
MINUTES

of the

26th General Assembly

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*“But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.”*

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

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 26th General Assembly committees are included at the end of the Journal section.

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

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

DIRECTORY: The members of the permanent committees of the Assembly are listed in this section. 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.

NEWS RELEASE

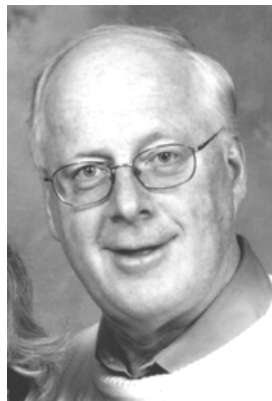
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

26th General Assembly

Dr. Paul Heidebrecht elected Moderator

Having been elected as the first-ever Moderator-elect last year, Dr. Heidebrecht was elected Moderator of the 26th General Assembly. He has served as a ruling elder at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Warrenville, Illinois since its beginning in 1989. From 1991-2002, he served as Immanuel's administrative director. He has also served four terms on the Assembly's Fraternal Relations Committee and on several committees of the Presbytery of Mid-America.

Dr. Heidebrecht currently serves as executive director of Christian Leaders for Africa, established in 2002 to promote theological education in Africa and develop support for Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology in Nairobi, Kenya.



Paul Heidebrecht

A native of Winnipeg, Canada, Dr. Heidebrecht earned his B.A. at the University of Winnipeg. He completed an M.A. in Christian Education at Wheaton College in 1973 and a Ph.D. in History of Education at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. For 18 years he served as editor and vice-president of program development for Christian Service Brigade in Wheaton, Illinois. He is the author of *Fathering a Son* (Moody Press, 1979) and *God's Man in the Marketplace* (InterVarsity Press, 1991).

Dr. Heidebrecht's wife, Priscilla, teaches English as a Second Language to immigrants and refugees through World Relief. She is also involved in the ministry of spiritual direction. The Heidebrechts have three grown children - Kecia, Caleb (married to Elisabeth), and Andrew - and three grandchildren. They reside in West Chicago, Illinois.

NEWS RELEASE

Evangelical Presbyterian Church

26th General Assembly

Moderator-Elect Nominee

Rev. Bill Vogler



Bill Vogler

Reverend Bill Vogler, pastor of Grace EPC in Lawrence, Kansas, was elected as Moderator-elect.

A 1974 graduate of the University of South Florida, Rev. Vogler earned his B.S. in economics. He went on to earn his M.S. in economics at Florida State University in 1976. God led him into the ministry after which he earned his Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1986.

Ordained by the Presbytery of the West in 1986, Rev. Vogler served as Associate Pastor (1986-89) at Bear Creek EPC in Lakewood, Colorado, followed by a call to pastor Grace

EPC in Lawrence where he has ministered from 1989 to the present. He has been active on the Presbytery Ministerial Committee, serving both as member and chairman. On the General Assembly level, Rev. Vogler has chaired various standing committees, the Assembly Nominating Committee and the College Ministries Committees.

Rev. Vogler and his wife of 32 years, Karen, are the parents of three – Joshua (Nicole), Sarah (Damon) and Grace. Joshua and Nicole are expecting the Voglers' first grandchild in August.

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	Dr. Orin Littlejohn	Central South	Virginia Beach, VA
25 th 2005	Rev. William Meyer	Mid-Atlantic	Golden, CO
26 th 2006	Dr. Paul Heidebrecht	Mid-America	Rome, GA

MODERATOR-ELECT

26 th 2006	Rev. Bill Vogler	Mid-America	Rome, GA
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STATED CLERKS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Years	Name	Presbytery of Origin
1981-2000	Dr. L. Edward Davis, Stated Clerk Emeritus	Midwest
2001-2006	Reverend Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk	Florida
2006-	Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, Stated Clerk	West

TRUSTEES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr. Paul Heidebrecht, **Moderator**
435 Kammes Court
West Chicago, IL 60185
630-562-1640

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

Rev. Bill Meyer, **Chairman**
2020 Shangrila
Clearwater, FL 33763
757-329-6882

Elder Orin Littlejohn, **Immediate Past Chairman**
100 Azalea Way
Marshall, TX 75672
903-935-7101

Rev. Bill Vogler, **Moderator-elect**
Grace EPC
3312 Calvin Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049
785-843-2005

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, **Stated Clerk**
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567
Livonia, MI 48152
734-742-2020

Class of 2009

Rev. Tom Ryan
Covenant Chapel
13300 Kenneth Road
Leawood, KS 66209
913-663-3095

Elder Hadley De Puy
10750 Wynkoop Dr.
Great Falls, VA 22066
703-759-4656

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

Class of 2008

Elder Cecil Matthews
4677 Springmeadow Lane
Castle Rock, CO 80109
720-629-5950

Rev. Jerry Brundle
Faith EPC
375 E. 2nd Street, #200
Rochester, MI 48307
248-340-1900

Elder Alan Smith
5408 Galley Court
Fairfax, VA 22032
703-352-8990

Class of 2007

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

Rev. Doug Graham
Knox Presbyterian Church
25700 Crocker Blvd.
Harrison Township MI
48045-3446
586-469-8500

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

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MINUTES
of the
26th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES - THURSDAY MORNING

First Session
Thursday, June 22, 2006

26-1 MORNING WORSHIP

Worship began at 8:30 A.M. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Rome, Georgia. Mr. Don Keiser, Local Arrangements Staff Coordinator, brought greetings and made opening announcements. Rev. Mike Glodo. Stated Clerk opened the service with a call to worship and prayer of invocation, then led the congregation in the Apostles Creed. The congregation was led in the singing of *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*. The host pastor, Dr. William Flannagan, preached from Luke 4:14-22 on the theme *Encouragement for a Troubled World*. Following the singing of *O God Our Help in Ages Past*, the service was closed with prayer and benediction by Dr. Flannagan.

Order of Worship

Organ Prelude	Mrs. Donna Hester
Greetings, Local Arrangements & Announcements	Mr. Don Keiser
Call to Worship	
Assembly Invocation	
The Apostle's Creed	
Hymn #151	"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"
Scripture Lesson	Luke 4:14-22
Sermon	"Encouragement for a Troubled World"
	Dr. William Flannagan, Pastor
	First Presbyterian Church of Rome
Hymn #686	"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"
Closing Prayer	
Organ Postlude	

26-2 CONVENING OF THE 26th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 26th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was called to order at 9:35 A.M. by Rev. Bill Meyer, 25th General Assembly Moderator. Rev. Meyer 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.

The Moderator also offered prayer for specific needs shared by Assembly Commissioners and guests.

ON MOTION Rev. Bob Garment and Rev. Howard Shockley were elected to serve as Recording Clerks for the 26th General Assembly.

Stated Clerk Mike Glodo requested volunteers to be readers of the daily minutes as provided for in *Rules for Assembly* 8-12. (*Cf. 26- for election of readers.*)

ON MOTION the docket as a whole was adopted, with the proviso that daily dockets will be prepared for Thursday and Friday with further details and any changes.

26-3 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, Aat least five Ministers and five Ruling Elders representing at least three Presbyteries*). The roll of the Assembly follows:

Presbytery of the Central South

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Daphne, AL	Christ Redeemer		Chris Curtis Carter Mills
Montgomery, AL	Grace at Bell Road	Ted Hailes William Oates	Kent Bull
Ward, AR	Sylvania Pres.		Tommy Jordan
Anna, IL	First EPC	Joe Meller Bill Miller Glenn Parker	Randy Carstens
Alexandria, LA	Grace		Bob Vincent, Sr.
Covington, LA	Faith	Henry Beck	Austin Olive
Houma, LA	First	Warren Berger Rives McCord	Robert Hamd
Brandon, MS	Lakeside	Richard Gell	Greg Anthony James Blaha
Columbus, MS	Covenant		Bob Wilbur
Laurel, MS	Westminster	Al Moore	Marty Fields
Meridian, MS	First		Rhett Payne, III
Natchez, MS	New Covenant		Dennis Flach
Tunica, MS	Tunica		Paul Husband
Atoka, TN	Atoka		Ken Van Kampen

Cordova, TN	Hope	Kirk Riggins	Shanon Eubank Eli Morris
Memphis, TN	Second	John Adamson Ted Galyon Hawley Ingram John Ivy Milton Knowlton Robert Liddon Robert Sayle	Sandy Willson Charles Colson Waring Porter Paul Swets
Nashville, TN	Hope Fellowship		Steve Burton
Elysian Fields, TX	Golden Rule		Gene Huntzinger
Houston, TX	Christ EPC	Reese Baker	John Crimmins
Houston, TX	City of Refuge		Rufus Smith
Katy, TX	Cornerstone EPC	Brien Williams	
Marshall, TX	EPC of Marshall	Orin Littlejohn Hillard Strong	Craig Vanbiber
San Antonio, TX	Hope EPC		Tom Masterson Darden Caylor
	Other ministers on the roll of presbytery		Michael Allday Bill Hampton Ron Pierce

Presbytery of the East

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Bethesda, MD	Fourth	Hadley DePuy	Ron Meyer Todd Smedley
Dundalk, MD	Dundalk		Darian Burns
Voorhees, NJ	Ashland	Frank Johnson Walt Stevenson	Jamie Cupschalk
Montgomery, NY	Goodwill	Joe Slesinski	Jordan Wong
Glen Rock, PA	Bethlehem Steltz	William Brooks Mirv Metzger	Dan Krodel
Wexford, PA	North Park		Robert Hopper Dave Chambers Bob Shull
Reston, VA	Reston EPC	James Ferguson	Tom Dages
Kingstowne, VA	Faith	Zelda Artz Alan Smith Steele Stewart, Jr. Charles Torpy	Neil Smith David Fischler Robert Barnett
Other ministers on the roll of presbytery			Richard Barany Pedro Govantes Tim MacGowan Nancy Stewart Louis Woods

Presbytery of Florida

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Brooksville	Faith EPC	Gwynn Blair Robert Lloyd Donald Nelson	Ron DiNunzio Dave Franklin
Ft. Pierce	Trinity	Connie Jennings	
Glendale		W.A. Ray	Keith Andrews
Homestead	First		William Stockton
Margate	New City		Paul Manuel
Plant City		Larry Doak Philip Engstrom Nathan Kilton Anne Litzenberger	Don Mason David Martin
Pompano Beach	New Covenant	Tom Dinan Synesio Lyra Jose Rojas	Jim Letizia Scott Lawry
Tallahassee	Hope		Bob Garment
Tampa	Church of the Lakes		Woodland Johnson
Other ministers of the roll of presbytery			Bruce Gimbel Bill Meyer Sam Rowen

Presbytery of Mid-America

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Anna, IL	First	Joe Meller Bill Miller Glenn Parker	Randy Carstens
Warrenville, IL	Immanuel	Paul Heidebrecht Maggie Noll Mark Noll Carolyn Nystrom Virginia Patterson Carol Plueddeman Alva Steffler	Mateen Elass
Dubuque, IA	Third Presbyterian	Edith Ege Wilma Sanders	
Lawrence, KS	Grace		Bill Vogler
Kirkwood, MO	Greentree	Earl Hopper	
St. Louis, MO	Central	Rex Dunlap Joe Gruneisen Dexter Kuhlman Dale Schaefer Joe Schluchter	Dan Doriani Brett Eubank Robbie Griggs Clay Smith
St. Louis, MO	Gateway to Grace		Brad Werner

Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Cary, NC	Fellowship of Christ	Bob Mathews Gary McGhee	David McLean
Charlotte, NC	St. Giles	John Brown Rister Jenkins	Steve Keller
Charlotte, NC	Threshold	Roby Wallin	
Clemmons, NC	River Forest	Frank Carter	David Beaty Dick Little
Huntersville, NC	Lake Forest	Allen Roes	Mike Moses
Plumtree, NC	Plumtree	Terry Edwards	
Southern Pines, NC	Christ Fellowship		Jim Thyne
Stanley, NC	Castanea		Jeff Morrison
Wilmington, NC	Myrtle Grove		Perry Mobley, Int. Peter Stam
Wilmington, NC	North Grove		Gary Westra
Winston-Salem, NC	Reynolda	Bob Roach Bill Simmons	Alan Wright Jim Glasgow
Anderson, SC	Christ Church	David Larson Steve Moss	Bill Hyer
Florence, SC	Trinity	Allen Guffey Kevin Smith	Bryan Slater
Gaffney, SC	Overbrook	David Rilling Mike Smith	Allen Dollar
Abingdon, VA	Cleveland EPC		Tom Musselman
Greenwood, VA	Lebanon	Tommy Musselman	Don Hardman
Hampton, VA	Northampton		Don Neighbours
Lynchburg, VA	Rivermont EPC		Ron Cox Chris Deneen
Richmond, VA	Hope Church	Brad Houff John Worden	Peter Howell
Virginia Beach, VA	Kempsville	Jerry Kidd	Nate Atwood Bruce Anderson Neil Ellison
Bluefield, WV	Westminster	John Griffin, Jr. Joe Hartzog Jim Thomason	Howard Finkel
Cross Lanes, WV	Perrow	Craig Lyle	Keith Cobb Jack Maxwell
Other ministers on the roll of presbytery			Don Fortson, III Brian Holt Bill Lindner, Jr. Adger McKay Knox Sherer Scott Waters

Presbytery of the Midwest

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Auburn, IN	St. Andrew EPC	Diane Manon John C. Manon	
Warsaw, IN	Warsaw EPC		Ron Horgan
Ann Arbor, MI	Knox	Roger Alford Bill Painter Rob Prater	Chuck Jacob Mike Frison
Brighton, MI	Cornerstone	Robert Avis Janet Juday Mark Walcott	Tim Brown
Clarkston, MI	North Oaks EPC		Steve Brown
Detroit, MI	Military Ave EPC		Randy Brown
Farmington Hills, MI	Grace Chapel	Malcolm Bain Bill Bumford	Doug Walker
Flint, MI	Peace		David Galbraith
Harrison Township, MI	Knox	Mark Brinker Donald Stickney	Doug Graham George Boomer
Lake City, MI	Lake City EPC	Dick Young	Don Van Dyke
Mt. Pleasant, MI	Mt. Pleasant		Scott McKee
Northville, MI	Ward	Ken Casey	Edward Davis Michael Gatliff Kurt Gebhard
Owosso, MI	Community EPC	Russ Wing	Don Galardi
Plymouth, MI	Trinity		William Moore
Pontiac, MI	Oakland Ave.		Wayne Uppendahl
Rochester, MI	Faith EPC	Tom Henson	Jerry Brundle
South Lyon, MI	Fellowship EPC	Jim Mindling	David Brown
Trenton, MI	First	Ron Lagerman Ray Sawmiller Nevin Webster	Ian Leslie
Cincinnati, OH	Evangelical Comm	Bob Cload Nancy Stauffer	Rich Lanning
Findlay, OH	Gateway Church		Ben Borsay Craig Cramer
Perrysburg, OH	Stonebridge		James Moehn
Youngstown, OH	Tabernacle	Rick Blair Dan Morgan Jim Rimmel	Rick Stauffer Gary Koerth

	Other ministers on the roll of presbytery	Thom Burbridge Jeffrey Chadwick Chris Gibson Michael Glodo Stephen Kelley Ed McCallum Tim Mindling Dan Rose Robert Stauffer
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Presbytery of the Southeast

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Acworth, GA	Lake Pointe	Lee Campbell	Richard Kidd
Rome, GA	First Presbyterian	John Graham Louise Hunt Bill Johns Ronald Kiefer Leonard Pilgrim Charlie Williams, Eddie Wilson	Bill Flannagan Scott Jackson Tommy Overton
Summerville, GA	Trion	William Barker Charles Frady	
Erlanger, KY	New Beginning		Steve Riser
Franklin, NC	Cornerstone	Max Riddle Norman Roberts Bruce Tanner	Ron Odum
Franklin, NC	Grace	Chad Boniface Richard Byland	Kenneth Jones
Highlands, NC	Community Bible	Brian McClellan James Neil	Steven Kerhoulas
Atoka, TN	Atoka	Tommy Rogers	Ken Van Kampen
Chattanooga, TN	Brainerd	Bill Johnson Charles Miller John Perry	Ronald Ragon Jonathan Schwartz
Hixson, TN	Valleybrook	Alan Herweyer Norman Lampe Dan McGrew	Edward Murrey
Knoxville, TN	Cedar Springs	Richard Bennett A.J. Garrett George Gorman Andy Holt Carroll Coakley Jerry Clothier Tom Reesor David Sincerbox	Jimmy Davis Robert Hodge Vern Holstad T.M. Moore Roy Zinn

Knoxville, TN	CrossWalk Comm.	Carolyn Carson Frank Clepper Jim Slyman Karen Walkup	Kirk Werner
Other ministers on the roll of presbytery			George Callahan Ron Crews Stephen Jones Bill Sharp Howard Shockley James Van Dyke Gordon Williams

Presbytery of the West

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Surprise, AZ	Grace Community		Cooper McWhirter
San Diego, CA	Covenant		David Fenska
Sanger, CA	Sanger Comm.		Dave Long
Santa Maria, CA	Santa Maria		David Brogren
Aurora, CO	Cornerstone	Jack Nelson	
Aurora, CO	Covenant Comm.		Marc Huebl
Aurora, CO	Faith	David Dibble Rod Ortega	
Englewood, CO	Cherry Creek	William Barnes Jan Bole Charles Collins Alan Johnson Loy Oakes Ken Roberts	Don Sweeting
Ft. Collins, CO	Christ Fellowship		Ed G. Davis
Golden, CO	Lookout Mtn.	James Klassen	Mike Klassen
Highlands Ranch, CO	Cherry Hills		Brett Garretson
			John Patterson Ramona Spilman
Lakewood, CO	Bear Creek	Ted Brandsma	Jim Coleman
Littleton, CO	GracePoint		Fred Lian
Loveland, CO	Faith Evangelical	Chris Perciante	Jim Murphy
Parker, CO	Parker EPC		Bud Sparling
Ephrata, WA	Comm. Church	Jason Bewick	Ehud Garcia
Renton, WA	First EPC		Jeff Jeremiah
Woodinville, WA	Northwest EPC		Steve Wilkinson
Other ministers on the roll of presbytery			Ron Burton Bruce Demarest Daniel Gilbert Russ Ragon George Wood Brad Yorton

Final enrollment:

189 Teaching Elders

172 Ruling Elders enrolled**351 Commissioners****Number of churches represented: 122****Requests to be excused:**

The following teaching elders submitted written requests to be excused from the 26th General Assembly: Rev. Glen Francis (Warsaw EPC, Warsaw, IN); Rev. John Mabray (Rivermont EPC, Lynchburg, VA); and Rev. George Yates (New Covenant, New Castle, PA).

26-4 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

ON MOTION the docket was adopted as follows:

DOCKET

Thursday, June 22, 2006

First Session

- 8:30-9:15 Opening worship (Sanctuary)
Speaker: Dr. William Flannagan, Host Pastor
- 9:30-12:00 Assembly convenes (Sanctuary)
- Opening session. Constituting prayer. Election of Recording Clerks and minutes committee. Local arrangements and announcements. Call for quorum. Docket. Election of 26th General Assembly Moderator. Passing of the gavel.
 - The Moderator's Address
 - Partial report of the Nominating Committee
 - Ratification vote on descending overtures. Receive the 25th General Assembly (2005) Minutes.
 - Report of the Stated Clerk. Matters received and referred. Committee instructions. Introduction of standing committee chairmen.
 - Introduction of missionaries and chaplains. New churches. Face to Face.
- 11:30 -2:00 EPC Pastors' Wives and World Outreach Missionary Wives; Luncheon in small groups at individual homes
- 12:00-1:00 Ticketed lunch

Second Session

- 1:15-1:50 Business Session (Sanctuary)
Report of Long Range Planning Committee
- 2:00-2:45 Future Focus Groups (assigned rooms)
- 3:00-5:00 Standing Committees meet (assigned rooms)
- 3:00-5:00 Women's Ministries Special Programs (CLC 102-104)
- 5:30-7:00 Women's Ministries Leaders & Directors Dinner

(Harvest Moon Restaurant)
7:30-9:00 Evening Worship: Dr. Dan Doriani (Pastor, Central
Presbyterian Church, St. Louis MO) (Sanctuary)
Investiture of 26th Assembly Moderator
Refreshments and Exhibits (CLC)

26-5 ELECTION OF 26th GENERAL ASSEMBLY MODERATOR
Rev. Cooper McWhirter, chairman of the Nominating Committee, opened his report with prayer. Rev. McWhirter placed in nomination the name of Ruling Elder Paul Heidebrecht as Moderator of the 26th General Assembly. He then introduced Rev. Nancy Stewart to speak on behalf of the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed.

ON MOTION the Assembly elected Elder Paul Heidebrecht as Moderator of the 26th General Assembly by acclamation.

The retiring Moderator declared Elder Heidebrecht to be the Moderator of the 26th General Assembly and passed the gavel to him.

The newly elected Moderator introduced his wife, Priscilla, and shared his experience of ministry over the years. He encouraged the Assembly to renew its emphasis on evangelism and missional focus in the coming year. Dr. Heidebrecht invited the retiring Moderator to offer his report to the Assembly.

26-6 REPORT OF THE MODERATOR
Retiring Moderator Bill Meyer opened with prayer and referred to the written report in the Handbook. He gave thanks to the Lord and to the Assembly for the way he and his wife, Nancy, were received during their travels this year. He has pondered how the denomination can be an effective missional church as we grow and develop. He encouraged the Assembly to read Appendix 1 (Statistical Reports) prior to the convening of the focus groups this afternoon.

The Stated Clerk presented the outgoing Moderator with the moderator’s pin and the plaque of appreciation.

26-7 PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Rev. Cooper McWhirter, chairman of the Nominating Committee, opened his report with prayer. He then presented the slate of nominees for permanent committees:

SLATE OF NOMINATIONS

Committee on Administration

Class of 2009	Elder Hadley DePuy	(East)
	Rev. Tom Ryan	(Mid-America)
	Elder Ed Wedin	(Central South)

Board of Benefits

Class of 2009	Elder John Baird	(Midwest)
	Rev. Ron Horgan	(Midwest)

Committee on Christian Education & Publications

Class of 2009	Rev. Tommy Overton	(Southeast)
	Cindy Ziemba	(Midwest)
Class of 2007	Elder Alton Bennett	(Midwest)

Committee on College Ministries

Class of 2009	Rev. Pedro Govantes	(East)
	Elder Jeffrey Sich	(Mid-America)

EPC Foundation

Class of 2009	Elder Nate Kilton	(Florida)
	Elder Dick Oestreicher	(Midwest)
Class of 2008	Elder Dave Jonckheere	(Midwest)
	Elder Stephen Ruckel	(Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2007	Elder Bill Johns	(Southeast)
	Elder Howard Kast	(West)

Committee on Fraternal Relations

Class of 2009	Elder Al Herweyer	(Southeast)
	Rev. Jimmy McGuire	(Midwest)

Committee on Ministerial Vocation

Class of 2009	Rev. Ken Jones	(Southeast)
	Elder Ann Litzenberger	(Florida)

Committee on National Outreach

Class of 2009	Rev. Eli Morris	(Central South)
	Elder Carolyn Nystrom	(Mid-America)
	Rev. Shawn Robinson	(West)
Class of 2007	Elder David Satterthwaite	(Midwest)

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2009	Elder John Graham	(Southeast)
	Rev. Don Galardi	(Midwest)
	Rev. Steve Riser	(Southeast)

Presbytery Review

Class of 2009	Rev. Edward Davis	(Midwest)
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Committee on Student Ministries

Class of 2009	Mike Bonser	(Midwest)
	Rev. Corey Gray	(East)

Committee on Theology

Class of 2009	Rev. Paul Husband	(Central South)
	Elder Tom Werner	(Mid-America)

Committee on Women's Ministries

Class of 2009	Jeane Mobley	(Mid-Atlantic)
	Annette Phillips	(Mid-America)

World Outreach

Class of 2009	Rev. Thom Burbridge	(Midwest)
	Elder Bob Sluka	(Midwest)
	Elder Jim Thomason	(Mid-Atlantic)

ON MOTION the first reading of nominations was received.

26-8 ORDER OF THE DAY: INTRODUCTION OF MISSIONARIES

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

Missionaries & Field of Service

- Joel and Cindy Anthis, (Nigeria)
- Jeff Bain (Footprints, Int'l in Russia)
- Chris and Debbie Gibson (SEND, Int'l, Hungary)
- Robbie & Joyce Hamd (WO in the Middle East)
- Bill and Janie Hampton (WO in Central Asia)
- Brian & Ginny Holt (SIM/WO in Ethiopia)
- Stephen & Belinda Kelley (England/Muslim World))
- Sean and Angie McKelvey (WO/Pioneers, US-based Muslim World)
- Tim & Karen Mindling (Central Asia)
- John & Kristy Nykamp (SIM/WO Ethiopia)
- Laura Scott (WO/Hungary, teacher at the International School)
- Bud & Carol Sparling (US/International)
- Ross & Sandy Meyer (US, currently on leave of absence)

The Assembly stood in appreciation of our missionaries, followed by prayer by the Moderator.

26-9 RATIFICATION VOTE ON DESCENDING OVERTURES

The Stated Clerk offered prayer and reviewed the procedure by which the Assembly ratifies descending overtures.

Overture 05-A

*Shall the **Book of Government**, Section 16-27A, be amended as follows (changes are underlined and in italics):*

Present wording	Proposed wording
16-27A The Ministerial Committee: Each Presbytery shall have a Ministerial Committee. It shall have at least six members equally divided between Ministers and Ruling Elders. Its quorum for action shall be one-half (1/2) of membership, The Committee shall be established in equal classes for a term of three years. Eligibility to succeed will be determined by the appointing court. Its duties are as follows:	16-27A The Ministerial Committee: Each Presbytery shall have a Ministerial Committee <u><i>consisting only of Ministers and Ruling Elders</i></u> . It shall have at least six members <u><i>and be established and maintained in such a way as to insure that the differences between the number of Ministers and Ruling Elders on the Committee shall never be greater than one</i></u> . Its quorum for action shall be <u><i>a simple majority</i></u> of membership, to include at least one Ruling Elder and one Teaching Elder. Eligibility to succeed will be determined by the appointing court. Its duties are as follows:

Grounds: Present wording, by requiring equal classes for terms of three-year and members equally divided between Ruling and Teaching Elders, requires

that Ministerial Committee have memberships evenly divisible by six (six, twelve, eighteen, etc.). Some presbyteries may deem a Committee of six as too small to handle its range of responsibilities and a committee of twelve or more as unwieldy and its vacancies difficult to fill. The amendment is proposed to alleviate this problem by giving presbyteries greater flexibility.

Overture 05-A

Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	79	0
East	46	0
Florida	30	0
Mid-America	18	0
Mid-Atlantic	71	0
Midwest	40	0
Southeast	62	0
West	41	0
		<i>Passed</i>

ON MOTION Overture 05-A was ratified.

DESCENDING OVERTURE 05-B

Shall the *Book of Government*, §11-7, be amended by adding the following sentence? (Changes are underlined and in italics.)

A Session, by a three-fourths vote and approval by Presbytery's Ministerial Committee, may recommend to the congregation that an Assistant Pastor be called as an Associate Pastor without a Search Committee being elected as in the case of G.11-6.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>11-7 A Minister may be called as Assistant Pastor. However, the call is issued by the Session. The call shall follow the form indicated above and shall be for a definite period of time, and is renewable. The call shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Assistant. The Call of an Assistant Pastor may be terminated by the Church Session prior to that time only with the consent and approval of the Presbytery. A person serving as Assistant Pastor on the same church staff at the time the pastor</p>	<p>11-7 A Minister may be called as Assistant Pastor. However, the call is issued by the Session, The call shall follow the format indicated above and shall be for a definite period of time, and is renewable. The call shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Assistant. The Call of an Assistant Pastor may be terminated by the Church Session prior to that time only with the consent and approval of the presbytery. A person serving as Assistant Pastor on the same church staff at the time the Pastor position becomes vacant</p>

position becomes vacant shall not be called to fill that position in the same church, by any means.	shall not be called to fill that position in the same church, by any means. <u><i>A Session, by a three-fourths vote and approved by Presbytery's Ministerial Committee, may recommend to the congregation that an Assistant Pastor be called as an Associate Pastor without a Search Committee being elected as in the case of G.11-6.</i></u>
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Grounds: It is not uncommon for an Assistant Pastor, having served to the satisfaction of the Session and church members for a reasonable period of time, to be presented by the Session to the congregation for consideration as an Associate Pastor. This amendment would make election of a Search Committee unnecessary in such cases.

Overture 05-B

Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	73	0
East	46	0
Florida	28	0
Mid-America	21	0
Mid-Atlantic	78	0
Midwest	40	0
Southeast	63	0
West	41	0
		<i>Passed</i>

ON MOTION Overture 05-B was ratified.

DESCENDING OVERTURE 05-C

Shall the *Book of Government*, 11-7, be amended by adding the following sections? (Changes are underlined and in italics.)

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>11-7 A Minister may be called as Assistant Pastor. However, the call is issued by the Session. The call shall follow the form indicated above and shall be for a definite period of time, and is renewable. The call shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Assistant. The Call of an Assistant Pastor may be terminated by the Church Session prior to that time only with the consent and approval of the Presbytery. A person serving as Assistant Pastor on the same church staff at the time the pastor position becomes vacant shall not be called to fill that position in the same church, by any means.</p>	<p>11-7 A Minister may be called as Assistant Pastor. However, the call is issued by the Session, <u>in regular consultation with the Ministerial Committee of the Presbytery</u>. The <u>terms of</u> call shall follow the <u>format</u> indicated above (<u>G11-5, F</u>) and shall be for a definite period of time, and is renewable. The call shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Assistant. The Call of an Assistant Pastor may be terminated by the Church Session prior to that time only with the consent and approval of the Presbytery. A person serving as Assistant Pastor on the same church staff at the time the pastor position becomes vacant shall not be called to fill that position in the same church, by any means. <i>[Note: language from Descending Overture 05-B, if ratified, would be added at this point.]</i></p>

Grounds:

1. To standardize procedure and clarify the language of the paragraph.
2. The Presbytery Ministerial Committee is in a position to advise and guide the church Session, so that the logistics of offering a call are consistent across the Presbytery and the denomination.
3. As those responsible for assisting in the resolution of any issues regarding pastors and their call, the Ministerial Committee has the best interest of all parties involved at heart in the act of establishing a relationship between a church and an Assistant Pastor.
4. The addition of the words “terms of” before “call,” changing “form” to “format” and inserting the ***Book of Government*** reference serve to clarify the intent of **G.11-7**, and assure the Session considers and stipulates all the required elements of the terms of call.
5. The intent is not to usurp any responsibility from the Session, but to assure that issues are understood and agreed upon by all parties prior to issuing the call to an Assistant Pastor.

Overture 05-C

Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	76	0
East	35	12
Florida	28	0
Mid-America	22	0
Mid-Atlantic	80	0
Midwest	39	0
Southeast	60	1
West	41	0
		<i>Passed</i>

ON MOTION Overture 05-C was ratified.

26-10 RECEPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 25th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Assembly received the minutes of the 25th General Assembly. Adoption of the minutes will be accomplished by the Committee on Administration (November 2006) as allowed in *Robert's Rules of Order*. The Stated Clerk asked that additions or corrections to this document be forwarded to the General Assembly Office no later than September 1, 2006.

26.11 REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Rev. Glodo opened his report with prayer. He referred to his distributed report, his final report to the Assembly as his tenure as Stated Clerk comes to an end. He thanked all those who have supported him for the past six years. He underscored the need for the church to be missional.

Following his address, Rev. Glodo was given a standing ovation by the Assembly. The Moderator added his comments of appreciation for Rev. Glodo and encouraged everyone to sign a guest book in the Christian Life Center. A reception is planned for this evening. Moderator Heidebrecht, on behalf of the Administration Committee, read a resolution of appreciation for Michael's service for the past six years.

ON MOTION the report of the Stated Clerk was received.

The Moderator extended thanks on behalf of the court for the work of retiring Stated Clerk Mike Glodo and presented a formal declaration of thanks on behalf of the EPC. A monetary gift and a plaque which stated "On behalf of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the Committee on Administration acknowledges with appreciation MICHAEL J. GLODO who, through his leadership, has served with distinction as the second Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. 2000 - 2006 A.D." were presented to Mike. His wife, Vicki, joined him on the stage following his address. The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer for the retiring Stated Clerk and his family.

The Assembly recognized those commissioners who have attended from 20th to 26th General Assemblies. Those present were asked to stand and be recognized. Though not a commissioner, Marilyn Bartel, Office of the General Assembly, has been present at every General Assembly, and was recognized for this service and given a plaque of “perfect attendance.”

26-12 MATTERS RECEIVED AND REFERRED

COMMUNICATIONS

- **Communication 06-1** from Moderator Bill Meyer dated June 2006 regarding Nominations to the Nominating Committee Class of 2009, and the 2006-2007 Nominating Committee and Board of Benefits chairmen.
Referred to the Floor (p. 49)
- **Communication 06-2** from Dr. Richard Alberta dated September 22, 2005 regarding the invitation of Cornerstone EPC of Brighton, Michigan to host the 29th General Assembly in June, 2009.
Referred to the Committee on Administration (p. 58)
- **Communication 06-3** from Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk, EPC, to Dr. Peter Borgdorff, Executive Director of the Christian Reformed Church, extending the Assembly’s condolences at the death of David Engelhard.
Received as information
- **Communication 06-4** from Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk, EPC, dated January 5, 2006, to all Clerks of Sessions regarding the submission of news items to EPNews and an invitation to expand the subscription list.
Received as Information
- **Communication 06-5** from Judy Bryson, President and CEO of Pioneer Clubs dated September 2005 regarding the Annual report of Pioneer Club Ministries
Referred to the Christian Education & Publications Committee (p. 62)
- **Communication 06-6** from Judy Bryson, President and CEO of Pioneer Clubs to Rev. Mike Glodo, Stated Clerk, dated May 15, 2006 regarding gratitude for his serving as a member of the Board of Reference for Pioneer Clubs.
Referred to the Christian Education & Publications Committee (p. 62)
- **Communication 06-7** from Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk, EPC, to the Trustees, Faculty, and Administration of Covenant Theological Seminary, dated June 2, 2006 regarding extending the gratitude of the EPC to Covenant Seminary for its educational ministry on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.
Received as Information

- **Communication 06-8** from Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk, EPC, to the Moderator of the 26th General Assembly dated May 25, 2006 regarding a memorial resolution for Lois Ferguson.
Referred to Memorials & Appreciation Committee (p. 66)
- **Communication 06-9** from Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk, EPC, to Dr. L Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk of the PCA dated June 19, 2006 regarding extending greetings to the PCA on the occasion of its 34th General Assembly. *Referred to the Committee on Fraternal Relations (p. 43)*

ON MOTION all Communications were referred as noted.

