church, and the Presbytery must act to allow or disallow the exceptions. The Presbytery shall not allow any exception to “Essentials of Our Faith.” If the Teaching Elder develops exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms after ordination, he or she must report those exceptions to the Presbytery and the Presbytery must act to allow or disallow these exceptions.

While the written statement of exceptions to the Westminster Standards shall be reviewed and allowed or disallowed by the presbytery, the statement itself should **not** appear in the minutes of presbytery. However, minutes should reflect that the statement was received and allowed or disallowed. The statement of exceptions shall be retained in the minister’s personnel file.

5. Allowable Exceptions to Mandatory Requirements... (**Minutes, 23-39**)

03-10 The Assembly advises congregations to adhere to new legislation regarding clergy housing allowances and to seek skilled professional guidance in this matter. (**Minutes, 23-39**)

04-01 The Assembly directs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to re-title the written Theology and Sacraments examination as *Theology, Sacraments, and Reformed Tradition*, and to structure the examination so as to adequately measure the candidate’s knowledge of all three areas. (**Minutes, 24-26**)

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 6th 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**, 12-43)
- 92-21 The Assembly adopts a 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

- (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**, 16-35)
- 96-12 The Assembly instructs the National Outreach Committee to review the 1989 Church Development Master Plan prior to the 17th (1997) Assembly, and every five years thereafter, revising as necessary. (**Minutes**, 16-345)
- 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 17th (1997) General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 16-35)
- 96-14 The Assembly instructs the National Outreach Committee to study and detail a strategy for increasing the funding for Key Cities Program before the 17th (1997) General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 16-34)
- 97-23 The Key Cities Plan describing potential church development is adopted. (**Minutes**, 17-44)
- 97-24 The Assembly approves the Bartlett L. Hess Award, an annual honor for the church that has demonstrated the most innovative approach to church growth or revitalization during that year. (**Minutes** 17-44)
- 97-25 The Assembly approves combining the Church Development Plans of 1989 and 1995, using the newly approved *Mission Statement and Core Values* of the National Outreach Committee into a *1997 Master Plan for Church Development*. (**Minutes**, 17-44)
- 97-25 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)
- 01-08 The National Outreach Home Missions Manual is adopted. (**Minutes**, 21-31)
- 01-09 The Assembly gives the National Outreach Committee authority to further amend the Home Missions Manual, upon approval of the Committee on Administration (**Minutes**, 21-31)
- 03-06 The Church Loan Fund Criteria are amended as follows:
 #6a Change \$50,000 to \$75,000;
 #9 Evidence of efforts to obtain loans from other sources (Churches which are having difficulty finding loans from other sources may receive preferential consideration.).
 A statement is added to the Church Loan Fund application form: “With the submission of this request, the mission and vision of the church and how this loan would assist in accomplishing the mission of the church would be required.”
Minutes, 23-37)

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 re-elected 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 3rd General Assembly.* **Minutes** 3-53)
- 83-13 *The 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 18th General Assembly assigned oversight of urban ministries to the National Outreach Committee. Minutes, 18-39; Act 98-17*)
- 84-15 *World Outreach Manual, Part II (The Handbook for Candidates)* is adopted. (**Minutes**, 4-24)
- 85-12 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Missionary Internship. (**Minutes**, 5-24)
- 85-13 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Overseas Crusade. (**Minutes**, 5-24)
- 86-11 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Wycliffe Bible Translators. (**Minutes**, 6-67)
- 86-14 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and LOGOI. (**Minutes**, 6-67).
- 86-22 *World Outreach Manual, Part III (Handbook for Missionaries)* is adopted. (**Minutes**, 6-67)
- 87-01 The Assembly grants approved mission agency status to the Middle East Reformed Fellowship (MERF). (**Minutes**, 7-30). (*Cf. Act 91-08 for Assembly action rescinding approval.*)
- 87-02 The General Assembly adopts definition of approved mission agency as follows:
*authentic evangelical confessional identity;
*historical integrity and explicit mission statement;
*mission objectives compatible with the EPC mission statement;
*clarity in ministry goals and objectives;
*financial credibility as measured by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) or by comparable standards;
*membership in the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association (EFMA), 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**, 12-43)
- 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 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and Overseas Missionary Fellowship. (**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 adopted between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the English Language Institute/China (ELIC). (**Minutes** 18-37)
- 98-08 Cooperative agreement is approved between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and 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," be 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)
- 00-06 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)
- 01-13 The Assembly approved a plan to partner with the Reformed Partnership of Churches in Kazakhstan, to establish a commission with power to examine, ordain and install teaching elders who have satisfied educational requirements consistent with those outlined in the WOC Missions Manual, and to establish a provisional, indigenous, national presbytery (**Minutes**, 21-41)
- 02-06 The Assembly instructs each Presbytery World Outreach Committee to review the World Outreach Master Plan and consider setting policy/goals in accordance with it and with Vision 21. (**Minutes**, 22-41)
- 03-01 The General Assembly retains authority for any changes to the World Outreach Missions Manual, Part I "Theology and Practice of Missions." Upon recommendation of the World Outreach Committee, the Committee on Administration is authorized to approve substantive changes to the World Outreach Missions Manual, Part II "Handbook for Candidates," Part III "Handbook for Missionaries" and Part IV "Financial Policies." The World Outreach Committee is authorized to make merely formal changes and report those as information to the Committee on Administration. (**Minutes**, 23-26)
- 03-02 The revised World Outreach Master Plan is adopted. (**Minutes**, 23-26)
- 03-03 The Assembly adopts a cooperative agreement with Worldwide Evangelization for Christ (WEC) International. (**Minutes**, 23-26)
- 04-02 The Assembly amends the World Outreach Missions Manual in section 103.4-J to 1) allow agencies with approved status to represent themselves as such to EPC congregations, 2) limit approved projects to agencies with approved status, 3) establish a process for review of approved status three years after initial approval and every five years thereafter. (**Minutes**, 24-27)
- 04-03 The Assembly approves a cooperative agreement with Footprints, International. . (**Minutes**, 24-27)

- 04-04 The Assembly grants IN Network status as an approved mission agency. (**Minutes**, 24-27)
- 04-05 The Assembly dismisses the St. Andrews Presbytery and grants it recognition as a national Reformed and Presbyterian body according to the Articles of Dismissal and Agreement (see Documents section of *Minutes of the 24th General Assembly*). . (**Minutes**, 24-29)

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 that proclaim the Word of God, promote the unity of the Body of Christ, and share resources for effective ministries.
4. Relationships that 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 that 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 6th 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*)
- 92-01 The Assembly approves *The Geneva Statement*, to be added to the joint statement adopted by the EPC and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. (**Minutes**, 12-21) (*Cf. Act 91-10*)

The Geneva Statement

Being persuaded from Scripture that all Christians are united together as one body in Christ, we acknowledge our responsibility to God and one another to labor together in the work of Christ so as to promote the peace, purity, and unity of the church, and the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in the world.

We share a common understanding of the Scriptures as expressed in the *Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms*, for laboring together in ministry. Recognizing that some differences exist between us in our understanding of certain issues concerning God's will for his church, we also recognize that that which we hold in common far outweighs that which differentiates us. It is understood that our common labors shall not compromise the consciences of either church. The integrity of each church concerning its standards and policies must be maintained and respected.

We therefore pledge ourselves to labor together in love to advance the work of Christ in both our common and separate ministries, seeking to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We promise that if ever we should offend one another in our common labors, we shall do everything possible to resolve the matter and to maintain cooperation. We commit ourselves to labor in support of our church courts, faithfully reporting our activities to the appropriate board or agency, and our respective committees concerning interchurch relations.