OVERTURES

- **Overture 06-A** from the Presbytery of Florida to amend the *Book of Government*, §10-2, to limit the office of Teaching Elder to men only.

ON MOTION the Assembly postponed **Overture 06-A** indefinitely.

- **Overture 06-B** from the Presbytery of the Southeast to amend the *Book of Government* §14-1.E.7 to insert new wording for the ordination questions for Deacons.
Referred to the Overtures & Resolutions Committee (p. 61)
- **Overture 06-C** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic to amend the *Book of Government*, §15, to add a section **11** to clarify the effect of renunciation of jurisdiction on the ordination of an officer of the church.
Referred to the Committee on Overtures & Resolutions (p. 61)
- **Overture 06-D** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic to amend the *Book of Government* §15-5-B to clarify the meaning of the term “another congregation.”
Referred to the Overtures & Resolutions Committee (p. 61)
- **Overture 06-E** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic to amend the *Book of Government*, §15-4 to give the presbytery discretion in assigning a minister to a congregation following divestiture from office.
Referred to the Overtures & Resolutions Committee (p. 62)
- **Overture 06-F** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic to amend the *Book of Government* §15 to add a section **11** to clarify the effect of renunciation of jurisdiction on the ordination of an officer of the church.
Referred to the Overtures & Resolutions Committee (p. 62)

ON MOTION all Overtures were referred as noted.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

- **Recommendation #1**

That the Assembly accept the invitation of Cornerstone EPC, Brighton, Michigan to host the 29th General Assembly (2009). (Cf. **Communication #06-2**)
Referred to Administration Committee (p. 58)

- **Recommendation #2**

In light of the addition of a new COA member (Moderator-elect), that the *Rules for Assembly* be amended to include the Moderator-elect as a non-voting ex-officio member of the World Outreach and Fraternal Relations committees.
Referred to Administration Committee (p. 58)

- **Recommendation #3**

That the Proposed Administration Budget for \$1,369,000 be adopted.
Referred to Administration Committee (p. 59)

- **Recommendation #4**

That the Proposed Benevolence Askings Budget for \$609,000 be adopted.
Referred to Administration Committee (p. 59)

- **Recommendation #5**

That the 2006 Thanksgiving Offering be designated for the joint National Outreach Committee and College Ministries Committee church planting efforts in college towns.
Referred to Administration Committee (p. 59)

- **Recommendation #6**

That the General Assembly amend the boundaries of the Central South and Mid-America Presbyteries to include the entire state of Arkansas within the boundaries of Central South Presbytery.

Grounds: Such a change would follow more the lines of cultural affinity and locate current interest where resources are more readily available, hence increasing the prospects of church development

Referred to Administration Committee (p. 59)

- **Recommendation #7**

That Section XI of the *Rules for Assembly* be amended to re-title the Board of Pension & Benefits “The Board of Benefits.”

Referred to Administration Committee (p. 59)

- **Recommendation #15**

That the 26th General Assembly instruct the permanent Theology Committee to carry out a comparative study of the Westminster standards (WSC, WLC and WCF) and the Three Forms of Unity (Canons of Dordt, Belgic Confession, and Heidelberg Catechism) for the purpose of determining:

1. Whether a person who receives and adopts the Three Forms of Unity as containing that system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures without

exception falls within the practice and application of the third officer vow of the EPC (“Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?”);

2. What is confessed by the Westminster standards which is not confessed by the Three Forms of Unity; and
3. What is confessed in the Three Forms of Unity which is out of accord with the Westminster standards.

And to report to the Assembly any other observations, resources or conclusions which might be helpful to the presbyteries in evaluating inquiries and requests for membership from churches which use the Three Forms of Unity as their doctrinal standard.

Grounds: Such a study would assist the presbyteries in evaluating and acting upon the requests of churches and ministers which have historically confessed the Three Forms of Unity without requiring a comprehensive study of the Westminster standards prior to joining the EPC.

Referred to Theology Committee (p. 46)

- **Recommendation #42**

That the General Assembly approve the proposal for a full-time Women’s Ministries Director position. *Referred to Administration Committee (p.59)*

From the BOARD OF BENEFITS

- **Recommendation #8**

That the Committee on Administration be authorized to make any substantive changes to the EPC Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (403(b)) upon recommendation of the Board of Benefits and that the Board of Benefits be authorized to amend the Plan document when necessary to conform to legislative requirements and administrative needs.

Grounds: As with a similar action taken with respect to the medical plan, this act would relieve the General Assembly as a whole from having to act on technical, legal and mundane matters, yet still require approval external to the Board of Benefits on behalf of the General Assembly. The reporting requirement would allow the General Assembly the opportunity to know of and potentially alter such changes, thus ensuring proper review and control.

Referred to the floor (p. 38)

- **Recommendation #9**

That the income eligibility limit for Medical Benevolence assistance be raised from a maximum income of \$35,000 to \$35,000-50,000 for single and couples coverage and \$40,000-55,000 for employee/dependent and family coverage, with assistance to be prorated within those ranges in 15% increments.

Grounds: Previously there was one income limit, not taking into account the differences between premiums and costs of living for families versus singles and couples. Further, there was no proportional formula, meaning that an applicant barely over the limit could receive no assistance. (Note: The

Medical Benevolence program provides ministers without call, pastors of mission churches without mother churches and retired ministers with medical insurance premium assistance. The minister's presbytery must recommend approval and share in 50% of the premium assistance.)

Referred to the floor (p. 39)

- **Recommendation #10**

That the Board of Benefits be authorized to adjust the income limits of Medical Benevolence eligibility based on cost of living increases and funds utilization and, further, that the Board of Benefits report such changes to the General Assembly.

Grounds: This will relieve the General Assembly as a whole from this requirement and allow more responsive time frames when the need for adjustment becomes apparent.

Referred to the floor (p. 39)

- **Recommendation #11**

That ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (403(b)) be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income for housing allowance, as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

Grounds: Doing so allows retired ministers to take advantage of a significant tax benefit in retirement, thereby making more of their retirement income available for living expenses.

Referred to the floor (p. 39)

From the COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

- **Recommendation #12**

That *Rules for Assembly* §10.1F-2 (Duties of the permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications) be amended to reflect past and current practice and leaving open the possibility of future ministry development.

Rules for Assembly 10-1.F	
Present Wording	Proposed Wording
F. Committee on Christian Education and Publications	F. Committee on Christian Education and 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.	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.

<p>2. Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Curriculum Development b. Provide resources for church/ Christian day schools (all levels) c. Provide assistance in Sunday School development and operation d. Publications other than curriculum. e. Camp and conference development. f. Lay leadership development g. Worship and music resources 	<p>2. Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>To develop and evaluate curriculum for presbyteries and local churches as needed.</i> b. <i>To cooperate with and encourage church day schools as needed.</i> c. <i>To provide assistance to local churches for the development and operation of Christian Education.</i> d. <i>To develop, evaluate, and support publications of general interest to the church, especially those valuable to the area of Christian Education. This includes supporting and promoting publications handled by other Permanent Committees or General Assembly staff.</i> e. <i>To participate in camp and conference center development, should it be feasible and desired.</i> f. <i>To participate in and support lay leadership development.</i> g. <i>To promote and evaluate prayer, worship and music resources.</i> h. <i>To help communicate the identity, vision, mission, and advantages of the EPC to local churches and to those outside the EPC.</i>
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Referred to the Christian Education & Publications Committee (p. 62)

• **Recommendation #13:**

That the Assembly receive the *EPC Officer Training Manual* (2006 Edition) as a resource and commend it for use in EPC congregations following final editing for style and format.

Rationale: The 2006 Edition of the *EPC Officer Training Manual* follows two draft editions received by previous Assemblies which have been utilized by over forty EPC congregations. Chapter One (Church History I) has been rewritten in narrative form in keeping with the instructions of the 25th General Assembly. The Theology and Christian Education & Publications Committees, in response to the instruction of the 25th Assembly to consider the wisdom of devoting Chapter Eleven to the theology of “Christian hedonism,” have consulted with concerned individuals and concluded that the content of the chapter should be retained with some revisions, reflected in the 2006 Edition. If the Manual is received by the Assembly, it will be submitted to a professional proofreader for style and format corrections with a goal of publication by the end of the 2006.

Referred to the Christian Education & Publications Committee (p. 63)

From the COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS

- **Recommendation #14**

That EPC membership in WARC be terminated at the adjournment of the 27th General Assembly unless that Assembly reverses, postpones or suspends this action. *Referred to the Fraternal Relations Committee (p. 43)*

From the COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION

- **Recommendation #16**

That **Overture 05-C**, referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee by the 25th General Assembly, be adopted, thereby directing the MVC to provide guidance and clarification to presbyteries regarding the calling and status of retired ministers. *{For the text of Overture 05-C, see pp. 227-228.}*

Rationale: The Committee recognizes that the issues raised by the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery demonstrate a need to clarify the calling and status of retired ministers. If the Assembly adopts Overture 05-C, the Committee intends to gather information from presbyteries and other relevant sources in order to determine how presbyteries understand and administer current *Book of Government* procedures and *Acts of Assembly* related to retired ministers, understand how other Reformed bodies regard the calling and status of retired ministers, understand how being on the retired roll of presbytery relates to government and pension plan definitions related to drawing benefits, and determine the best means to provide guidance. Options for the Committee include: 1) publishing a letter of advice, 2) proposing revisions or additions to the Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees, and/or 3) proposing amendments to the *Book of Government*.

Referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee (p. 44)

- **Recommendation #17**

That **Overture 05-D**, referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee by the 25th General Assembly regarding the transfer of candidates to and from other Reformed bodies, **not** be adopted. *{For the text of Overture 05-D, see pp. 229-230.}*

Rationale: The central purpose of **Overture 05-D** appears to be to drop the requirement for a six-month membership in an EPC congregation for candidates coming from other Reformed bodies. The six-month membership requirement should be retained for the following reasons:

- 1) The EPC has a responsibility to candidates coming through EPC churches and presbyteries. Removing the six-month membership requirement undermines this responsibility, giving advantage to those coming from outside the EPC.
- 2) The EPC does not have an endorsed seminary and has no requirement to initially screen those applicants sending material to churches seeking pastors, making the calling process open to many outside the EPC and even the Reformed tradition. Adopting the proposed overture would open the system even more. The current six-month membership requirement

and discretionary one year under care of presbytery gives opportunity for the denomination and potential minister to know each other.

- 3) There is significant value for candidates coming into the EPC from other bodies to have a strong connection with the denomination before ordination. Adopting the amendment would undermine this value.

Referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee (p. 44)

- **Recommendation #18**

That the Assembly grant an additional year for the Ministerial Vocation Committee to study the recommendations to add the category of Commissioned Pastor and report their recommendations to the 27th General Assembly. *{For the text of these recommendations see pp. 231-232.}*

Rationale: The Committee needs additional time to consult with the National Outreach and Long Range Planning Committees, to gather input from Ruling and Teaching Elders of the EPC, and to investigate questions including:

- 1) Does the proposal to add the category of “Commissioned Pastor” address a demonstrated, significant need?
- 2) If there is a significant need, is adding the category of “Commissioned Pastor” this the best way to address it?
- 3) If the category of “Commissioned Pastor” is added;
- 4) What training is necessary for a person to serve as a Commissioned Pastor?
- 5) Would examinations for commissioned pastors be the same or different than those for Candidates Under Care? If the same exams are used, would pass/fail standards for Commissioned Pastors same as those for Candidates? If exams are different, what content areas should be tested and to what depth?
- 6) Should the right to administer sacraments be extended to non-ordained individuals (i.e., a Commissioned Pastor who is a Candidate Under Care but not a Ruling Elder).
- 7) Would Commissioned Pastors have the same standing with the IRS as ordained ministers?
- 8) Do potential Commissioned Pastors need to submit written exceptions to Westminster?
- 9) How will commissioned pastors deal with potential second class status?
- 10) What is the court of original jurisdiction for a commissioned pastor?

Referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee (p. 45)

From the COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

No recommendations are forthcoming from the National Outreach Committee

From the PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

- **Recommendation #19**

That ***Book of Government*** §16.21-C be amended with the addition of the following sentence:

Past Ruling Elder moderators who are not able to maintain membership in an EPC congregation for reasons other than church discipline may

continue to be eligible for membership in General Assembly upon approval by the presbytery in whose geographic boundaries they reside.
Referred to the Floor (p. 50)

- Recommendation #20**
 That the *Book of Government* be amended by the addition of a second paragraph to §15-7 so that the entire section shall read as follows (addition in *italics*):

Present wording	Proposed wording
G.15.7 Service of inactive Ruling Elders: A Ruling Elder who is not currently serving as an active Ruling Elder may be elected by the Church Session to be its representative to the Presbytery and General Assembly. The person so elected shall make diligent report to the electing court.	G.15-7 Service of inactive Ruling Elders: A Ruling Elder who is not currently serving as an active Ruling Elder may be elected by the Church Session to be its representative to the Presbytery and General Assembly. The person so elected shall make diligent report to the electing court. <i>A church session may, if it desires, establish a process by which it may empower a person previously ordained as a ruling elder in another EPC congregation or in another denomination within the Reformed family of churches to serve in the same capacity as an inactive (not currently serving on session) elder. Such a person may not serve on active session apart from election by the congregation. A session should assure itself by adequate training and examination that such a person holds to and affirms the vows of office within the EPC. Under no circumstances should such a person be so empowered if office has been previously removed as a result of church discipline.</i>

Grounds: This amendment would provide a means for those qualified and willing to serve in the same capacity as inactive elders (e.g. power of jurisdiction, representation in church courts) to do so without taking away the congregation’s role in electing officers.
Referred to the Floor (p. 50)

From the PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE
Recommendations 21 through 38 *Referred to the Floor*

Regarding the Presbytery of the Central South

- **Recommendation #21**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of the Central South to issues pending from the 25th General Assembly as adequate (see pp. 252, 256-257). *(p. 52)*

- **Recommendation #22**

That the **Minutes** of the Central South Presbytery be approved. *(p. 52)*

Regarding the Presbytery of the East

- **Recommendation #23**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of the East to issues pending from the 25th General Assembly as adequate (see pp. 252, 258-261). *(p. 52)*

- **Recommendation #24**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of the East be approved with the following exceptions and remanded for correction:

1. 73-10C (Corey Gray) 74-23C (David O'Connell) Presbytery approved terms of call that did not include EPC medical insurance, contrary to of Acts of Assembly §81-04, §81-06, and §88-08.
2. 74-23A The advice of the Ministerial Committee effectively endorses non-compliance with Act of Assembly §81-04, §81-06 and §88-08.

(p. 52)

Regarding the Presbytery of Florida

- **Recommendation #25**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of Florida to issues pending from the 25th General Assembly as adequate (see pp. 252-253, 262-264) with the following comments:

Minutes 42:12 The presbytery is correct in stating that it took no action and gave no advice as a court that directed commissioners to General Assembly on how to vote regarding a motion to dissolve the Florida Presbytery. The **Minutes** do, however, attribute such a statement urging a negative vote to the Moderator of the General Assembly speaking in his office as Moderator. These remarks should have been made in the context of speaking as a member of the presbytery rather than from his office of Moderator, making clear that these were personal comments.

Minutes 43:18 For clarity, correspondence to the Assembly should restate the substance of overtures when making initial reference to them. *(p. 52)*

- **Recommendation #26**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of Florida be approved with the following exception and remanded for correction:

46:14 While the Assembly through its National Outreach Committee commends the Natural Church Development process to all churches and presbyteries, and while the Assembly commends the effort of the Florida presbytery to encourage evangelism and renewal within its bounds, the Presbytery exceeded its authority (G.16-16) in requiring churches to take the NCD survey and report back its results. (p. 53)

Regarding the Presbytery of Mid-America

- **Recommendation #27**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Mid-America Presbytery to issues pending from the 25th Assembly as adequate (see p. 265) and allow another year to resolve exceptions regarding medical insurance, recognizing the progress that has been made. (p. 53)

- **Recommendation #28**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved. (p. 53)

Regarding the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

- **Recommendation #29**

That the Assembly receive the responses of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to matters pending from the 25th Assembly as adequate (see pp. 266-267) with the exception of a remaining question to be clarified through the Permanent Judicial Commission report.

Rationale: The language of the Presbytery's **Minutes** (p. 264, 9C.06H) is ambiguous in saying, presbytery authorizes the ministerial committee to appoint a judicial commission, seemingly contradicting Act of Assembly §91-05 which states that only the court can appoint a commission. Presbytery's response clarified the fact that the presbytery created a judicial commission and then authorized the Ministerial Committee to name its members. The Mid-Atlantic Presbytery is not correct in its response in asserting that entities other than a court as defined by the **Book of Government** (i.e., General Assembly, Presbytery, Session) may create a commission (Act of Assembly §95-01).

The Committee has requested an opinion from the Permanent Judicial Commission as to whether the 1991 interpretation of the constitution adopted by the 11th General Assembly intended to speak exclusively to the creation of commissions or also intended to speak to the naming of commission members (see PRC-26). (p. 53)

- **Recommendation #30**

That the **Minutes** of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions and remanded for correction:

P. 385 (10C.10) Considering this motion is out of order, as it is not a matter related to the call of this special meeting.

P. 385 (10C.10) A commission does not have authority to appoint another commission. Commissions are appointed by the court as a whole (Act of Assembly §91-05). (p. 54)

Regarding the Presbytery of the Midwest

- **Recommendation #31**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of the Midwest to matters pending from the 25th Assembly as adequate (see pp. 268-270) with the following comment and exception:

Minutes 106-9 (Comment) Presbytery's response regarding Rev. Surprenant's educational credentials does not contain sufficient information. It indicates seminary graduation, but not what degree was received. The Committee is aware that Rev. Surprenant received the M.Div. degree. In the future the presbytery should be careful to supply sufficient information.

Minutes 107-9 (Ministerial Committee Report) (Exception): The presbytery's response adequately answers the question of a congregational meeting being held to dissolve the pastoral relationship of Rev. Keough. However, there is no indication in subsequent minutes that Rev. Keough has been dismissed although his name disappears from the roll. The Midwest Presbytery is directed to take action to clarify Rev. Keough's status and record it in their minutes. Until that time, Rev. Keough is a member of presbytery. (p. 54)

- **Recommendation #32**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of the Midwest be approved with the following exception and remanded for correction:

Minutes do not record that ordination/installation commissions for Keogh (104-14), Kil (p. 242), Boomer (p. 243), and Brown (p. 258) have completed their work, that their minutes have been received and that they have been dissolved. (p. 54)

Regarding the Presbytery of the Southeast

- **Recommendation #33**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved.

(p. 55)

Regarding the Presbytery of the West

- **Recommendation #34**

That the Assembly receive responses Presbytery of the West as adequate (see pp. 273-274), thereby allowing another year to resolve exceptions regarding medical insurance. *(p. 55)*

- **Recommendation #35**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of the West be approved. *(p. 55)*

Other Recommendations

- **Recommendation #36**

That the Assembly issue the following advice to all presbyteries:

- a. Presbyteries should evaluate their practices of appointing advisors for candidates under care. G.12-2D stipulates that the advisor should ordinarily not be the candidate's pastor. The Committee has observed that it is not uncommon for the candidate's pastor to be the appointed advisor.
- b. Presbyteries are reminded that their first priority is to encourage evangelism and renewal within its bounds (G.4-3, 16.16F). Minutes should show evidence that this priority is being realized.
- c. The Board of Benefits and Stated Clerk are to be commended for bringing benefit to the larger good through medical plan improvements and through effecting greater levels of participation, especially among mandatory participants. A majority of Presbyteries are in compliance with the mandatory participation requirement for ministers. Those Presbyteries not in compliance are urged to continue their work toward full compliance.
- d. Presbyteries are cautioned concerning the risks inherent in the practice of calling a person as pastor before candidacy requirements have been met. In some cases people in this situation join the church and are almost immediately elected, ordained and installed as ruling elders. Presbyteries and Sessions should note the admonishment from Scripture not to be hasty in the laying on of hands (1 Tim. 5:22). *(Cf. p. 55)*

- **Recommendation #37**

That the Assembly refer G.11-5F(5) to the Board of Benefits to clarify the intent of the phrase "the denominational retirement plan." *(Cf. p. 56)*

Rationale: The constitutional requirement for ministers to be part of the denominational retirement plan may be outdated and no longer in keeping with the retirement plan document adopted by the Assembly.

- **Recommendation #38**

That the Assembly approve the proposed financial reporting guidelines for presbytery minutes (see pp. 275-276). *(Cf. p. 56)*

From the COMMITTEE ON STUDENT MINISTRIES

- **Recommendation #39**

That the Student Ministries Committee description in the *Rules for Assembly* 10-1G, be amended to allow more flexibility in the nominating process so that the most qualified and available members can be nominated and elected. See proposed changes below:

Committee description as it now appears in the Rules for Assembly (10-1G)	Proposed changes
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.	1. Membership to be composed of a minimum of two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders in three rotating classes of two each. Two of the remaining positions may be filled with non-ordained EPC youth workers 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.	2. Duties: to be responsible for conferences and mission trips, student ministry resourcing, youth worker equipping, and other youth ministry (middle school and high school) related concerns.

Referred to Student Ministries Committee (p. 41)

From the COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

- **Recommendation #40**

That the General Assembly adopt the “Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse” (pp 310-311).

Referred to the Theology Committee (p. 47)

- **Recommendation #41**

That the General Assembly approve the response of the permanent Theology Committee to Overture #05-E on paedocommunion (p. 312).

Referred to the Theology Committee (p. 47)

From the COMMITTEE ON WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

No recommendations are forthcoming from the Women’s Ministries Committee.

From the COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

- **Recommendation #43**

That the General Assembly renew our cooperative agreements with Arab World Ministries, OC International, SIM International, and Wycliffe Bible

Translators.

Referred to the World Outreach Committee (p. 42)

- **Recommendation #47**

That the General Assembly approve the revised World Outreach Master Plan (pp. 326-329).

Referred to the World Outreach Committee (p. 42)

PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Recommendation #44**

That an additional 5 minutes be added to the 5 minutes requested by the National Outreach chairman for a presentation on Urban Ministry at General Assembly. *Adopted*

- **Recommendation #45**

That the Bartlett Hess Award be presented to two different nominees in two 10 minute segments at General Assembly. *Adopted*

- **Recommendation #46**

That 10 minutes be given to the NOC and College Ministry Committee for a presentation on the College Ministry Initiative at General Assembly. *Adopted*

ON MOTION all Recommendations were referred as noted.

26-13 INSTRUCTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES

The Moderator explained the afternoon schedule including the work of the future focus groups.

26-14 INTRODUCTIONS

The Stated Clerk introduced the chairmen of the standing committees:

Administration – Rev. Bill Moore

Christian Education & Publications – Rev. Tim Brown

Fraternal Relations Committee – Rev. Tom Dages

Memorials & Appreciation – Elder Jim Mindling

Ministerial Vocation – Elder Leonard Pilgrim

National Outreach – Elder Henry Beck

Overtures & Resolutions – Rev. Kent Bull

Student Ministries – Rev. Brett Eubank

Theology – Rev. Todd Smedley

Women's Ministries – Rev. Bud Sparling

World Outreach – Rev. Bob Wilbur

Rev. Ron Meyer, representing the Ministerial Vocation Committee, asked the chaplains to step forward. The Assembly recognized with appreciation their service to church and country.

Rev. Nancy Stewart, hospital chaplain, retired, Rockville, MD

Rev. Ron Pierce, FBI, law enforcement chaplain, Mobile, AL

Rev. Bud Sparling, US Army retired, Parker, CO
Rev. Brad Yorton, USN, Oak Harbor, WA
Rev. Ron Crews, US Army, Ft. Campbell, KY
Rev. Marty Fields, Air Force, National Guard, MS

The Moderator offered special prayer for all our military and institutional chaplains.

The Stated Clerk also recognized and welcomed representatives of church newly received this year:

1. Bethlehem Steltz Reformed Church, Glen Eden, PA (Received from the United Church of Christ)
2. Christ Church, Edmond, OK (Mission Church)
3. Cornerstone Community Church, Bemidji, MN (Mission Church)
4. Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Rural Abilene, KS (Received from Presbyterian Church USA)
5. Third Presbyterian Church, Dubuque, IA (Received from Presbyterian Church USA)
6. Cornerstone Community Church, Bemidji, MN
7. Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Rural Abilene, KS
8. Third Presbyterian Church, Dubuque IA (received from Presbyterian Church USA)
9. New Hope (joint congregation created from Lynn Garden and Mt. Calvary), Kingsport, TN
10. Trinity Presbyterian, Loganville, GA (mission church)

Fraternal guest Peter Borgdorff:

Dr. Peter Borgdorff represented the Christian Reformed Church in North America and brought greetings to the Assembly. The Moderator then offered prayer for the work and mission of the Christian Reformed Church as they celebrate 150 years of ministry.

26-15 FACE TO FACE OPPORTUNITIES

Ruling Elder Jerry Kidd opened with prayer and gave instructions for churches to communicate their need for staff positions.

- Trinity EPC, Ft. Pierce FL – seeking a senior pastor
- Grace @ Bell Road, Montgomery AL – seeking an Assistant Pastor for Family Life
- Cedar Springs Presbyterian, Knoxville – two pastoral positions (one Assistant Pastor for under age 35 adults and Evangelism/ Disciplining; and Assistant Pastor for ministry to older adults over age 35 focusing on missions, evangelism and discipling)
- Myrtle Grove, Wilmington NC – seeking a senior pastor
- First Presbyterian, Rome GA – seeking a pastor
- Trinity EPC, Florence, - seeking an Assistant Pastor focusing on worship and the arts
- Perrow, Cross Lanes, WV – seeking an Assistant of Youth and Family Ministries

- North Park, Pittsburgh, PA – seeking a Church Planter to plant a daughter church in Slippery Rock, PA
- Cornerstone Presbyterian, Katy TX – seeking an Assistant Pastor focusing on youth and family
- Fourth Presbyterian, Bethesda MD – seeking an Assistant or Associate Pastor for adult education
- First Presbyterian, Houma, LA – seeking a Pastor
- Northwest Presbyterian, Seattle, WA – seeking an Assistant Pastor focusing on developing ministry to 20 to 30 year olds

Following miscellaneous announcements, the Moderator offered prayer and the Assembly adjourned for lunch at 11:58 a.m.

MINUTES - THURSDAY AFTERNOON

**Second Session
June 22, 2006**

26-16 BUSINESS SESSION

The Moderator reconvened the Assembly at 1:15 P.M. with prayer.

26-17 REPORT OF THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Rev. Nate Atwood, Chairman, opened the report with prayer. The Chairman introduced members of his committee and brought a special report of the Committee (see pp. 204-223).

26-18 FUTURE FOCUS GROUPS & STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Future Focus groups met from 1:15 until 2:45 P.M. Focus groups gathered immediately thereafter. Standing Committees met in session in the church beginning at 3:00 P.M., adjourning for dinner at 5:00 P.M.

26-19 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

The Assembly convened at 7:30 P.M. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church with music by Mrs. Donna Hester and the music department of the church. Rev. Scott Jackson greeted the congregation and offered various announcements

Order of Worship Thursday, June 22, 2006

Organ Prelude	Mrs. Donna Hester
Greetings & Announcements	Rev. Scott Jackson
Introduction of Speaker	Rev. Mike Glodo
Call to Worship	Rev. Mike Glodo
Invocation	Rev. Mike Glodo
Hymns & Songs of Praise	<i>All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name Forever Lord, I Lift Your Name on High</i>

Pastoral Prayer		Rev. Scott Jackson
Sharing in Song	<i>Dying to Reach You</i>	Voices of Praise
Investiture of the 26 th General Assembly Moderator		Rev. Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk
Administration of Moderator Vows		
Prayer for the Moderator		Dr. William Meyer
		25 th General Assembly Moderator
Hymn of Dedication	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	
Offertory Prayer		
Worship Through Offering of Gifts*	<i>"Seek First His Kingdom"</i>	
Choral Worship		Chancel Choir
Scripture Lesson		1 Timothy 3
Sermon	<i>The Character of a Church Leader</i>	Dr. Dan Doriani
Musical Response	<i>The Potter's Hand</i>	
Benediction		Rev. Scott Jackson
Organ Postlude		Mrs. Donna Hester

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

MINUTES - FRIDAY MORNING

**Third Session
June 23, 2006**

26-20 MODERATOR'S SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND PRAYER

The Assembly gathered for worship at 8:30 A.M. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church with music by the First Presbyterian Church music department and announcements by Mr. Don Keiser, Local Arrangements Staff Coordinator.

Order of Worship Friday Morning, June 23, 2006

Organ Prelude	Mrs. Donna Hester
Greetings, Local Arrangements, & Announcements	Mr. Don Keiser
Call to Worship	
Invocation	
Hymns & Songs of Worship	<i>#347 - And Can It Be</i>
	<i>#348 - My Savior's Love</i>
	<i>#349 - O How He Loves You and Me</i>
Scripture Reading	
Ministry of the Word	
Offertory Prayer	
Worship Through the Offering of Gifts*	
Offertory	Mrs. Donna Hester
A Service of Holy Communion	
Invitation to Holy Communion	
Hymn #344	<i>"Grace Greater Than Our Sin"</i>
Prayer of Confession	
Words of Institution	
Consecration of the Elements	

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**This morning's offering goes to the Moderator's Scholarship Fund, which assists commissioners in attending the General Assembly.*

Moderator Paul Heidebrecht called the meeting to order with prayer at 10:30 A.M.

1:30 Business Session (Sanctuary)

- CSP Hurricane Relief video.
- Bartlett Hess Award - 1st Presbyterian, Houma, LA.
- Student Ministries Committee. SYAM Director's Report. College/NOC joint special presentation.

- Urban Ministries special presentation.
 - Bartlett Hess Award 2 - Mt. Pleasant Community Church, MI.
 - World Outreach Director/Special Presentation on New Fields & Opportunities.
 - World Outreach Committee.
 - Fraternal Relations Committee.
 - Ministerial Vocation Committee.
 - Theology Committee.
 - Nominating Committee. Final Report & Elections.
 - Moderator-elect election.
 - Presbytery Review Committee
- 7:30 Evening Worship Service (Sanctuary)
26th General Assembly Moderator presiding
Commissioning of World Outreach missionaries
- 9:00 Refreshments and Exhibits

ON MOTION Elder John Calvin Manon and Elder Walter “Jerry” Clothier to proof read the daily minutes.

26-22 INTRODUCTION OF FRATERNAL GUESTS

The Moderator introduced various Fraternal Guests who greeted the court.

Dr. Samuel Logan brought greetings from the World Reformed Fellowship. He noted that in addition to the EPC, there is a long list of other groups holding membership. In March the convocation held in South Africa was attended by Stated Clerk Mike Glodo and World Outreach Director, Jeffrey Chadwick.

Dr. John Dawson (pastor of Lakeside ARP, Mooresville, NC), representing the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, was introduced and brought greetings to the Assembly. The ARP just completed its 202nd Synod earlier this month. He expressed gratitude for the joint efforts shared by the ARP and the EPC including the Church Planters Assessment Center.

Rev. Cal Boroughs, representing the Presbyterian Church in America, brought greetings from his denomination. He is the pastor of St. Elmo Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, TN. Though structural changes are going on in both denominations, such are not the goals of either – we are to represent Jesus to the world, loving the world Jesus loves. As the gospel sings in our hearts, we become more like Jesus.

Dr. Jerry O’Neill, Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, brought greetings on behalf of the Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America. (Dr. John White, who was to bring greetings, was unable to attend.) The RPCNA (the historic Covenanter church) is unique because they have retained their tradition of singing the Psalms *a capella*.

Iglesia Presbiteriana San Andrés: A written communication was read by Robert Fraser (Moderator) and Jorge Lumsden (Stated Clerk).

World Relief representative, Rev. Sandy Willson, presented the Moderator with a plaque of appreciation for the EPC’s part in supporting the

efforts of World Relief. He explained the work being done by World Relief and encouraged the Assembly to continue sharing resources with the poorest of the poor in the world.

The Moderator recognized other guests: Ric Cannada and Lynn Perez, both from Reformed Theological Seminary, and Judy Bryson from Pioneer Clubs. He noted with thanksgiving that Judy Bryson has now served Pioneer Clubs (and Immanuel Church in Warrenville, IL) for more than 30 years..

Rev. Howard Shockley noted that another college is newly represented at this Assembly. Steven Woodworth, representing Montreat College, was also recognized as being represented at the General Assembly for the first time.

The Moderator concluded the time of fraternal greetings with prayer for those groups which labor along with us in the Great Commission of Christ.

26-23 **PARTIAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Rev. Cooper McWhirter, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, opened his report with prayer. Rev. McWhirter presented the nominees for Permanent Committees as a second reading.

Slate of Nominations Permanent Committees & Boards

Committee on Administration

Class of 2009	Elder Hadley DePuy	(East)
	Rev. Tom Ryan	(Mid-America)
	Elder Ed Wedin	(Central South)

Board of Benefits

Class of 2009	Elder John Baird	(Midwest)
	Rev. Ron Horgan	(Midwest)

Committee on Christian Education & Publications

Class of 2009	Rev. Tommy Overton	(Southeast)
	Cindy Ziemba	(Midwest)

Committee on College Ministries

Class of 2009	Rev. Pedro Govantes	(East)
	Elder Jeffrey Sich	(Mid-America)
Class of 2007	Elder Alton Bennett	(Midwest)

EPC Foundation

Class of 2009	Elder Nate Kilton	(Florida)
	Elder Dick Oestreicher	(Midwest)
Class of 2008	Elder Dave Jonckheere	(Midwest)
	Elder Stephen Ruckel	(Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2007	Elder Bill Johns	(Southeast)
	Elder Howard Kast	(West)

Committee on Fraternal Relations

Class of 2009	Elder Al Herweyer	(Southeast)
	Rev. Jimmy McGuire	(Midwest)

Committee on Ministerial Vocation

Class of 2009	Rev. Ken Jones	(Southeast)
	Elder Anne Litzenberger	(Florida)

Committee on National Outreach

Class of 2009	Rev. Eli Morris	(Central South)
	Elder Carolyn Nystrom	(Mid-America)
	Rev. Shawn Robinson	(West)
Class of 2007	Elder David Satterthwaite	(Midwest)
	Permanent Judicial Commission	
Class of 2009	Elder John Graham	(Southeast)
	Rev. Don Galardi	(Midwest)
	Rev. Steve Riser	(Southeast)
	Presbytery Review	
Class of 2009	Rev. Edward Davis	(Midwest)
	Committee on Student Ministries	
Class of 2009	Mike Bonser	(Midwest)
	Rev. Corey Gray	(East)
	Committee on Theology	
Class of 2009	Rev. Paul Husband	(Central South)
	Elder Tom Werner	(Mid-America)
	Committee on Women's Ministries	
Class of 2009	Jeane Mobley	(Mid-Atlantic)
	Annette Phillips	(Mid-America)
	World Outreach	
Class of 2009	Rev. Thom Burbridge	(Midwest)
	Elder Bob Sluka	(Midwest)
	Elder Jim Thomason	(Mid-Atlantic)

26-24 ORDER OF THE DAY - REPORT OF BENEFITS REPORT

The chairman, Elder William Barnes, referred to the written report in the Handbook. He noted that both the medical and retirement plans are performing well. A deliberate plan and a diversified portfolio are essential. He expressed concern that EPC pastors have, to a large degree, put their contributions into only one or two mutual funds. He exhorted the presbyteries and sessions to assist and come alongside the pastors in planning their funds and contributions.

The medical plan is administered through Highmark (Blue Cross/ Blue Shield hospital and physician network) which gives participants access to more doctors and hospitals than before. Other benefits included a premium "holiday" in December.

ON MOTION the Committee on Administration was authorized to make any substantive changes to the EPC Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (403(b)) upon recommendation of the Board of Benefits and authorized the Board of Benefits to amend the Plan document when necessary to conform to legislative requirements and administrative needs.

ON MOTION the income eligibility limit for Medical Benevolence assistance was raised from a maximum income of \$35,000 to \$35,000-50,000 for single and couples coverage and \$40,000-55,000 for employee/dependent and family coverage, with

assistance to be prorated within those ranges in 15% increments.

ON MOTION the Board of Benefits was authorized to adjust the income limits of Medical Benevolence eligibility based on cost of living increases and funds utilization and, further, that the Board of Benefits report such changes to the General Assembly.

ON MOTION ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (403(b)) shall be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income for housing allowance, as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was received.

Following miscellaneous announcements, the Moderator offered prayer and the Assembly adjourned for lunch at 11:55 A.M.

MINUTES - FRIDAY AFTERNOON

**Fourth Session
June 23, 2006**

26-25 ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

At 1:32 P.M. the Assembly reconvened with announcements and prayer by the Moderator.

26-26 COLLEGE MINISTRIES AND NATIONAL OUTREACH SPECIAL JOINT PRESENTATION

Rev. Rick Stauffer, chairman of the College Committee, opened with prayer. He invited Rev. Pedro Govantes and Rev. Bill Vogler to assist in sharing in the presentation. Rev. Stauffer emphasized that concern is for the loss of college students from the church. The Committee believes the universities of the country must be reclaimed for Christ and that church planting in college communities must be a priority.

Rev. Bill Vogler testified to the importance of ministry in the college community by giving his personal testimony and the experience in his own church. Rev. Pedro Govantes, church planter in New Jersey, emphasized the importance of reaching college students for Christ. We can reach the nations by reaching the university students as there are countless international students in the U.S. college communities.

Rev. Stauffer asked the Assembly to pray about this vision and in November, to participate in the Thanksgiving Offering to support church planting in college communities.

26-27 URBAN MINISTRIES SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Rev. Rufus Smith offered prayer prior to presenting the report. He introduced Rev. Randy Brown, pastor in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan

who shared his experience in ministering in Detroit at a time when it was the poorest city in America. School dropout rates were over 60%. This was a place of the helpless and harassed, a place of darkness. Rev. Brown has ministered there for 18 years. The Midwest Presbytery has cared for this church and supported Rev. Brown in this ministry. It is the light of Jesus to a people who have no hope. He expressed appreciation for God's people in the EPC in the continuation of this urban ministry.

26-28 BARTLETT L. HESS AWARD #1

Rev. Rufus Smith presented Mt. Pleasant Community Church, Mt. Pleasant, MI with the first Bartlett L. Hess Award. That Assembly watched a video highlighting the ministry of this church. Rev. Scott McKee, pastor of Mt. Pleasant Community Church, addressed the Assembly further expounding on the scope and nature of their ministry.

26-29 HURRICANE RELIEF REPORT

Elder John Adamson opened with prayer and presented the report on relief monies received this year for Hurricane relief. \$450,000 was funneled through the General Assembly Office in addition to at least \$200,000 contributed through other channels. EPC churches in Louisiana and Mississippi were assisted through the funds collected as well as funding from World Relief Corporation. A video was presented showing the outreach done by EPC churches in the aftermath of the hurricane. Volunteer help is still badly needed in those areas affected by the hurricane.

John Adamson invited representatives of the Bay St. Louis Waveland to step to the stage to be recognized. Two DVDs are being sent to every church in the denomination to encourage church members to come down and help. Today EPC funds are being used to pour the foundation for the home for the little girl in the video.

26-30 BARTLETT L. HESS AWARD #2

First Presbyterian (Houma, Louisiana) also received the Bartlett Hess Church Vitality Award. First Church received and utilized hurricane relief funds and Rev. Robert Hamd, pastor, addressed the Assembly as to the church's ministry to the community in the aftermath of Katrina. He encouraged pastors to continue to send people to help, no matter the size of the church. Three women of the church gave moving accounts of God at work in their midst as they ministered to people who God sent to them for help.

26-31 STUDENT MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Brett Eubank, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Recommendation #39**
2. **Minutes** of the permanent committees (Student Ministries and College Ministries)

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #39** be adopted “That the Student Ministries Committee description in the *Rules for Assembly* 10-1G be amended to allow more flexibility in the nominating process so that the most qualified and available members can be nominated and elected.” See proposed changes below:

Committee description as it now appears in the Rules for Assembly (10.1.G)	Proposed changes
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.	1. Membership to be composed of a minimum of two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders in three rotating classes of two each. Two of the remaining positions may be filled with non-ordained EPC youth workers 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.	Duties: to be responsible for conferences and mission trips, student ministry resourcing, youth worker equipping, and other youth ministry (middle school and high school) related concerns.

Adopted

2. **Minutes** of the permanent committees:
The **minutes** of the Student Ministries Committee and the College Ministries Committee were approved with minor notations and referred back to the Permanent Committee.
3. **Additional Recommendations**
The *Rules for Assembly* 10-1 needs to be updated to reflect the addition of the College Ministries Committee.

ON MOTION the General Assembly amended the *Rules for Assembly* 10-1 to add **J. College Ministries**.

The standing committee commended the permanent Student Ministries and

College Committees for their work this past year.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

26-32 DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES REPORT

Director Marc Santom briefly summarized the work of student ministries this year. How can we honor, empower, encourage and mentor our church youth workers? This summer there will be seven mission trips, including one to assist in the hurricane affected areas in the South. Fourteen EPC churches are sending workers to partner with the rebuilding efforts there. Marc reminded commissioners that there are resources at the exhibit table available for youth workers. The chairman of the permanent committee, Rev. George Boomer, prayed for the work and ministry of Student Ministries.

26-33 WORLD OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Jeff Chadwick, Director, opened with prayer and gave his report. He summarized the work going on in Central Asia by EPC missionaries, including fields that are nearly un-evangelized. Church planting is the focus of World Outreach ministry. Rev. Chadwick challenged the Assembly to consider short-term mission work by committing just six months to a year. There are places to teach, be a personal assistant, do street evangelism. Students, second career individuals – anyone – can participate in missions for service of less than two years. He called attention to the new World Outreach Master Plan.

26-34 WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Bob Wilbur, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Recommendation #43**
2. **Recommendation #47**
3. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #43** be adopted “that the General Assembly renew its cooperative agreements with Arab World Ministries, OC International, SIM International, and Wycliffe Bible Translators.
Adopted
2. That **Recommendation #47** be adopted “that the General Assembly approve the revised World Outreach Master Plan as presented in WO Attachment #1.
Adopted
3. That the **Minutes** of the World Outreach Committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.
Adopted

The standing committee commended the permanent Committee on World Outreach for its work this past year and further commended the outstanding

contribution of Rev. Jeff Chadwick, World Outreach Director, to the cause of world missions and the work of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

ON MOTION the report as a whole was adopted.

26-35 FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Tom Dages, Chairman, opened the report with prayer. He noted that the following fraternal guests were present at the meeting of the Committee: Rev. John Dawson (ARP), Dr. Peter Borgdorff (CRC), Rev. Cal Boroughs (PCA), Mr. John White (RPCNA), and Dr. Jerry O'Neill (RPCNA)

A. Business referred to committee

1. **Recommendation #14**
2. **Communication #06-9**
3. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #14** be adopted “That EPC membership in WARC be terminated at the adjournment of the 27th General Assembly unless that Assembly reverses, postpones or suspends this action.”

Discussion followed as to the wisdom of this move since there are churches worldwide which can associate with the EPC because of our mutual membership in WARC.

Substitute motion was made to change the number of the Assembly to the 28th General Assembly rather than the 27th.

Question was raised as to whether there have been any representatives sent to dialogue with WARC to resolve any issues of difference with them. Before pulling out, it was suggested that EPC at least send a representative to one of their regional meetings. It was noted that membership has not impacted the ability of the EPC to share the gospel with anyone.

A division of the house was called for in the vote on the amendment. The Moderator ruled that the amendment was defeated.

The main motion was then considered.

ON MOTION the recommendation was **not adopted**.

2. **Communication #06-9** a letter of greeting from Rev. Mike Glodo to Dr. L Roy Taylor, Presbyterian Church in America on the occasion of their 34th General Assembly, was received as information.
3. That the **Minutes** of the Committee on Fraternal Relations were

approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.

Adopted

The standing committee commended the permanent Committee for its faithful service this year.

26-36 MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

Elder Leonard Pilgrim, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business referred to committee

- 1, **Recommendation #16**
2. **Recommendation #17**
3. **Recommendation #18**
4. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #16** be adopted “That **Overture 05-C**, referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee by the 25th General Assembly, be adopted, thereby directing the MVC to provide guidance and clarification to presbyteries regarding the calling and status of retired ministers.”.

Rationale: The Committee recognizes that the issues raised by the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery demonstrate a need to clarify the calling and status of retired ministers. If the Assembly adopts Overture 05-C, the Committee intends to gather information from presbyteries and other relevant sources in order to determine how presbyteries understand and administer current *Book of Government* procedures and *Acts of Assembly* related to retired ministers, understand how other Reformed bodies regard the calling and status of retired ministers, understand how being on the retired roll of presbytery relates to government and pension plan definitions related to drawing benefits, and determine the best means to provide guidance. Options for the Committee include: 1) publishing a letter of advice, 2) proposing revisions or additions to the Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees, and/or 3) proposing amendments to the *Book of Government*. *Adopted*

2. That **Recommendation #17** be adopted “That **Overture 05-D**, referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee by the 25th General Assembly regarding the transfer of candidates to and from other Reformed bodies.”

Rationale: The central purpose of **Overture 05-D** appears to be to drop the requirement for a six-month membership in an EPC congregation for candidates coming from other Reformed bodies. The six-month membership requirement should be retained for the following reasons:

- 1) The EPC has a responsibility to candidates coming through EPC churches and presbyteries. Removing the six-month membership requirement undermines this responsibility, giving advantage to those coming from outside the EPC.
 - 2) The EPC does not have an endorsed seminary and has no requirement to initially screen those applicants sending material to churches seeking pastors, making the calling process open to many outside the EPC and even the Reformed tradition. Adopting the proposed overture would open the system even more. The current six-month membership requirement and discretionary one year under care of presbytery gives opportunity for the denomination and potential minister to know each other.
 - 3) There is significant value for candidates coming into the EPC from other bodies to have a strong connection with the denomination before ordination. Adopting the amendment would undermine this value. *Adopted*
3. That **Recommendation #18** be adopted “That the Assembly grant an additional year for the Ministerial Vocation Committee to study the recommendation to add the category of Commissioned Pastor and report their recommendations to the 27th General Assembly.”

Rationale: The Committee needs additional time to consult with the National Outreach and Long Range Planning Committees, to gather input from Ruling and Teaching Elders of the EPC, and to investigate questions including:

1. Does the proposal to add the category of “Commissioned Pastor” address a demonstrated, significant need?
2. If there is significant need, is adding the category of “Commissioned Pastor” the best way to address it?
3. If the category of “Commissioned Pastor” is added
 - What training is necessary for a person to serve as a Commissioned Pastor?
 - Would examinations for commissioned pastors be the same or different than those for Candidates Under Care? If the same exams are used, would pass/fail standards for Commissioned Pastors same as those for Candidates? If exams are different, what content areas should be tested and to what depth?
 - Should the right to administer sacraments be extended to non-ordained individuals (i.e., a Commissioned Pastor who is a Candidate Under Care but not a Ruling Elder).
 - Would Commissioned Pastors have the same standing with the IRS as ordained ministers?
 - Do potential Commissioned Pastors need to submit written exceptions to Westminster?
 - How will commissioned pastors deal with potential “second class” status?

- What is the court of original jurisdiction for a commissioned pastor? *Adopted*

4. That the **Minutes** of the Ministerial Vocation Committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee. *Adopted*

C. Additional recommendations

That due to the coming age wave, the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee consider whether or not the mandatory retirement age should be extended. *Adopted*

The standing committee commended the permanent committee for its fine work during the past year.

26-37 THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Rev. Todd Smedley, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business referred to the Committee

1. **Recommendation #15**
2. **Recommendation #40**
3. **Recommendation #41**
4. **Minutes** of the Permanent Committee

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #15** be adopted “that the 26th General Assembly instruct the permanent Theology Committee to carry out a comparative study of the Westminster standards (WSC, WLC and WCF) and the Three Forms of Unity (Canons of Dordt, Belgic Confession, and Heidelberg Catechism) for the purpose of determining:
 1. Whether a person who receives and adopts “the Three Forms of Unity as containing that system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures” without exception falls within the practice and application of the third officer vow of the EPC (“Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?”);
 2. What is confessed by the Westminster standards which is not confessed by the Three Forms of Unity; and
 3. What is confessed in the Three Forms of Unity which is out of accord with the Westminster standards.

And to report to the Assembly any other observations, resources or conclusions which might be helpful to the presbyteries in evaluating inquiries and requests for membership from churches which use the Three Forms of Unity as their doctrinal standard.

Grounds: Such a study would assist the presbyteries in evaluating and acting upon the requests of churches and ministers which have historically confessed the Three Forms of Unity without requiring a

comprehensive study of the Westminster standards prior to joining the EPC.

2. That the Assembly not adopt **Recommendation #40** “that the General Assembly adopt the “Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse” and refer it back to the Permanent Committee for consideration of the recommendations below and revision (see pp. 310-311 for text).
 - Clearly delineate domestic violence as sinful earlier in the letter.
 - Abuse should be defined to include spousal, parent/child, sibling, child/parent, and elder abuse.
 - Further develop the thought that all humans are created in God’s image, and therefore, abuse is inherently wrong.
 - It fails to capitalize on a teaching opportunity on a couple of significant points (even if in footnotes). Pastors should be encouraged to teach and remind their congregations of the following:
 1. The need to define the meaning and importance of the “one flesh” principle. A clear distinction should be delineated between a Christian complementarian view of a male-led home vs. a common non-Christian understanding of traditional male-led homes.
 2. Would be wise to explain member privilege and protection afforded spouses in the right of seeking wisdom and adjudication from the local Session when sinful behavior threatens the integrity of the marriage. In this case, when problems or sinful behavior rises above a certain threshold, as it does in the case of physical abuse, wives should be encouraged to seek the intervention of the Session.
 - Should not appear to speak in a derogatory way of the traditional Christian view of marriage as “traditional male-dominated marriage(s).” (Please revisit line #16).
 - Should not be advocating that just any person with experience in the field come to instruct the Session. Many people involved with Social Services are working from non-biblical world views that may actually be hostile to a Christian view of things. We should clearly recommend that Sessions seek the help of qualified Christians.
 - In addition, it would be very helpful to add a list of trusted Christian literature and on-line resources that are consistent with the guiding principles of the EPC.
 - To specify that it is immoral behavior, as defined by the ***Book of Discipline***, and as such church discipline should be pursued.

Adopted

3. That **Recommendation #41** be adopted “that the General Assembly approve the response of the permanent Theology Committee to **Overture #05-E on paedocommunion** (see p. 312 for text). *Adopted*

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

ON MOTION to adopt the report as a whole.

26-38 FINAL REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Cooper McWhirter, chairman of the Nominating Committee, opened his report with prayer.

ON MOTION Rev. William Vogler was elected Moderator-elect for the 27th General Assembly.

The Assembly offered prayer for Rev. Vogler as he prepares to serve as Moderator of the General Assembly.

Rev. McWhirter presented the nominees for permanent committees as a final reading and election.

Slate of Nominations Permanent Committees & Boards

Committee on Administration

Class of 2009	Elder Hadley DePuy	(East)
	Rev. Tom Ryan	(Mid-America)
	Elder Ed Wedin	(Central South)

Board of Benefits

Class of 2009	Elder John Baird	(Midwest)
	Rev. Ron Horgan	(Midwest)

Committee on Christian Education & Publications

Class of 2009	Rev. Tommy Overton	(Southeast)
	Cindy Ziemba	(Midwest)

Committee on College Ministries

Class of 2009	Rev. Pedro Govantes	(East)
	Elder Jeffrey Sich	(Mid-America)
Class of 2007	Elder Alton Bennett	(Midwest)

EPC Foundation

Class of 2009	Elder Nate Kilton	(Florida)
	Elder Dick Oestreicher	(Midwest)
Class of 2008	Elder Dave Jonckheere	(Midwest)
	Elder Stephen Ruckel	(Mid-Atlantic)
Class of 2007	Elder Bill Johns	(Southeast)
	Elder Howard Kast	(West)

Committee on Fraternal Relations

Class of 2009	Elder Al Herweyer	(Southeast)
	Rev. Jimmy McGuire	(Midwest)

Committee on Ministerial Vocation

Class of 2009	Rev. Ken Jones	(Southeast)
	Elder Anne Litzenberger	(Florida)

Committee on National Outreach

Class of 2009	Rev. Eli Morris	(Central South)
	Elder Carolyn Nystrom	(Mid-America)

	Rev. Shawn Robinson	(West)
Class of 2007	Elder David Satterthwaite	(Midwest)
	Permanent Judicial Commission	
Class of 2009	Elder John Graham	(Southeast)
	Rev. Don Galardi	(Midwest)
	Rev. Steve Riser	(Southeast)
	Presbytery Review	
Class of 2009	Rev. Edward Davis	(Midwest)
	Committee on Student Ministries	
Class of 2009	Mike Bonser	(Midwest)
	Rev. Corey Gray	(East)
	Committee on Theology	
Class of 2009	Rev. Paul Husband	(Central South)
	Elder Tom Werner	(Mid-America)
	Committee on Women's Ministries	
Class of 2009	Jeane Mobley	(Mid-Atlantic)
	Annette Phillips	(Mid-America)
	World Outreach	
Class of 2009	Rev. Thom Burbridge	(Midwest)
	Elder Bob Sluka	(Midwest)
	Elder Jim Thomason	(Mid-Atlantic)

ON MOTION the slate as presented was elected.

ON MOTION the nominations of Rev. Bill Meyer, Moderator of the 25th General Assembly (**Communication #06-1**) were approved as follows:

2006-2007 Board of Benefits Chairman – Rev. Ron Horgan
(Midwest)

Class of 2009 Nominating Committee nominations:
Rev. Neil Ellison (Mid-Atlantic)
Elder Jim Slyman (Southeast)
Rev. Steve Wilkinson (West)

The Moderator appointed Elder Zelda Artz (East) as 2006-2007 Nominating Committee chairman.

26-39 REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Elder John Graham, Moderator, opened with prayer and brought the Commission's report. Two recommendations were forthcoming from the Commission.

Recommendations:

1. The Commission gave consideration to the subject of past ruling elder moderators who are no longer members of EPC congregations. G.16-21-C provides that past ruling elder moderators remain eligible for

membership in the court of General Assembly as long as they maintain active membership in an EPC congregation. This provision anticipates the situation in which a past ruling elder moderator is not named as a commissioner by the local church. However, it does not provide for occasions such as necessary geographical moves and dismissal of congregations in which past ruling elder moderators lose their local EPC membership.

ON MOTION that **Recommendation #19** be adopted, “that **Book of Government** 16.21-C be amended with the addition of the following sentence: Past Ruling Elders moderators who are not able to maintain membership in an EPC congregation for reasons other than church discipline may continue to be eligible for membership in General Assembly upon approval by the presbytery in whose geographic boundaries they reside.” *Adopted*

2. The PJC addressed the issue of situations in which a person ordained as a ruling elder in one congregation transfers membership to another congregation for legitimate reasons. In order not to infringe upon the latter congregation’s right to elect its own officers, that elder is not eligible to serve as a ruling elder unless elected. Although in one sense we view ordination as for life, the power of order is effectively removed from such persons.

ON MOTION that **Recommendation #20** be adopted, “to amend the *Book of Government* in §15-7 by the addition of a second paragraph (italics).”

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>15-7 Service of inactive Ruling Elders: A Ruling Elder who is not currently serving as an active Ruling Elder may be elected by the Church Session to be its representative to the Presbytery and General Assembly. The person so elected shall make diligent report to the electing court.</p>	<p>15-7 Service of inactive Ruling Elders: A Ruling Elder who is not currently serving as an active Ruling Elder may be elected by the Church Session to be its representative to the Presbytery and General Assembly. The person so elected shall make diligent report to the electing court.</p> <p><i>A church session may, if it desires, establish a process by which it may empower a person previously ordained as a ruling elder in another EPC congregation or in another denomination within the Reformed family of churches to serve in the same capacity as an inactive (not currently serving on session) elder. Such a person may not serve on active session apart from election by the congregation. A session should assure itself by adequate training and examination that such a person holds to and affirms the vows of office within the EPC. Under no circumstances should such a person be so empowered if office has been previously removed as a result of church discipline.</i></p>

Grounds: This amendment would provide a means for those qualified and willing to serve in the same capacity as inactive elders (e.g. power of jurisdiction, representation in church courts) to do so without taking away the congregation's role in electing officers.

ON MOTION the report of the Permanent Judicial Commission was received.

26-40 PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Elder Jay Curtis, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

Regarding the Presbytery of the Central South

- **Recommendation #21**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of the Central South to issues pending from the 25th General Assembly as adequate (p. 252).

- **Recommendation #22**

That the **Minutes** of the Central South Presbytery be approved.

ON MOTION the recommendations for the Presbytery of Central South were adopted.

Regarding the Presbytery of the East

- **Recommendation #23**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of the East to issues pending from the 25th General Assembly as adequate (p. 252).

- **Recommendation #24**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of the East be approved with the following exceptions and remanded for correction:

1. 73-10C (Corey Gray) 74-23C (David O'Connell) Presbytery approved terms of call that did not include EPC medical insurance, contrary to of Acts of Assembly §81-04, §81-06, and §88-08.
2. 74-23A The advice of the Ministerial Committee effectively endorses non-compliance with Act of Assembly §81-04, §81-06 and §88-08.

ON MOTION the recommendations for the Presbytery of the East were adopted.

Regarding the Presbytery of Florida

- **Recommendation #25**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of Florida to issues pending from the 25th General Assembly as adequate (pp. 252-253) with the following comments:

Minutes 42:12 The presbytery is correct in stating that it took no action and gave no advice as a court that directed commissioners to General Assembly on how to vote regarding a motion to dissolve the Florida Presbytery. The Minutes do, however, attribute such a statement urging a negative vote to the Moderator of the General Assembly speaking in his office as Moderator. These remarks should have been made in the context of speaking as a member of the presbytery rather than from his office of Moderator, making clear that these were personal comments.

Minutes 43:18 For clarity, correspondence to the Assembly should restate the substance of overtures when making initial reference to them.

Recommendation #26

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of Florida be approved with the following exception and remanded for correction:

46:14 While the Assembly, through its National Outreach Committee, commends the Natural Church Development process to all churches and presbyteries, and while the Assembly commends the effort of the Florida Presbytery to encourage evangelism and renewal within its bounds, the Presbytery exceeded its authority (G.16-16) in requiring churches to take the NCD survey and report back its results.

ON MOTION the recommendations for the Presbytery of Florida were adopted.

Regarding the Presbytery of Mid-America

- **Recommendation #27**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Mid-America Presbytery to issues pending from the 25th Assembly as adequate (p. 253) and allow another year to resolve exceptions regarding medical insurance, recognizing the progress that has been made.

- **Recommendation #28**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved.

ON MOTION the recommendations for the Presbytery of Mid-America were adopted.

Regarding the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

- **Recommendation #29**

That the Assembly receive the responses of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to matters pending from the 25th Assembly as adequate (pp. 253-254) with the exception of a remaining question to be clarified through the Permanent Judicial Commission report.

Rationale: The language of the Presbytery's Minutes (P. 264, 9C.06H) is ambiguous in saying, presbytery authorizes the ministerial committee to appoint a judicial commission, seemingly contradicting Act of Assembly §91-05 which states that only the court can appoint a commission. Presbytery's response clarified the fact that the presbytery created a judicial commission and then authorized the Ministerial Committee to name its members. The Mid-Atlantic Presbytery is not correct in its response in asserting that entities other than a court as defined by the **Book of Government** (i.e., General Assembly, Presbytery, Session) may create a commission (Act of Assembly §95-01).

The Committee has requested an opinion from the Permanent Judicial Commission as to whether the 1991 interpretation of the constitution adopted by the 11th General Assembly intended to speak exclusively to the creation of

commissions or also intended to speak to the naming of commission members (see p.277).

- **Recommendation #30**

That the **Minutes** of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions and remanded for correction:

P. 385 (10C.10) Considering this motion is out of order, as it is not a matter related to the call of this special meeting.

P. 385 (10C.10) A commission does not have authority to appoint another commission. Commissions are appointed by the court as a whole (Act of Assembly §91-05).

ON MOTION the recommendations for the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic were adopted.

Regarding the Presbytery of the Midwest

- **Recommendation #31**

That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of the Midwest to matters pending from the 25th Assembly as adequate (p. 254) with the following comment and exception:

Minutes 106-9 (Comment) Presbytery's response regarding Rev. Surprenant's educational credentials does not contain sufficient information. It indicates seminary graduation, but not what degree was received. The Committee is aware that Rev. Surprenant received an M.Div. degree. In the future the presbytery should be careful to supply sufficient information.

Minutes 107-9 (Ministerial Committee Report) (Exception): The presbytery's response adequately answers the question of a congregational meeting being held to dissolve the pastoral relationship of Rev. Keough. However, there is no indication in subsequent minutes that Rev. Keough has been dismissed although his name disappears from the roll. The Midwest Presbytery is directed to take action to clarify Rev. Keough's status and record it in their minutes. Until that time, Rev. Keough is a member of presbytery.

- **Recommendation #32**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of the Midwest be approved with the following exception and remanded for correction:

Minutes do not record that ordination/installation commissions for Keogh (104-14), Kil (p. 242), Boomer (p. 243), and Brown (p. 258) have completed their work, that their minutes have been received and that they have been dissolved.

ON MOTION the recommendations for the Presbytery of the Midwest were adopted.

Regarding the Presbytery of the Southeast

- **Recommendation #33**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved.

ON MOTION the recommendations for the Presbytery of the Southeast were adopted.

Regarding the Presbytery of the West

- **Recommendation #34**

That the Assembly receive responses Presbytery of the West as adequate (p.254), thereby allowing another year to resolve exceptions regarding medical insurance.

- **Recommendation #35**

That the **Minutes** of the Presbytery of the West be approved.

ON MOTION the recommendations for the Presbytery of the West were adopted.

Other Recommendations

- **Recommendation #36**

That the Assembly issue the following advice to all presbyteries:

- a. Presbyteries should evaluate their practices of appointing advisors for candidates under care. **G.12-2D** stipulates that the advisor should ordinarily not be the candidate's pastor. The Committee has observed that it is not uncommon for the candidate's pastor to be the appointed advisor.
- b. Presbyteries are reminded that their first priority is to encourage evangelism and renewal within its bounds (**G.4-3, 16.16F**). Minutes should show evidence that this priority is being realized.
- c. The Board of Benefits and Stated Clerk are to be commended for bringing benefit to the larger good through medical plan improvements and through effecting greater levels of participation, especially among mandatory participants. A majority of Presbyteries are in compliance with the mandatory participation requirement for ministers. Those Presbyteries not in compliance are urged to continue their work toward full compliance.
- d. Presbyteries are cautioned concerning the risks inherent in the practice of calling a person as pastor before candidacy requirements have been met. In some cases people in this situation join the church and are almost immediately elected, ordained and installed as ruling elders. Presbyteries and Sessions should note the admonishment from Scripture not to be hasty in the laying on of hands (1 Tim. 5:22). ***Adopted***

Recommendation #37

That the Assembly refer G.11-5F(5) to the Board of Benefits to clarify the intent of the phrase “the denominational retirement plan.”

Rationale: The constitutional requirement for ministers to be part of the denominational retirement plan may be outdated and no longer in keeping with the retirement plan document adopted by the Assembly.

Adopted

• **Recommendation #38**

That the Assembly approve the proposed financial reporting guidelines for presbytery minutes (see p. 255).

Adopted

26-41 EVENING WORSHIP

The Assembly gathered at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church for worship.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Friday, June 23, 2006

Organ Prelude		Mrs. Donna Hester
Choral Introit	<i>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i>	Chancel Choir
Greetings, Local Arrangements & Announcements		Mike Glodo
Introduction of Rev. Bob Hopper		Mike Glodo
Call to Worship	<i>Psalm 67</i>	Moderator Paul Heidebrecht
Invocation		Moderator Paul Heidebrecht
Hymns & Songs of Praise	<i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>	
	<i>Knowing You</i>	
	<i>The Wonderful Cross</i>	
Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer		Moderator Paul Heidebrecht
Commissioning of New Missionaries		Jeff Chadwick
		World Outreach Director
Offertory Prayer		Moderator Paul Heidebrecht
Worship Through the Offering of Gifts*		
Choral Worship	<i>Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)</i>	Chancel Choir
Scripture Lesson		Luke 10:1-20
Sermon	<i>The Sanctity & Idolatry of Ministry</i>	Rev. Bob Hopper
Musical Response	<i>You Are My King</i>	
Benediction		
Organ Postlude		Mrs. Donna Hester

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

MINUTES SATURDAY MORNING

**Fifth Session
June 24, 006**

26-42 MORNING WORSHIP

The Assembly gathered for the morning worship service at 9:00 A.M.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Organ Prelude	Mrs. Donna Hester
Greetings, Local Arrangements & Announcements	Mr. Don Keiser
Introduction of Dr. T.M. Moore	
Hymns & Songs of Praise	#44 - <i>Crown Him King of Kings</i> #45 - <i>Crown Him With Many Crowns</i>
Prayer	Rev. Tommy Overton
Scripture Lesson	Acts 17:1-9
Sermon	<i>Practicing the Kingship of Jesus</i> Dr. T.M. Moore
Associate Pastor, Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN	
Hymn of Response #105	<i>We Will Glorify</i> Paris
Closing Prayer	

26-43 CONVENING OF FIFTH SESSION AND ADOPTION OF DOCKET

Moderator Paul Heidebrecht called the meeting to order with prayer at 9:30 A.M.

26-44 STATED CLERK SEARCH COMMITTEE

Elder John Adamson opened with prayer, then recognized by name the members of this committee. At this time, there is no candidate to present to the Assembly, though the committee worked diligently and prayerfully. The committee worked for nine months and this spring believed a candidate had been identified. This, however, was not to be. Elder Adamson also hopes and believes that there will be a candidate identified and ready for election soon.

Stated Clerk Mike Glodo explained that the 26th General Assembly can be reconvened before next June in the event a Stated Clerk candidate is identified sooner.

ON MOTION that the Stated Clerk Search Committee be extended through the 27th General Assembly unless a candidate is identified earlier such that the candidate can be elected at a duly called reconvened 26th General Assembly.

The Stated Clerk noted that a reconvened Assembly could be held via video conferencing among presbyteries.

26-45 WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Elder Alan Smith, acting chairman, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Minutes** of the permanent committee
2. **Recommendation #42**

B. Recommendations

1. The **Minutes** of the Women's Ministries Committee were approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.
2. **Recommendation #42**, "That the General Assembly approve the full-time Women's Ministries Director Position," was received as information.

The standing committee commended the permanent committee for its work this year.

26-46 WOMEN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jacky Gatliff, Interim Director, reported on the events of the past year. The National Conference was held last year, along with two mission trips to urban churches (Pittsburgh and Houston). She also noted that \$23,000 was raised this year in Faith Focus and was distributed to urban churches to help support their ministries.

The Well, Women's Ministries publication both published and online, is now available three times a year for women in leadership and other interested individuals.

The new directions being developed for the Women's Ministries Leadership Training Initiative is part of the new direction for Women's Ministries as is a curriculum for Women's Ministries leadership.

26-47 REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Elder William Moore, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. **Communication #06-2**
2. **Recommendation #1**
3. **Recommendation #2**
4. **Recommendation #3**
5. **Recommendation #4**
6. **Recommendation #5**
7. **Recommendation #6**
8. **Recommendation #7**
9. **Recommendation #42**
10. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Administration

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #1** be adopted "to accept the invitation from Cornerstone EPC of Brighton, MI (**Communication #6-2**) to host the 29th General Assembly in June 2009." *Adopted*
2. That **Recommendation #2** be adopted "that in light of the addition of a new COA member (Moderator-elect) that the *Rules for Assembly* be amended to include the Moderator Elect as a non-voting ex-officio member of the World Outreach and Fraternal Relations committees." *Adopted*

3. That **Recommendation #3** be adopted to approve the Proposed 2007 Administration Budget of \$1,369,000. *Adopted*
4. That **Recommendation #4** be adopted to approve the Proposed 2007 Benevolence Asking Budget of \$609,000. *Adopted*
5. That **Recommendation #5** be adopted, “that the 2006 Thanksgiving offering be designated for the joint National Outreach Committee and College Ministries Committee concentrate on church planting efforts in college towns.” *Adopted*
6. That **Recommendation #6** be adopted “that the General Assembly amend the boundaries of the Central South and Mid-America Presbyteries so that the entire state of Arkansas be included in the boundaries of the Central South Presbytery.” *Adopted*
7. That **Recommendation #7** be adopted “that section XI of the Rules for Assembly be amended to re-title the Board of Pension and Benefits “The Board of Benefits.” *Adopted*
8. That **Recommendation #42** be adopted “That the General Assembly approve the proposal for full-time Women’s Ministries Director position.” *Adopted*
9. The **Minutes** of the Committee on Administration were approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee. *Adopted*

The standing committee acknowledges with appreciation the excellent work of the permanent Committee.

26-48 STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Del Wensley, Director, reported that the EPC now has a Foundation up and running. He explained what the Foundation is, how it operates and how the churches and individuals can become involved in using it.

26-49 NATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Elder Henry Beck, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. **Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations:

1. The **Minutes** of the National Outreach Committee be adopted with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.

C. Additional Recommendations

That due to insufficient funding of \$20,000 in the General Assembly Church Planting Benevolence Askings, two current church plants (Living Hope EPC, Haymarket. VA and Gateway to Grace, St. Louis, MO) will not be fully funded for the remainder of the year, therefore in the Spirit of Christ, the Standing Committee is asking for additional benevolences from our churches.