We further believe that such practical fraternity, apart from any quest for organizational union will be pleasing to God and promote the advancement of the Gospel in the world. For these reasons we commit ourselves to this Agreement of Cooperation that 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 preeminence 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)
- 00-01 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)

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) that states, "additional staff be funded out of the General Assembly Administration Budget" for a period of five years during which time new staff development may be funded by benevolence giving. (**Minutes**, 5-43)
- 85-08 General Assembly endorses a special denominational voluntary Christmas offering to help needy ministers or missionaries and authorized EPC churches to receive such an offering whose funds shall be administered by the permanent Committee on Administration. (**Minutes**, 5-43)
- 86-07 The Assembly endorses the concept of "2nd Mile Giving" for Women's Ministries to be part of the Benevolence Askings Budget. (**Minutes**, 6-60)
- 87-20 The Assembly approves the adoption of a per member benevolence goal for each congregation, to be determined by the total benevolences approved by the Assembly. Assembly Office shall provide to each session and congregation information on the approved benevolences along with the suggested per member goal by September 1 following the meeting of the General Assembly, along with the suggested per member contribution for the Assembly's Administration Budget.
- Each session and congregation is assured that such per member goal is not an assessment but only a suggestion, and that contributions to approved Assembly benevolences be designated for specific causes and those contributions shall be used only for such designated causes.
- The Assembly urges each congregation to notify the Assembly Office no later than February of each year of its intended giving goal for that year to approved Assembly benevolences, with the understanding that the local church's goal is not a pledge but only a goal towards which the church will strive. (**Minutes**, 7-55)
- 89-18 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, though 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 that 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 (I Timothy 6:10) and from Christian history that churches, as individuals, are not immune to the temptations of avarice. Those responsible for the administration of funds belonging to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will remember the importance of proceeding with caution in this area and profit from the example of biblical teaching as well as from the broader history of the church.
 8. It is our conviction that a loan with interest ought not to be extended to a person, or persons, lacking collateral or the ability to repay the sum borrowed.

Further, in our view a clear distinction must be made between a mission or ministry supported by the church through gifts given without any expectation of repayment, and support extended to church extension projects or congregations seeking to purchase property and construct a building.

9. 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).
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- 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 a 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)
- 01-14 The “per member” asking is increased from \$18 to \$22. (**Minutes**, 21-40)
- 03-05 The “per member” asking is increased from \$22 to \$23. (**Minutes**, 23-37)
- 03-06 The Church Loan Fund Criteria are amended as follows:
 #6a Change \$50,000 to \$75,000;
 #9 Evidence of efforts to obtain loans from other sources (Churches which are having difficulty finding loans from other sources may receive preferential consideration.)
 A statement is added to the Church Loan Fund application form: “With the submission of this request, the mission and vision of the church and how this loan would assist in accomplishing the mission of the church, would be required.” (**Minutes**, 23-37)

PROGRAM MATTERS

- 84-14 The General Assembly adopts Preliminary Position Papers on Homosexuality, The Value Of and Respect For Human Life, Capital Punishment, Abortion, and The Ordination of Women (**Minutes**, 4-38). (Cf. Acts 86-20 and 87-21) [*The 15th General Assembly (1995) rescinded its Preliminary Position Paper on Capital Punishment. Cf. Act 95-12*]
- 86-08 The Task Force on Aging shall continue its work with the goal of implementing the following recommendations adopted by the Assembly:

Short Range Goals:

1. To encourage each presbytery to assign the study of a ministry to older adults to an appropriate committee.
2. Produce and distribute resource material for the local church's use in developing ministries for older adults.
3. Provide consultation to Lifestyle Committees.
4. Conduct workshops on aging to be held at General Assembly and presbytery meetings.
5. Publish a quarterly newsletter.

Long Range Goals:

1. Promote awareness of the unique emotional, social, and spiritual needs of older persons.
2. Promote appreciation for the contributions older persons may make to the church body and fellowship through leadership, teaching, and outreach.
3. Encourage collecting information and sharing about effective ministries with older adults within the EPC as well as other denominations.
4. Provide information about current state and federal legislation as well as national public policy.
5. Emphasize the importance of individual Christians modifying their lifestyles to improve their physical, emotional, and spiritual health. (**Minutes**, 6-60)

- 86-09 The Youth Ministry concept for summer youth conference is adopted. (**Minutes**, 6-60)
- 86-20 Position Papers on Abortion, 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 less 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 that 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 printing it 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, and is 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 16th Assembly reaffirmed this instruction, and further requested the task force to complete a one-page simplified evaluation form on materials.* (**Minutes** 16-24)
- 95-12 The Assembly rescinds its Preliminary Position Paper on Capital Punishment.(Cf. Act 84-14) (**Minutes**, 15-31)
- 95-13 A Pastoral Letter Regarding Criteria for Evaluating Membership in Secret Fraternal Organizations is adopted. (**Minutes**, 15-31)
- 95-14 The "Position Paper on the Problems of Suffering, Death, and Dying" is adopted. (**Minutes**, 15-31)
- 95-20 Since the EPC does not have an organized men's ministry, the Assembly encourages men in the local churches to become involved in Promise Keepers. (**Minutes**, 15-23)

- 96-05 The Assembly encourages commissioners to send the following overture on the value of and sanctity of human life to their congressional senators and representatives in addition to the President, Vice-President, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Majority Leader of the Senate:
- The 16th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church goes on record as opposing, in the strongest possible terms, the President's veto of the "Partial Birth Abortion Ban," and urges Congress to override his veto. Furthermore, that our denomination communicate its stand on this issue to the President, Vice-President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate. (**Minutes**, 16-31)
- 96-06 The Assembly acknowledges that the Disney Company has openly promoted a morally destructive agenda which is hostile to traditional family values, and calls on its members to recognize and grieve over these developments at Disney Company and lead them to take whatever action the Holy Spirit leads them to do in response. (**Minutes**, 16-30)
- 96-08 The Assembly challenged the Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries (formerly Youth Ministries Committee) to determine direction in the following areas:
- To establish student curriculum guidelines to assist churches in the Christian nurture of their children;
 - To establish a strategy for targeting more resources to establish student and young adult ministry as a top priority within the church. (**Minutes**, 16-31)
- 96-09 The Assembly adopts a Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience, and instructed the Committee on Theology to develop a purpose statement regarding this letter, and also to define the term, "pastoral letter." (**Minutes** 16-33)
- 96-10 The Assembly adopts a Pastoral Letter on Organ Donation and Transplantation. (**Minutes**, 16-33)
- 96-15 The name of the Committee on Youth Ministries is changed to Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries. (**Minutes**, 16-36)
- 97-13 The Assembly adopts a new introductory section for the Pastoral Letter on Civil Disobedience that was adopted by the 16th General Assembly. That section reads as follows:
- This pastoral letter sets forth biblically sound theological principles that 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 that requires the approval of two General Assemblies including a minimum of one year circulation among the presbyteries. The primary purpose of a pastoral letter is to guide churches within the EPC rather than to identify our positions to the world..* (**Minutes**, 17-30)
- 97-14 The Assembly instructs the permanent Committee on Theology to study the broad issue of the churches engagement with culture including but not limited to the following issues:
- As a denomination, the EPC desires to be a body of believers that stands our country, to work as agents of salt and light its transformation. Through engagement with our society, we seek to make a visible difference in the quality of its life—spiritually, socially, culturally, and economically. We do not want to be a*

denomination that merely stands against our society, to denounce and scorn it. That is a fortress mentality that only condemns and castigates our society its wickedness. Instead we want to interact with our society as servants, peacemakers and healers.

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

We do not want to be a denomination that simply stands above our society, only using it for own personal gain, then escaping it by retreating for our Sunday holy huddles. Rather, we desire to be a people in the world but not of it. (Minutes, 17-30)

- 97-16 The Assembly recommends to all church sessions that an oral or written report be regularly received from a representative of that church's women's ministry. The rationale for this is two-fold:
1. so that there is a session record of the activities of the women's ministry;
 2. so that communication and accountability are enhanced. (Minutes 17-32)
- 97-17 The Assembly requests that the formation of a men's ministry be considered by the appropriate committee (CE&P) including the possible funding of a part-time director and to report back to the 18th General Assembly. (Minutes, 17-33)
- 97-18 The Assembly excuses the Christian Education & Publications Committee from further research on the LiFE curriculum beyond the assessment already completed on this series in 1994 as reported in the *Curriculum Evaluation Packet for Children*. (Minutes, 17-33)
- 97-19 The Assembly endorses a relationship with Pioneer Clubs as understood and defined in the working agreement. (Minutes 17-33)
- 97-20 The permanent Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries is directed to become more focused in its request for benevolence giving, and was further directed to send a letter to the Clerks of Session of EPC congregations encouraging support of the SYAM budget through benevolent giving. (Minutes, 17-37)
- 97-21 The permanent Committee on Student and Young Adult Ministries is authorized to investigate the formation of a new committee to work specifically on a Single Adult Ministry by the year 2000. (Minutes, 17-38)
- 98-12 The Alpha program as a resource for evangelism is endorsed. (Minutes 18-41)
- 98-13 The Sowing/Reaping Planned Giving Program and information commending such is endorsed for distribution to the churches for review and consideration. (Minutes, 18-39)
- 98-14 The Assembly adopts the following set of guidelines for Presbytery Women's Ministries:

Guidelines

- Each Presbytery Women's Ministry Committee shall be made up of 6 or more women who represent the spectrum of presbytery churches.
- Pastors' wives shall be represented on the committee if possible.
- Women shall serve a 3-year term. A second 3-year term is allowed, but a woman may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

- Nominations for the committee may be submitted to the Presbytery Nominating Committee in two ways:
 1. The Session of each individual church may submit names.
 2. The current committee may submit names.
- Prior to a woman's name being submitted to the Nominating Committee, her pastor and/or Session shall be contacted for approval. Following this approval, she may be asked if she is willing to serve.
- The Presbytery Women's Ministry Committee members shall elect a chairman, who shall attend the General Council of the Presbytery. (She may or may not have a vote depending on the presbytery, but will be able to keep the council abreast of Women's Ministries' concerns, and vice versa.) (**Minutes**, 18-42)

- 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)
- 01-12 The Vision 21 Plan is adopted with adjusted dates for implementation. (**Minutes**, 21-40)
- 02-08 The Assembly adopts an "Endorsement Policy" to evaluate approved resource organizations, committee-endorsed resources. (**Minutes**, 22-46)
- 02-09 The Assembly approves the "Specialized Ministry Form" and commended it to the churches for use in filling non-ordained professional staff positions. (**Minutes**, 22-44)
- 04-06 The Assembly approves formation of a permanent Committee on College Ministry made up of two Ruling Elders, two Teaching Elders, and two non-ordained church members involved with college ministry beginning at the 25th General Assembly (2005). (**Minutes**, 24-32)
- 04-07 The Assembly approves a cooperative agreement with The National Leadership Foundation/His Life Campus Ministry. (**Minutes**, 24-32)
- 04-09 The Assembly adopts the Position Paper on the Sanctity of Marriage. (**Minutes**, 24-45)
- 04-10 The Assembly commends the contemporary English edition of the Westminster Larger Catechism and approves its publication with the *Book of Order*. (**Minutes**, 24-45)

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 concerning the acceptance, operation, and effectiveness of the Plan. (**Minutes**, 9-22). *The 15th 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) (*Cf. Act 92-29 for subsequent action.*)
- 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)**
- 96-02 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)**
- 96-03 The Assembly changes the vendor for plan administration from Healthsource/Provident to a third party administrator, Benefit Services, Inc. for medical benefits, long term disability insurance and life insurance, effective January 1, 1997. **(Minutes, 16-19)**
- 96-03 The Assembly approves changing vendors for long term disability insurance and life insurance from Metropolitan Life Insurance Company to UNUM Life Insurance Company for long term disability insurance, and Healthsource/Provident to The Lafayette Life Insurance Company for life insurance. **(Minutes, 16-19)**
- 96-17 The Assembly approves designating up to 100% of a minister's early and normal retirement pension or disability pension for 1996 and 1997 as housing allowance for United States income tax purposes (IRS Ruling 1.107-1) but only to the extent that the pension is used to rent or provide a home. **(Minutes, 16-36)**
- 97-02 The Group Medical Insurance Plan is amended to provide one routine mammogram per year, paid at 80% for women forty (40) years of age or older. **(Minutes, 17-20)**
- 97-03 The Assembly amends the Group Insurance Plan to double the current life insurance cap provided EPC pastors and employees from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for an additional premium. **(Minutes 17-20)**
- 97-07 Financial eligibility for the Medical Benevolence Fund is increased from \$20,000 to \$25,000. **(Minutes 17-25)** *(Cf. Act 01-05 for subsequent action.)*
- 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**, 20-25)
- 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**, 20-25)
- 01-01 The Group Insurance Plan is amended to offer two plan options. One has basic coverage benefits and is less costly; the other, a richer benefits design with a corresponding higher premium rate. Both plan rates may also take into consideration rating differences for age and geographic location. (**Minutes**, 21-29, 30)
- 01-02 The Board of Pension & Benefits is authorized to explore the redesign of the Group Insurance Plan and to retain professional expertise to assist in the ongoing management of the Plan. (**Minutes**, 21-29); and the Committee on Administration is authorized to approve changes in benefits proposed by the Board of Pension and Benefits. The Board shall report the changes annually to the Assembly. (**Minutes**, 21-29, 30)
- 01-03 The Board of Pension & Benefits is authorized to develop an ongoing and thorough 2-way communication plan designed to better interact with the churches and plan participants regarding the goals, benefits, costs and overall administration of the Group Insurance Plan. (**Minutes**, 21-29, 30)

- 01-04 Pension Plan is amended to allow all active ministers to participate in the Pension Plan. (**Minutes**, 21-30)
- 01-05 The Medical Benevolence Fund is amended to raise the household eligibility cap from \$25,000 to \$35,000. (**Minutes**, 21-30) (*Cf. Act 97-07*)
- 01-06 The Group Insurance Plan is amended to cover speech therapy when medically prescribed following a stroke, accident or congenital and developmental problems. (**Minutes**, 21-30)
- 01-06 The Group Insurance Plan is amended to cover the treatment of Keratoconus with contact lenses to a maximum of \$500 annually. (**Minutes**, 21-30)
- 02-10 The Assembly adopts the restated Pension Plan, precipitated by the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001. Changes facilitate Plan administration, bring the Plan into required conformity with statutory changes and take maximum advantage of increased allowances resulting from statutory changes. (**Minutes**, 22-23)

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ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT

**Between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
and
The Presbyterian Church of Brazil**

**aiming at a brotherly fellowship
in which they will help each
other in the propagation of the
Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

Preamble

The Presbyterian Church of Brazil has been created by God as one of His instruments to be a Reformed and Presbyterian witness in Brazil for Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church has also been created by God as a similar instrument in the United States. Each recognizes that the other has primary responsibility for the country where God has placed it. When one works as a helper in the regional field of the other, it shall do so under the authority of that church. However, in order for the helper church to have a voice in the missionary enterprise of the primary church, it is necessary to establish a means whereby the two churches may share in the planning, projecting, overseeing and strategizing for missions. It is always to be remembered that the primary church has final authority for approval of such plans for missions. The means for such joint planning shall be "**The Joint Committee for Missions.**" This Joint Committee shall assist both in Brazil and in the United States in recommending to the primary churches plans for developing the missionary enterprise in joint venture between the primary and the helper churches.

The Joint Committee for Missions

1. Recommendations for shared missions between a primary and helper church shall come to both churches through the JCM.
2. The JCM shall be composed of six (6) members, three (3) from each church. In addition, each church may appoint advisors without vote.
3. Each church shall designate one of its members as co-chairman and meeting shall be alternately chaired by the co-chairman. A secretary/recorder shall be provided by the host church and minutes shall be provided in both English and Portuguese. A permanent book of the minutes shall be kept in both languages and a copy provided for each church for historical purposes. The Committee shall meet at least annually in November and at other times as necessary, such other meetings to be set by the JCM at its November meeting or upon call of the co-chairman. The regular meetings ordinarily shall be held alternately in each country.
4. The JCM shall make an annual report to the two churches through the appropriate denominational committee, in order that shared missions may be kept before the two churches.
5. The approval, disapproval, or modification of recommendations from the JCM shall come from that board or agency so designated by the particular church. Also such designated board or agency may submit recommendations and proposals to the JCM for its consideration.

6. No joint missionary enterprise shall be undertaken that has not been recommended by the JCM and approved in a manner required by each denomination.
7. Approved joint missionary enterprises shall have a time frame and financial parameters designated and shall have established procedures for evaluation and assessment.
8. The following stipulations shall govern missionaries (those appointed to serve within the bounds of the other church):
 - A. Ordained
 1. Shall be under the jurisdiction of the agency, institution or church court under which they serve.
 2. Shall be under the constitutional documents (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 that 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.