This benevolence is currently included in the 2006 Benevolence Askings Budget. It is not a new asking. The resolution is simply to encourage the support of these church plants.

Motion was made to amend the recommendation that the amount requested be increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000. *Defeated*

ON MOTION to adopt the recommendation.

The chairman, Elder Henry Beck, asked for 5 minutes of personal privilege to address the Assembly. He is from “Katrina Country” and asked Kevin Brown and Earl Smith from Trinity Christian Community who have been serving New Orleans for 40 years to speak to the Assembly. The Central South Presbytery voted to support this mission which suffered devastation in the flooding. Both Kevin and Earl addressed the Assembly with their accounts of evacuation and loss.

The Assembly rose to sing the Doxology in praise to God for what He had done.

The standing committee commended the permanent committee and Director Bob Stauffer for their good work during the past year.

26-50 NATIONAL OUTREACH DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Director Robert Stauffer asked church planters present to stand and be recognized. He then introduced Rev. Richard Kidd, a church planter in Acworth, Georgia who spoke about the work being done there. He encouraged the Assembly to support the work of church planters who are bringing sheep into the sheepfold.

Rev. Bob Stauffer prayed for the church planters and the sheep that are not yet in the fold.

26-51 OVERTURES & RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Kent Bull, chairman, opened the report with prayer

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. **Overture #06-A** WITHDRAWN

2. **Overture #06-B**
3. **Overture #06-C**
4. **Overture #06-D**
5. **Overture #06-E**

B. Recommendations

1. That **Overture #06-A** from the Presbytery of Florida was withdrawn.
2. That **Overture #06-B** be adopted to amend the **Book of Government**, Chapter 14 by substituting the following for all of §14-1.E-7:

Present wording	Proposed wording
7. Do you promise subjection to your fellow officers in the Lord?	7. a. <i>(Ruling Elders) - Do you promise subjection to your fellow presbyters in the Lord?</i> b. <i>(Deacons) - Do you promise subjection to your fellow officers in the Lord?</i>

Adopted

3. That **Overture #06-C** to amend the **Book of Government**, Chapter 15 by adding the following section be referred to the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee:

G.15-11 Renunciation of Jurisdiction: A “renunciation of jurisdiction” shall have the effect of terminating membership and ordination in the church and shall immediately dissolve the relationship of Ruling Elder, Deacon or Minister. Notice of renunciation shall be given in writing to the Clerk of the appropriate court and becomes effective upon receipt of the notice. In the event an individual orally renounces jurisdiction, this fact shall be confirmed by letter from the court acknowledging that renunciation. The letter shall be delivered in person or by form of mail requiring a written receipt. If the court receives no written response within ten days, the acknowledgment of renunciation of jurisdiction shall be deemed final.

Adopted

4. That **Overture #06-D** be adopted to amend the **Book of Government**, §15-5B by adding the following:

Present wording	Proposed wording
When membership is placed with another congregation.	When membership is placed with another congregation <u>of the EPC or with a non-EPC congregation.</u>

Adopted

5. That **Overture 06-E** to amend the *Book of Government*, §15-4, as follows (additions underlined) **not be adopted**:

Present wording	Proposed wording
When a Presbytery shall divest a Minister of his office without censure, it shall assign him to membership in some particular church, subject to the approval of the Session of that church.	When a Presbytery shall divest a Minister of his office without censure, it shall <u>be at the discretion of the Presbytery</u> to assign him to membership in some particular church, subject to the approval of the Session of that church.

Adopted

6. That **Overture 06-F** to amend the *Book of Discipline* §2-5 by adding “and ordination” so that the section would read “A Renunciation of Jurisdiction shall have the effect of terminating membership and ordination in the church and shall immediately dissolve the relationship of Ruling Elder, Deacon, and Minister” be referred to the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation.

Adopted

26-52 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Rev. Tim Brown, Chairman, opened the report with prayer.

A. Business Referred to Committee

- 1. Communication #06-5**
- 2. Communication #06-6**
- 3. Recommendation #12**
- 4. Recommendation #13**
- 5. Minutes** of the permanent committee

B. Recommendations

- That **Communication #06-5** dated September, 2005 from Judy Bryson, president of Pioneer Clubs, be received as information.
Adopted
- That **Communication #06-6** dated May 15, 2006 from Judy Bryson, president of Pioneer Clubs to Rev. Michael Glodo, be received as information.
Adopted
- That **Recommendation #12** be adopted “That *Rules for Assembly* 9.1F-2 (Duties of the permanent Committee on Christian Education

and Publications) be amended to reflect past and current practice and leaving open the possibility of future ministry development.”

Present Wording	Proposed Wording
9-1F.2. Committee on Christian Education and Publications	9-1F.2 Committee on Christian Education and 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.	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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Curriculum Development b. Provide resources for church/ Christian day schools (all levels) c. Provide assistance in Sunday School development and operation d. Publications other than curriculum e. Camp and conference development. f. Lay leadership development g. Worship and music resources 	2. Duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>To develop and evaluate curriculum for presbyteries and local churches as needed.</i> b. <i>To cooperate with and encourage church day schools as needed.</i> c. <i>To provide assistance to local churches for the development and operation of Christian Education.</i> d. <i>To develop, evaluate, and support publications of general interest to the church, especially those valuable to the area of Christian Education. This includes supporting and promoting publications handled by other Permanent Committees or General Assembly staff.</i> e. <i>To participate in camp and conference center development, should it be feasible and desired.</i> f. <i>To participate in and support lay leadership development.</i> g. <i>To promote and evaluate prayer, worship and music resources.</i> h. <i>To help communicate the identity, vision, mission, and advantages of the EPC to local churches and to those outside the EPC.</i>

Adopted

4. That **Recommendation #13** be adopted “that the Assembly receive the *EPC Officer Training Manual*; (2006 Edition) as a resource and commend it for use in EPC congregations following final editing for style and format.”

Rationale: The 2006 Edition of the *EPC Officer Training Manual* follows two draft editions received by previous Assemblies which have been utilized by over forty EPC congregations. Chapter One (Church History I) has been rewritten in narrative form in keeping with the instructions of the 25th General Assembly. The Committees, in response to the instruction of the 25th Assembly to consider the

wisdom of devoting Chapter Eleven to the theology of Christian hedonism, have consulted with concerned individuals and concluded that the content of the chapter should be retained with some revisions, reflected in the 2006 Edition. If the Manual is received by the Assembly, it will be submitted to a professional proofreader for style and format corrections with a goal of publication by the end of the 2006. *Adopted*

5. The **Minutes** of the Christian Education & Publications Committee were approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.

The standing committee commended the permanent committee for its work this past year.

26-53 MEMORIALS & APPRECIATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Elder Jim Mindling, chairman, opened the report with prayer.

The 26th General Assembly remembers 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
Elder Bobby M Anthony	Lakeside, Brandon, MS	March 3, 2006	6
Elder John Barry	Princetown, Duanesburg, NY	August 19, 2005	4
Elder David Bell	Westminster, Bluefield, WV	February 3, 2006	50
Elder David Alexander Berry	Cleveland Pres., Abingdon, VA	June 2, 2005	37
Elder Robert Clark	Rivermont EPC, Lynchburg, VA	July 19, 2005	30
Elder Nelson Embrey	Rivermont EPC, Lynchburg, VA	September 4, 2005	32
Elder Emeritus, Robert Young Fleming	Second Presbyterian, Memphis, TN	June 30, 2005	19
Elder James (Bilbo) Gatlin	Atoka EPC, Atoka, TN	April 17, 2006	38
Elder Richard Geer	Kempsville Presbyterian, Virginia Beach	June 23, 2006	12
Elder Earle Gryde	Cherry Creek Pres, Englewood, CO	July 7, 2005	unknown

Elder Stuart Hallock	Fourth, Bethesda, MD	May 7, 2006	3
Elder Jack Kenneth Hickey	EPC of Marshall, Marshall, TX	September 11, 2005	35
Elder Robert A Johnson	Faith Presbyterian Knoxville TN	January 25, 2006	20
Elder Edwin Kadrmas	Faith Evangelical Church, Loveland, CO	April 16, 2006	2
Reverend Alex P. Koval	Retired, Wadesboro, NC	February 8, 2006	unknown
Reverend John E. Mattis, II	Newark, OH (on inactive roll, Midwest Presbytery)	February 26, 2006	unknown
Elder Winfred O. Mitchell	Second Presbyterian, Memphis, TN	February 12, 2006	36
Elder Emeritus N.A. APug@ Morris	First Presbyterian, Houma, LA	July 25, 2005	unknown
Elder Thomas N. Patton	Second, Memphis, TN	June 6, 2004	39
Elder George B. Pisor, Jr.	New Covenant, New Castle, PA	June 26, 2005	5
Elder Floyd Rundle	Rivermont, Lynchburg, VA	December 11, 2005	15
Elder Claude “Buck” Russell, 16 th Assembly Moderator	Faith Presbyterian, Aurora, CO	March 7, 2006	23
Elder Barry Smith	First Pres., Rome, GA	September 3, 2005	16
Elder Ross Sommer	Central, St. Louis, MO	September 30, 2005	6
Reverend James Wallace (inactive)	Christ Church EPC, Bossier City, LA	January 3, 2006	
Elder Robert P. Winikka	Morningside EPC, Phoenix, AZ	February 28, 2005	50

The Assembly also notes with sadness the passing of Lois Ferguson, receptionist at the Office of the General Assembly. Lois died of a heart attack on April 2, 2006. She was known for her friendliness and efficiency, and was affectionately called “the voice of the EPC.” Lois is survived by her husband,

Gil, children Amy (Jay) Denton and Alan Ferguson, and two precious grandchildren, Nolan and Claire Denton.

Communication #06-8 from the Committee on Administration regarding Lois Ferguson was received as follows:

May 25, 2006
The Moderator
26th General Assembly
17197 N. Laurel Park Place, Suit 567
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Mr. Moderator,

Upon action and on behalf of the Committee on Administration, I request that the following resolution be adopted by the 26th General Assembly and, upon adoption, be entered into the record of this Assembly and be conveyed with all appropriate sentiment to the family of Lois Ferguson.

Whereas Lois Ferguson served as the receptionist of the Office of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church from September 23, 1996 until her death on April 3, 2006;

Whereas Lois fulfilled the stewardship of her responsibilities faithfully as unto the Lord;

Whereas Lois emanated cheer and warmth to callers, visitors and co-workers of the Office of the General Assembly;

Whereas she has now entered into the rest of Christ brought about by His death and her family now waits upon that hope brought about by His resurrection from the dead;

Whereas “like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth those that fear Him;”

Whereas our Savior has sworn “I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live;”

Whereas the Spirit beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God;

Be it resolved, that the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church gives thanks to God for Lois, His servant, recalling all in her that made others love her. Further, that we bless God for the good and gracious influences in her home and training, for all that ministered to her best life. We thank God for the goodness and truth that have passed from her life into the lives of others, and have made the world richer for her presence.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk

Appreciation

The Assembly expresses its heartfelt appreciation to the host church, its pastor, Dr. William Flannagan, and all those who had a part in welcoming us to this Assembly:

Chairmen	Don Keiser and Sue Smith
Administrative Assistant	Charlie Kimbrell
Secretary	Mary Arrington
Housing Homes for delegates	Margaret Callicott
Building and Grounds Care	Jim Harrington
Audio Visual	Jim Holcomb
Facilities	Bill Irmscher
Pastor's Wives Luncheon	Priscilla Overton, Kim Jackson, Joyce Flannagan, Rosemary Van Dyke, Pat Niederhuth
Women's Ministries Luncheon	Katey Temple
Food:	
Lunches	Mary Taylor
Breakfasts	Joy Walker and Susan Horton
Snacks	Carol Lawton
Transportation	Charles Stevens and Tony Pemberton
Worship	Bill Flannagan, Scott Jackson and Richard Wade
Prayer	John Graham
Photographer	Alan Storey
Registration	Jim and Paula Holcomb
Youth	Bill Pardue
Children's Ministries	Tommy Overton, Tammy and David Preston, and Joan Hufstetler
Medical on call	Dr Bobby Holcomb
Greeters	Abby Holcomb
Hospitality	Dave and Marcia Abernathy, Mandy and Gardner Williams
Nursery	Nell Milner
Church Maintenance	Brenda Lacey and Staff
Financial	Lisa Clayton
Church Office Staff	All of them

We express our gratitude to the fine keynote speakers, Robert Hopper and Dan Doriani, and to the workshop leaders Mark Noll, David Calhoun, Bruce Demarest, S. Donald Fortson III, Sam Logan, Jeff Chadwick and Jack Van Ens.

26-54 CONCLUDING WORSHIP AND ADJOURNMENT

The Moderator led the court in worship as the Assembly concluded its business.

Adjournment: As Moderator of the 25th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, meeting in session these 22nd through 24th days of June, 2006 I declare that we have fulfilled the mission which brought us together and that we have finished the work of this Assembly.

Therefore, this meeting of the Assembly is adjourned to convene again on the 21st day of June, 2007 at Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, Colorado. To God's Name be power, glory and dominion, both in the Church and the world, now and forever more. Amen.

Adjourning hymn: *O Zion Haste*

Benediction: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Minutes of the 26th General Assembly
RECONVENED MEETING
September 9, 2006
Teleconference at 12 noon (EDT)

26-55 ASSEMBLY RECONVENED

The 26th General Assembly duly called by petition according to G16.23 reconvened at 12:04 p.m. by teleconference. The Moderator, Elder Paul Heidebrecht, opened with prayer.

The Stated Clerk declared that a quorum was present (cf. **Book of Government**, §16-24 -- “*A quorum shall consist of at least five Ministers and five Ruling Elders representing at least three presbyteries.*”

Elder Heidebrecht thanked Premiere Global, the teleconferencing service hosting this call, and introduced those present at the Assembly Office: Mike Glodo, Ed McCallum, Paul Heidebrecht, John Adamson, Jeff Jeremiah, and staff Marilyn Bartel, Janet Bain, Del Wensley, Sandy Milis, Jacky Gatliff, and Della Cullins. Moderator Heidebrecht outlined instructions for discussion and voting procedures during this meeting.

26-56 DOCKET ADOPTED

The docket of the Assembly was adopted as follows:

DOCKET

- I. Convening prayer.
- II. Declaration of Quorum.
- III. Instructions regarding phone conferencing service.
- IV. Adoption of docket.
- V. Adoption of special rules
Recommendation 1: That in addition to the standing Rules for Assembly, the following special Rules for Assembly shall be observed for this called General Assembly and shall expire at the adjournment thereof.
- VI. Election of the Stated Clerk.
 - A. Report of the Stated Clerk Search Committee (SCSC) – Attachment B.
 - B. Information item.

Subject to the election of the nominee, the Committee on Administration has approved a recommendation to it from the Search Committee that, if elected, the nominee for Stated Clerk be permitted to maintain his present domicile until long-range and organizational planning determine the necessity, timing and other logistics of relocation.
 - C. Nomination of Dr. Jeffrey Jon Jeremiah.
 - D. Election of the Stated Clerk.
- VII. Report of the Committee on Administration.
 - A. Recommendation regarding amendment of 2007 Administration budget (Attachment D)

Recommendation 2: Recommended by the Committee on Administration that the 2007 Administration Budget, approved by the 26th General Assembly, be amended to accommodate the terms of call the Stated Clerk Search Committee is recommending as well as increased travel costs by the Stated Clerk and other compensation adjustments necessary to implement the call. Current reserves, due to recent operating surpluses, can accommodate this amended budget.

Grounds: As contained in the recommendation.

B. Recommendation regarding succession.

Recommendation 3: That the Executive Committee of the Committee on Administration be authorized to determine the date of succession between the outgoing Stated Clerk and the Stated Clerk-elect.

Grounds: A number of timing issues are still to be determined. Succession would not be later than the completion of the present Stated Clerk's term on December 31, but likely to be in mid-November.

VIII. Installation of Stated Clerk-elect.

IX. Adjournment.

X. Concluding prayer.

26-57 ENROLLMENT

According to G.16-23, a called meeting of the General Assembly may meet “when ten percent of both Ruling and Teaching Elder Commissioners have signed a petition requesting such a meeting.” The Assembly received signed petitions from 86 Teaching Elders and 87 Ruling Elders, sufficiently fulfilling the requirement of G.16-23. The final enrollment of the reconvened 26th General Assembly follows:

Central South Presbytery

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Montgomery, AL	Grace at Bell Road	Hal Oates	
Anna, IL	First EPC	Joe Meller	
Alexandria, LA	Grace		Bob Vincent
Covington, LA	Faith		Chris Curtis
			Austin Olive
Houma, LA	First	Warren Berger	
Columbus, MS	Covenant		Bob Wilbur
Memphis, TN	Second	John Adamson	Paul Swets
		Hawley Ingram	
		John Ivy	
		Rob Liddon	
Houston, TX	Christ EPC	Olin Morris	John Crimmins
		Reese Baker	
Marshall, TX	EPC of Marshall	Orin Littlejohn	Craig Vanbiber
		Hillard Strong	
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery</i>			Mike Allday

East Presbytery

City & State	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Bethesda, MD	Fourth		Ron Meyer
Voorhees, NJ	Ashland EPC	Frank Johnson	
		Walt Stevenson	
Glen Rock, PA	Bethlehem-Steltz	Bill Brooks	Dan Krodel
Kingstowne, VA	Faith EPC	Zelda Artz	Neil Smith
		Steele Stewart	David Fischler
Reston, VA	Reston		Tom Dages
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery</i>			Pedro Govantes
			Louis Woods

Florida Presbytery

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Brooksville	Faith EPC	Bob Lloyd	Ron DiNunzio
Homestead	First		Clint Stockton
Land 'O Lakes	Church of the Lakes		Woody Johnson
Plant City	EPC of Plant City	Larry Doak	David Martin
		Philip Engstrom	Don Mason
Pompano Beach	New Covenant	Wes Mabin, Jr.	Scott Lawry
			Jim Letizia

Mid-America Presbytery

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Warrenville, IL	Immanuel	Paul Heidebrecht	
		Maggie Noll	
		Carol Plueddemann	
Lawrence, KS	Grace		Bill Vogler
St. Louis, MO	Central	Dexter Kuhlman	
St. Louis, MO	Greentree	Earl Hopper	

Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Charlotte, NC	St. Giles	John Brown	Steve Keller
Huntersville, NC	Lake Forest	Allen Roes	Mike Moses
Wilmington, NC	North Grove		Gary Westra
Lynchburg, VA	Rivermont		Chris Deneen
Virginia Beach, VA	Kempsville		Bruce Anderson
			Nate Atwood
			Neil Ellison
Bluefield, WV	Westminster	John Griffin	Howard Finkel
Cross Lanes, WV	Perrow		Jack Maxwell
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery</i>			Don Fortson
			Bill Meyer
			Howard Shockley

Midwest Presbytery

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Auburn, IN	St. Andrew EPC	Diane Manon	
		John Manon	
Warsaw, IN	Warsaw EPC		Ron Horgan
Ann Arbor, MI	Knox	Bill Painter	Chuck Jacob
Brighton, MI	Cornerstone	Bob Avis	Tim Brown
Clarkston, MI	North Oaks		Steve Brown
Farmington Hills, MI	Grace Chapel	Malcolm Bain	
Harrison Township, MI	Knox	Don Stickney	Doug Graham
Northville, MI	Ward	Ken Casey	Kurt Gebhard
Rochester, MI	Faith EPC		Jerry Brundle
Plymouth, MI	Trinity		Bill Moore
South Lyon, MI	Fellowship EPC		David Brown
Trenton, MI	First		Ian Leslie
Perrysburg, OH	Stonebridge		Andy Moehn
Youngstown, OH	Tabernacle	Jim Rimmel	Gary Koerth
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery</i>			Jeff Chadwick
			Michael Glodo
			Ed McCallum
			Bob Stauffer

Southeast Presbytery

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Rome, GA	First	John Graham	
		Louise Hunt	
		Bill Johns	
Erlanger, KY	New Beginning		Steve Riser
Franklin, NC	Cornerstone	Max Riddle	Ron Odum
		Bruce Tanner	
Franklin, NC	Grace	Richard Byland	Kenneth Jones
Hixson, TN	Valleybrook	Dan McGrew	
Knoxville, TN	Cedar Springs	Jerry Clothier	Jimmy Davis
Knoxville, TN	Crosswalk	Karen Walkup	Kirk Werner
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery</i>			Jim Van Dyke

West Presbytery

City	Church	Ruling Elders	Teaching Elders
Santa Maria, CA	Santa Maria Comm.		David Brogren
Englewood, CO	Cherry Creek	Alan Johnson	
		Ken Roberts	
Ephrata, WA	Comm. Church	Jason Bewick	
Renton, WA	First Presbyterian		Jeffrey Jeremiah
Woodinville, WA	Northwest EPC		Steve Wilkinson
<i>Other ministers on the roll of presbytery</i>			Brad Yorton

26-58 SPECIAL RULES FOR ASSEMBLY ADOPTED

ON MOTION that, in addition to the standing *Rules for Assembly*, the following special *Rules for Assembly* shall be observed for this called General Assembly and shall expire at the adjournment thereof.

- I. All commissioners desiring to be recognized or vote shall participate on a push button phone (land line or mobile) with the mute function inactive at any time he/she desires to be recognized or to vote.
- II. Voting.
 - A. When desiring to vote or be recognized, Commissioners shall follow the means prescribed by the commercial conferencing service.
 - B. Every effort will be made by the Moderator to determine the outcome of votes on the basis of voice.
 - C. All votes for which a written ballot would normally be used shall remain anonymous to the commissioners, officers and staff of the Assembly. They shall be recorded and counted by the commercial conferencing service. The totals announced by the service shall be final at the time announced unless challenged at that time.
 - D. *Rule for Assembly* §14-5, “All motions shall be presented in writing and read before the vote” shall be suspended for this meeting only.

Chairman, Elder John Adamson of the Stated Clerk Search Committee, reported for the committee. He read the names of those serving on the committee. He referred to the written report (Attachment B), noting that in light of changes to be made to the Stated Clerk position description including becoming a vision castor, a consensus builder and a leader, and to implement the long range plan to move the EPC forward in the future, the Committee recommended that the new Stated Clerk not relocate to Metropolitan Detroit because he will be spending most of his time on the road visiting churches and presbyteries. The salary for the Stated Clerk is, in the opinion of the Committee, commensurate with the demands of the position.

Chairman of the Administration Committee (COA), Rev. Bill Meyer, commented on the following recommendation, noting that the COA concurred with the recommendation.

Subject to the election of the nominee, the Committee on Administration has approved a recommendation to it from the Search Committee that, if elected, the nominee for Stated Clerk be permitted to maintain his present domicile until long-range and organizational planning determine the necessity, timing and other logistics of relocation.

26-59 ELECTION OF THE STATED CLERK

Chairman John Adamson placed in nomination the name of **Jeffrey Jon Jeremiah** as third Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Rev. John Crimmins, member of the SCSC seconded the nomination, noting that Dr. Jeremiah is an outstanding candidate. Elder John Graham, also spoke in support of and with great enthusiasm for the nominee.

The floor was opened for comments. Dr. Jeremiah was asked to give a brief testimonial of his walk with the Lord. He was asked about the relocation issue, and how the OGA would be run without an on-campus Stated Clerk. Stated Clerk Search Committee chairman John Adamson noted that while many functions of the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) will be reassigned among the staff, the new Stated Clerk will be in constant communication with the Assembly Office.

Dr. Jeremiah was excused during the discussion. Questions were raised about financial package. John Adamson addressed the concerns, noting that the first six months would render a better determination of how the financial needs would work out. The Assembly was assured that no per member increase would be needed, and that the financial reserves are adequate to cover the increased expenses. The nominee will be addressing the issue of per member participation during his travels around the denomination.

Concern was raised about the increased salary package. It was noted by one commissioner that voting members of the court are in an awkward position to vote for such an increase when the economy is in downturn in much of the country.

The Moderator asked for further nominations from the floor. There being no further nominations, the floor was closed.

ON MOTION Jeffrey Jon Jeremiah was unanimously elected the third Stated Clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Jeremiah was given opportunity to speak to the Assembly, giving glory to God and pledging to carry the EPC forward.

26-60 REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

COA Chairman, Bill Meyer, offered prayer before presenting two further recommendations to the Assembly.

1. **Recommendation 2:** That the 2007 Administration Budget, approved by the 26th General Assembly, be amended to accommodate the terms of call the Stated Clerk Search Committee is recommending as well as increased travel costs by the Stated Clerk and other compensation adjustments necessary to implement the call. Current reserves, due to recent operating surpluses, can accommodate this amended budget.

Clarification was requested as to the salary figure proffered by the Finance Committee. John Adamson explained that the figure includes salary plus housing to be determined by Dr. Jeremiah as to how it will be divided. The

figure does not include health benefits and pension, which are included elsewhere in the budget. He emphasized that the use of a portion of the reserves to meet this need will be well used.

Comment was made about the increase in the program staff compensation, noting that as day to day responsibilities are increased in the Office of the General Assembly, compensation will be adjusted accordingly.

ON MOTION Recommendation #2 was adopted.

Rev. Meyer presented the next recommendation concerning date of succession.

2. **Recommendation 3:** That the Executive Committee of the Committee on Administration be authorized to determine the date of succession between the outgoing Stated Clerk and the Stated Clerk-elect.

Grounds: A number of timing issues are still to be determined. Succession would not be later than the completion of the present Stated Clerk's term on December 31, but is likely to be in mid-November.

ON MOTION Recommendation #3 was adopted.

26-61 SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Moderator Heidebrecht asked the questions of installation to which Rev. Jeremiah readily agreed. The Assembly responded affirmatively to the questions of installation.

Moderator Heidebrecht declared the election and installation of Rev. Jeremiah were duly completed.

Rev. Nate Atwood was asked to pray for Dr. Jeremiah as he assumes his new responsibilities as Stated Clerk, and for the outgoing Stated Clerk, Mike Glodo.

26-62 ASSEMBLY ADJOURNED

At 1:10 p.m., Elder Heidebrecht adjourned the Assembly. Rev. Mike Glodo closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk

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**Committee on Administration
Standing Committee Report
26th General Assembly**

The Standing Administration Committee convened at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2006 and met twice. TE Ian Leslie opened the meeting with prayer. TE Michael Gatliff served as Clerk for the committee. TE Jerry, Brundle, member of the permanent Committee on Administration, served as resource person. Jacky Gatliff resourced the committee regarding the Women's Ministries recommendation.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. Communication #06-2
2. Recommendation #1
3. Recommendation #2
4. Recommendation #3
5. Recommendation #4
6. Recommendation #5
7. Recommendation #6
8. Recommendation #7
9. Recommendation #42
10. Minutes of the permanent Committee on Administration

B. Recommendations

1. That Recommendation #1 (Communication 06-2) "that the General Assembly accept the invitation of Cornerstone EPC, Brighton Michigan to host the 29th (2009) General Assembly" be adopted.
2. That Recommendation #2 "that in light of the addition of a new COA member (Moderator-elect), that the Rules for Assembly be amended to include the Moderator-elect as a non-voting ex-officio member of the World Outreach and Fraternal Relations committees" be adopted.
3. That Recommendation #3 be adopted "that the Proposed Administration Budget for \$1,369,000 be adopted."
4. That Recommendation #4 be adopted "that the Proposed Benevolence Askings Budget for \$609,000 be adopted."
5. That Recommendation #5 "that the 2006 Thanksgiving Offering be designated for the joint National Outreach Committee and College Ministries Committee church planting efforts in college towns" be adopted.
6. That Recommendation #6 "that the General Assembly amend the boundaries of Central South and Mid-America Presbyteries to include the entire state of Arkansas within the boundaries of Central South Presbytery" be adopted.

Grounds: Such a change would follow more the lines of cultural affinity

and locate current interest where resources are more readily available, hence increasing the prospects of church development

7. That Recommendation #7 “that section XI of the Rules for Assembly be amended to re-title the Board of Pension & Benefits “The Board of Benefits” be adopted.
8. That Recommendation #42 “that the General Assembly approve the proposal for full-time Women’s Ministries Director position” be adopted.
9. That the **Minutes** of the permanent Committee (September 12, 2005, October 10, 2005, November 3-4, 2005, March 15, 2006 and April 6-7, 2006) be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Administration Committee.
10. A recommendation “that the General Assembly allocate \$20,000 of current EPC surplus to fulfill financial commitments made to two church plants as necessary” was not adopted.

The Standing Committee acknowledges with appreciation the excellent work of the permanent Administration Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

TE William Moore, Chairman

TE Michael Gatliff, Clerk

Committee on Christian Education & Publications
Standing Committee
26th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Chairman, TE Tim Brown on Thursday, June 22, 2006. RE Dan McGrew served as committee clerk. The committee met once during the Assembly.

- A. Business Referred to Committee
 - 1. Communication #06-5
 - 2. Communication #06-6
 - 3. Recommendation #12
 - 4. Recommendation #13
 - 5. Minutes of the permanent committee
- B. Recommendations
 - 1. That Communication #06-5 dated September, 2005 from Judy Bryson, president of Pioneer Clubs be received as information.
 - 2. That Communication #06-6 dated May 15, 2006 from Judy Bryson, president of Pioneer Clubs to Rev. Michael Glodo, be received as information.
 - 3. That Recommendation #12 b e adopted "that Rules for Assembly 9.1F-2 (Duties of the permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications) be amended to reflect past and current practice and leaving open the possibility of future ministry development.

Rules for Assembly 9-1.F	
Present Wording	Proposed Wording
F. Committee on Christian Education and Publications	F. Committee on Christian Education and 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.	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.

<p>2. Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Curriculum Development b. Provide resources for church/Christian day schools (all levels) c. Provide assistance in Sunday School development and operation d. Publications other than curriculum e. Camp and conference development. f. Lay leadership development g. Worship and music resources 	<p>2. Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To develop and evaluate curriculum for presbyteries and local churches as needed. b. To cooperate with and encourage church day schools as needed. c. To provide assistance to local churches for the development and operation of Christian Education. d. To develop, evaluate, and support publications of general interest to the church, especially those valuable to the area of Christian Education. This includes supporting and promoting publications handled by other Permanent Committees or General Assembly staff. e. To participate in camp and conference center development, should it be feasible and desired. f. To participate in and support lay leadership development. g. To promote and evaluate prayer, worship and music resources. h. To help communicate the identity, vision, mission, and advantages of the EPC to local churches and to those outside the EPC.
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4. That Recommendation #13 be adopted “that the Assembly receive the EPC Officer Training Manual (2006 Edition) as a resource and commend it for use in EPC congregations following final editing for style and format.

Rationale: The 2006 Edition of the EPC Officer Training Manual follows two draft editions received by previous Assemblies which have been utilized by over forty EPC congregations. Chapter One (Church History I) has been rewritten in narrative form in keeping with the instructions of the 25th General Assembly. The Committees, in response to the instruction of the 25th Assembly to consider the wisdom of devoting Chapter Eleven to the theology of “Christian hedonism,” have consulted with concerned individuals and concluded that the content of the chapter should be retained with some revisions, reflected in the 2006 Edition. If the Manual is received by the Assembly, it will be submitted to a professional proofreader for style and format corrections with a goal of publication by the end of the 2006.

5. That the **Minutes** of the permanent Christian Education & Publications Committee dated October 21, 2005 be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

The Standing Committee on Christian Education & Publications commends the permanent Committee for its work this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Tim Brown, Chairman

RE Dan McGrew, Clerk

**Committee on Fraternal Relations
Standing Committee Report
26th General Assembly**

The Standing Fraternal Relations Committee convened at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2006 and met once. Chairman TE Tom Dages opened the meeting with prayer. RE Glenn Parker served as Clerk for the committee.

The chairman welcomed the following guests:

- Rev. John Dawson from the ARP
- Dr. Peter Borgdorff from the CRC
- Rev. Cal Boroughs from the PCA
- Mr. John White from the RPCNA
- Dr. Jerry O'Neill from the RPCNA

A. Business Referred to Committee:

- 1. Recommendation #14**
- 2. Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #14** "That EPC membership in WARC be terminated at the adjournment of the 27th General Assembly unless that Assembly reverses, postpones or suspends this action" be adopted
2. That the **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations (April 1, 2006) be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Fraternal Relations Committee.

The Standing Fraternal Relations Committee commends the permanent Committee for its faithful service this year.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Tom Dages, Chairman

RE Glenn Parker, Clerk

Committee on Ministerial Vocation
Standing Committee Report
26th General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation convened at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2006 and met once. Chairman RE Leonard Pilgrim opened the meeting with prayer. TE David Galbraith served as Clerk for the committee.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. **Recommendation #16**
2. **Recommendation #17**
3. **Recommendation #18**
4. **Minutes** of the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #16** “That **Overture 05-C**, referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee by the 25th General Assembly, be adopted, thereby directing the MVC to provide guidance and clarification to presbyteries regarding the calling and status of retired ministers” be adopted.

Rationale: The Committee recognizes that the issues raised by the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery demonstrate a need to clarify the calling and status of retired ministers. If the Assembly adopts Overture 05-C, the Committee intends to gather information from presbyteries and other relevant sources in order to determine how presbyteries understand and administer current *Book of Government* procedures and *Acts of Assembly* related to retired ministers, understand how other Reformed bodies regard the calling and status of retired ministers, understand how being on the retired roll of presbytery relates to government and pension plan definitions related to drawing benefits, and determine the best means to provide guidance. Options for the Committee include: 1) publishing a letter of advice, 2) proposing revisions or additions to the Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees, and/or 3) proposing amendments to the *Book of Government*.

2. The **Recommendation #17** “That **Overture 05-D**, referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee by the 25th General Assembly regarding the transfer of candidates to and from other Reformed bodies, not be adopted. }

Rationale: The central purpose of **Overture 05-D** appears to be to drop the requirement for a six-month membership in an EPC congregation for candidates coming from other Reformed bodies. The six-month membership requirement should be retained for the following reasons:

- 1) The EPC has a responsibility to candidates coming through EPC churches and presbyteries. Removing the six-month membership requirement undermines this responsibility, giving advantage to those coming from outside the EPC.
- 2) The EPC does not have an endorsed seminary and has no requirement to initially screen those applicants sending material to churches seeking pastors, making the calling process open to many outside the EPC and even the

Reformed tradition. Adopting the proposed overture would open the system even more. The current six-month membership requirement and discretionary one year under care of presbytery gives opportunity for the denomination and potential minister to know each other.

- 3) There is significant value for candidates coming into the EPC from other bodies to have a strong connection with the denomination before ordination. Adopting the amendment would undermine this value.
- 4) That the Assembly grant an additional year for the Ministerial Vocation Committee to study the recommendations to add the category of Commissioned Pastor and report their recommendations to the 27th General Assembly.

Referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee (p. 44)

3. That **Recommendation #18** “That the Assembly grant an additional year for the Ministerial Vocation Committee to study the recommendations to add the category of Commissioned Pastor and report their recommendations to the 27th General Assembly” be adopted.

Rationale: The Committee needs additional time to consult with the National Outreach and Long Range Planning Committees, to gather input from Ruling and Teaching Elders of the EPC, and to investigate questions including:

1. Does the proposal to add the category of “Commissioned Pastor” address a demonstrated, significant need?
2. If there is a significant need, is adding the category of “Commissioned Pastor” this the best way to address it?
3. If the category of “Commissioned Pastor” is added;
 - What training is necessary for a person to serve as a Commissioned Pastor?
 - Would examinations for commissioned pastors be the same or different than those for Candidates Under Care? If the same exams are used, would pass/fail standards for Commissioned Pastors same as those for Candidates? If exams are different, what content areas should be tested and to what depth?
 - Should the right to administer sacraments be extended to non-ordained individuals (i.e., a Commissioned Pastor who is a Candidate Under Care but not a Ruling Elder).
 - Would Commissioned Pastors have the same standing with the IRS as ordained ministers?
 - Do potential Commissioned Pastors need to submit written exceptions to Westminster?
 - How will commissioned pastors deal with potential Asecond class@ status
 - What is the court of original jurisdiction for a commissioned pastor?
4. **Minutes** of the permanent committee: July 25, 2005, October 14-15, 2005, November 30, 2005, January 12, 2006, March 2-4, 2006, June 5, 8 2006 were approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Committee.

C. Additional Recommendations

The Standing Committee recommends that, due to the coming age wave, the permanent committee consider whether or not the mandatory retirement age should be extended.

The Standing committee commends the permanent committee for its fine word during the past year.

The meeting was closed with prayer by RE Jerry Kidd at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RE Leonard Pilgrim, Chairman

TE David Galbraith, Clerk

Committee on National Outreach
Standing Committee Report
26th General Assembly

The Standing National Outreach Committee convened at 3:06 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2006 and met once. Chairman RE Henry Beck opened the meeting with prayer. TE Bill Lindner served as Clerk for the committee.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. Minutes of the permanent Committee

B. Recommendations:

1. That the **Minutes** of the permanent National Outreach Committee October 12 & 14, 2005, November 9, 2005 and March 9-10, 2006, be adopted with minor notations and sent back to the permanent National Outreach Committee.

C. Additional Recommendations

1. That due to insufficient funding of \$20,000 in the General Assembly Church Planting Benevolence Askings, two current church plants (Living Hope EPC, Haymarket VA and Gateway to Grace, St. Louis, MO) will not be fully funded for the remainder of the year. Therefore in the Spirit of Christ we are asking for additional benevolences from our churches.

D. Information:

1. National Outreach Director Bob Stauffer reviewed activities, opportunities and needs related to the ongoing work of the National Outreach Committee.
2. Key prayer requests
 - Funding for church planting
 - Developing full-time Presbytery staff for church development

The standing Committee on National Outreach commended the permanent Committee and Director Bob Stauffer for their good work during the past year.

Both meetings were closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

RE Henry Beck, Chairman

TE Bill Lindner, Clerk

Committee on Overtures & Resolutions
Standing Committee Report
26th General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Overtures and Resolutions convened at 3:10 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2006 and met once. Chairman TE Kent Bull opened the meeting with prayer. TE Don Neighbours served as Clerk for the committee.

A. Business Referred to Committee

1. **Overture 06-A (withdrawn)**
2. **Overture 06-B**
3. **Overture 06-C**
4. **Overture 06-D**
5. **Overture 06-E**

B. Recommendations

1. That **Overture 06-A** from the Presbytery of Florida be adopted to amend the ***Book of Government***, Section 10-2 by adding the sentence “This office shall be open to men only” following the sentence, “Those who fill this office should, according to the scripture, have certain qualifications.”
WITHDRAWN
2. That **Overture 06-B** from the Presbytery of the Southeast be adopted to amend the ***Book of Government*** Chapter 14 by substituting the following for all of Section 14-1E-7:
 - a. (Ruling Elders) – Do you promise subjection to your fellow presbyters in the Lord?
 - b. (Deacons) – Do you promise subjection to your fellow officers in the Lord?

TE Bill Sharp, Southeast Presbytery, reported their Presbytery strongly opposed the previous Overture. They object by saying that the former change makes Elders in subjection to Deacons and offers this present Overture as a correction so that Elders are in subjection to “fellow presbyters” and Deacons to “fellow officers.”

3. That **Overture 06-C** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic not be adopted to amend Chapter 15 by adding the following section:

G.15-11 Renunciation of Jurisdiction: A “renunciation of jurisdiction” shall have the effect of terminating membership and ordination in the church and shall immediately dissolve the relationship of Ruling Elder, Deacon or Minister. Notice of renunciation shall be given in writing to the Clerk of the appropriate court and becomes effective upon receipt of the notice. In the event an individual orally renounces jurisdiction, this fact shall be confirmed by letter from the court acknowledging that renunciation. The letter shall be delivered in person or by form of mail

requiring a written receipt. If the court receives no written response within ten days, the acknowledgment of renunciation of jurisdiction shall be deemed final.

TE Bill Sharp mentioned (as a matter to consider) that we already policies in place that allow the Presbytery to suspend rather than remove ordination. He said if a minister is on inactive roll for long enough, his ordination is dropped when his name is dropped from the roll.

Further discussion was made from various members of the committee.

A motion was made and seconded to refer this matter to Ministerial Vocation Committee for clarification, seconded by several members. The Committee voted in agreement with the motion.

4. That **Overture 06-D** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic be adopted to amend the ***Book of Government***, Section 15-5B, by the following addition.

Present wording	Proposed wording
When membership is placed with another congregation.	When membership is placed with another congregation <u>of the EPC or with a non-EPC congregation.</u>

5. That **Overture 06-E** from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic not be adopted to amend the ***Book of Government***, §15-4, as follows (additions underlined)

Present wording	Proposed wording
When a Presbytery shall divest a Minister of his office without censure, it shall assign him to membership in some particular church, subject to the approval of the Session of that church.	When a Presbytery shall divest a Minister of his office without censure, it shall <u>be at the discretion of the Presbytery</u> to assign him to membership in some particular church, subject to the approval of the Session of that church.

TE Howard Shockley gave the reasons for the Overture. Much discussion followed both for and against. Motion made and seconded to adopt. Several spoke against the motion to adopt. Vote was 4 to adopt, 12 not to adopt. Motion failed.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend NOT adopting the Overture and the vote was 11 in favor and 0 against. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Kent Bull, Chairman

TE Don Neighbours, Clerk

Committee on Student & Young Adult Ministries
Standing Committee Report
26th General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Student & Young Adult Ministries convened at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2006 and met once. Chairman TE Brett Eubank opened the meeting with prayer. TE Wayne Uppendahl served as Clerk for the committee.

A. Business Referred to Committee

- 1. Recommendation #39**
- 2. Minutes** of the permanent committees (Student Ministries and College Ministries)

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #39** “That the Student Ministries Committee description in the *Rules for Assembly* §10-1G be amended to allow more flexibility in the nominating process so that the most qualified and available members can be nominated and elected” be adopted. See proposed changes below:

Committee description as it now appears in the Rules for Assembly (10.1.G)	Proposed changes
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.	1. Membership to be composed of a minimum of two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders in three rotating classes of two each. Two of the remaining positions may be filled with non-ordained EPC youth workers 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.	2. Duties: to be responsible for conferences and mission trips, student ministry resourcing, youth worker equipping, and other youth ministry (middle school and high school) related concerns.

2. That the **Minutes** of the College Ministries Committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.
3. That the **Minutes** of the Student Ministries Committee be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee

3. **Additional Recommendations**

That the General Assembly amend the *Rules for Assembly* §10-1 to add *L. College Ministries*.

The Standing Committee on Student & Young Adult Ministries commends the permanent Student Ministries and College Committees for their work this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Brett Eubank, Chairman

TE Wayne Uppendahl, Clerk

Committee on Theology
Standing Committee Report
26th General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Theology convened at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2006 and met once. Chairman TE Todd Smedley opened the meeting with prayer. TE Richard Lanning served as Clerk for the committee.

A. Business Referred to Committee

- 1. Recommendation #15**
- 2. Recommendation #40**
- 3. Recommendation #41**

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #15** be adopted “that the 26th General Assembly instruct the permanent Theology Committee to carry out a comparative study of the Westminster standards (WSC, WLC and WCF) and the Three Forms of Unity (Canons of Dordt, Belgic Confession, and Heidelberg Catechism) for the purpose of determining:
 1. Whether a person who receives and adopts “the Three Forms of Unity as containing that system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures” without exception falls within the practice and application of the third officer vow of the EPC (“Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?”);
 2. What is confessed by the Westminster standards which is not confessed by the Three Forms of Unity; and
 3. What is confessed in the Three Forms of Unity which is out of accord with the Westminster standards.

And to report to the Assembly any other observations, resources or conclusions which might be helpful to the presbyteries in evaluating inquiries and requests for membership from churches which use the Three Forms of Unity as their doctrinal standard.

Grounds: Such a study would assist the presbyteries in evaluating and acting upon the requests of churches and ministers which have historically confessed the Three Forms of Unity without requiring a comprehensive study of the Westminster standards prior to joining the EPC.

2. That **Recommendation #40** “that the General Assembly **not adopt** the “Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse” (Cf. THEO-3) and that it refer the letter back to the Permanent Committee for consideration of the recommendations below and revision.
 - Clearly delineate domestic violence as sinful earlier in the letter.
 - Abuse should be defined to include spousal, parent/child, sibling, child/parent, and elder abuse.

- Further develop the thought that all humans are created in God’s image, and therefore, abuse is inherently wrong.
 - It fails to capitalize on a teaching opportunity on a couple of significant points (even if in footnotes). Pastors should be encouraged to teach and remind their congregations of the following:
 1. The need to define the meaning and importance of the “one flesh” principle. A clear distinction should be delineated between a Christian complementarian view of a male-led home vs. a common non-Christian understanding of traditional male-led homes.
 2. Would be wise to explain member privilege and protection afforded spouses in the right of seeking wisdom and adjudication from the local Session when sinful behavior threatens the integrity of the marriage. In this case, when problems or sinful behavior rises above a certain threshold, as it does in the case of physical abuse, wives should be encouraged to seek the intervention of the Session.
 - Should not appear to speak in a derogatory way of the traditional Christian view of marriage as “traditional male-dominated marriage(s).” (Please revisit line #16).
 - Should not be advocating that just any person with experience in the field come to instruct the Session. Many people involved with Social Services are working from non-biblical world views that may actually be hostile to a Christian view of things. We should clearly recommend that Sessions seek the help of qualified Christians.
 - In addition, it would be very helpful to add a list of trusted Christian literature and on-line resources that are consistent with the guiding principles of the EPC.
 - To specify that it is immoral behavior, as defined by the ***Book of Discipline***, and as such church discipline should be pursued.
3. That **Recommendation #41** “that the General Assembly approve the response of the permanent Theology Committee to **Overture #05-E** on *paedocommunion* (Cf. THEO-5)” be adopted.
 4. That the **Minutes** of the permanent Theology Committee (October 21-22, 2005 and February 23, 2006) be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Theology Committee.

The Standing Committee on Theology commends the permanent committee for its work this year.

Respectfully submitted,

TE Todd Smedley, Chairman

TE Richard Lanning, Clerk

Committee on Women's Ministries
Standing Committee Report
26th General Assembly

The meeting was opened with prayer by interim chairman RE Alan Smith at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2006. RE Nancy Stauffer served as committee clerk. The committee met once during the Assembly

A. Business Referred to Committee

- 1. Minutes** of the permanent committee
- 2. Recommendation #42**

B. Recommendations

1. That the **Minutes** of the permanent Women's Ministries Committee (August 22-23, 2005 and March 3-4, 2006) be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent Women's Ministries Committee.
2. That the Standing Committee unanimously endorses the recommendation of the Women's Ministries Committee for a full-time Women's Ministries Director position.

The Standing Committee on Women's Ministries commends the permanent committee for its work this year.

TE Perry Mobley closed the meeting with prayer at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

RE Alan Smith, Interim Chairman

RE Nancy Stauffer, Clerk

**Committee on World Outreach
Standing Committee Report
26th General Assembly**

The Standing Committee on World Outreach convened at 3:05 p.m. on Thursday, June 22, 2006 and met once. Chairman TE Bob Wilbur opened the meeting with prayer. TE Ron Crews served as Clerk for the committee. Chairman Wilbur introduced members of the permanent Committee on World Outreach present and thanked them for their service.

A. Business Referred to Committee

- 1. Recommendation #43**
- 2. Recommendation #447**

B. Recommendations

1. That **Recommendation #43** “that the General Assembly renew our cooperative agreements with Arab World Ministries, OC International, SIM International and Wycliffe Bible Translators” be adopted.
The World Outreach Manual calls for a periodic review of cooperative agreements. After reviewing these organizations the committee is fully satisfied that each of these organizations continues to meet all criteria for cooperative agencies and that these agreements are still beneficial to the work of the EPC through World Outreach.
2. That **Recommendation #47** “that the General Assembly approve the revised World Outreach Master Plan as presented in WO Attachment #1” be adopted.
Approximately every third year, World Outreach submits proposed Master Plan revisions to the General Assembly for approval, reflecting progress that has been made in our focus areas since the last revisions, and any changes in emphases, priority or direction to which the World Outreach Committee believes the Lord is calling the EPC in the area of world missions. The revised plan presented prayerful reflection over the past year in consultation with our missionaries and the missions leaders of our churches and presbyteries.
3. That the **Minutes** of the permanent committee (September 16-17, 2005, January 19-21, 2006 and March 16-18, 2006) be approved with minor notations and referred back to the permanent committee.

The Standing Committee on World Outreach commends the permanent committee for its work this past year. Further, we commend the outstanding contribution of Jeff Chadwick, World Outreach Director, to the cause of world missions and the work of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

TE Jim Murphy closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
TE Bob Wilbur, Chairman

TE Ron Crews, Clerk

PART II
APPENDICES

Report of the Committee on Administration

The Executive Committee of the Committee on Administration met on five occasions during this past year; three at the General Assembly offices in Livonia, MI (September 12, 2005; November 2&3, 2005; and April 4&5, 2006); and two occasions by conference call (December 19, 2005 and April 6, 2006). The full Committee on Administration met on four occasions; twice at Livonia MI (November 3-4, 2005 and April 6-7, 2006) and twice by conference call (October 10, 2005 and March 15, 2006). This represents considerably more meetings than usual but the committees were diligent in their attendance and their attention to the business to be accomplished. The following items of business were addressed and action taken:



Orin Littlejohn, Chairman

- Renewed for three-year terms Dr. Robert Stauffer as National Outreach Director and Mr. Marc Santom, Student Ministries Director.
- Referred action on alternatives for funding General Assembly hosting costs to the Executive Committee.
- Approved restructured funding for presbyteries' National Outreach "tithe" asking from 10% of presbytery church development budgets to \$1 per member per year. (Note: These are the funds by which the National Outreach Committee provides support services directly to presbyteries.)
- Approved a request by the College Committee to hold a College Ministries Summit at the 26th General Assembly to network college ministries in the EPC.
- Approved the theme of the 26th General Assembly, "Seeking His Kingdom," with keynote speakers Bob Hopper and Dan Doriani as well as featured speaker Mark Noll and others for Assembly workshop on Presbyterian history.
- Received as information the appointments to the Long Range Planning Committee, authorized by the 25th General Assembly to be appointed by the Moderator as follows:
Ted Brandsma (West), Darden Caylor (Central South), David Dwight (Mid-Atlantic), Frank Johnson (East), Jan Juday (Midwest), Richard Kidd (Southeast), Joe Schluchter (Mid-America), Nate Atwood Chairman, Mike Glodo (Stated Clerk), Paul Heidebrecht (Moderator Elect). Additional members may be appointed in advisory capacities.
- Hurricane Relief funds of over \$450,000 were received by General Assembly Office and Bill Meyer, Mike Glodo and Orin Littlejohn were appointed to approve the distribution of these funds. See the Stated Clerk's report for more information.
- Approved the Operation Manager's position description, noted the hiring of Sharon Boon to fill this position.
- Received for information only news of the dismissal of Forest Hill Church from the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery.
- Authorized the change of name of the Student and Young adults Ministries

(SYAM) to Student Ministries. College and young adults are under a separate committee.

- Approved the appointment of Jeane Mobley to fill the unexpired term of chairman of the Women's Ministry Committee left vacant by the resignation by Kitsie Hendrix.
- Approved cooperative ministry between World Outreach and the Arab American Friendship Center of Dearborn, Michigan as well as the Zwemer Conference.
- Approved charter and by-laws and authorized incorporation of the EPC Foundation and approved the EPC Foundation work group to begin work on foundation development. That work group will be recommended to the Nominating Committee to present to the General Assembly for election as the initial Board of Directors of the EPC Foundation. (See Attachment D containing charter and by-laws.) Authority to incorporate the Foundation was granted to the COA by the 25th General Assembly.)
- Noted with sincere sympathy the passing from this earth of 16th General Assembly Moderator RE Claude "Buck" Russell and authorized a resolution to be placed in the records of the Assembly and presented to his wife, Sandy.
- Noted also with sympathy the untimely death of "The Voice of EPC," Office of the General Assembly receptionist, Lois Ferguson.
- Noted also with sympathy and condolences to Marilyn Bartel upon the death of her mother, Dorothy Beerman.
- Received the 2005 Audit with unqualified opinion of the auditor.
- Confirmed Sinclair Ferguson as keynote speaker for the 28th General Assembly.

Recommendations to General Assembly:

1. That the Proposed 2007 Administration Budget of \$1,369,000 be adopted.
2. That the Proposed 2007 Benevolence Asking Budget of \$609,000.
3. That the invitation from Cornerstone EPC of Brighton, MI to host the 29th General Assembly in June 2009 be accepted.
4. That the *Rules for Assembly* be amended to include the Moderator Elect as a non-voting ex-officio member of the World Outreach and Fraternal Relations committees.
5. That the 2006 Thanksgiving offering be designated for the joint National Outreach Committee and College Ministries Committee concentrate on church planting efforts in college towns.
6. That the position of Women's Ministries Director be increased from its present 24 hours per week to full-time effective July 1, 2006 according to the following terms:
 - That the cost be shared by the Per Woman Asking in the amounts of \$12,000 for 2006; \$24,000 for 2007; 12,000 for 2008 and \$6000 for the first six months 2009. After this time, the full-time salary will be fully funded by the Assembly Administration Budget.
 - That the clerical support be increased to 14 hours per week.

- That the position be maintained at full time only if sufficient cost-sharing Per Woman Asking funds delineated above are available at the beginning of each fiscal year.

Grounds: “See Attachment E – Grounds for Full-Time EPC Director of Women’s Ministries.” Such incremental cost sharing by the program ministry has been the manner in which several program ministry position have been established or expanded.

7. That the General Assembly amend the boundaries of the Central South and Mid-America Presbyteries so that the entire state of Arkansas be included in the boundaries of the Central South Presbytery.

Grounds: Such a change would follow more the lines of cultural affinity and locate current interest where resources are more readily available, hence increasing the prospects of church development

8. That Rules for Assembly 11-1 be amended to replace the phrase “Board of Pension and Benefits” with “Board of Benefits” in order to reflect the current name of the board which oversees the EPC medical and retirement plans.
9. That the 26th General Assembly instruct the permanent Theology Committee to carry out a comparative study of the Westminster standards (WSC, WLC and WCF) and the Three Forms of Unity (Canons of Dordt, Belgic Confession, and Heidelberg Catechism) for the purpose of determining
 - a. Whether a person who “receives and adopts” the Three Forms of Unity “as containing that system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures” without exception falls within the practice and application of the third officer vow of the EPC (“Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?”);
 - b. What is confessed by the Westminster standards which is not confessed by the Three Forms of Unity; and
 - c. What is confessed in the Three Forms of Unity which is out of accord with the Westminster standards.

And to report to the Assembly any other observations, resources or conclusions which might be helpful to the presbyteries in evaluating inquiries and requests for membership from churches which use the Three Forms of Unity as their doctrinal standard.

Grounds: Such a study would assist the presbyteries in evaluating and acting upon the requests of churches and ministers which have historically confessed the Three Forms of Unity without requiring a comprehensive study of the Westminster standards prior to joining the EPC.

Respectfully submitted,

Orin Littlejohn, Chairman

June, 2006

ATTACHMENT A
PROPOSED 2007 ADMINISTRATION BUDGET

	2005	2005	2006		2007
	Budget	Actual	Budget		Proposed
DISBURSEMENTS					
Personnel Disbursements					
Stated Clerk Salary	92,700	94,663	95,000		97,900
Program Staff Salaries	358,000	332,184	395,700		424,000
Support Staff Salaries	118,500	122,927	129,900		144,000
Staff Insurance/Pension	167,000	135,032	169,100		183,000
Executive Expense Allowance	7,300	6,786	7,300		7,300
Staff Travel/Expenses	46,000	44,840	43,700		45,000
Executive Travel	25,000	17,163	25,000		25,000
Taxes/Worker Comp	33,000	30,881	40,400		37,000
Officer/Director Liability	10,500	9,360	11,000		10,500
	858,000	793,836	917,100		973,700
Administration Disbursements					
Contingencies	5,000	2,463	5,000		4,000
Telephone/Internet Access	13,000	12,094	13,000		15,100
Office Supplies	11,000	7,674	10,000		9,000
Printing & Promotion	32,000	31,740	27,200		27,200
Postage	29,000	28,376	28,000		29,000
Technology Support	20,400	20,328	22,000		20,000
Financial Audit	4,000	4,600	4,200		4,500
Professional Fees	5,000	-	4,000		3,000
Miscellaneous	4,000	1,225	2,000		2,000
Office Development	6,000	5,125	4,000		4,000
Committee Travel/Expense	70,000	54,201	56,000		58,000
GA Administration	21,000	24,704	21,000		21,000
Staff Technical Training	3,000	2,400	2,000		4,000
Pension Fund Administration	9,000	8,309	9,000		9,000
Fraternal Relations	10,000	8,670	8,000		8,000
Presbytery Devel/Support	3,000	2,263	2,000		2,500
Leadership Development	3,000	788	2,000		2,000
Christian Ed/Resource	2,000	46	2,000		2,000
Office Rent and Utilities	154,000	145,052	155,000		159,500
Other Maintenance/Insurance	8,000	6,554	8,000		8,000
Capital Replacement Escrow					-
Van Expense	2,500	3,156	2,500		3,500
	414,900	369,767	386,900		395,300
Grand Totals	1,272,900	1,163,602	1,304,000		1,369,000

ATTACHMENT B
PROPOSED BENEVOLENCE ASKINGS 2007

Vision 21

Implementation	\$100,000
Care of Pastors & Spouses	<u>\$8,000</u>
	\$108,000

Ministerial Vocation

Pastoral Care of Military Chaplains	\$5,000
-------------------------------------	----------------

National Outreach

Church Planting	\$100,000
Urban Ministry	\$50,000
Church Loan Fund	<u>\$25,000</u>
	\$175,000

Student Ministries

Ministry Development	\$8,000
Student Scholarships	\$3,000
Youth Worker Leadership Development	<u>\$10,000</u>
	\$21,000

College Ministries

College Ministries	<u>\$25,000</u>
	\$25,000

Women's Ministries

Per Woman Asking	\$25,000
Faith Focus	<u>\$50,000</u>
	\$75,000

World Outreach

Argentina – World Outreach Church Planting	\$7,500
Argentina – Pastoral Scholarships & Leadership Development	\$15,000
Argentina – St. Andrews Church Planting	\$20,000
Kazakhstan – Field Development	\$7,500
Kazakhstan – Resource Library for Elder Training	\$5,000
Kazakhstan – Outreach & Mercy Ministry	\$5,000
Kazakhstan – Rakum Church Building & Land	\$50,000
New Muslim World Church Planting Teams	\$35,000
Muslim Field – Agricultural Development Project	\$10,000
Ethnic Outreach	\$25,000
Tyumen Bible College & Outreach Ministries	\$15,000
Ethiopia (Mekele) Youth Center	<u>\$5,000</u>
	\$200,000

Grand Total \$609,000

**ATTACHMENT C
FINANCIAL AUDIT**

**EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

Karl L. Drake, P.C.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Financial Statements

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Karl L. Drake, P.C

Karl L. Drake, P.C.
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the General Assembly of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (a non-profit organization) as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flow 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, 2005 and 2004, and the changes in net assets and cash flow 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 24, 2006

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

ASSETS	2005	2004
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Equivalents:		
Unrestricted	\$ 1,082,345	\$ 2,193,542
Restricted	605,269	1,498,014
Investments:		
Unrestricted	2,008,446	712,486
Restricted	4,058,212	2,057,623
Accounts Receivable	1,181	2,304
Prepaid Expenses	---	8,411
Inventory	69,718	62,072
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	7,825,171	6,534,452
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Furniture and Equipment	136,305	132,082
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-89,492	-75,285
NET PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT	46,813	56,797
OTHER ASSETS		
Copyright	50,000	---
Notes Receivable	77,219	99,720
Deposits	72,682	12,381
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	199,901	112,101
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 8,071,885	\$ 6,703,350
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Current Portion	\$ 10,000	\$ ---
Accounts Payable	292,403	70,430
Accrued Expenses	---	1,129
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	302,403	71,559
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Copyright Payable	45,000	---
Less: Current Portion	10,000	---
TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	35,000	---
TOTAL LIABILITIES	337,403	71,559
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	733,645	663,330
Temporarily Restricted	6,957,124	5,924,748
Permanently Restricted	43,713	43,713
TOTAL NET ASSETS	7,734,482	6,631,791
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 8,071,885	\$ 6,703,350

See Accompanying Notes to the Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	2005 Total	2004 Total
REVENUE					
Contributions	\$ 1,121,310	\$ 3,417,583	\$ ---	\$ 4,538,893	\$ 3,891,661
Investment Income	58,831	156,396	---	215,227	106,920
Program Income	57,088	5,498,341	---	5,555,429	5,188,932
Other Income	8,336	---	---	8,336	11,638
Assets Released From Restrictions	8,037,635	-8,037,635	---	---	---
TOTAL REVENUE	9,283,200	1,034,685	---	10,317,885	9,199,151
EXPENSES					
Program Expenses	8,077,635	---	---	8,077,635	6,707,308
General and Administrative	1,159,761	---	---	1,159,761	1,073,479
Fund Raising	13,825	---	---	13,825	9,460
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,251,221	---	---	9,251,221	7,790,247
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN	31,979	1,034,685	---	1,066,664	1,408,904
UNREALIZED GAIN <LOSS> IN MARKET VALUE	38,336	-2,309	---	36,027	135,071
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	70,315	1,032,376	---	1,102,691	1,543,975
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	663,330	5,924,748	43,713	6,631,791	5,087,816
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 733,645	\$ 6,957,124	\$ 43,713	\$ 7,734,482	\$ 6,631,791

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, 2005 AND 2004

	Program Services	General and Administrative	Fund Raising	2005 Total	2004 Total
Compensation	\$ ---	\$ 549,774	\$ ---	\$ 549,774	\$ 517,008
Employee Benefits	---	141,818	---	141,818	134,899
Payroll Taxes	---	30,881	---	30,881	28,860
Repairs and Maintenance	---	6,554	---	6,554	12,027
Travel	---	62,003	---	62,003	61,807
Committee Expenses	---	54,201	---	54,201	52,807
Contingencies	---	2,462	---	2,462	6,313
Printing and Promotion	---	17,915	13,825	31,740	21,718
Professional Fees	---	4,600	---	4,600	9,333
Rent and Property Taxes	---	145,052	---	145,052	77,023
Van Expense	---	3,156	---	3,156	2,685
Office Supplies	---	7,674	---	7,674	8,468
Telephone	---	12,094	---	12,094	11,999
Utilities	---	---	---	---	8,931
Insurance	---	9,360	---	9,360	9,360
Postage	---	28,376	---	28,376	23,116
Development	---	8,175	---	8,175	38,909
Fraternal Relations	---	8,670	---	8,670	7,196
Support and Training	---	2,400	---	2,400	1,410
General Assembly Expenses	---	24,704	---	24,704	39,214
Miscellaneous	---	1,225	---	1,225	1,269
Premiums	737,551	---	---	737,551	670,153
Claims	3,704,976	---	---	3,704,976	3,262,371
Administrative Expenses	94,965	8,309	---	103,274	106,877
Program Expenses	3,540,143	---	---	3,540,143	2,676,283
Christian Ed. Resources	---	46	---	46	---
Technology Support	---	20,328	---	20,328	21,250
TOTALS BEFORE ADJUSTMENTS	8,077,635	1,149,777	13,825	9,241,237	7,811,286
Fixed Asset Capitalization	---	-7,519	---	-7,519	-39,048
Depreciation	---	17,503	---	17,503	18,009
ADJUSTED TOTALS	\$ 8,077,635	\$ 1,159,761	\$ 13,825	\$ 9,251,221	\$ 7,790,247

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

	2005	2004
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase <Decrease> in Net Assets before Unrealized Gain <Loss>	\$ 1,066,664	\$ 1,408,904
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash Flow From Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	17,503	18,009
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease <Increase> in Accounts Receivable	1,123	200,546
Decrease <Increase> in Inventory	-7,646	339
Decrease <Increase> in Prepaid Expenses	8,411	-8,411
Increase <Decrease> in Accounts Payable	221,973	-350,278
Increase <Decrease> in Accrued Liabilities	-1,129	126
Decrease <Increase> in Notes Receivable	22,501	-45,130
Decrease <Increase> in Deposits	-60,301	-6,252
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>1,269,099</u>	<u>1,217,853</u>
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Sale <Purchase> of Copyright	-50,000	---
Sale <Purchase> of Fixed Assets	-7,519	-39,048
Sale <Purchase> of Investments	-3,296,549	-968,146
Unrealized Gain on Investments	36,027	135,071
NET CASH FLOW FROM <USED BY> INVESTING ACTIVITIES	<u>-3,318,041</u>	<u>-872,123</u>
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from Copyright Payable	45,000	---
INCREASE <DECREASE> IN CASH	-2,003,942	345,730
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>3,691,556</u>	<u>3,345,826</u>
CASH - END OF YEAR	<u><u>\$ 1,687,614</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,691,556</u></u>
OTHER DISCLOSURES		
Cash used for:		
Income taxes	\$ ---	\$ ---
Interest	\$ ---	\$ ---

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

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 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 2005 and 2004 totaled \$17,503 and \$18,009 respectively.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

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 consist of mutual funds, and are valued at market value, including accrued interest.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES

During the year ended December 31, 2005, 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:

	2005	2004
Christ Fellowship	\$ 64,375	\$ 71,875
Cornerstone EPC	833	5,833
Covenant Community	2,428	7,429
Covenant	9,583	14,583
Total	\$ 77,219	\$ 99,720

NOTE 4 - NET ASSET RESTRICTIONS

At December 31, 2005 and 2004, temporarily restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	2005	2004
World Outreach	\$ 1,541,657	\$ 1,585,375
Church Development	94,876	107,782
Church Loan	828,040	802,354
Programs	1,785,694	1,619,494
Medical Insurance Plan	2,706,857	1,660,896
	\$ 6,957,124	\$ 5,775,901

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 4 - NET ASSET RESTRICTIONS (CONTINUED)

At December 31, 2005 and 2004, permanently restricted net assets consisted of the following:

	2005	2004
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 2005 and 2004.

	2005	2004
Premiums Billed	\$ 5,448,674	\$ 5,080,948
Interest Income	56,150	23,869
Gain in Market Value	75,705	99,244
Insurance Stop-loss	---	52,009
Other	1,968	---
Premiums Expense	-737,551	-670,153
Claims Expense	-3,704,976	-3,411,218
Administrative Expense	<u>-94,009</u>	<u>-97,482</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	<u>\$ 1,045,961</u>	<u>\$ 1,077,217</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 2005 and 2004 were \$52,355 and \$49,525 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 2005 and 2004.

	2005	2004
Contributions	\$ 3,540,701	\$ 2,998,996
Dividends and Interest	1,576,995	592,584
Gain in Market Value	774,856	1,811,471
Transfers In <Out>	-2,721,345	-165,519
Pension Payments	-155,660	-676,760
Administrative Expense	<u>-11,890</u>	<u>-10,421</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	<u>\$ 3,003,657</u>	<u>\$ 4,550,351</u>

NOTE 7 - CHANGES TO PRIOR YEAR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Certain 2004 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 August 1, 2004 and extending to January 15, 2012. For the period of August 1, 2004 through January 15, 2005, no lease payments were due. Beginning January 15, 2005, lease payments of \$12,381 per month are due. The monthly payment amount increases annually. Total lease expense for 2005 and 2004 was \$148,572 and \$77,023, respectively. A security deposit of \$12,381 has been paid to secure the lease.

In May of 2004, a check was written to the owners of the new office space for \$12,381 for utility expenses of \$794 per month. This amount has been classified as a prepaid expense, and is being amortized at \$794 per month. The balance in the prepaid expense account at December 31, 2005 and 2004 was \$0 and \$8,411.

Future lease obligations are as follows:

2006	\$ 153,973
2007	157,782
2008	161,593
2009	166,987
2010	173,022
2011	176,836
2012	14,922

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, 2005, cash and cash equivalents included:

	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Book Value</u>
Amounts covered by FDIC Insurance	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Amounts covered by SIPC Insurance	300,000	300,000
Amounts covered by brokerage company insurance	500,000	500,000
Amounts uninsured	591,204	687,614
Total Cash and Equivalents	<u>\$ 1,591,204</u>	<u>\$ 1,687,614</u>

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

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 10 - COPYRIGHT

The Organization has entered into an agreement with Summertown Tests for the purchase of copyrights for the EPC Edition of the Modern Language Version of the Westminster Confessions of Faith and Larger Catechism. The total purchase is \$50,000. The Organization paid \$5,000 in 2005, and will make quarterly payments of \$2,500 for the next 18 quarters. No interest is charged in the agreement. Future payment obligations are as follows:

2006	\$ 10,000
2007	10,000
2008	10,000
2009	10,000
2010	<u>5,000</u>
Total Balance Due	<u>\$ 45,000</u>

NOTE 11 - PROGRAM SERVICES EXPENSES

The following is a breakdown of the Program Services expenses for the year ending December 31, 2005 and 2004:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Medical Insurance Plan	\$ 4,536,536	\$ 4,030,006
World Outreach	2,184,338	1,861,698
Church Assistance	1,163,716	585,969
Church Development	57,194	40,278
Special Projects	134,894	188,228
Church Loan Fund	<u>957</u>	<u>1,129</u>
	<u>\$ 8,077,635</u>	<u>\$ 6,707,308</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, 2005 AND 2004

ASSETS	2005	2004
CURRENT ASSETS		
Comerica Checking Account	\$ 536,267	\$ 547,515
Comerica Payroll Account	76,377	59,091
Comerica Money Market	200,237	835,953
Petty Cash	500	500
Vanguard - General Fund MM	268,964	750,484
A.G. Edwards - General Fund	1,398,125	---
Fidelity AM - General Fund	---	136,287
Comerica Investment	273,558	266,811
Manning and Napier Investment	335,489	309,389
Vanguard Thompson Fund	34,470	34,579
Fidelity Puritan - Knox Fund	---	181,530
A.G. Edwards - Knox Fund	179,423	---
American Centuries - Knox Fund	441,006	441,006
Fidelity Puritan - Medical Benevolence	---	61,550
A.G. Edwards - Medical Benevolence	60,836	---
American Centuries - Medical Benevolence	201,719	201,719
Smith Barney - Ministerial Endowment	---	54,857
A.G. Edwards - Ministerial Endowment	56,248	---
Literature Inventory	69,718	62,072
Investment - Stock	1,273	---
Accounts Receivable	1,181	2,303
Prepaid Expenses	---	8,411
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	4,135,391	3,954,057
LAND, BUILDING AND FIXTURES		
Furniture and Fixtures	136,305	132,082
Accumulated Depreciation	-89,492	-75,285
TOTAL LAND, BUILDINGS AND EQUIPMENT	46,813	56,797
OTHER ASSETS		
Copyright	50,000	---
Deposit	12,381	12,381
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	62,381	12,381
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 4,244,585	\$ 4,023,235

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**LIABILITIES****CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Current Portion	\$ 10,000	\$ ---
Accounts Payable	---	2,413
Payroll Taxes Payable	---	1,129

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	10,000	3,542
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LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Copyright Payable	45,000	---
Less: Current Portion	10,000	---

TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	35,000	---
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DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS

3,371,064	3,248,581
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TOTAL LIABILITIES	3,416,064	3,252,123
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FUND BALANCE

828,521	771,112
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TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

\$ 4,244,585	\$ 4,023,235
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EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**Administration****INCOME STATEMENT****YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL
REVENUE				
Per Member Giving	\$ 1,138,000	\$ 1,121,310	\$ -16,690	\$ 1,154,902
Interest Income	20,000	37,251	17,251	17,117
Market Value Adjustments	39,600	38,336	-1,264	55,883
Missionary Administration	49,300	57,088	7,788	49,683
Knox Fund Interest	14,000	21,580	7,580	14,860
Other Income	12,000	8,336	-3,664	11,639
TOTAL REVENUE	1,272,900	1,283,901	11,001	1,304,084
EXPENSE				
PERSONNEL				
Stated Clerk Salary	92,700	94,663	-1,963	89,900
Program Staff Salaries	358,000	332,184	25,816	318,817
Support Staff Salaries	118,500	122,927	-4,427	108,291
Staff Insurance/Pension	167,000	135,032	31,968	129,007
Professional Expense Allowance	7,300	6,786	514	5,892
Staff Travel/Expenses	46,000	44,840	1,160	37,557
Executive Travel	25,000	17,163	7,837	24,250
Taxes/Workers Compensation	33,000	30,881	2,119	28,860
Officers and Directors Liability Insurance	10,500	9,360	1,140	9,360
TOTAL PERSONNEL	858,000	793,836	64,164	751,934
ADMINISTRATION				
Contingencies	5,000	2,462	2,538	6,313
Telephone	13,000	12,094	906	11,999
Office Supplies	11,000	7,674	3,326	8,468
Printing and Promotion	32,000	31,740	260	21,719
Postage	29,000	28,376	624	23,116

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL
ADMINISTRATION (CONTINUED)				
Technology Support	\$ 20,400	\$ 20,328	\$ 72	\$ 21,250
Financial Audit	4,000	4,600	-600	4,000
Professional Fees	5,000	---	5,000	5,334
Miscellaneous	4,000	1,225	2,775	1,267
Office Development	6,000	5,125	875	35,415
Committee Travel	70,000	54,201	15,799	52,807
General Assembly Administration	21,000	24,704	-3,704	39,214
Staff Technical Training	3,000	2,400	600	1,410
Pension Fund Administration	9,000	8,309	691	8,376
Fraternal Relations	10,000	8,670	1,330	7,196
Presbytery Development	3,000	2,262	738	1,847
Leadership Development	3,000	788	2,212	1,503
Christian Education Resources	2,000	46	1,954	144
Office Rent/Taxes	154,000	145,052	8,948	77,023
Office Utilities	---	---	---	8,931
Office Maintenance/Insurance	8,000	6,554	1,446	12,027
Van Expense	2,500	3,156	-656	2,685
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	414,900	369,766	45,134	352,044
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,272,900	1,163,602	109,298	1,103,978
NET SURPLUS	\$ ---	\$ 120,299	\$ 120,299	\$ 200,106

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

	2005	2004
ASSETS		
Cash Bank - Checking	\$ ---	\$ ---
TOTAL ASSETS	---	---
FUND BALANCE		
Inter Fund Account	-94,876	-107,782
Net Surplus	94,876	107,782
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	\$ ---	\$ ---

INCOME STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL
REVENUE				
Central South Presbytery	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ ---	\$ 15,000
East Presbytery	1,200	2,000	800	1,500
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery	6,400	7,500	1,100	8,000
Midwest Presbytery	6,000	6,000	---	6,000
Southeast Presbytery	5,280	4,640	-640	5,280
West Presbytery	4,800	4,800	---	4,800
Florida Presbytery	1,000	2,105	1,105	1,500
Mid-America Presbytery	5,000	5,000	---	5,000
CPAC Income	7,000	2,243	-4,757	5,940
CDC Other Income	---	---	---	---
CDC Carryover	107,782	107,782	---	95,040
TOTAL REVENUE	154,462	152,070	-2,392	148,060
EXPENSE				
Church Consultation/Travel	5,000	471	4,529	---
CPAC Training	23,000	12,827	10,173	22,893
Presbytery Development/Travel	19,000	3,286	15,714	7,931
Church Planters Retreat	9,000	4,628	4,372	1,510
Research/Development	2,000	413	1,587	849
Church Development Miscellaneous	1,500	780	720	434
Church Planter's Development	2,500	2,245	255	---
Urban Ministries	10,000	6,154	3,846	6,661
Communication	1,000	1,000	---	---
Evangelism	1,000	390	610	---
Operational Reserve and Other	80,462	25,000	55,462	---
TOTAL EXPENSE	154,462	57,194	97,268	40,278
NET SURPLUS	\$ ---	\$ 94,876	\$ 94,876	\$ 107,782

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church Loan Fund

BALANCE SHEET

DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Comerica Checking Account	\$ 26,050	\$ ---
Fidelity AM - CLF	---	236,406
Salomon SB - CLF Money Market	---	466,229
A.G. Edwards - Fidelity AM	<u>724,771</u>	<u>---</u>
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>750,821</u>	<u>702,635</u>
OTHER ASSETS		
Note Receivable - Christ Fellowship	64,375	71,875
Note Receivable - Cornerstone EPC	833	5,833
Note Receivable - Covenant Community	2,428	7,428
Note Receivable - Covenant Presbyterian	<u>9,583</u>	<u>14,583</u>
TOTAL OTHER ASSETS	<u>77,219</u>	<u>99,719</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 828,040</u>	<u>\$ 802,354</u>
 TOTAL FUND BALANCE	 <u>\$ 828,040</u>	 <u>\$ 802,354</u>

Church Loan Fund**INCOME STATEMENT****YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	VARIANCE	PRIOR YEAR ACTUAL
REVENUE				
Contributions	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ ---	\$ 3,500
Investment Income	12,000	22,231	10,231	16,036
North Park EPC Interest	---	---	---	23
North Park EPC Challenge	---	---	---	92
Christ Fellowship Interest	500	1,030	530	209
Christ Fellowship Challenge	1,250	1,437	187	625
Tabernacle Interest	---	---	---	97
Tabernacle Challenge	---	---	---	---
Cornerstone EPC Interest	75	78	3	66
Cornerstone EPC Challenge	100	117	17	217
Covenant Community Interest	60	91	31	90
Covenant Community Challenge	150	148	-2	278
Covenant Presbyterian Interest	200	218	18	119
Covenant Presbyterian Challenge	300	292	-8	425
TOTAL REVENUE	15,635	26,642	11,007	21,777
EXPENSE				
Administration Fee	1,000	956	44	1,129
NET SURPLUS	\$ 14,635	\$ 25,686	\$ 11,051	\$ 20,648

ATTACHMENT D

EPC FOUNDATION CHARTER & BY-LAWS AS APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

By the authority granted to it by the 25th General Assembly, the Committee on Administration adopted by the following charter and by-laws and effected the incorporation of the EPC Foundation at its spring 2006 meeting.

Charter & By-Laws of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church Foundation
as Adopted by the Committee on Administration

I. STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Charter of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Foundation, Inc.

Evangelical Presbyterian Church Foundation, Inc.
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567
Livonia, Michigan 48152

The undersigned natural person(s), having the capacity to contract and acting as incorporator of a corporation under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act 162 of 1982, adopts the following Charter for such Corporation.

1. The name of the Corporation is: Evangelical Presbyterian Church Foundation, Inc.

The duration of the corporation is perpetual.

The fiscal year end of the corporation based on the calendar year.

The address and principal office of the corporation in the State of Michigan shall be: 17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567, Livonia, Michigan 48152 or its current address.

The registered agent of the corporation shall be Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk or his successor, c/o of Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567, Livonia, Michigan 48152 or its current address.

The Corporation shall have no members, other than the Board of Directors. The Corporation shall not have, nor issue shares, and shall pay no dividends. No payment shall be made to its directors for serving in such positions except for reasonable expenses for the furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.

The Corporation is formed as a supporting organization of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and must be operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Corporation shall not be controlled directly or indirectly by any person, entity or organization considered to be disqualified pursuant to Section 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. This Corporation is a religious Corporation and is for the public benefit.

The Corporation is irrevocably dedicated to and operated exclusively for nonprofit purposes and no part of the income or assets of the Corporation shall be distributed to or inure to the benefit of any individual, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation and expenses for the furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.

The purposes for which the Corporation is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, educational and literary with the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law. The Corporation is organized to operate exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the function of, and to carry out the purposes of holding and receiving by gift, bequest, devise, grant or purchase any real or personal property, and to raise, invest and reinvest, and to use and to dispose of the same for the purpose of allocating funds to support the programs, mission and vision of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In this regard, it is expressly understood that any and all grants, distributions, and support payments of any kind be limited to organizations, ministries, churches and individuals involved in such programs that are approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, this Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the Corporation will be turned over to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church or to its successors qualified under Sections 501(c)(3) and 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

The powers of the Corporation are as follows:

To accept, hold, invest, reinvest, and administer any gifts, bequests, devises, benefits of trust and property of any sort, without limitation, as to amount or value, including charitable remainder trusts, gift annuity contracts, charitable lead trusts, donor-advised funds, endowments, etc.; and to use, disburse or donate income or principal thereof for exclusively charitable purposes in connection with promoting and advancing the charitable activities of the Corporation.

To buy, own, sell, convey, assign, mortgage or lease any interest in real estate and personal property not used by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church or designated for its future use and to improve, construct, maintain and operate improvements thereon necessary or incidental to the accomplishment of its purpose.

To borrow money and issue evidence of indebtedness in furtherance of any or all of the objects of its business, and to secure the same by mortgage, pledge or other lien on the Corporation's property.

To exercise fiduciary powers to the fullest extent permissible by law and to enter into any authorized trust agreements as beneficiary or trustee and give bond for the performance of such fiduciary relationships and to consult with, retain and otherwise deal with banks, trust companies, investment advisors, or foundations in all matters determined by the Board of Directors to be in best interests of the Corporation, so long as such activity is in compliance with the provisions of this Charter.

To do and perform all acts reasonably necessary for or incidental to the accomplishment of the purposes of the Corporation, and to do any and all things and exercise any and all powers, rights, and privileges which the Corporation may now or hereafter be authorized to do or exercise under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act 162 of 1982 and as may be permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) and 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of at least (6) Directors but not more than (9) Directors, all of whom are nominated by the Nominating Committee of and elected by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

As a prerequisite to any actions on behalf of the Board of Directors, there must be approval by a majority of Directors and the by-laws of the Corporation shall require that there be fifty percent (50%) of Directors, but not less than (3) Directors at any meeting of the Corporation's Directors in order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

No Director shall have the right to exercise veto power over the actions of the Board of Directors or the Corporation.

The Corporation shall indemnify and hold harmless its Directors, Officers and Employees to the fullest extent permissible under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act 162 of 1982 and any amendment thereto.

The Corporation, authorized under section 209 of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act 162 of 1982, assumes the liability for all acts or omissions of each volunteer director, each volunteer officer and any other volunteer occurring on or after the date that this Article becomes effective. Any claim shall be brought and maintained against the Corporation.

The Charter may be amended at any regular or specially called meeting of the Board of Directors by a minimum of two-thirds (66%) of the total number of Directors and upon ratification by the Committee on Administration of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

The initial Directors and Officers of the Corporation shall be as set forth on Exhibit “A” attached hereto and made a part hereof and shall serve until regular election by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as described above.

Signed this..... day of, 2006

Evangelical Presbyterian Church Foundation, Inc.

By:

Bylaws of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Foundation, Inc.

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ARTICLE I

OFFICES

Section 1. Place. The principal office of the Corporation in the State of Michigan (the “State”) shall be located in the county of Wayne. The Corporation may have such other offices, within or without the State, as the Board of Directors may determine or as the affairs of the Corporation may require from time to time.

The Corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State a registered office and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office if required by the laws of the State. Unless otherwise required by the laws of the State, the registered office may be, but need not be; identical to the principal office in the State, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II

NOT FOR PROFIT CORPORATION

Section 1. Not for Profit Corporation. The Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation which shall not have or issue shares or pay dividends. The Corporation is irrevocably dedicated to and operated exclusively for non-profit purposes and no part of the income or assets of the Corporation shall be distributed to or inure to the benefit of any individual, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation and expenses for furtherance of the purposes set forth herein.

The purposes for which the Corporation is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, literary and educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law, such purposes being more specifically set forth as follows:

- a. The purposes for which the Corporation is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, literary and educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Code. The Corporation is organized to operate exclusively for the benefit of, to perform the function of, and to carry out the purposes of holding and receiving by gift, bequest, devise, grant or purchase any real or personal property, and to raise, invest and reinvest, and to use and to dispose of the same for the purpose of allocating funds to support the programs, mission and vision of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In this regard, it is expressly understood that any and all grants, distributions, and support payments of any kind be limited to organizations, ministries, churches and individuals involved in such programs that are approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

To receive, accept, hold, invest, reinvest, loan and administer any gifts, bequests, devises, benefits of trust, (including charitable remainder trusts, gift annuity contracts, charitable lead trusts, etc.), endowments, donor-advised funds and property of any sort, without limitation as to amount or value, and to use, disburse or donate the income or principal thereof for exclusively charitable purposes to organizations and individuals that are approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

To buy, own sell, convey, assign, mortgage or lease any interest in real estate and personal property not used by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church or its approved agencies or designated for future use and to improve, construct, maintain and operate improvements thereon necessary or incidental to the accomplishment of its purpose.

To enter into any contract or agreement necessary or incidental to the accomplishment of the purposes set forth herein above, to pay all costs and expenses associated therewith, and to do and perform all acts reasonably necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Corporation or otherwise permitted by law. Notwithstanding any other provision in the Charter, the Corporation shall not engage in any activity not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

The Corporation is formed as a supporting organization of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Corporation must be operated, supervised or controlled by or in connection with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Corporation shall not be controlled directly or indirectly by any person, entity or organization considered to be disqualified pursuant to Section 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements for) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, this organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

Section 1. No Members Except Directors. The Corporation shall have no members other than the Directors. No payment shall be made to its Directors or Officers for serving in such positions, but Directors and Officers may receive reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred on behalf of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IV

DIRECTORS

Section 1. Appointment of Directors. The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of at least (6) Directors but not more than (9) Directors, all of whom are recommended by the Nominating Committee of and elected by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

No Director shall have the right to exercise veto power over the actions of the Board of Directors or the Corporation.

Section 2. Term. Each Director of the Corporation shall serve a three year term and shall be eligible for a maximum of two consecutive terms. The initial Directors shall be designated into classes of staggered terms of one, two and three years.

Section 3. Vacancies and New Positions. Any vacancies or new positions occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled by appointment to the representative class in accordance with Section 1 of this Article.

Section 4. Removal. A Director may be removed by action of the Committee on Administration of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. By a majority vote, excluding the Director in question, the Board may request that the Committee on Administration remove a Director.

Section 5. Powers of Directors. The business affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors, which shall exercise all powers of the Corporation. Included therein shall be the following powers:

To modify any restriction or condition on the distribution of funds to effect corporate purposes if, in the sole judgment of a majority of the full Board of Directors, such restrictions or conditions become unnecessary, incapable of fulfillment or inconsistent with the charitable needs or the purposes of the Corporation.

To replace any retained trustee, custodian or agent for breach of fiduciary duty under state law or under the Charter and Bylaws.

To replace any retained trustee, custodian or agent for failure to produce a reasonable return of income in a reasonable period of time or for any other reason as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Ultimate Control of Assets. Neither the Board of Directors nor any of its trustees, investment managers, custodians or agents may be subjected by any donor to the Corporation to any material condition or restriction within the meaning of Income Tax Regulation 1.507-2(a)(8) under the Internal Revenue Code which would prevent the Foundation from exercising its ultimate control over the assets.

Section 7. Books of Corporation. The Directors shall keep the books of the Corporation at such place or places as they may from time to time determine.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Place of Meetings. Meetings of the Board of Directors, regular or special, may be held either within or without the State of Michigan.

Section 2. Annual and Regular Meetings of Directors. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held upon such notice or upon written waiver of notice and at such time and at such place as shall from time to time be determined by the Board. In addition, the Board, by resolution, may determine the date of the annual meeting and of other regular meetings of the Board and, upon such determination, said meetings may be held without additional notice.

Section 3. Notice of Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the Chairman, the Executive Director, the Secretary or a majority of the Board of Directors on five (5) days' notice to each Director, either personally or by mail or by other recognized electronic means.

Section 4. Waiver of Notice. Attendance of a Director at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except when a Director attends for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted nor the purpose of any regular meeting of the Board need be specified in the notice of waiver or notice of such meeting. Notice of waiver for or notice of special meetings must state the business to be transacted and such meeting shall be limited only to such business stated.

Section 5. When Meeting Not Required. Any action required or permitted to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the Directors entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof.

ARTICLE VI

QUORUM

Section 1. Determination – Adjournment. Representation in person or by other synchronous (simultaneous) means of at least fifty percent (50%) of Directors, but not less than (3) Directors shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Board of Directors, or such committees, for the transaction of business, except as otherwise provided by statute or by the Charter. If, however, such quorum shall not be present at any meeting, those present in person shall have the power to adjourn the meeting from time to time without notice, other than announcement at the meeting, until a quorum shall be present. At such adjourned meeting at which a quorum shall be present, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted at the meeting as originally notified.

Section 2. Effect of Quorum. If a quorum is present, the affirmative vote of a majority present at the meeting shall be the act of the Board of Directors or

committee unless the vote of a greater number of Directors is required by law or by the Charter or by these Bylaws.

Section 3. Voting. Each Director or committee member having voting power shall be entitled to one vote.

ARTICLE VII

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Creation, Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors, by resolution adopted by a majority of the Directors present at any duly convened meeting, may designate three (3) or more Directors to constitute an Executive Committee, which Committee, to the extent provided in such resolution, shall have and exercise all authority delegated by the Board of Directors in the management of the Foundation except as otherwise required by law. Vacancies in the membership of the Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors at the regular or special meeting of the Board. The Executive Committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings and report the same to the Board.

ARTICLE VIII

OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 1. Creation, Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors of the Corporation may establish other committees which shall be governed by Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act 162 of 1982, or any amendment thereto.

The committee(s) may consist of two or more natural persons who have an interest in the purpose and advancement of the cause of the Corporation. The Chairman of the Corporation, with the concurrence of the Board, shall appoint their chair and designate members for each committee. Each committee shall be required to keep regular minutes of its transactions and shall report the same to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

The creation of such other committees and appointment of members to them must be approved by a majority of Directors in attendance at the meeting when the action is taken.

Committees shall be governed by the same notice and waiver requirements and quorum and voting requirements of the Board as set forth in the corporate Bylaws.

Each committee may exercise the Board's authority vested in it, subject to the following restrictions:

A committee may not:

- a. authorize distributions;
- b. approve or recommend dissolution, merger or sale, or pledge or transfer any of the Corporation's assets;

- c. elect or appoint or remove Directors or fill vacancies on the Board of any of its committees;
- d. adopt, amend or repeal the Charter or Bylaws of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IX

NOTICES

Section 1. How Given. Whenever, under the provisions of applicable law, the Charter or these Bylaws, notice is required to be given to any Director or committee member, it shall not be construed to mean personal notice. Such notice may be given in writing, by ground mail, electronic mail, telegram or mailgram or fax, addressed to such Director at his or her address as it appears on the records of the Corporation, with postage or telegraph fees thereon prepaid, and such notice shall be deemed to be given at the time the same shall be deposited in the United States mail or by other recognized electronic means.

Section 2. Waiver of Notice. Whenever any notice is required to be given under the provisions of applicable law, the Charter, or these Bylaws, a waiver thereof in writing, signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE X

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number. The Corporation shall have a Chairman of the Board, Executive Director, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Board of Directors may also choose one or more Vice Chairmen, Vice Presidents, Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers. Any office may be combined, except the offices of President and Secretary shall be separate.

Section 2. Election. The Board of Directors, at its annual meeting, shall choose its officers to serve for a one year term, unless otherwise determined by position under these Bylaws.

Section 3. Other Officers and Agents. The Board of Directors may appoint such other officers and agents as it shall deem necessary, who shall hold their offices for such terms and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as shall be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Term of Office – Removal. The officers of the Corporation shall hold office until their successors are chosen and qualified. Any Board member or any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed at any time by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (66%) of the entire Board of

Directors and approved by the Committee on Administration, and authorized by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Any vacancy occurring in any office of the Corporation shall be filled by the Board of Directors in accordance with these Bylaws, as stated in Article IV, Section 1.

CHAIRMAN

Section 5. Powers and Duties. The Chairman shall be an active member within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee and shall be a member ex-officio of all committees, with right to vote. The Chairman shall be nominated from among the Board members by the Moderator of the General Assembly and appointed by the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

VICE CHAIRMAN

Section 6. Powers and Duties. The Vice Chairman, if any, or if there shall be more than one, the Vice Chairmen, in an order determined by the Board of Directors, shall, in the absence or disability of the Chairman, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Chairman and shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe.

SECRETARY

Section 9. Powers and Duties. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors and record all the proceedings of the meetings of the Corporation and of the Board of Directors in a book to be kept for that purpose and shall perform like duties for the standing committees when required. He shall give or cause to be given notice of all special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or President, under whose supervision he shall be.

Section 10. Powers and Duties of Assistant Secretary. The Assistant Secretary, if any, or, if there be more than one, the Assistant Secretaries in an order determined by the Board of Directors, shall, in the absence or disability of the Secretary, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Secretary and shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe.

TREASURER

Section 11. Powers and Duties. The Treasurer shall make a report of the financial condition of the Corporation at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors and shall generally perform the duties incidental to the office of Treasurer and shall ensure the safekeeping of the books of account showing the financial transactions of the Corporation. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined.

Section 12. Disbursals. He shall disburse the funds of the Corporation as may be ordered or permitted by the Board of Directors, taking proper vouchers for such disbursements, and shall render to the President and Board of Directors, at its regular meetings or when the Board of Directors so requires, an account of all his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Corporation.

Section 13. Bond. If required by the Board of Directors, he shall give the Corporation a bond in such sum and with such surety or sureties as shall be satisfactory to the Board of Directors for the faithful performance of the duties of his office and for the restoration to the Corporation, in case of his death, resignation, retirement, or removal from office, of all books, papers, vouchers, money, and other property of whatever kind in his possession or under his control belonging to the Corporation. The cost of such bond shall be paid by the Corporation.

Section 14. Fidelity Bond. All officers and members of the Corporation who hold signature authority to bind the Corporation or disburse funds shall be bonded under one or more fidelity bonds in such amounts as may be set by the Board of Directors. The cost of all such bonds shall be paid by the Corporation.

ARTICLE XI

CORPORATE OFFICERS

Section 1. Executive Director – Contracts – Specific Duties. The Executive Director of the Foundation shall be the chief administrative officer of the Corporation and shall perform all duties and exercise all powers as may be prescribed or required for the general and active operation of business of the Corporation. The Executive Director shall have the authority to execute contracts on behalf of the Corporation except where required by law to be otherwise executed and except where the execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors to another officer or agent of the Corporation.

Section 2. Powers and Duties of Associate Director. The Associate Director, if any, or if there shall be more than one, the Associate Directors in an order determined by the Board of Directors, shall, in the absence or disability of the Executive Director, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Executive Director and shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe.

Section 3. Powers and Duties of Assistant Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer, if any, or, if there shall be more than one, the Assistant Treasurers in an order determined by the Board of Directors, shall, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Treasurer and shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as the Board of Directors may from time to time prescribe.

ARTICLE XII

INDEMNIFICATION

Section 1. General Rule. The Corporation, to the fullest extent permissible under the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act 162 of 1982 and any other applicable law, shall indemnify and hold harmless directors, officers, volunteers and employees acting in an official capacity on behalf of the Corporation against personal liability and may advance, pay for or reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred in the defense of any proceeding to which such individuals may be named. This right of indemnification shall not be deemed exclusive of any other right to which said persons otherwise may be entitled. This indemnification shall extend to such persons whether or not they continue to hold a position with the Corporation at the time such expenses and costs may be incurred.

ARTICLE XIII

ADMINISTRATION OF PROPERTY

Section 1. General Powers. The Board of Directors shall exercise good faith and ordinary care in all matters relating to the acquisition, holding, management, control, supervision, investment and disposition of property or assets of the Corporation.

Section 2. Scope of Holding. Any property or assets, of any kind or nature whatsoever, may be acquired by the Corporation and may be administered directly by the Corporation or transferred to a supported or supporting Corporation or to any agent, bank or trust company or investment advisor for management and/or directing the investment of funds, subject to full compliance with the requirements under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or the corresponding provisions of future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Section 3. Receipt of Gifts. To accept, hold, invest, reinvest and administer any gifts, bequests, devises, benefits of trust and property of any sort, without limitation, as to amount or value, including charitable remainder trusts, gift annuity contracts, charitable lead trusts, etc. and to use, disburse or donate the income or principal thereof for exclusively charitable purposes in connection with promoting and advancing the charitable activities of the Corporation.

Section 4. Uses of Assets. To buy, own, sell, convey, assign, mortgage or lease any interest in real estate and personal property not used by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church or designated for its future use and to construct, maintain and operate improvements thereon necessary or incidental to the accomplishment of its purpose.

ARTICLE XIV

GIFTS TO CORPORATION

Section 1. Charges. Reasonable charges and expenses of counsel for advice, drafting and attendance at proceedings dealing with acceptance and/or administration of any gift may be charged to each such contribution.

Section 2. Repugnant Conditions. If the donor has clearly made compliance with a repugnant direction a condition precedent to receipt of the gift, and the Board is so advised by counsel, the gift shall not be accepted until and unless the appropriate judicial or administrative body or officer first determines that the condition and direction need not be followed.

Section 3. Variance of Purposes. If the Board determines that conditions or circumstances are or have become such that literal compliance with a direction of a donor is unnecessary, undesirable, impractical, impossible or inconsistent with law or regulations or properly serving the charitable purposes of the Corporation it may, by an affirmative vote of two thirds (66%) of the full Board, order variance from such direction, and apply the whole or any part of said fund, principal or income to such other charitable purposes as it deems will more effectively meet such needs.

Section 4. Conclusive Presumption. It shall be conclusively presumed from the making of a gift to the Corporation that each donor is aware of, accepts and agrees to be subject to all the terms of the Charter, these Bylaws and the rules and regulations of the Corporation as they exist at the time of receipt of the gift, and as they may in the future be from time to time lawfully amended, including without limitation all provisions relating to presumption of donor's intent, variance from donor's direction, amendments and termination.

Section 5. General Requirements. The Corporation shall not accept a transfer of assets to the Corporation which imposes a restriction or condition preventing the Corporation from freely and effectively employing the transferred assets, or the income derived therefrom, in furtherance of its exempt purposes. The Corporation shall adhere to the guidelines and regulations of the Internal Revenue Service with respect to assets of the Corporation.

Donors may make gifts to the Corporation by naming or otherwise identifying the Corporation. A donor may recommend one or more of the banks or trust companies or investment advisors utilized by the Corporation as agents to hold and administer the gift and direct its investment. If more than one bank or trust company or investment advisor is selected, Donor may recommend the portion of the gift to be held and administered by each.

Any donor may, with respect to a gift made by such donor to the Corporation, make recommendations at the time of the gift as to: (a) the field of charitable purposes or particular charitable organizations that are approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation, (b) manner of distribution; including amounts, times and conditions of

payments and whether from principal and/or income, (c) geographical limits of the gift; including uses in all areas that may benefit, (d) a name as a memorial or otherwise for a fund given, or addition to a fund previously held, or anonymity for the gift, and (e) reasonable limits on or additions to investment or administrative powers of a bank or trust company having custody of the gift for the Corporation.

No gift shall be required to be separately invested or held, although the Donor may so recommend; provided, however, that the Corporation shall invest and administer such gifts in such a manner as to comply with all legal requirements necessary to preserve the tax exempt status and comply with all other applicable laws. Directions for naming a fund as a memorial or otherwise may be satisfied by keeping under such name accounts reflecting appropriately the interest of such fund in each common investment.

Section 6. Investment and Management Advisor. Any fund or funds or property of any kind or nature whatsoever which may be acquired by the Corporation from any source whatsoever may be transferred by the Board of Directors for the purposes of management and investment to any bank, trust company or investment advisor, or other appropriate institution approved by the Executive Committee and Investment Committee of the Corporation, if both such committees are in existence, or as may be otherwise determined by the Board.

ARTICLE XV

DISTRIBUTION AND DISBURSEMENT OF GIFTS

The Board of Directors, by majority of voting Directors, shall, from time to time, but not less frequently than annually, determine distributions to be made from net income or principal pursuant to the provisions of the Charter of the Corporation and these Bylaws. In making this determination, the Board shall consider the programs, mission and ministries of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and the donor's recommendation in authorizing or directing the respective banks or trust companies or investment advisors having custody of funds of the Corporation to make payments. In this regard it is expressly understood that any and all grants and support payments of any kind be limited to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church or individuals, organizations, and institutions that are approved by the Board of Directors, as amended from time to time. The Board may direct payments to be made in such amounts and at such times and with such accompanying restrictions as it deems appropriate to carry out the not-for-profit goals of the Corporation.

The Corporation shall promulgate guidelines enumerating specific charitable needs consistent with the charitable purposes of the Corporation, subject to the approval or prior approval by the Board of Directors. The Board, as it relates to Donor – Advised Funds, may make distributions from interest or principle, even to complete exhaustion.

ARTICLE XVI

GIFTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CORPORATION

Section 1. Gifts for the Benefit of the Corporation. If a gift is made to a trustee in trust for the benefit of the Corporation with an intervening income interest to a non-charitable or other charitable use followed by a remainder or other payments to the Corporation, or of payments to the Corporation with the remainder or subsequent payments to another, or otherwise, only the payments or remainder to the Corporation, as the case may be, shall be regarded as Corporation funds subject to its Charter, Bylaws, rules and regulations, and then only when the Corporation becomes entitled to their use.

Section 2. Board Action. The Board of Directors may take all actions as it may from time to time deem desirable or necessary to protect the interests, contingent interests or future interests of the Corporation in funds designated for the use or benefit of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XVII

AUDITS AND REPORTS

The accounts of the Corporation are to be audited in accordance with generally accepted auditing practices by an independent auditor appointed or approved by the Board of Directors at such time as the Board may determine, but at least annually.

An independent auditor appointed or approved by the Board of Directors shall prepare, at such time as the Board may determine, but at least annually, for the Corporation as a whole, a consolidated financial statement, including a statement of combined capital assets and liabilities, a statement of income, expenses and distributions, and such other additional reports or information as may be ordered from time to time by the Board. The auditors shall also prepare such financial data as may be necessary for returns or reports required by state or federal government. The auditor's fees and expenses shall be proper expenses of administration. The annual audit shall be presented to the Committee on Administration and to the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and a copy of the audit report will be made available on the Corporation's website within a reasonable amount of time.

ARTICLE XVIII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHECKS

Section 1. Signatures. All checks or demands for money and notes of the Corporation shall be signed by such officer or officers or such other person or persons as the Board of Directors may from time to time designate.

FISCAL YEAR

Section 2. Determination. The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be fixed as commencing on the first day of January and ending on the 31st of

December of each year, unless otherwise modified by majority approval of the Board of Directors.

SEAL

Section 3. No Seal. The Corporation shall have no seal.

Section 4. Masculine Gender is Generic. Nouns and pronouns of the masculine gender used herein are used generally and shall be deemed to refer equally to the masculine or feminine gender.

Section 5. Sale and Voting of Securities. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors, the Chairman, in person or by his designee, shall, on behalf of the Corporation, have the right to sign for sale, vote, act and consent with respect to any shares of stock or other securities, including those having voting rights in other ventures or organizations, which may be held among the assets of the Corporation. The powers authorized herein shall be subject to any restrictions otherwise imposed under these Bylaws or by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XIX

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. How Amended. These Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed or new Bylaws may be adopted any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors by a minimum of two thirds (66%) of the full Board. All such changes require ratification of the Committee on Administration of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

ARTICLE XX

DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Distribution of Assets upon Dissolution. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the Corporation will be turned over to Evangelical Presbyterian Church, or to its successors qualified under Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or corresponding sections of any future Internal Revenue Code.

CERTIFICATE

The above Bylaws were duly approved at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation this day of , 2006.

ATTACHMENT E

GROUNDS FOR FULL-TIME EPC DIRECTOR OF WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

The following grounds for the permanent Committee on Administration's recommendation that the 26th General Assembly authorize increasing the scope of the Women's Ministry Director from its present twenty four hours per week to full time is an adaptation of the proposal of the Women's Ministries Committee to the CoA.

Key Assumptions:

In today's rapidly changing culture, women have unique needs that require a varied and perceptive approach to ministry. No matter what their season of life, they need opportunities to grow spiritually, emotionally and intellectually. Because of their strategic involvement in the home, workplace and community, women are able to contribute significantly to the outreach and evangelism mission of the EPC.

Equipping women leaders to meet these varied and growing needs is essential to reaching the individual woman in our churches and communities and thereby growing our denomination. Women need and want to know how to effectively live out God's call in their lives in ways that bring glory to Him and serve the church.