THE GENEVA STATEMENT

*Agreement of Cooperation between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
and the
Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church*

Being persuaded from Scripture that all Christians are united 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
12th General Assembly*

The 11th General Assembly (1991) together with the General Synod of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church authorized the interchurch relations committees to continue meeting for purposes of finding areas of mutual commitments, discovering areas of differences, and exploring ways of resolving those differences, exploring new and creative ways of working together. They shall report back to the respective parent bodies each year until such time as either committee may ask to be discharged from this duty, or until the appointing body may discharge the committee from such duty.

*Adopted June, 1991
11th General Assembly*

**EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MEDICAL BENEVOLENCE FUND**

RESOLVED, that there is hereby declared this 26th 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 \$30,000** 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; Increased in 2001 to \$30,000*

Adopted 6/92

Amended 6/97, 6/01

**POSITION DESCRIPTION
FOR THE
STATED CLERK**

- I. Position Title: Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
- II. Date: January 1, 2001
- III. Position Summary: The Stated Clerk is responsible before God for the work of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Stated Clerk is chief administrative officer of the Office of the General Assembly.
- IV. Term: The Stated Clerk shall be elected by the General Assembly to serve for a definite period as constitutionally defined by the court.
- V. Duties:
 - A. The general duties and responsibilities of the Stated Clerk are set forth in the *Book of Order* and *Rules for Assembly*.
 - B. The Stated Clerk shall be responsible for interpreting all constitutional matters not specifically referred to a General Assembly committee, in which case the General Assembly, by its response to a committee report, will be the final interpreting authority.
 - C. The Stated Clerk shall record all Assembly transactions and preserve these records carefully, and in addition, grant extracts from them whenever properly required. Such extracts shall be evidence to any ecclesiastical court, and to every part of the church.
 - D. All notices required by civil and ecclesiastical law shall be prepared and forwarded by the Stated Clerk, who shall also take general charge of the corporate books and records.
 - E. The Stated Clerk shall sign such instruments as may be required and perform duties as may be assigned by the Committee on Administration or members of the corporation in General Assembly. The Stated Clerk shall assist the Moderator in the fulfillment of his office.
 - F. The Stated Clerk shall be responsible for the oversight of the Financial Manager who is the custodian of the funds and securities belonging to the Corporation. The Stated Clerk shall oversee the receipts deposits and disbursement of such funds by the Financial Manager as directed by the General Assembly. The Stated Clerk shall oversee the accurate accounting of the finances of the Corporation by the Financial Manager.

- G. The Stated Clerk shall resource the work of each permanent committee in keeping with those tasks assigned to it by the General Assembly. Each committee 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.

POSITION STATEMENT ON PRESBYTERY DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of this position statement is to be a guide to the General Assembly in making decisions concerning the establishment of new presbyteries or the realignment of current boundaries.

The Church as the body of Christ is composed of all those persons who profess Jesus as their Lord and Savior, together with their children. The Church on earth is not limited to particular forms of government or denominational structures; nevertheless, the government of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be Presbyterian in form. Such is government by elders meeting in church courts in regular gradation. The Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes the perfecting of the visible Church is best established where the scriptural doctrine of government by elders gathered in church courts is practiced.

The courts of the Church shall be the Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. Presbytery shall be composed of all Ministers belonging to it, and two Ruling Elders for each Minister drawn from the particular churches within its bounds.

The Presbytery has jurisdiction over all that belongs to the worship and ministry of a group of churches within the designated bounds. In its spiritual oversight, the mission of the Presbytery shall be:

1. The nurture and care of persons called to the office of Minister and oversight of all transactions pursuant to call.
2. The provision of spiritual discipline according to the *Book of Discipline*.
3. The oversight of church Sessions through annual review.
4. The maintenance of peace and unity within the congregations.
5. The establishment and development of churches.
6. The encouragement of evangelism, renewal, and ministries of compassion within the congregations and Presbytery.
7. The active participation in the life of the General Assembly.
8. The organization of the Presbytery for maximum advancement of the Gospel and the kingdom.
9. The provision of resources to member congregations promoting effective evangelism, education, stewardship, officer training and the like.

In pursuit of its mission, the question naturally arises as to what constitutes a viable Presbytery. Viability may be defined as "the ability with maximum efficiency to achieve a stated mission." The basic components of a viable Presbytery within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church shall be understood as the following:

1. **LEADERSHIP**

A Presbytery must have adequate personnel resources to support the local church as well as Presbytery's committees and commissions.

2. **FINANCIAL RESOURCES**

Sufficient resources must be available to support the mission and life of a Presbytery. A minimum budget of \$100,000 ('94 dollar basis) per year is necessary.

3. **COMMITMENT**

Leadership and resources are of little value if the solid commitment of Ministers and Ruling Elders of each church to the connectional form of government is absent.

4. **DEMOGRAPHICS**

The minimum requirements for a Presbytery need to be:

1. A large church (1,000 + members);
2. Twelve organized churches;
3. A composite membership base of 2,500.

5. **OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK**

The Stated Clerk shall be provided with office equipment and necessary support staff to carry out the duties of the office as defined in the Presbytery by-laws.

6. **GEOGRAPHIC PROXIMITY**

Presbytery boundaries should be established to keep travel distances between churches to a reasonable minimum.

92294mb

PRESBYTERY WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEES

Committee Description

1. World Outreach Missionaries

Recruitment

- Encourage prayer for the identification of World Outreach missionary candidates.
- From among both the members of presbytery and its congregations, seek out and encourage potential candidates to consider World Outreach service.
- Encourage and assist candidates in the application process.
- Disseminate current information on World Outreach's specific needs for new missionaries.

Support

- Urge the churches of the presbytery to help support all World Outreach missionaries through the World Outreach Office.
- Encourage each church to include in its mission committee policy a statement which gives preferential support consideration to World Outreach missionary appointees.

Contact

- Insure adequate communication is maintained between churches and the missionary on field.

Home Service

- Plan, in cooperation with 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 OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

<p align="center">OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DIRECTORY OF PERMANENT COMMITTEES</p>

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Class of 2007

RE John Adamson
6365 Old Orchard Cove
Memphis TN 38110
901/767-6408

TE Bill Meyer
134 Brassie Drive
Yorktown, VA 2369
757/890-0597

RE Allen Roes
14907 Stonegreen Ln.
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704/948-9508

Class of 2006

TE Bill Hyer
3120 Highway 81 North
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864/226-2979

RE Ken Roberts
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RE Ed Wedin
5643 Grape St.
Houston, TX 77096
713/776-2449

Class of 2005

TE Jerry Brundle
100 Engelwood Dr., Ste. A
Orion, MI 48359-2411
248/340-1900

TE Willard Davis
1760 Monrovia
Palm Bay, FL 32907
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TE Bill Flannagan
101 E. Third Ave.
Rome, GA 30161
706/291-6033

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN

TE Ron DiNunzio
200 Mount Fair
Brooksville, FL 34601
352/796-4969

STATED CLERK

TE Michael Glodo
29140 Buckingham, Ste. #5
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100 Azalea Way
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903/935-7101

IMMED. PAST CHMN.