Core Values:

Acknowledging our prayerful dependence upon the Lord

- We value the Word of God as the foundation of all life and ministry.
 - *1 Timothy 3.16-17*
- We value the ministry and community life found in the local church.
 - *Acts 2. 41-47*
- We value women as created in the image of God, redeemed by Jesus Christ and gifted by the Spirit of God.
 - *Genesis 1. 27; Galatians 2. 26-28; Acts 2. 17-s18*
- We value holy living expressed in purity, integrity and virtue.
 - *2 Corinthians 7.1; Titus 2. 11-14*
- We value the diverse expressions of the body of Christ.
 - *Ephesians 4. 11-13; 1 Corinthians 12.4-8*
- We value the extension of God's Kingdom in the church and into the community and wider world.
 - *Acts 1. 8; Matthew 28. 19-20*

Where We Are Going:

In order to provide essential leadership training and mission direction under the leadership of a full-time Director, the Women's Ministries Committee has prayerfully determined that EPC Women's Ministries will be framed with three important priorities:

1. **Leadership Training:** Training and equipping of both paid and volunteer women's ministries leaders through *The Well* online and print newsletter designed for women's ministries leaders; EPC Women's Ministries website providing instruction for leadership skill development and ministry resources; and development and implementation of three-year cycle of training leaders

through regional weekend gatherings for training with National Leadership Team. (See attached)

(Vision 21, p. 7, **Who We Are, Educational Leadership** A biblically educated leadership among all believers in our family of churches.)

(Vision 21, p. 10, **Leadership Development. Goal:** To train, mobilize, and nurture the human resources God has given the family for the growth and maturity of the church. **Congregational Development, Objectives:**

1. Provide congregations with those services and resources that will enhance their life and ministry. Resource congregations in their various areas of ministry. Make available an on-line resource library. Provide leadership training.)

(Vision 21, p. 10, **Congregational Development. Goal:** To provide resources and services to the presbyteries and churches, to offer encouragement, training, and other helps, in conjunction with the presbyteries, that the whole church may be effective in its total ministry.)

2. **Mission and Outreach:** Continuing and further developing the annual Faith Focus project in conjunction with ministry departments of the General Assembly, World Outreach, Student Ministries, and National Outreach. Resources will be provided to local women's ministries for evangelism and outreach into their communities and to specific areas of need that promote the core value of evangelism as found in Vision 21.

*(Vision 21, p. 7, **Who We Are, Core Values Evangelism/Missions:** Evangelism as our mission locally, nationally, and internationally.)*

3. **Missionary Women and Pastors' Wives:** Supporting the unique needs of missionary women and pastors' wives will encourage the spiritual health of ministry leaders and will be reflected in their ministries and the greater life of the church. Creating regional opportunities for connections and support between missionary women and pastors' wives will work to ensure that these needs are not neglected. A conference every three years designed to minister to this group will provide an opportunity for these women to connect with others who experience the same opportunities and difficulties that exist in ministry lives and marriages.

*(Vision 21: p. 8, **Target Categories, Family Development** 3. Encourage the continuing development of the ministers' wives fellowship.)*

Full-Time Director First Year Priorities:

The first year priorities for a full-time Women's Ministries Director would include, but not be limited to:

1. Developing curriculum for three year women's ministries leadership training initiative.
2. Continuing growth of *The Well* as a resource for women's ministries leaders.
3. Developing and maintaining leadership resources for website.
4. Initiating contact with women's ministries leaders in individual churches and visiting presbyteries as required for program development and support.

5. Raising awareness to support ***Per Woman Asking*** in order to provide funding for EPC women's ministries program development to benefit local churches.
6. Plan and coordinate General Assembly women's ministries programs
7. Implement project for Faith Focus 2006 – 2007: *Caring Abundantly for Missionary Women*.
8. Coordinating program and plans for 10th EPC Women's Ministries National Conference, Spring 2008.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF BENEFITS

I. Work of the Committee

The Board

The following individuals currently serve on the Board of Benefits: Ruling Elder Bill Johns, First Presbyterian Church, Rome, Georgia – Presbytery of the Southeast; Ruling Elder Will Barnes, Chairman, Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood, Colorado – Presbytery of the West; Teaching Elder, Rev. Roy Zinn, Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Tennessee – Southeast Presbytery; Ruling Elder Milton Knowlton, Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee –

Presbytery of the Central South; Ruling Elder Bill Maher, Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, Missouri – Presbytery of Mid-America; Ruling Elder Jerry Hulick, Faith Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Virginia – Presbytery of the East.



Will Barnes, Chairman

Bill Johns is rotating off the Board, having served for six years. Will Barnes is leaving after three years of service.

Retirement Plan

Overview

The EPC retirement plan is a defined contribution retirement plan offered pursuant to §403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is a church plan as defined under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code. Participants' funds are invested in mutual funds offered by Fidelity Investments. Each individual participant has a separate account and directs his/her own investments. At present, participants have a choice of 33 Fidelity funds, not taking into account the changes described below.

Participation

Churches are required to contribute an amount equal to 10% of pastors' salaries to a retirement plan, pursuant to Act of General Assembly 81-05 and *Book of Government* 11-5-f. The EPC plan is also available to non-ordained church staff if the local church wishes to contribute for them. Pastors and church employees may also contribute voluntarily to their retirement accounts through a tax-deferred salary reduction plan. This allows pastors and employees to set aside additional retirement savings on a tax-deferred basis.

Investment Options

Plan participants may invest in any of the following Fidelity funds:

Fidelity Retirement Government MMKT	Fidelity Overseas	Fidelity Freedom 2010
Fidelity Asset Manager*	Fidelity Blue Chip	Fidelity Freedom 2015
Fidelity Intermediate Bond	Fidelity Worldwide	Fidelity Freedom 2025

Fidelity Growth and Income	Fidelity Aggressive Growth*	Fidelity Freedom 2020
Fidelity Contrafund	Fidelity Diversified International	Fidelity Freedom 2030
Fidelity Magellan	Fidelity Dividend Growth*	Fidelity Freedom 2035
Fidelity Puritan	Fidelity Small Cap	Fidelity Freedom 2040
Fidelity Fund*	Fidelity Mid Cap	Fidelity Retirement MMKT
Fidelity Equity Income	Fidelity Freedom Income	Spartan US Equity Index
Fidelity Cap and Income	Fidelity Freedom 2000	Fidelity Real Estate
Fidelity Value	Fidelity Freedom 2005	Fidelity US Bond Index

* See changes below.

Changes to the Retirement Plan

The Board has increased the number of funds available for investment within the plan. These funds are being offered to provide participants a broad array of investment styles so they can diversify their retirement investment portfolio. The following mutual funds have been added to the portfolio of funds available in the plan:

- RS Partner – a mid cap blend fund;
- Wells Fargo Advance Small Cap Value – a small cap value fund;
- Fidelity Leverage – a mid cap value fund;
- RS Value – a mid cap value fund.

The Board is exchanging several funds within the portfolio of funds offered. These funds are being exchanged for funds of similar investment styles, but with better rates of return and greater stability of returns over time. The exchanged funds will be replaced by the funds listed to their right. The following funds are being exchanged:

- Aggressive Growth – exchanged for Fidelity Mid Cap Stocks;
- Fidelity Fund – exchanged for Fidelity Contra;
- Dividend Growth – exchanged for Contra Fund;
- Asset Manager Fund – exchanged for Freedom Funds based on participants' ages, with selection of a Freedom Fund based on assumption that participants will retire at age 65.

A brokerage account option has been added to the array of investment options.

Participants who wish to invest their retirement funds outside the family of funds offered in the EPC retirement plan may open a brokerage account to access a broad array of mutual funds offered by companies other than Fidelity. Please note that fees charged by non-Fidelity funds may be higher than fees charged for funds within the plan. Many funds accessible through the brokerage account are not reviewed or rated by Fidelity. Participants who use a brokerage account should be mindful of the risk associated with their choice of investments.

The default investment option has been changed from a money market fund (which has a relatively low rate of return) to a Freedom Fund (a fund with diversified investments managed with the participants' anticipated retirement date in mind). New participants who do not specify an investment selection when they enroll will be

placed in a Freedom Fund based on their age, with a Freedom Fund selected on the assumption they will retire at age 65. Participants may change their investment selections at any time.

The Importance of Retirement Planning

The two most common causes of poverty in retirement are a lack of savings and lack of diversification of retirement investments. An analysis of the EPC retirement plan revealed a low rate of voluntary contribution by pastors in addition to the church contributions to their plans, and a high incidence of pastors investing in only one or two Fidelity mutual funds. (It is possible this lack of diversification is due to those pastors having retirement investments in funds other than Fidelity through retirement plans other than the EPC plan.) The Board of Benefits strongly encourages church sessions to have a session representative meet with each pastor to review their retirement plan. If local sessions can enlist the help of church members with financial planning or investments expertise, that might be a great benefit to pastors.

Again, the Board wishes to emphasize the importance of having a regular retirement savings plan and diversification of retirement investments. Both are acts of good stewardship that will benefit EPC pastors in their retirement years.

Retirement Planning Resources

Fidelity offers a number of resources for retirement planning. These resources are available to all plan participants. The following resources are offered without charge:

- Free investment counseling: Fidelity offers free investment counseling at investment centers in several major cities, and by telephone. To locate an investment center, or to learn how to contact a counselor, call 1-800-FIDELITY.
- Fidelity offers the following Web-based tools for retirement planning. Go to www.fidelity.com/atwork for:
 - Connect* quarterly newsletter
 - Self-paced workshops on investing and retirement planning
 - First PERSON Retirement Readiness Program
 - Retirement Income Planner
 - Current account information.

Fidelity also offers fee-based personalized financial planning. For more information, call 1-800-FIDELITY.

Advantages of the EPC Retirement Plan

The EPC retirement plan is a 403(b) plan. Unlike 401(k) plans, our 403(b) plan permits a portion of retirement withdrawals from 403(b) plans can be tax-exempt as housing allowance for EPC-ordained ministers. Though such an allowance is limited under law to the less of actual cost or fair rental value (furnished) and to the amount of church contributions in one's account, the tax advantages of this benefit may be significant for retired pastors, thereby making more of their retirement income available for living expenses.

Administrative costs are less with the EPC plan. Because the EPC plan is an institutional plan, Fidelity charges the EPC plan institutional administrative fees, which are substantially lower than retail administrative fees charged to individual

accounts, such as rollover IRA accounts. The less participants pay in administrative fees, the more their retirement savings grow.

The EPC retirement plan is designed to meet all the investment needs of its participants. The plan offers a broad array of investment styles plus a brokerage account option. Plan participants can build a well diversified retirement portfolio within the EPC plan. Those who wish to invest outside the plan may do so through the brokerage account option.

Summary

The Board of Benefits made a number of enhancements to the EPC retirement plan this year. Churches are encouraged to review retirement planning with their pastors with a view to increasing their rate of savings and diversification of their retirement investments.

Medical Plan

Overview

The medical plan is a self-funded PPO-type church plan for ministers, church employees, and their dependents. It is administered by Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield and uses the Blue Cross/Blue Shield provider network in all states. The move to Highmark and the Blue Cross/Blue Shield network has reduced plan operating costs, allowing the plan to offer a premium holiday in December 2005 and no increase in premiums for 2006. The plan has sufficient financial reserves and is financially stable.

Participation

The plan is available to ministers, church employees, missionaries and their dependents. Pursuant to Act of the General Assembly 88-08, plan participation is required for all ministers on the roll of presbyteries, with the exception of missionaries laboring in cooperative agreements with mission agencies, ministers laboring in institutional agencies providing their own group medical plan, ministers afforded group medical coverage as part of a retirement plan of a previous employer (including military retirement), ministers without a call and ministers laboring less than 20 hours per week in a place of ministry.

Of the 180 churches in the EPC, 135 participate in the plan. Of the 254 pastors who are mandated participants, 209 participate in the plan; 45 do not. Through the efforts of presbytery leadership, participation has increased markedly in recent years and the Board expects that trend will continue. This is essential to long-term plan health. A plan that covers retirees, missionaries and the most sick and vulnerable must have the participation of the healthiest in order to remain viable. It appears that more EPC sessions grasp this necessity than ever before.

Plan Design

Two benefits plans are available to participants: the basic plan and the premium plan. Both offer an extensive array of covered benefits, including preventive care. The Premium Plan has a lower deductible and coinsurance than PPO plans typically offered by employers and would be considered a “rich” benefit plan. The Basic Plan, although extensive in benefit coverage, is more akin to PPO plans typically offered by

employers. Plan participants have expressed an interest in having low out of pocket costs, comprehensive benefit coverage, and a broad choice of doctors and hospitals.

Conversely, churches have expressed an interest in having low premiums. The Board endeavors to balance these competing interests in benefit design, network administration and premium setting.

Administration

The EPC medical plan is based on a preferred provider organization (PPO). The economic basis of a PPO is that hospitals and physicians who choose to contract with a PPO agree to substantially discount their fees in return for receiving a higher volume of business because plan members have financial incentives to use in-network doctors and hospitals. In order for a PPO plan to be economically viable for health care providers, it must have financial incentives for its members to use in-network providers. Otherwise, plan members have little incentive to use in-network providers, and in-network providers have little incentive to discount their fees for an increased volume of business. Without those discounts, the plan's medical expenses would be substantially higher, which would drive premiums up considerably. Traditional indemnity plans, which do not have provider networks or plan member incentives to use in-network providers, have become prohibitively expensive because of this.

The EPC contracts with Highmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield for administrative services and access to the Blue Cross Blue Shield provider network. Highmark has a business unit dedicated to administering church benefit plans. The EPC is part of the Church Benefits Association, a number of whose members make up a coalition of denominations that jointly negotiate to purchase administrative services from Highmark. Membership in the coalition gives the EPC additional bargaining power when negotiating administrative fees with Highmark. The EPC plan chose to join the coalition and contract with Highmark and the Blue Cross Blue Shield provider network for two reasons: 1) it is significantly larger than the network previously available to plan members (nationally, it is the largest provider network available from major insurers); 2) Blue Cross Blue Shield plans can negotiate substantial discounts with hospitals and other providers because they have a large number of members and can steer a significant volume of business to in-network providers. The previous network did not have negotiated prices with providers that were as favorable as Blue Cross Blue Shield prices. The EPC plan is reaping the financial benefits of using the Blue Cross and Blue Shield network, which has allowed the plan to contain premium increases.

Finances

The EPC plan is self-insured. That is to say, the EPC plan pays the costs of medical claims directly and bears the risk of fluctuations in medical claims rather than purchasing an insurance policy that would shift that risk to an insurance company. The plan manages the level of its financial risk by purchasing reinsurance and by maintaining sufficient financial reserves. Because the plan is self-funded and bears the ultimate financial risk itself, it has greater discretion in decision making than it would if it purchased an insurance policy. Because the EPC bears financial responsibility and not an insurer, the EPC has control over decisions related to benefit design, benefit changes, benefit exceptions, and premium setting. When the plan

enjoys good claims experience and lower than anticipated costs, the participating churches share the benefit of that experience instead of the benefit accruing to an insurance company.

Like all medical benefit plans, the EPC plan is financed on the principles of shared risk and spreading risk across a large group. This is one way in which EPC churches “bear one another’s burdens.” By pooling the financing and risk of accidents and illnesses of all plan participants from all churches, the plan is better able to financially prepare for large adverse events (cancer, organ transplants, heart attacks, coronary bypass surgery, etc.) than could an individual church financing its own medical claims risk. This is especially true for small churches. Individual churches will experience some years in which the premiums they pay into the plan are greater than the medical claims paid on behalf of their employees and will experience years in which their claims exceed the premium. If a church employee has a catastrophic event, claims paid on the employee’s behalf could exceed the sum of a number of years’ premium paid by the church.

If individual churches were to purchase health insurance policies from insurance companies, the insurance companies would pool the individual churches’ risk with the risk of other small employers in a similar manner. As with any risk-sharing arrangement, the law of averages applies. Approximately half the group will have expenses above the average and approximately half will have expenses below the average. (The same would be true if all churches bought insurance policies.) Churches with below average expenses may be able to purchase coverage from insurance companies at a lower cost. However, if churches with below average expenses withdraw from the risk pool, that will cause adverse risk selection and increase costs to the remaining churches. If enough churches with below average expenses were to withdraw from the risk pool, coverage for the remaining churches may become prohibitively expensive and the plan may not remain financially viable. We believe this type of adverse selection contributed to the recent failure of another denomination’s self funded medical plan.

The Board of Benefits establishes plan premiums each year. The Board uses AON Consulting as an advisor on matters related to benefit design, premium setting, and maintaining appropriate financial reserves. Premiums vary by geographic region, based on AON’s analysis of regional variations in the cost of medical care. AON uses Medicare cost data, the largest available data set, in its analysis of regional variations and recommendations of regional premiums. Premiums are not adjusted for age or gender.

The EPC plan maintains financial reserves for the stability of the plan. Reserves allow the plan to absorb both the normal fluctuation in medical claims payments that occurs during the course of the year, and to weather a year of particularly bad claims experience without increasing premiums and without affecting the plan’s ability to pay medical claims on behalf of participants. The Board reviews the level of reserves with AON each year. The plan’s reserves are more than sufficient for the purposes mentioned above. The Board is pleased to report that the plan is financially sound.

The plan has enjoyed good claims experience for the past two years, and is reaping the benefit of deeper discounts with health care providers through the Blue Cross Blue Shield network. Because of this combination of experience, the plan had no premium increase for calendar year 2006, and was able to offer participating churches a premium holiday for the premium otherwise due in December 2005. The board cannot promise that this will occur in future years.

Summary

The EPC medical plan offers a PPO-style medical benefit plan with a nationwide provider network through Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield. The plan is self-funded and has enjoyed good claims experience the past two years. As a result, the plan had no increase in premium for calendar year 2006, and offered participating churches a premium holiday for the premium otherwise due in December 2005. The plan continues to be financially sound.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Board of Benefits makes the following recommendations to the General Assembly:

1. That the Committee on Administration be authorized to make any substantive changes to the EPC Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (403(b)) upon recommendation of the Board of Benefits and that the Board of Benefits be authorized to amend the Plan document when necessary to conform to legislative requirements and administrative needs.

Grounds: As with a similar action taken in 2001 with respect to the medical plan, this act would relieve the General Assembly as a whole from having to act on technical, legal and mundane matters, yet still require approval external to the Board of Benefits on behalf of the General Assembly. The reporting requirement would allow the General Assembly the opportunity to know of and potentially alter such changes, thus ensuring proper review and control.

2. That the income eligibility limit for Medical Benevolence assistance be raised to a minimum of \$35,000 total annual household income and a maximum of \$50,000 for singles and couples and \$40,000-\$55,000 for couples or individual with dependents, assistance to be paid in proportion within these income limits.

Grounds: Previously there was one income limit, not taking into account the differences between premiums and costs of living for families versus singles and couples. Further, there was no proportional formula, meaning that an applicant barely over the limit could receive no assistance. (Note: The Medical Benevolence program provides ministers without call, pastors of mission churches without mother churches and retired ministers with medical insurance premium assistance. The minister's presbytery must recommend approval and share in 50% of the premium assistance.)

3. That the Board of Benefits be authorized to adjust the income limits of Medical Benevolence eligibility based on cost of living increases and funds utilization

and, further, that the Board of Benefits report such changes to the General Assembly.

Grounds: This will relieve the General Assembly as a whole from this requirement and allow more responsive time frames when the need for adjustment becomes apparent.

4. That ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (403(b)) be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income for housing allowance, as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

Grounds: Doing so allows retired ministers to take advantage of a significant tax benefit in retirement, thereby making more of their retirement income available for living expenses. Adopting this recommendation on an annual basis provides retired ministers with a readily available reference if asked by tax authorities.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Barnes
Chairman, Board of Benefits

June, 2007

ATTACHMENT A
FINANCIAL AUDIT – RETIREMENT PLAN

**EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**Defined Contribution
Retirement Plan**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

Karl L. Drake, P.C.

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 Defined Contribution Retirement Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004. 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 Defined Contribution Retirement Plan as of and for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004, on the basis of accounting described in Note A.

Karl L. Drake

Karl L. Drake, PC
Certified Public Accountant

February 22, 2006

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Defined Contribution Retirement Plan

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
ADDITIONS TO PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Contributions	\$ 3,540,701	\$ 2,998,996
Dividends and Interest	1,576,995	592,584
Transfers in	218,608	10,754
Realized Gain <Loss> in Market Value	<u>475,547</u>	<u>-93,852</u>
TOTAL ADDITIONS	<u>5,811,851</u>	<u>3,508,482</u>
DEDUCTIONS FROM PLAN ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:		
Retirement Payments	155,660	676,760
Transfers Out	2,939,953	176,273
Account Fees	<u>11,890</u>	<u>10,421</u>
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	<u>3,107,503</u>	<u>863,454</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN	2,704,348	2,645,028
UNREALIZED GAIN IN MARKET VALUE	<u>299,309</u>	<u>1,905,323</u>
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	3,003,657	4,550,351
NET ASSETS		
Cash and Investments - Beginning of Year	<u>29,479,659</u>	<u>24,929,308</u>
Cash and Investments - End of Year	<u>\$ 32,483,316</u>	<u>\$ 29,479,659</u>

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

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Karl L. Drake, P.C.

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Defined Contribution Retirement Plan

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

A general description of Evangelical Presbyterian Church Defined Contribution Retirement 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).

DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

NOTE C - PLAN INVESTMENTS

At December 31, 2005 and 2004, the Plan's assets were invested in Merrill Lynch and Fidelity investment accounts as follows. All assets are valued at market value.

	2005	2004
Merrill Lynch	\$ 129,444	\$ 47,078
Fidelity Retirement Government MMKT	1,495,678	1,435,382
Fidelity Asset Manager	2,012,828	2,556,383
Fidelity Intermediate Bond	1,338,754	1,634,172
Fidelity Growth and Income	3,909,721	4,661,740
Fidelity Contrafund	4,072,953	3,474,322
Fidelity Magellan	4,267,085	5,177,759
Fidelity Puritan	1,409,213	1,367,806
Fidelity Fund	97,233	64,873
Fidelity Equity Income	435,466	410,726
Fidelity Cap and Income	456,616	283,698
Fidelity Value	2,159,531	1,540,806
Fidelity Overseas	181,573	105,370
Fidelity Blue Chip	419,021	459,127
Fidelity Worldwide	156,638	112,202
Fidelity Aggressive Growth	576,672	556,982
Fidelity Diversified International	2,172,917	1,216,731
Fidelity Dividend Growth	425,787	554,979
Fidelity Small Cap	790,559	465,839
Fidelity Mid Cap	805,232	654,053
Fidelity Freedom Income	266,668	262,882
Fidelity Freedom 2000	19,395	17,438
Fidelity Freedom 2010	635,547	502,792
Fidelity Freedom 2020	686,715	389,340
Fidelity Freedom 2030	560,092	188,092
Fidelity Freedom 2040	281,160	35,589
Fidelity Retirement MMKT	880,777	613,546
Spartan US Equity Index	569,013	396,167
Fidelity Real Estate	512,487	111,114
Fidelity US Bond Index	11,813	16
Fidelity Freedom 2005	70,366	12,278
Fidelity Freedom 2015	618,410	168,479
Fidelity Freedom 2025	46,722	---
Fidelity Freedom 2035	11,230	1,898
	<u>\$ 32,483,316</u>	<u>\$ 29,479,659</u>

**ATTACHMENT –B
FINANCIAL AUDIT – MEDICAL PLAN**

**EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Medical Insurance Plan

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

Karl L. Drake, P.C.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the General Assembly of the
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Medical Insurance Plan as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the related statements of activities and cash flow 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, 2005 and 2004, and the changes in net assets and cash flow 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 22, 2006

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Medical Insurance Plan

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 321,253	\$ 334,202
Investments	2,617,706	1,543,558
Accounts Receivable	---	---
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	2,938,959	1,877,760
OTHER ASSETS		
Deposits	60,301	50,000
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,999,260</u>	<u>\$ 1,927,760</u>
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$ 9,194	\$ 1,500
Claims Payable	283,209	265,364
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	292,403	266,864
NET ASSETS	2,706,857	1,660,896
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 2,999,260</u>	<u>\$ 1,927,760</u>

See Accompanying Notes To Financial Statements.

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Medical Insurance Plan**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES****FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

	2005	2004
REVENUE		
Premiums	\$ 5,448,674	\$ 5,080,948
Dividends and Interest	56,150	23,869
Gain <Loss> in Market Value	-48,334	26,562
Stop-loss Receipts	---	52,009
Other	1,968	---
TOTAL REVENUE	5,458,458	5,183,388
EXPENSES		
Claims	3,704,976	3,411,218
Premiums	737,551	670,153
Administrative Expenses	94,009	97,482
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,536,536	4,178,853
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED GAIN	921,922	1,004,535
UNREALIZED GAIN IN MARKET VALUE	124,039	72,682
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	1,045,961	1,077,217
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of Year	1,660,896	583,679
End of Year	<u>\$ 2,706,857</u>	<u>\$ 1,660,896</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 FLOW****FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2004**

	2005	2004
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 1,045,961	\$ 1,077,217
Adjustments to Reconcile Increase in Net Assets to Cash Flow From Operating Activities:		
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
Decrease <Increase> in accounts receivable	---	200,247
Increase <Decrease> in accounts payable	7,694	-1,420
Increase <Decrease> in claims payable	17,845	-138,885
Decrease <Increase> in deposits	-10,301	-50,000
NET CASH FLOW PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	1,061,199	1,087,159
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Sale <Purchase> of Investments	-1,074,148	-886,686
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES	---	---
INCREASE <DECREASE> IN CASH	-12,949	200,473
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	334,202	133,729
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 321,253	\$ 334,202
OTHER DISCLOSURES		
Cash used for:		
Income taxes	\$ ---	\$ ---
Interest	\$ ---	\$ ---

See Accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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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, 2005, cash and cash equivalents included:

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Merrill Lynch Money Market Account	\$ 312,161	\$ 137,805
Independent Bank Account	<u>9,092</u>	<u>196,397</u>
	<u>\$ 321,253</u>	<u>\$ 334,202</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 Independent Bank account is used to pay claims.

	Carrying Value	Book Value
Amount covered by FDIC Insurance	\$ 100,000	\$ 9,092
Amount covered by SIPC Insurance	100,000	100,000
Amounts uninsured	240,545	212,161
	<u>\$ 440,545</u>	<u>\$ 321,253</u>

NOTE D - INVESTMENTS

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

	2005	2004
Comerica Investments	\$ 270,520	\$ 263,960
Manning and Napier Investments	335,489	309,388
Fidelity S & P Index Investments	2,011,697	970,210
	<u>\$ 2,617,706</u>	<u>\$ 1,543,558</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, 2005, the make-up of each account was as follows:

	Cash	Bonds	Stocks	Mutual Funds	Total
Comerica Investment	\$ 26,480	\$ ---	\$ 123,644	\$ 120,396	\$ 270,520
Manning and Napier	69,479	63,592	202,418	---	335,489
Fidelity S&P Index	512,320	---	---	1,499,377	2,011,697
	<u>\$ 608,279</u>	<u>\$ 63,592</u>	<u>\$ 326,062</u>	<u>\$ 1,619,773</u>	<u>\$ 2,617,706</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, 2005 and 2004 were \$283,209 and \$265,364

NOTE F - DEPOSITS

The Organization uses a service company to pay its medical claim forms. This company requires a deposit based on the amount of average claims payable. Total deposits at December 31, 2005 and 2004 were \$60,301 and \$50,000.

NOTE G - PRIOR YEAR INFORMATION

Certain prior year amounts were re-stated to conform to the current year presentation.

REPORT OF THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! The CE&P Committee met twice since the 25th General Assembly; October 2005 and February 2006. We also met by phone



*Dan Tidwell,
Chairman*

conference in a joint meeting with the Theology Committee to finalize the work on the Officer Training Manual in May, 2006. We did not receive any direct tasks from the 25th General Assembly, giving us some time to reflect on the committee definitions, mission and future goals. The following gives an overall summary of some of our ongoing work but certainly not all when you consider the individual books, films and publications we have reviewed and evaluated as well as ongoing communication with several organizations including publishers of Sunday School curriculum.

Work of the Committee

Internet, web site and technology issues

The committee is in process of updating the CE&P page on the EPC website. The page will be organized in

several broad categories: Endorsement Policy, Recommended Resources, Curriculum, Risk Management, Prayer Ministry, EPNews, EPC Videos, and Officer Training. We also discussed and decided that given time constraints and people resources, the Committee would drop their work of maintaining and creating networks at the present time (eg. Men's, Children's, etc.). Developing networks remains part of the Committee's long range thinking and the issue will be revisited regularly.

EPNews and Reflections On-Line:

EPNews:

The Committee authorized using funds from its administrative budget for design and development of an upgraded electronic newsletter and web edition of EPNews. The Committee will work in consultation with the Office of the Stated Clerk to develop a mission and policy statement for EPNews.

In broad terms, the Committee understands that EPNews is intended primarily for EPC leadership, recognizing the need for a communication tool to the congregation members of the EPC. Focus of the publication is on connecting leadership. **All church leaders are encouraged to subscribe** especially new elders or staff (see Communication 06-4).

Several actions are needed for *EPNews* which the committee will address in future:

1. Determine the best way to keep mailing list current.
2. Use graphic designer to update banner and design.
3. Develop a mission and policy statement for *EPNews*.

EPC Reflections On-Line:

The Committee discussed the need for a publication designed to reach the “person in the pew,” and the possibility of renewing EPC Reflections as an online publication. The Committee considers this to be an open matter and will continue discussion the future. Some financial resources are available in a designated fund for Reflections. A major consideration will be the financial and personnel resources needed to maintain publication once it is restarted.

Issues under continuing discussion are: target audience, objectives, mission statement, relationship to *EPNews*, staffing needs, and editorial control.

Although at this time all our discussion is preliminary, it is anticipated that CE&P will request the budget for *Reflections* magazine be re-instated in a near future budget. Because it is planned to be an on-line publication rather than a printed magazine budget will be considerably less. We are not submitting any formal request now, simply making GA aware of future budget requests.

Westminster Confession of Faith

After preliminary investigation by the CE&P Committee, the Office of the Stated Clerk reached an agreement with Summertown Texts to purchase the copyright of the EPC edition of Modern Language Version of the Westminster Confession of Faith and Larger Catechism. Sales of the Confession and Catechism will offset costs to the Assembly, paying off the asset in about 10 years.

Christian Education/Children’s Ministries Survey

Committee conducted a survey of the current status of Christian Education / Children’s Ministries in the EPC. Although results are not yet complete, some preliminary results can be noted.

1. An apparent slippage in popularity of Bible in Life Curriculum and an increased use of curricula outside those endorsed/commended by the Committee. There may be a need for the Committee to familiarize itself with those that emerge as widely used (possibly Discipleland and Group).
2. Lack of awareness of Committee endorsed/commended material
3. Strong desire expressed for a Children’s Ministries newsletter.

Reminder messages are being sent to those who have not yet responded to the survey, with a goal of at least 50% response with a church size demographic that corresponds to that of the EPC. The Committee will convene by phone to complete an analysis.

The Committee was pleased with the online survey tool (“Survey Monkey”) and approved using budget resources to continue a subscription. Use of the tool is not limited to the CE&P Committee but is available to other committees and groups within the EPC.

Curriculum

FaithAlive Resources (CRC Publications) is developing a new curriculum for churches with small Sunday school or mid-week program enrollment. “Kid Connection” is being designed for those settings where traditional graded curriculum doesn’t work well because of the number of children in the different age groupings. Three EPC congregations are participating in field testing the material: Peace

Presbyterian Church (Durham, NC), Sylvania Presbyterian Church (Ward, AR), and Woodside Presbyterian Church (Roanoke, VA).

EPC Identity Development Program

In a continuing effort to connect the “person-in-the-pew” with identification to the EPC, CE&P in continuing development of a series of church bulletin inserts and/or PowerPoint slides that can be used by churches on a weekly or monthly basis.

If approved, development of additional inserts/slides can be ongoing. It is recommended that other committees make suggestions for pieces that will identify their work but coordinate through the CE&P committee for production and distribution.

Officer Training Manual

The CE&P and Theology Committees met to respond to referrals made to them jointly by the 25th General Assembly regarding the second draft version of the EPC Officer Training Manual.

- 1. Rewriting the church history section as a unified narrative, and
- 2. Consider the wisdom of devoting Chapter 11...to the theology of 'Christian Hedonism' and concluding that it should stay.

The Committees reviewed a draft of Chapter 1 and agreed to several corrections which are included in the 2006 edition.

The Committees, having consulted with several individuals with concerns about Chapter 11, agreed that the content merited inclusion with some revisions. Those revisions are reflected in the 2006 edition.

The inclusion of the rewritten Chapter One and revised Chapter Eleven comprise the 2006 Edition of the Officer Training Manual which will be presented as the Committees’ responses to the referrals of the 25th General Assembly.

Conclusion:

We wish to thank the efforts of our staff coordinator, Ed McCallum and the rest of the EPC staff for their continuing professionalism. We also wish to thank Stated Clerk Michael Glodo for his support and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

Recommendations to General Assembly:

Recommendation 1

That *Rules for Assembly* 9.1F-2 (Duties of the Permanent Committee on Christian Education and Publications) be amended as follows (italicized wording):

Rules for Assembly 9-1F	
Present Wording	Proposed Wording
F. Committee on Christian Education and Publications	F. Committee on Christian Education and Publications
1. To be comprised of six members, two of whom may be non-elders qualified in Christian Education	1. To be comprised of six members, two of whom may be non-elders qualified in Christian

and who are active members of EPC churches. Chairman to be elected by committee.	Education and who are active members of EPC churches. Chairman to be elected by committee.
<p>2. Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Curriculum Development b. Provide resources for church/Christian day schools (all levels) c. Provide assistance in Sunday School development and operation d. Publications other than curriculum e. Camp and conference development. f. Lay leadership development g. Worship and music resources 	<p>2. Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>To develop and evaluate curriculum for presbyteries and local churches as needed.</i> b. <i>To cooperate with and encourage church day schools as needed.</i> c. <i>To provide assistance to local churches for the development and operation of Christian Education.</i> d. <i>To develop, evaluate, and support publications of general interest to the church, especially those valuable to the area of Christian Education. This includes supporting and promoting publications handled by other Permanent Committees or General Assembly staff.</i> e. <i>To participate in camp and conference center development, should it be feasible and desired.</i> f. <i>To participate in and support lay leadership development.</i> g. <i>To promote and evaluate prayer, worship and music resources.</i> h. <i>To help communicate the identity, vision, mission, and advantages of the EPC to local churches and to those outside the EPC.</i>

Rationale: The proposed revision of the duties of the Christian Education and Publications Committee maintains areas of responsibility already delegated by the Assembly, rewording them to reflect past and current practice and leaving open the possibility of future ministry development. Section 2h is an addition, which would assign responsibility for an increasingly necessary area of communication to this Committee..