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Christian Education & Publications
263 S. McLean
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TE Ed Randal, Chmn.
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COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

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PART V
ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS

2003 Annual Statistical Report – Presbytery of the Central South

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2003 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH

CENTRAL SOUTH	CHURCHES	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS		PER MEMBER		EPC		NON-EPC		TOTAL	
		BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTRY	GIVING	BENEVOLENCE	MISSIONS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE	ENDING
1	Albion Presbyterian, TN	27516	71168	2581	70891	544	748	2450	1800	73749	76533	24732	
2	Christ EPC, TX	285572	1903123	42794	10590990	0	7832	39149	203620	194417	1084791	26427	
3	Christ Presbyterian, MO	38040	70905	23416	102854	0	0	80	0	94321	102934	28211	
4	Cornerstone Presbyterian, TX	86553	404731	13520	542361	2128	2926	42178	10000	840251	599593	21211	
5	Covenant Presbyterian, MS	5217	97266	0	74464	672	924	1295	6475	97256	83830	18643	
6	CrossPointe Community, TX	53999	286286	7841	265814	1710	2260	0	0	304137	269764	85352	
7	EPC of Marshall, TX	66268	253190	5032	193906	2897	4008	34011	8512	260212	243034	83466	
8	Faith Presbyterian, LA	118805	300416	0	220155	1720	2265	1322	38385	300416	263947	156274	
9	First EPC, IL	168968	341880	11659	363095	3906	4774	2000	17108	353639	390943	131664	
10	First Presbyterian, LA	17064	78854	3693	61643	945	1428	945	5017	82517	69978	28603	
11	First Presbyterian, Meridian MS	703304	589534	0	764082	6304	8668	10198	NA	565534	708202	494576	
12	First Presbyterian, TX	22867	28796	7465	33233	0	638	15	0	36261	33886	26242	
13	First Presbyterian, West Pl. MS	223188	325047	18466	457137	1800	2263	5401	8325	343513	468626	97075	
14	Golden Rule, TX	28377	68710	10366	58722	0	616	4600	9202	71106	73140	26343	
15	Grace Covenant, LA (dismissed)					0	0	0	0				
16	Grace Presbyterian, LA	41764	288423	40280	319030	0	0	1400	14110	329702	334540	3626	
17	Grace Presbyterian, AL	55072	238787	23946	296145	1168	1606	605	1641	267733	303165	14540	
18	Hope Church, TX	58221	297167	5000	245607	1050	2398	17709	0	302167	270764	88624	
19	Hope Church, TN	795483	10191957	8056	8945600	65325	76390	83850	240310	10160013	9413475	151021	
20	Iglesia Hispana Cristo el Rey, MS	7199	19717	0	15971	600	959	2400	0	19717	19930	6886	
21	Lakeside Presbyterian, MS	1051389	1145515	38301	688779	12360	12320	50200	76656	1182816	819515	141980	
22	Louisville Presbyterian, MS	48904	53099	937	64300	928	726	2160	1200	54036	68914	30206	
23	New Covenant, MS	138924	496868	1197	82548	760	1056	380	7919	487865	92594	535245	
24	Second Presbyterian, TN	NA	10151325	153734	8635917	53325	79002	137774	3182116	11688459	12308136		
25	St. Patrick Presbyterian, TN	110607	428093	53295	487702	1600	4094	0	13100	482368	506696	86359	
26	Sylvania Presbyterian, AR	128826	58221	14471	102915	1168	1606	1000	0	193092	106689	212228	
27	The City of Redge, TX	288281	664000	0	634000	400	1632	1500	10000	664000	847532	24749	
28	Tunica Presbyterian, MS	37312	188851	3098	136023	1884	2728	7700	34155	192029	182590	46751	
29	Westminster Presbyterian, MS	803866	438538	10365	476352	3936	5610	37000	36200	448904	561038	69672	
	TOTAL		29421757	2131413	35113607	167030	231677	487322	3928853	31553169	38926588		

2003 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of the East

[illegible]

*Report not submitted (numbers estimated)

2003 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST

EAST		RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS		PER MEMBER		EPC		NON-EPC		TOTAL		TOTAL		ENDING	
CHURCHES		BEGINNING	OTHER	LOCAL	PRESBYTERY	GIVING	BENEVOLENCE	MISSIONS	DISBURSEMENTS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	TOTAL	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	TOTAL	BALANCE	BALANCE
		OFFERINGS	INCOME	CAUSES													
1	1 Ashland EPC, NJ	36539	25814	18206		0	0	2850		13410	277120			289888		24051	
2	2 Christ Community, NJ						1100	0									
3	3 Christ the King, MA						748	500									
4	4 Circleville Presbyterian, NY					2200		0									
5	5 Dundalk Presbyterian, MD	185010	251339	11358		2230	5000	9794	39111	262697					310006	138901	
6	6 Faith Presbyterian, VA	255290	711041	83787		1500	7700	37000	40631	794828					734525	315593	
7	7 Fourth Presbyterian, MD	2917146	4193229	428155		7000	25000	54079	710491	4621384					4205588	3332941	
8	8 Goodwill Presbyterian, NY	15692	739005	1600		1025	5500	6000	29243	740595					724794	37493	
9	9 New Covenant, PA	36439	269050	45590		1300	2340	6405	8900	315640					295301	53777	
10	10 New Hope, PA	63861	83147	324940		1000	950	580	3645	408067					340000	137688	
11	11 North Park EPC, PA	846862	2328340	37474		2415	10526	12960	139128	2506814					3188649	228727	
12	12 Princeton EPC, NY	36200	36828	20378		0	4197	6631	42811	403307					412268	29249	
13	13 Reson Presbyterian, VA	160737	261452	23179		500	2200	934	38782	284631					277541	167827	
TOTAL		9678535	995568	9450852	16970	67601	138533	1074042	10675103						10783450		

2003 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of Florida

Church	2002 Members	2003 Gains				2003 Losses				2003 Sun. School	2002 Sun. School	2002 Bap. Baptists	2003 Bap. Baptists
		Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Reaffi- cation	Resign- ation	Trans- fer Loss	Death	Other Loss				
1 Cypress Pointe E.P.C., Oviedo, FL	92	13	0	6	22	1	2	3	31	11	36	0	11
2 EPC of Plant City, Plant City, FL	373	356	0	0	5	17	6	3	0	0	300	164	3
3 Faith EPC, Brooksville, FL	335	349	1	1	7	7	2	2	0	0	300	160	4
4 First Presbyterian Church of Homestead, Homestead, FL	76	88	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	60	37	1
5 Glendale Presbyterian Church, DeFuniak Springs, FL	67	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	91	0
6 New Covenant EPC, Panama Beach, FL	755	570	1	6	3	27	0	5	0	0	400	380	151
7 Trinity EPC, Ft. Pierce, FL	69	89	0	0	0	1	71	0	0	0	60	26	7
8 University Church of the Lakes, Lutz, FL	80	83	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	16	65	54	12
TOTALS	1,333	1,655	15	9	21	74	81	15	34	33	1,497	899	31
Churches of Record 12/31/03	8												49
(2002 Totals reflect corrections received)													
Numbers in italics were not reported (not an estimate)													

*Report not submitted (numbers estimated)

2003 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA

MID-AMERICA		RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS		PER MEMBER		NON-EPC		TOTAL		ENDING	
CHURCHES		BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	GIVING	RE-NEOVLANCE	MISSIONS	DISBURSEMENTS	TOTAL	TOTAL	BALANCE
1	Baldwin Community, IL	7693	14759	319	11044	50	50	0	0	15078	11144	11144	11628
2	Central Presbyterian, MO	2012738	4165027	3911	6340723	14877	39606	16754	0	4189038	611380	611380	70316
3	Covenant Chapel, KS	466435	1199490	1414	940766	2907	7106	4800	82570	1200912	1091149	1091149	940198
4	Emmanuel Presbyterian, MO	98425	145313	50073	219425	167	1342	0	6500	195366	227434	227434	96377
5	Grace EPC, KS	222741	929249	1397	806474	3609	8622	100	98331	930036	919336	919336	234041
6	Greentree at Webster, MO	0	223882	385	170607	NA	0	0	NA	224267	179867	179867	45300
7	Greentree Community, MO	343851	1502869	12043	1364268	NA	7320	10000	NA	1515012	1381588	1381588	472725
8	Highview EPC, WI	29311	210726	390	168918	954	2332	3840	10932	211116	188976	188976	53451
9	Hope EPC, IL	13961	342189	11751	313787	1548	2661	0	18237	353940	330233	330233	31668
10	Immanuel Presbyterian, IL	0	404443	0	0	NA	6390	9076	0	NA	40443	40443	0
11	Lakeland Community, MO	0	0	0	0	NA	1217	0	0	NA	0	0	0
12	Sutter Presbyterian, MO	0	0	0	0	NA	2794	1000	0	NA	0	0	0
13	The Crossing, MO	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0
14	Trinity Fellowship, IL	0	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0	NA	0	0	0
TOTAL		9138066	81673	10045772	24112	79630	45570	196570	3219228	10371467	10371467	10371467	10371467

2003 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

Church	2002 Members	2003 Members	2003 Gains			2003 Losses					2003 Sun.			2002 Sun.			2002 Bas.			Adult Baptisms
			Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Profession	Transfer Resigned	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive	Other	2002 Worship	2003 Worship	2003 School	2002 Worship	2003 School	2002 Worship	2003 Bas.			
1 Abundant Life Church, Chesapeake, VA	117	72	0	2	0	0	0	3	6	44	100	75	58	0	0	0	0	2		
2 Anglican EPC, Chesapeake, VA*	42	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	15	0	0	0	0	0	0		
3 Catholic EPC, Stanley, NC**	157	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	36	0	30	0	0	43	0	0		
4 Christ Church EPC, Anderson, SC	90	51	0	2	7	13	0	1	2	13	195	225	89	100	27	38	11	2		
5 Christ Fellowship, Southern Pines, NC	59	73	4	6	1	4	0	3	2	11	23	128	85	36	49	0	0	0		
6 Cleveland Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA	41	52	3	0	0	9	0	1	0	0	52	80	33	38	0	0	0	7		
7 Clover EPC, Clover, SC	153	150	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	100	100	86	87	2	2	0	0		
8 EPC of Elkton, Elkton, VA	140	143	2	6	0	0	0	3	2	0	300	280	103	108	0	0	0	3		
9 Fellowship of Christ, Cary, NC	79	79	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90	69	47	0	0	0	0	0		
10 First EPC of Monroe, NC, Monroe, NC*	1,803	1,974	10	36	130	185	0	26	8	68	64	921	989	1,144	1,190	48	21	0		
11 Forest Hill Church, Charlotte, NC	72	63	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	67	20	42	17	13	1	0		
12 Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, Wilson, NC	209	240	0	4	20	10	0	0	0	0	371	380	395	400	0	10	7	0		
13 Hope Church EPC, Richmond, VA	1,469	1,442	13	3	18	118	5	19	7	157	0	1,390	1,300	1,105	653	63	19	7		
14 Kershawville Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA	326	398	10	6	0	53	0	0	1	15	0	502	540	234	218	0	14	14		
15 Lake Forest Community Church, Cornelius, NC	92	88	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	85	71	62	54	0	0	0	0		
16 Lebanon Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, VA	51	51	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	65	65	31	31	0	0	0	0		
17 LifeSong Christian Fellowship, Garner, NC	46	57	4	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	40	45	35	43	0	0	4	0		
18 Linwood Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, NC	1,194	1,125	6	3	31	24	7	19	8	57	49	735	737	425	425	1	0	8		
19 Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, NC	128	115	1	3	7	2	0	3	2	15	0	149	100	0	60	0	2	6		
20 New Covenant Church, Burgess, NC	166	158	0	3	4	0	0	6	1	4	146	136	102	82	25	22	0	0		
21 North Grove EPC, Wilmington, NC	79	82	2	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	54	58	53	25	11	15	4	0		
22 Northland Presbyterian Church, Hampton, VA	78	48	0	0	1	4	0	6	3	26	0	50	46	47	19	46	2	0		
23 Oak Grove Community Church, Galleries, SC	66	61	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	57	45	43	34	16	2	2		
24 Peace Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC	284	257	0	0	0	8	5	13	1	24	2	283	257	169	161	43	52	0		
25 Pelzer Presbyterian Church, Cross Lanes, WV	819	634	0	7	10	10	1	6	5	193	5	500	419	360	248	30	42	6		
26 Reynolds Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC	301	358	15	2	44	7	0	2	0	29	0	618	618	0	0	4	0	3		
27 River Oaks Community Church, Lewisville, NC	678	678	0	0	18	15	0	10	6	0	1	703	0	0	0	0	0	21		
28 Rivermont EPC, Lynchburg, VA**	276	268	2	0	15	4	0	0	3	26	0	225	221	82	85	10	10	0		
29 St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC	77	77	0	3	35	28	0	0	0	0	0	254	0	0	0	0	0	0		
30 The Church, Charlotte, NC**	374	397	0	8	24	1	0	4	0	6	0	227	250	235	250	0	0	6		
31 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Florence, SC	135	140	0	0	10	1	1	2	0	53	0	500	500	0	125	0	0	1		
32 Wakehouse 242, Charlotte, NC	461	481	13	5	7	3	0	0	7	1	0	303	285	146	123	14	19	6		
33 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bluefield, WV	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	20	20	0	0	0	0		
34 Woodside Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA																				
TOTALS	8,332	10,368	91	119	389	489	22	128	67	750	166	3,538	4,598	4,584	1,419	1,597	173	113		
Churches of Record 1231/103		34																		
		Numbers in italics were not reported and are estimates																		
		2002 Totals reflect corrections received																		

*Report not submitted (numbers estimated) **Received 2003

Numbers in italics were not reported and are estimates

(2002 Totals reflect corrections received)

2003 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

	MID-ATLANTIC	RECEIPTS			DISBURSEMENTS			PRESBYTERY	PER MEMBER GIVING	BENEVOLENCE	EPC	NON-EPC MISSIONS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
		BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES										
1	Abundant Life, VA	21752	137403	13466	174351			0	0	0	100	200	152869	174661	0
2	Bridgeway EPC, VA	339641	50413	23009	86092			0	0	0	1705	0	113423	92196	360888
3	Catawba EPC, NC	285166	443408	53370	501724			4000	4000	6050	6050	4114	173949	543828	238116
4	Christ Church EPC, SC	23874	146658	25291	125077			0	1980	6300	9808	9808	173949	142165	55658
5	Christ Fellowship, NC	51146	56581	10758	64837			1529	1298	310	5200	67259	73174	42421	
6	Cleveland Presbyterian, VA	5229	27203	0	29390			0	0	0	NA	27203	29390	362	
7	Clover EPC, SC	7759	195906	1806	171851			4000	4000	2300	11652	197712	193803	11688	
8	EPC, Elkton, VA	46364	528448	61828	478399			2048	3080	3850	80756	586276	568034	66586	
9	Fellowship of Christ, NC	194627	7431979	81974	6361928			34000	39000	34705	921915	7515853	7305048	317602	
10	First EPC Monroe, NC	24267	72451	1125	71562			585	1000	1050	1350	75576	75487	22357	
11	Forest Hills Presbyterian, NC	43155	669241	34722	583717			4000	4000	6000	62050	703953	659767	88381	
12	Hoga Church, VA	335008	2625461	9977	2234277			22401	19500	13706	294889	2635438	2584783	365981	
13	Kempville Presbyterian, VA	177395	762312	49417	721743			6520	7172	6300	54338	831729	798073	213011	
14	Lake Forest, NC	47715	132684	3964	112286			2000	2000	2174	14515	138628	132955	51388	
15	Lebanon Presbyterian, VA	0	67803	0	63985			738	1056	1643	330	67503	67722	262	
16	Lifelong Chr. Fellowship, NC	412568	1643515	95788	1429634			24000	27533	22071	244622	1739303	1745060	406802	
17	Linwood Presbyterian, NC	140518	158229	19658	253787			2706	2816	1983	10290	177926	271582	46652	
18	Myrtle Grove Presbyterian, NC	31631	325243	298	261203			4030	50	5232	30847	325531	301332	55600	
19	North Grove EPC, NC	101472	124338	4489	89405			2873	1738	2794	0	127925	160256	61833	
20	Northampton Presbyterian, VA	179944	141039	4042	165840			1500	1716	2425	3290	140081	175231	149794	
21	Overbrook Community, SC	114973	59828	7500	153163			5903	0	1200	0	107125	160256	61833	
22	Pearce Presbyterian, NC	9033	744308	507	519607			6200	6255	4831	207757	744813	744956	8886	
23	Pineau Presbyterian, WV	262157	103537	554288	1405296			14325	17134	4224	182391	1584825	1628370	220611	
24	Reynolds Presbyterian, NC	128600	1020766	11695	745119			6500	6500	6000	58872	1032361	822791	336170	
25	River Oaks, NC	0	1279389	0	1922590			0	0	0	NA	183639	1922590	844222	
26	Rivermont EPC, VA	504866	647842	0	415564			6322	6072	6302	67839	647842	67839	534869	
27	St. Giles, NC	48980	304529	47273	335237			634	0	7871	351802	343742	57040		
28	Threshold, NC	1162625	1117033	0	669409			19000	6294	66582	140046	1117033	1103331	1170337	
29	Trinity Presbyterian, SC	448011	599527	21831	954113			2980	0	3250	6175	591358	865618	72851	
30	Warehouse 242, NC	140112	895478	116276	747035			5200	10142	38215	62155	821754	862757	199173	
31	Westminster Presbyterian, WV	23642	31356	0	30312			1000	1000	106	0	31356	32499	22600	
32	Woodside Presbyterian, VA														
	TOTAL	23446381	126282	22079794	182884	177550	256088	2671847	24704563	25325254					

2003 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of the Midwest

Church	2002 Members	2003 Members	2003 Gains					2003 Losses					2003 Sun.					2003 Sun.					2003 Sun.					Totals						
			Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transf. Gain	Realit Infant	Restored	Transf. Loss	Death	Resign.	Other Loss	2002 Worship	2003 Worship	2002 School	2003 School	2002 Bap.	2003 Bap.	2002 Bap.	2003 Bap.	2002 Bap.	2003 Bap.	2002 Bap.	2003 Bap.											
1 Calvary Presbyterian Church, Flint, MI	606	575	6	10	4	9	2	0	6	55	6	376	375	124	126	158	153	9	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
2 Community EPC, Okemos, MI	98	93	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	140	68	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
3 Cornerstone EPC, Brighton, MI	1,713	1,632	0	89	43	0	0	0	0	2	0	1,722	1,760	939	863	0	0	0	24	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4 Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI	104	104	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	210	160	105	82	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5 Evangelical Community Church, Cincinnati, OH	246	225	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	9	18	222	212	137	98	105	75	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6 Faith EPC, Clinton, MI	249	220	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	4	0	28	304	284	199	185	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7 Faith EPC, Richmond, OH	115	92	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	123	100	100	71	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8 Faith Fellowship, Johnstown, OH	72	64	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	85	87	72	77	84	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9 Fellowship EPC, South Lyon, MI	235	241	0	15	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	259	260	153	137	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10 First Presbyterian Church, Farmington Hills, MI	811	833	0	5	4	48	1	11	9	0	0	0	0	40	0	30	0	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11 First Presbyterian Church, Farmington Hills, MI	335	416	15	57	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	520	220	234	74	82	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12 Gateway EPC, Findlay, OH	209	194	0	12	15	10	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	425	425	210	262	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13 Grace Chapel, Farmington Hills, MI	38	41	0	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	223	188	96	91	93	113	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
14 Grace Community Church of Okemos, Okemos, MI	520	498	1	9	19	29	0	7	2	69	2	676	711	744	598	230	241	11	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15 Knox Presbyterian Church, Ann Arbor, MI	469	427	0	0	4	3	0	0	45	0	0	329	345	255	269	6	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
16 Knox Presbyterian Church, Harrison Township, MI	69	70	0	0	2	2	0	73	1	2	0	80	74	39	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17 Lake City EPC, Lake City, MI	83	86	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	45	86	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
18 Military Avenue EPC, Detroit, MI	223	413	9	59	4	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	709	791	235	375	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19 Mt. Pleasant Community Church, Mt. Pleasant, MI	63	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	65	0	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
20 New Hope Community Church, Michigan, MI	54	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	11	102	60	22	13	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
21 New Hope Church, Adams Hills, MI	62	79	0	2	5	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	4	100	127	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
22 North Oaks Community Church, Jackson, MI	141	100	0	9	0	0	0	2	5	4	0	0	4	43	0	125	108	45	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
23 Oakdale Avenue EPC, Pontiac, MI	92	80	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	4	0	0	0	0	75	64	18	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
24 Peace Presbyterian Church, Flint, MI	338	121	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	98	91	50	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
25 St. Andrew EPC, Auburn, IN	69	74	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	63	51	45	8	11	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
26 St. Andrew's Church, Perryburg, OH	408	428	0	5	2	17	0	2	4	3	0	0	0	420	373	168	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
27 The Church of Christ, Youngstown, OH	122	131	0	2	0	14	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	20	25	92	104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
28 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Columbus City, IN	631	631	0	4	12	20	3	3	6	31	40	650	650	265	252	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
29 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Plymouth, MI	4,147	4,225	0	53	62	120	3	39	29	12	60	2,988	3,033	2,354	2,102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30 Ward Presbyterian Church, Northville, MI																																		
TOTALS	12,215	12,442	46	393	205	314	24	155	134	580	205	11,345	11,372	6,753	6,441	762	807	228	147															
Churches of Record 12/31/03	30																																	

(2002 Totals tilted corrections received)

*Report not submitted (numbers estimated) **Received 2003

2003 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST

MIDWEST	CHURCHES	BEGINNING		RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS		PER MEMBER		EPC		NON-EPC		TOTAL		ENDING	
		BALANCE	OFFERINGS	INCOME	OTHER	LOCAL	CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	GIVING	BENEVOLENCE	MISSIONS	DISBURSEMENTS	DISBURSEMENTS	TOTAL	TOTAL	BALANCE	BALANCE
1	Calvary Presbyterian, MI	142916	709631	34254	67370	13112	10800	9703	737885	709319	174482						
2	Community EPC, MI	84914	216758	371	144696	1059	2403	37866	217135	10326							
3	Cornerstone Presbyterian, MI	1575403	5048831	6578	4420556	14394	34584	110398	389191	5053509	334123	1317689					
4	Covenant Presbyterian	61877	272103	59749	274462	1192	2288	200	30316	337852	358458	35071					
5	Evangelical Community, OH	87357	771989	10352	342538	2442	5456	0	146541	782921	148947	54831					
6	Faith EPC, MI	108000	712245	2820	683711	2164	5477	10502	68230	714865	763394	54471					
7	Faith EPC, OH	24739	134823	7259	146870	0	1797	3264	5730	142062	157691	9160					
8	Faith Fellowship, OH	26226	103222	8444	69465	709	1894	691	10320	110466	82769	53923					
9	Fellowship EPC, MI	245261	448775	12639	376771	2503	5500	33979	47487	459414	467137	237538					
10	First EPC, BC MI	0	41628	11050	21131	0	0	0	500	52678	21631	31047					
11	First Presbyterian, MI	194224	1037650	15688	13834	227699	1193030	13834	227699	1193030	1288083	89171					
12	Gateway EPC, OH	232328	740797	0	380956	3300	7370	8000	33596	740797	433222	532803					
13	Grace Chapel, MI	153257	739104	71345	674852	1870	4400	20326	56661	610449	758309	205397					
14	Grace Community, MI	19416	50625	340	89534	0	768	2500	600	90365	92602	17579					
15	Knox Presbyterian, AA MI	1016211	1654386	8764	443522	5152	11596	3600	159537	1631550	1623317	1258044					
16	Knox Presbyterian, MI	460754	1892000	0	728600	18415	10316	30023	246100	1952000	2028856	427898					
17	Lake City EPC, MI	32389	108601	0	68414	0	1666	3553	30007	109681	121380	20670					
18	Military Avenue EPC, MI	55199	28200	154100	153970	1400	1830	800	5900	182300	163800	73690					
19	Mt. Pleasant Community, MI	32592	1063485	773	2349883	2450	5200	0	30760	1064258	2382353	1287843					
20	New Heart, MI	13005	71387	13500	80319	300	638	0	84867	81257	16615						
21	New Hope Church, MI	13921	133537	4000	121525	532	969	0	127537	123035	28433						
22	North Oaks Community, MI	35573	248905	322	199732	600	1364	2500	12600	249127	214036	6504					
23	Oakland Avenue EPC, MI	57569	193620	0	177889	0	0	1000	24375	193620	203263	48126					
24	Peace Presbyterian, MI	195554	102454	105299	216701	400	400	1954	6110	207710	225565	176899					
25	St. Andrew EPC, IN	41489	231204	322	175702	1359	3036	9200	24755	231526	214052	64693					
26	Stonebridge Church, OH	118300	156863	348	162863	680	1518	16300	18600	197231	199781	17280					
27	Tabor EPC, OH	154163	757663	0	760692	3385	8778	12992	0	757663	765946	125900					
28	Trinity Presbyterian, IN	47855	226594	20250	243559	1202	2664	1400	15509	246834	264424	30285					
29	Trinity Presbyterian, MI	1070949	1879427	15887	1922066	6133	13616	47557	254345	1893294	2319307	856306					
30	Ward Presbyterian, MI	311705	7001052	812738	6995777	21188	76337	145104	756327	7683790	7977344	3009151					
TOTAL		25867809	1517026	27268775	98354	238735	495876	2978271	28504836	31080013							

2003 Annual Statistical Report -- Presbytery of the Southeast

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2003 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTHEAST

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2003 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery St. Andrews

Church	2003 Gains				2003 Losses				2003 Bap										
	2002 Members	2003 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer Gain	Reaffic- nation	Resired	Transf- Loss	Death	Inactive	Other Loss	2002 Sun School	2003 Sun School	2002 Bap Fused Roll	2003 Bap Fused Roll	2002 Bap Fused Roll	2003 Bap Fused Roll	Adult Baptism	
1 Belgrano Church*	45	45		0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	50	40	7				4	0
2 City Church	54	57										20	20	15					
3 Iglesia "Dios es mi Refugio"	17	17										25	25	0					
4 Iglesia Trinidad (Entre Rios)*	9	9										150	150	0				0	
5 La Misión*	200	200										15	15	45					
6 Misión Beleda (La Plata)*	4	4										35	35	0					
7 Misión Concepción del Uruguay (Entre Rios)*	35	35										225	245	200	193			0	
8 Olivos Church	209	225		0	10	0	13	5	0	2	10	0	50	50				42	2
9 Quilmes Church*	40	40										25	25						1
10 San Antonio de Padua Church*	15	15										252	195	58	75			2	2
11 Temperley Church	188	190		1	3	0	6	0	1	0	7	0	40	40					
12 Undurran Mission Church (Entre Rios)*	41	41																	
TOTALS	857	878	1	13	0	19	5	1	16	17	5	937	890	316	275	0	42	8	3
Churches of Record 123103	12																		
(2002 Totals reflect corrections received)																			
(Numbers in italics were not reported and are estimates)																			

*Report not submitted (numbers estimated)

2003 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERY (ARGENTINA)

ST ANDREWS, ARGENTINA		RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS		PER MEMBER		NON-EPC		TOTAL		TOTAL		ENDING	
CHURCHES		BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	MISSIONS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE	TOTAL	TOTAL	BALANCE
1	Belgrano Church	23127	24200	28269	61018	0	0	0	0	52469	61018	19578			
2	City Church														
3	Iglesia "Dios es mi Refugio"														
4	Iglesia Trinidad														
5	La Mision de la I.E.P.						200	0							
6	Mision Betesda - La Plata														
7	Mision Concepcion del Uruguay														
8	Olivos Church														
9	Quilmes Church														
10	San Antonio de Padua Church														
11	Temperley Church	2578	66178	24418	80313	1361	0	0	9880	90596	91554	1620			
12	Urdinarrain Mission Church														
TOTAL			90718	52687	141331	1361	200	0	9880	143065	159572				

2003 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

WEST	CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS TITHES & OFFERINGS	DISBURSEMENTS OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-ETC MISSIONS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
1	Anadita Community, CO	27843	90683	0	90183	334	215	688	1651	90583	90583	25340
2	Bear Creek, CO	75622	859429	15420	623526	5189	5189	2800	127202	874849	733225	164745
3	Canyon Creek Community, AZ	17587	255982	4809	286134	0	0	0	NA	284791	284791	(6756)
4	Celebration Community, CO	50794	222995	60658	256193	0	0	0	35000	233853	291193	49454
5	Cherry Creek Presbyterian, CO	1755793	2857177	243612	2460916	11700	21000	37400	408870	3100790	2569886	1896966
6	Cherry Hills Community, CO	12160747	8978953	3313636	18648566	30000	45000	7000	1661800	12221189	12482366	11970550
7	Christ Covenant Church, KS	25779	130069	500	131767	1200	1680	1000	9250	130669	140817	15531
8	Christ Fellowship, CO	61335	105820	46240	150080	0	0	0	6525	132060	156805	56790
9	Christ's Family Presbyterian, AZ						0	0	0			
10	Clayton Community, CA	91156	920001	45438	751745	0	0	0	80000	854308	811745	144890
11	Clear View Community, CO (disseminated)						0	0	0			
12	Comerstone Community, CO	0	92451	0	108446	0	0	0	55831	92451	164277	(71829)
13	Covenant Community, CO	51858	126231	548	103597	825	1030	0	10575	128779	115527	65111
14	Covenant Presbyterian, CA	111217					0	420	0			
15	Covenant Presby. Chapels, CO	(21771)	223723	0	207693	0	0	0	6500	223723	214190	(12241)
16	Faith Evangelical, CO	48108	752973	691	565683	0	4500	8640	171616	753664	770438	31333
17	Faith EPC, CA (disseminated)						0	150	0			
18	Faith Presbyterian, CO	88784	1033506	303711	1183053	4651	7235	5792	170847	1337217	1371378	54633
19	First EPC, WA	319300	1280442	497784	1630940	0	10080	6750	125511	1718226	173201	324323
20	Grace Community, AZ	32308	301233	2513	295335	0	1947	9866	0	303746	306340	29706
21	Grace Presbyterian, WA	29703	529300	0	43280	0	0	3253	9753	32000	96296	28707
22	GracePoint, CO	93464	355412	43343	352243	1265	1386	6140	80687	380755	441700	50519
23	Greenwood Community, CO	636564	2258141	38088	2666721	10272	17592	4030	118765	2286209	2817380	116827
24	Hightline Community, CO	243815	326024	6174	339659	0	0	1000	24807	332188	365437	210576
25	Ken Caryl Community, CO						0	0	0			
26	Lookout Mountain Community, CO	1397956	3007929	896177	387136	7550	11286	0	408272	3704105	4097194	1004862
27	Morningside Presbyterian, AZ	12553	147259	0	122191	1200	860	600	27000	147259	151851	7861
28	New Community Christian, CO						0	6500	0			
29	Northwest EPC, WA	57045	134903	10228	125959	2000	1180	3100	22850	145131	155109	47067
30	Pinkney Presbyterian, CA	707546	1628247	25110	937991	10720	10316	19200	138217	1651357	1174446	1241457
31	San Ramon Presbyterian, CA						8988	20500	0			
32	Sanger Community Church, CA						0	0	0			
33	Santa Maria Community, CA						2184	6567	0			
34	Thiel EPC, CA						0	0	0			
35	Valley Community, CA	57073	82591	10315	75720	1500	1562	2138	5400	32906	86320	63659
	TOTAL		26127675	5385175	27771264	88386	152681	153914	3665940	31433150	31988975	

2003 Annual Statistical Report - Summary

	Churched Record	Churches/ 12/31/02	2002 Members	2003 Members	Youth Profession	Able to Profess	Transfer Gains	Re- instat.	Transf. Loss	Death	Inactives	Other Uses	2002 Working	2003 Worship	2003 Schol.	2004 Schol.	2002-03 Net-Add'l	2003-04 Net-Add'l	Bapt.	Adm't.
1 Central South	26	11,798	12,161	129	96	355	651	94	146	75	381	44	10,336	10,337	6,580	6,610	1,064	1,049	270	72
2 East	10	13	5,101	5,252	40	62	89	88	45	41	52	44	3,940	4,097	2,465	2,410	128	235	69	25
3 Florida	8	6	1,833	1,555	15	6	21	74	2	31	15	34	1,650	1,647	269	601	33	75	35	49
4 Mid-America	13	14	3,704	3,977	82	36	158	759	46	23	127	140	4,949	4,830	1,961	2,272	112	94	95	23
5 Mid-America	32	34	9,332	10,328	91	119	389	658	22	128	97	730	9,535	10,135	4,955	4,594	-419	1,597	173	113
6 Midwest	29	38	12,215	12,442	46	303	253	314	24	153	134	359	11,455	11,372	5,153	5,441	762	807	226	147
7 Southeast	18	17	6,740	6,543	74	73	62	158	24	139	42	114	5,715	4,947	5,126	2,869	2,059	2,132	146	43
8 St Andrews	11	12	857	818	1	13	6	19	3	16	17	5	897	890	318	275	0	42	8	3
9 West	34	32	12,447	12,217	91	200	155	613	92	259	63	459	13,000	12,727	5,970	5,975	55	54	272	145
TOTALS	184	188	64,025	65,453	569	1,191	1,458	2,483	222	916	477	2,495	62,006	61,732	34,853	31,536	5,663	6,066	1,294	620

2003 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - SUMMARY BY PRESBYTERY

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