Recommendation 2

The Christian Education & Publications Committee and the Theology Committee jointly recommend that the Assembly receive the *EPC Officer Training Manual* (2006 Edition) (see Appendix 2) as a resource and commend it for use in EPC congregations following final editing for style and format.

Rationale: The 2006 Edition of the *EPC Officer Training Manual* is the result of two draft editions received by previous Assemblies and utilized by over forty EPC congregations. Chapter One (Church History I) has been rewritten in narrative form in keeping with the instructions of the 25th General Assembly. The Committees, in response to the instruction of the 25th Assembly to consider the wisdom of devoting Chapter Eleven to the theology of “Christian Hedonism,” have consulted with concerned individuals and concluded that the content of the chapter should be retained with some revisions, reflected in the 2006 Edition. If the Manual is received by the Assembly, it will be submitted to a professional proofreader for style and format corrections with a goal of publication by the end of the 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Tidwell, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dan Tidwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

REPORT OF THE COLLEGE MINISTRIES COMMITTEE



*Rick Stauffer,
Chairman*

The College Ministries committee met twice in this our inaugural year as a permanent committee.

The Work of the Committee

There are 4 key areas on which we focus as a committee. The following is a brief description of the work done in these areas in the past year.

1. New Campus Ministries in EPC Churches

This key area works through a cooperative agreement that we have with Gateway Collegiate Ministries based in St. Louis, Missouri in order to begin and develop links with EPC churches and college communities. This past year we have worked to develop 3 partnerships that were begun last year. Each of these ministries continues to strive to build relationships with students on campus while connecting them to the local church.

- Rob Fawcett and Daryl Madi work with Central Presbyterian Church in St. Louis and reach out to several campuses in the St. Louis area.
- Chad Donohoe works with Grace EPC in Lawrence, Kansas and reaches out to Kansas University.
- Brad Simms works with New Hope EPC in San Antonio, Texas and reaches out to the San Antonio campus of the University of Texas.

Please pray for these works as well as other churches which we have talked to and challenged to begin similar ministries in their churches.

2. Networking EPC Churches with existing College Ministries

This key area recognizes that we have many churches with thriving college ministries outside of our relationship with Gateway Collegiate Ministries, and that it is important to learn from one another and be connected as a denomination. Our work in this area has been the development of a College Ministry Summit that takes place in the days before General Assembly. This year we have planned a very informal time to allow us to talk with one another about our ministries and to hear from some who have experienced a great blessing on their ministry to college students and college communities.

3. Ministry to EPC College Students

This key area recognizes our responsibility as a denomination to all of our covenant children in the college years. We recognize that there are many of our churches who are unable to support a specific ministry to college students and yet continue to see their children grow and move on as young adults. This past year we have been working on specific plans to develop a short-term missions strategy for college students of the EPC. This begins with an assurance of God's call on each student's life to serve Him in missions. That is why we are teaming with World Outreach to encourage our churches to send their college students to Urbana 2006 to be held in St. Louis in December. We hope to connect with many EPC college students there and

share with them about the numerous opportunities for short-term mission projects that vary from two weeks to three months, serving with EPC missionaries on the field.

4. Church Planting in College Communities

This key area inspires dreams of not only changing the lives of college students in order to transform our culture, but reclaiming college and university communities for Christ through the intentional planting of churches in towns that host a college or university campus. Our committee has been working with the National Outreach Committee to think through an intentional strategy to see 25 new church plants in college towns in the next several years - churches that reach not only students, but professors, administrators, service employees, and the college community as a whole. We are excited about the launch of Grace EPC in Pennington, New Jersey and its intentional outreach to the College of New Jersey and a church plant of North Park Church that will launch in 2007 in Slippery Rock, PA. with outreach to Slippery Rock University. We are also very excited about several other possibilities that we have been approached with and hope to see become realities. And finally, we are very excited at the prospect that this year's Thanksgiving Offering will go to this church planting initiative in order to give us the much needed resources to support this work.

Speaking of finances...as a committee we have spent much time talking through the very difficult subject of discovering the way to better resource these ministries. We are grateful for the denominations liberty in allowing us to ask for funds through the Benevolence Asking, and we would ask that you and your church might consider supporting these key areas through your giving to College Ministry.

Recommendations to the General Assembly

We have no official recommendations, but we continue to ask for your prayers, input, and support to this vital ministry of our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Stauffer, Chairman

June 2006

COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNICATION 06-1



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

17197 N. LAUREL PARK DRIVE, SUITE 567 LIVONIA, MI 48152
(734) 742-2020 FAX (734) 742-2033

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 2005

The Reverend Mr. Michael Glodo
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive
Livonia, Michigan 48152

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:** 2006-2007 Board of Pension and Benefits Chairman
TE Ron Horgan (Midwest)

2. **Nominations:** Nominating Committee, Class of 2009
TE Neil Ellison (Mid-Atlantic)
RE Jim Slyman (Southeast)
TE Steve Wilkinson (West)

3. **Appointment:** 2006-2007 Nominating Committee Chairman
RE Zelda Artz (East)

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,

Bill Meyer, Moderator
25th General Assembly

COMMUNICATION 06-2



CORNERSTONE
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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

September 22, 2005

Rev. Mike Glodo, Stated Clerk
Office of the General Assembly, EPC
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567
Livonia, MI. 48152

Dear Mike,

Greetings in the name of Jesus!

The Session at Cornerstone EPC has authorized me to extend an invitation to host the General Assembly in 2009. We were mightily blessed to do so in 2003 and would be honored to once again act as the host church.

If this is agreeable to EPC leadership, please advise when it is convenient. As always, thank you for your hard work for the Lord Jesus!

Blessings!

Sincerely, in Christ

Dr. Richard J. Alberta
Senior Pastor

9455 Hilton Road • Brighton, MI 48114 • tel: 810-227-9411 • fax: 810-227-5981 • www.cornerstoneforlife.com

"...built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone." Ephesians 2:20

COMMUNICATION 06-3



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

17197 N. LAUREL PARK DRIVE, SUITE 567 LIVONIA, MI 48152
(734) 742-2020 FAX (734) 742-2033

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Dr. Peter Borgdorff
Executive Director
Christian Reformed Church
2850 Kalamazoo Avenue SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49560

Dear Peter,

On behalf of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, may I express our shared sorrow over the loss of David Engelhard. We have been blessed and enriched by knowing him. David was indeed a precious gift of God to His church. Not only did he excel as a scholar and teacher, but we also had the occasion to know him as an effective leader and devoted churchman. Such qualities are rare in one person.

David represented the Christian Reformed Church with grace, dignity, integrity and kindness in the larger church. Through mutual visits to each other's assemblies and in other settings we had the privilege of enjoying his warmth and profiting from his wisdom. Through him, we have not only enjoyed beneficial formal relationships with the Christian Reformed Church, but we also felt the warmth of Christian kinship. With you, we take courage in knowing that our brother David is enjoying the presence of our Lord, but we still say from the heart that we miss him.

As a sister church that shares much in common, we join you in prayer during these days of leadership transition. We look forward to an ongoing, fruitful relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ that will bring glory to God and the Gospel.

For the Bride and for the Lamb,

Michael J. Glodo
Stated Clerk

COMMUNICATION 06-4



Office of the Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567
Livonia, MI 48154
734.742.2020 • 734.742.2033 fax

Memo

To: All EPC Pastors
From: Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk
Cc: All EPC Clerks of Session
Re: *EPNews* distribution
Date: January 5, 2006

It will be two years this coming March when the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) launched *EPNews*. I often joke with the staff here that we are technologically well into the 1990's. In fact, we're really a good bit further than that.

EPNews is one of a number of ways in which the OGA strives to be a resource as well as an instrument of governance. Using simple technology at minimal cost it provides current news about the EPC family and highlights select items of interest outside the family.

I am asking that you bring to your session two requests from me.

1. ***Subscription additions*** – Will you add every officer and ministry leader in your congregation to the *EPNews* subscription list? God is doing so much in and through the EPC, yet the full benefit of God's intention is not achieved unless his works are declared as broadly as possible. Subscribers have my pledge to keep *EPNews* short and simple (low graphics, quick download) and to keep the e-mail list to ourselves.
2. ***Send us news*** of what God is doing in your church. Don't hide your light under a bushel – either in your community or in your denominational family. We must stir up one another with love and good deeds – not only toward one another, but by sharing the news of that love and good deeds to empower and encourage one another.

Subscription additions and news submissions can be sent to us by e-mail (epnews@epc.org), fax (734.742.2033) or surface mail.

The best wishes of your OGA staff to you and your congregation for a new year filled with the hope of the new creation that has already begun in our Lord Jesus Christ!

COMMUNICATION 06-5



September 2005

Rev. Michael J. Glodo
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567
Livonia MI 48152

Dear Rev. Glodo,

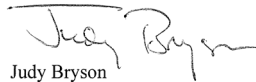
Each year it is my privilege to share Pioneer Clubs' accomplishments with the members of our board of directors, board of reference, and Christian education advisory council through our Annual Report. As a member of the Pioneer Clubs® family, you play a vital role in this crucial work.

In this year's report you will find an address by Board President Jim Phillip, as well as my President's Report. You'll also read about the completion of our Trailblazer curriculum revision, the launching of our new online store, the incredible growth of our award-winning Discovery Club® program for small churches, and other highlights of the past year.

While these achievements are rewarding, what is truly exciting is how they are being used to reach boys and girls with God's transforming love. Helping children and youth make Christ Lord in every aspect of life continues to be the focus of our work and the desire of our hearts.

Thank you for investing your time, talent, and resources in the lives of precious children across North America.

Blessings,



Judy Bryson
President/CEO

P.S. Just a reminder to visit Pioneer Clubs' Web site at www.pioneerclubs.org. You'll find ministry impact stories, testimonies, and other information that will help you keep up-to-date on what's happening at Pioneer Clubs. Be sure to click on "Announcements" to read our current ministry prayer requests.

by Judy Bryson, President/CEO



Not long ago I heard a career missionary give his testimony. I've heard other testimonies of those who committed

their lives to Christ and spent a lifetime serving God in foreign lands. But Jim's experience really captured my attention. Jim was only ten years old when, after drying the dishes one evening, he sat under a tree wondering what life was all about. *Do we just die and that's the end?* How futile life would be if that were true. He wanted the actions of his life to outlive him. There, sitting under the tree alone, Jim committed his life to Christ for full-time Christian service. That was the beginning of a wonderful journey for Jim.

What fascinated me about Jim's story was the fact that he began having serious thoughts about life at a relatively young age. I think this is remarkable and rather unusual. When I was ten, my thoughts revolved around recess activities and summer vacation plans.

As I thought more about Jim's special calling at age ten, I wondered who influenced his thinking. Who were those Christian adults who took the time to help Jim understand God's Word and make his heart tender for missions? Jim's story made me think about the thousands of Pioneer Clubs leaders who share God's good news with kids each week. Many never know the fruit of their labors, but they faithfully tell children the stories of Jesus and his love.

For 66 years Pioneer Clubs has been encouraging children to make the impact of their lives outlive their lifetimes. While many of our methods have changed to meet the needs of today's churches and children, the message remains the same.

We continue to focus on achieving three foundational goals:

1. Enable children to enter into a personal relationship with Christ and to know his Word.
2. Help children form healthy relationships.
3. Enable children to grow as whole persons.

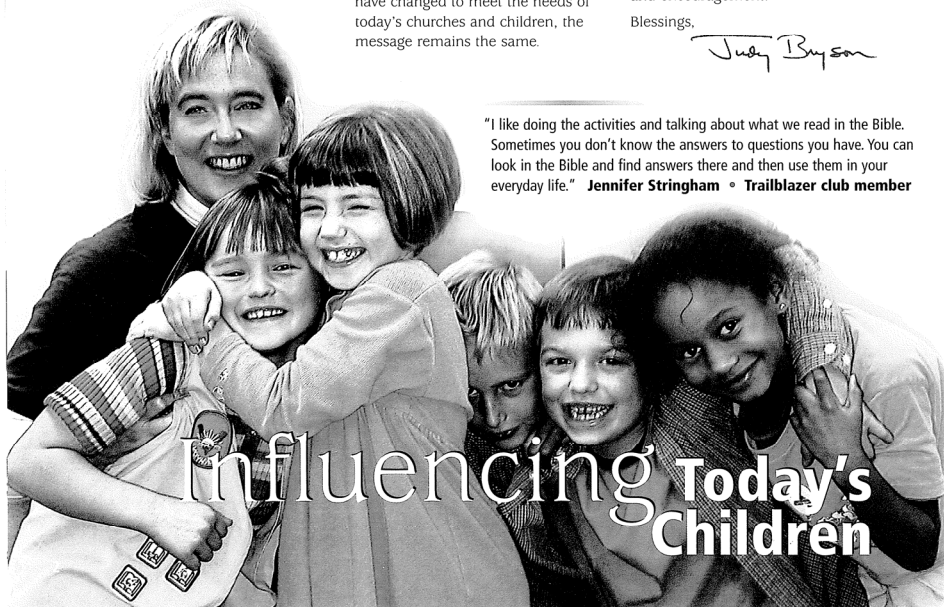
Our slogan, *Christ in every aspect of life*, sums up Pioneer Clubs' philosophy. We want today's kids to know God loves them and desires that they follow him throughout their lifetime. This year our activities have focused on this goal. As you read this Annual Report, may you sense what God has done and is continuing to do through the effective ministry of Pioneer Clubs.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Blessings,

Judy Bryson

"I like doing the activities and talking about what we read in the Bible. Sometimes you don't know the answers to questions you have. You can look in the Bible and find answers there and then use them in your everyday life." **Jennifer Stringham • Trailblazer club member**



Milestones & Challenges



by James R. Phillip, chairman, Pioneer Clubs Board of Directors

One of my privileges as chairman of Pioneer Clubs' board of directors is connecting with our valued ministry partners through this Annual Report. You are the heart and energy of this ministry, and the board and staff are truly grateful to you. I hope you find helpful insight into the purpose and progress of Pioneer Clubs in these pages.

This past year was full of milestones and challenges. In addition to starting Pioneer and Discovery Clubs in over 700 new churches, we enhanced our online store for ordering and completed a major revision to our *Trailblazer* handbook for the 5th through 7th grade level. Staff responded to the myriad inquiries and orders from club coordinators and leaders, while keeping in contact with our friends and supporters.

Meanwhile, a special volunteer task force undertook a review of the ministry's strategic focus. We refined our vision and mission statement, reaffirmed our core values, and committed to increase our service-support of the many churches and volunteers which are key to expansion of the ministry.

While the cultural environment is constantly changing, what has not changed is our unwavering commitment to reaching and teaching children in the critical

pre-teen years during which most values are formed.

When you think of the development of a well-rounded young person, does the concluding verse of Luke 2 come to mind? It says, "Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in

context of wholesome, loving relationships with adults in a church environment. This holistic approach to development will not only affect the lives of the thousands of children involved in clubs and camp, but the future of many more whom they will influence and lead. Of course, this begins with children in a church family; but Pioneer Clubs also has a wonderful attraction to unchurched children, even building bridges for their parents to connect with the church community.

We refined our vision and mission statement, reaffirmed our core values, and committed to increase our service-support of the many churches and volunteers which are key to expansion of the ministry.

favor with God and men." The intellectual, physical, spiritual, and social dimensions play a vital role in Christian maturity. Accordingly, Pioneer Clubs is committed to helping children and young people apply Biblical truth for successful living in everyday life...or simply stated, *Christ in every aspect of life.*

But the challenge of embracing the Biblical base of our founding fathers becomes increasingly difficult under the barrage of media filled with negative images and messages. That's why it's so important that Pioneer Clubs' age-appropriate curriculum prompts children to question ideas, consider and discuss alternatives and their consequences, and make choices based on Biblical principles—all in the

As you review this report, I trust you will agree that Pioneer Clubs is a healthy ministry, committed to careful stewardship of God's resources. Our outstanding staff feels a keen sense of accountability to our participating churches, camps, donors, and to God in the task of helping to develop children into lifelong followers of Christ. But the success of this ministry is dependent upon God's Spirit working through thousands of volunteer leaders and supporters like you. We are truly grateful to those ministry partners who contribute their time, abilities, and financial support. Thank you for your ongoing prayer and support as together we engage in some of the most precious work on earth.

Board of Directors

Keith A. Aarseth
Independent Options Trader

Barrett Carlson
Partner, Investment Company

Robin Gorab
Director of Christian Education
Village Seven
Presbyterian Church

Jo Klenk
Former Software
Engineer/Programmer
Homemaker

Jody Maas
Homemaker,
Home School Teacher

Virginia Patterson
President Emerita
Pioneer Clubs

James R. Phillip
Administrative/
Vice Chairman & CIO
All America—
Phillips Flower Shop, Inc.

Sharen Rose
Office Manager
Time, Inc.

Denise Taylor
Assistant Vice President
of Facilities Planning
Saint Louis University

Cynthia F. Wisner
Assistant General Counsel
Trinity Health

Ministry Accomplishments

For 66 years, Pioneer Clubs and Camp Cherith have helped children use God's Word as a "lamp unto their feet and a light unto their path." Updated leader and club member handbooks, enhanced leader resources, technology-innovative training, and other initiatives this past year have enabled Pioneer Clubs® churches to reach the children in their congregation and community for Christ in powerful ways.



Pioneer Clubs is a member of the Christian Camp and Conference Association, and all Camp Cherith camps are members of and adhere to the standards of the American Camping Association.

Several camps celebrated milestone anniversaries this past year:

60 years	<i>New England Camp Cherith, Alfred, Maine</i>
55 years	<i>Colorado Camp Cherith, Woodland Park, Colorado</i>
45 years	<i>MaWaVa Camp Cherith, Emmitsburg, Maryland Shasta Camp Cherith, Emigrant Gap, California</i>
40 years	<i>Adirondack Camp Cherith, Upstate New York NeKaMo Camp Cherith, Warsaw, Missouri</i>
30 years	<i>Alberta Camp Cherith, Alberta, Canada</i>

Discovery Club

The Discovery Club® program for small churches exploded during the 2004-05 club year with over 625 churches—an increase of more than 300 percent over last year—using the program to reach children for Christ. In addition to its commercial success, Discovery Club was nominated "Best Outreach Resource of the Year" by *Outreach Magazine*. The second year of Discovery Club curriculum, *Adventures with God*, was released the summer of 2005.



Trailblazer Curriculum Revision

A two-year effort culminated with the release of our revised Trailblazer curriculum for children in grades 5-7 for the 2005-2006 club year.

This new material incorporates higher-level questions, multiple memory techniques, stronger salvation directives, and resources for leader reflection. The curriculum includes 14 Bible Awards and 36 Activity Awards. It continues to provide Bible Explorations with life application, meaningful Bible memory time, practical life-skills, and easy-to-use leader materials. New features include Parent Pages, "Prepare your Heart" and "Leader Reflection" ideas for leaders, introduction choices for Bible Explorations, suggested service projects, and full-color handbooks.



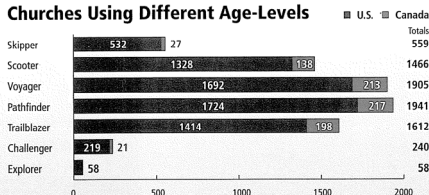
Ministry Impact Statistics

North American Statistics

	U.S.	CANADA	TOTAL
Pioneer Clubs Churches	2,108	253	2,361
Discovery Club Churches	628	10	638
Clubs	7,595	824	8,419
Leaders	13,241	2,705	15,946
Children	112,462	9,124	121,586

Camp Cherith Statistics • **CAMP CHERITH® (U.S. AND CANADA)** Campers: 5,658 • Camps: 23

Churches Using Different Age-Levels



Virginia C. Patterson Continuing Education Fund Scholarship



Throughout our 66-year history, Pioneer Clubs has awarded dozens of college and Campers in Leadership Training (CILT) scholarships to high school age alumni club members and campers. The recipient of this year's \$1,000 college scholarship is **Sarah Gleason** from Trenton, Michigan. Sarah attended Pioneer Clubs at First Presbyterian Church for 13 years, progressing through the Scooter, Voyager, Pathfinder, Trailblazer, Challenger, and Explorer club levels. She also attended Huron Forest Camp Cherith for 11 summers and is a CILT graduate. Sarah plans to attend Evangel College in Springfield, Missouri, and major in Special Education.

CILT scholarships were awarded to: Megan Ambrose of Columbia City, Indiana; Corissa Poley of Mine Hill, New Jersey; and Audrie Humphry of Diosd, Hungary. Audrie, whose parents are missionaries, will fly to the United States to attend NeKaMo Camp Cherith in Warsaw, Missouri.

An education scholarship was awarded to a Pioneer Clubs staff member who is seeking his Masters Degree at Wheaton College. Three children of staff members received scholarships to attend a week of camp at Brook Cherith Camp.

Customer Service

Customer service continued to be a priority for Pioneer Clubs this past year. Service consultants, who are assigned to churches within certain geographical areas, not only provide help with registration and orders, but also offer support, encouragement, and problem-solving suggestions. A highlight of every service call is the consultant's offer to pray with the caller.



Phonathons

Pioneer Clubs representatives talked with more than 2,000 supporters during our Annual Phonathon, updating them on ministry happenings and taking prayer requests. Over \$130,000 was given in gifts and pledges. And during our Leader Phonathon, more than 600 club leaders and coordinators pledged \$16,000 in first-time personal gifts to the national ministry of Pioneer Clubs.



Teleconference Training and Workshops

Club coordinators from New Jersey to California participated in Pioneer Clubs' first teleconference training April 18 and 30, 2004. The one-hour seminar, entitled "Recruiting and Keeping Club Volunteers," was led by Pioneer Clubs President Judy Bryson. In the fall of 2004, Pioneer Clubs hosted 55 workshops attended by 911 club leaders and coordinators. In addition, Executive and Management staff attended 11 Christian Education and Denominational conferences to promote club and make initial contacts with church ministry staff.



Online Store

Pioneer Clubs' online store "opened its doors" in December, 2004, and since has received over 1,500 orders, with an increase anticipated as coordinators order for the fall. Located on Pioneer Clubs' Web site, the online store enables club coordinators and leaders to order handbooks, awards, club apparel, and other supplies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Kids for Kids Hike

Thirty-seven churches participated in the 8th annual Kids for Kids Hike this past spring. In addition, several churches took to the trails for the first Autumn Hike, held October 16, 2004. The \$10,000 raised by hikers is used to keep club costs low so all churches, regardless of their size or budget, can have a Pioneer Clubs ministry.



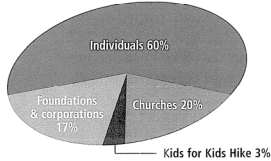
Financial Highlights



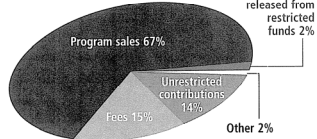
	2004-05	2003-04
Assets		
Cash & Investments	1,462,301	1,337,230
Accounts Receivable	103,347	100,785
Inventory	231,523	246,047
Prepaid & Deferred Expenses	29,157	14,033
Property and Equipment	285,332	347,879
TOTAL ASSETS	2,111,660	2,045,974

Liabilities & Net Assets		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	152,474	106,719
Annuity Obligations	125,303	144,832
Non-Qualified Pension Liability	143,069	127,607
Unrestricted Funds	1,503,328	1,485,584
Temporarily Restricted Funds	125,907	119,738
Permanently Restricted	61,579	61,494
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	2,111,660	2,045,974

Contributions



Income



Sources of Contributions

Churches	76,154	88,983
Individuals	232,745	281,675
Foundations & Corporations	66,215	62,418
Kids for Kids Hike	10,000	11,950
Total	385,114	445,026
Direct Fundraising Expenses	40,635	44,705
Transfer to Other Projects	55,657	82,316
NET CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATIONS	288,822	318,005

Net Income from Operations

Program Sales	1,692,167	1,805,302
Fees	393,905	405,959
Unrestricted Contributions	334,726	362,709
Other	64,377	61,288
Net Assets Released from Restricted Funds	40,501	42,301
TOTAL NET INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	2,526,676	2,677,559

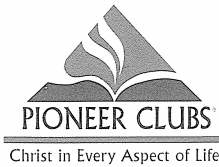
Operating Expenses for

Program Ministries	1,860,744	2,007,258
Management and General	503,828	538,818
Fund Raising	204,750	220,668
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,569,322	2,766,744
NET NON-OPERATING INCOME & EXPENSES	67,644	109,167
FUNDS RESERVED FOR FUTURE MINISTRY	23,998	19,982



Pioneer Clubs is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, the National Association of Evangelicals, and the Christian Management Association.

COMMUNICATION 06-6



May 15, 2006

Rev. Michael J. Glodo
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567
Livonia MI 48152-7912

Dear Rev. Glodo,

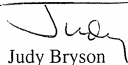
I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service as a member of our Board of Reference. As a way to show our appreciation for your support, I have enclosed a framed certificate and I hope you'll display this in your office.

Also enclosed is a copy of Pioneer Clubs' new introduction brochure which we send to churches requesting information about Pioneer Clubs® and Discovery Clubs®. As a member of the Board of Reference, your name appears on this brochure. In addition, your name appears on our Website (www.pioneerclubs.org), along with a link to your biographical information at the organization you represent. Some members of the Board of Reference have already created a reciprocal link from their Website to ours. If you have the option, you may want to do the same. This is a wonderful way to spread the news about Pioneer Clubs.

Finally, my hope in the coming year is to keep you informed about news at Pioneer Clubs—both national and local club ministry news. From time to time, we will be sending you courtesy news releases via email or U.S. mail. In addition, we welcome your stories—personal reflections on your involvement with Pioneer Clubs or comments you've heard from others in the course of your work—that would help us promote this wonderful ministry.

Again, thank you for your support and may God continue to bless you.

Warmly,


Judy Bryson
President

COMMUNICATION 06-7



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

17197 N. LAUREL PARK DRIVE, SUITE 567 LIVONIA, MI 48152
(734) 742-2020 FAX (734) 742-2033
www.epc.org epchurch@epc.org

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 2, 2006

The Trustees, Faculty and Administration
c/o Dr. Bryan Chapell
Covenant Theological Seminary
12330 Conway Road
St. Louis, MO 63141

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With deep gratitude I read the 50th Anniversary issue of *In Covenant* magazine. It was with personal gratitude that I read history that was familiar to me by previous tellings as well as chapters I had not known. It was with fond recollections that I read of the life of the seminary during my own student years (1984-1989).

Yet I also express the corporate gratitude of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church for Covenant's contribution to our life and wellbeing as a denomination. As you are reflecting on your fiftieth year, we in the EPC are recounting God's favor upon us in our twenty five years as a denomination. The founding spirit of Covenant that stands as her reputation today exemplifies our own attempt to discern God's corporate calling upon us. This spirit is expressed in the ancient motto with which we identify – "In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity; 'truth in love'."

I would estimate that Covenant Seminary alumni in the EPC today number several dozen ministers, with that number growing more quickly than ever. To the extent that Covenant Seminary has contributed to the preparation of our ministers, not to mention the vast number of lay servants blessed through the broad range of resources you provide, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is richer and more faithful to its own sense of call as "...a family of churches, Reformed and Presbyterian, defined by shared core values, and bonded by the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, please receive the congratulations and commendations of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church upon the celebration of your fiftieth anniversary.

For the Bride and for the Lamb,

Michael J. Glodo
Stated Clerk

COMMUNICATION 06-8

Office of the Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567
Livonia, MI 48154
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mike.gloodo@epc.org



May 25, 2006

The Moderator
26th General Assembly
17197 N. Laurel Park Place, Suit 567
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Mr. Moderator,

Upon action and on behalf of the Committee on Administration, I request that the following resolution be adopted by the 26th General Assembly and, upon adoption, be entered into the record of this Assembly and be conveyed with all appropriate sentiment to the family of Lois Ferguson.

Whereas Lois B. Ferguson served as the receptionist of the Office of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church from September 23, 1996 until her death on April 3, 2006,

Whereas Lois fulfilled the stewardship of her responsibilities “faithfully as unto the Lord,”

Whereas Lois emanated cheer and warmth to callers, visitors and co-workers of the Office of the General Assembly

Whereas she has now entered into the rest of Christ brought about by His death and her family now waits upon that hope brought about by His resurrection from the dead

Whereas “like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth those that fear Him.”

Whereas our Savior has sworn “I am the resurrection and the life...he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

Whereas “the Spirit beareth witness with out spirit, that we are the children of God

Be it resolved, that “the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church gives thanks to God for Lois, His servant, recalling all in her that made others love her. Further, that we bless God for the good and gracious influences in her home and training, for all that ministered to her best life. We thank God for the goodness and truth that have passed from her life into the lives of others, and have made the world richer for her presence.”

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Glodo
Stated Clerk

COMMUNICATION 06-9



Office of the Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr., Suite 567
Livonia, MI 48154
734.742.2020 • 734.742.2033 fax
mike.glodo@epc.org

June 19, 2006

Dr. L. Roy Taylor, Stated Clerk
Presbyterian Church in America
1700 N. Brown Road, Suite 105
Lawrenceville, GA 30043-8122

Dear Dr. Taylor,

I write to you on behalf of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church with our greetings on the occasion of your 34th General Assembly. We wish you God's blessing and guidance as you seek the mind of Christ and we assure you of our prayers on your behalf. While I believe it will have been a number of years since we were unable to respond to your Assembly's invitation to send a fraternal observer, the occasion of our 25th anniversary at our assembly this same week has left us unable to do so.

On the day when you receive fraternal greetings we will be celebrating our own 25th anniversary as well as the 300th anniversary of the first North American presbytery with a day-long workshop entitled "Our Story, Our Future." This day of presentations will feature one of our own ruling elders and noted church historian Dr. Mark Noll, as well as Dr. Sam Logan, your Dr. David Calhoun and several others including our own Drs. Bruce Demarest and Don Fortson, III. While we annually admire the assembly workshop which you sponsor, I'm sure your commissioners will agree that our own commissioners were rightly hesitant to be away from our assembly this year, even if for the worthy reason of bringing you greetings from us.

We hold in high esteem the Presbyterian Church in America. Her witness of biblical fidelity, confessional integrity, and missional pursuit provide an encouraging example to us. We feel, though we do not yet enjoy full formal fraternal relations together, that we stand with you as fellow laborers in the Lord's vineyard and co-belligerents in prosecuting the commission of our King and Savior Jesus Christ. We look forward to receiving more of that encouragement as your Rev. Cal Burroughs brings us greetings on your behalf.

By God's grace we stand today as 181 congregations of approximately 70,000 members across the country. We have seen God's hand guide us into a greater corporate comprehension and embrace of our confessional identity while preserving our warm unity and evangelical fervor. We enjoy the labors of numbers who came to us from the PCA as you enjoy the same from some who came from us. It is our hope that the many warm and respectful personal relationships will increase causing us to grow corporately in our appreciation and encouragement of one another.

The EPC is facing some significant transitions, primarily due to our efforts at self assessment in our missional effectiveness but also due to a change our assembly leadership as I conclude my second term of service. While I have been well-occupied for the last six Junes, I hope to observe one of your assemblies in the near future as our fraternal observer.

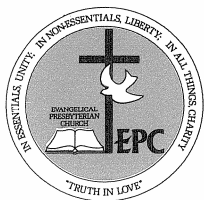
Once again, your brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church commend you to our Lord and wish you His every blessing as you gather together in His name this week in Atlanta.

For the Bride and for the Lamb,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael J. Glodo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael J. Glodo
Stated Clerk

OVERTURE 06-A



Evangelical Presbyterian Church Presbytery of Florida

5150 Oleander Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34982
Phone (561) 468-0869

Robert J. Garment, Stated Clerk

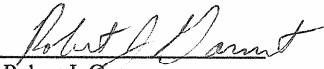
November 9, 2005

OVERTURE

- Whereas: The **Book of Government §7-5** states: *“The particular church has the right to call its own pastor(s), provided the Presbytery concurs by receiving such pastor(s) into its membership.”*; and
- Whereas: The position paper on the “Ordination of Women” states, *“the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has chosen to leave this decision to the presbyteries concerning the ordination of women as ministers.”*; and
- Whereas: The scripture specifically states in 1 Corinthians 14:33, *“For God is not a God of disorder, but of peace.”*; and
- Whereas: 2Timothy 3:16 states that *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.”*; and
- Whereas: In Mark 3:25 Jesus instructed, *“If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.”*; and
- Whereas: A position for ordination and a position against ordination of a woman as a teaching elder are contradictory positions and therefore cannot both be biblically correct; and,
- Whereas: In light of current events of our day with many churches and denominations struggling with pastoral issues in an attempt to satisfy the culture of the times, in an effort to avoid similar difficulties and to be consistent with the scripture that calls the church to be pure and spotless before Christ;
- Therefore: The Presbytery of Florida Overtures the 26th General Assembly to amend the **Book of Government §10-2** by inserting the sentence: *This office shall be open to men only, after Those who fill this office should, according to the Scripture, have certain qualifications.* The amended section would then read:

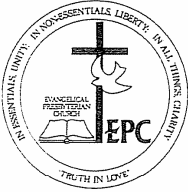
§10-2 The office of Minister: For dignity and usefulness, this office historically has been considered first in the Church. Many titles are attached to this office such as Bishop, Pastor, Minister, Presbyterian, Elder, Ambassador, Evangelist, Preacher, and Teacher. All these titles refer to various aspects of the whole ministry to which one is called in this office. Those who fill this office should, according to the Scripture, have certain qualifications. *This office shall be open to men only.* They should be sound in the faith and have an aptitude for teaching. Their lives should reflect holiness and discipline which brings honor to Christ and which causes them to be well thought of by those outside the Church. They should have wisdom and discretion and should have adequate training to equip them for their task.

This overture was approved by the Presbytery of Florida at its 46th Stated Meeting convening in Plant City, Florida, October 8, 2005.

Attested To: 
Robert J. Garment
Stated Clerk

Date: November 9, 2005

OVERTURE 06-B



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

27 March 2006

26th General Assembly
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Subject: Ascending Overture

The Presbytery of the Southeast, in its 66th Stated Meeting, 30 September 2005, voted to overture the 26th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to change the Book of Order in order to improve the ordination / installation vows taken by Ruling Elders and Deacons, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Presbyterian form of church government is based upon rule by elders (Gr: *presbuteros*), which are collectively referred to as "presbyters" -- whether Teaching Elders or Ruling Elders; and

WHEREAS, as the elders exercise their office in the courts of the church they properly strive to maintain the unity, peace and purity of the church by functioning under the timeless operational principle of subjection to their fellow "presbyters" in the Lord; and

WHEREAS, this principle was codified in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church constitution through the ordination / installation vows required of Ruling Elders in BOG 14-1.E.7 until recently when vow #7 was changed to eliminate the term "presbyters" replacing it with the more inclusive term "officers," which applies to both Ruling Elders and Deacons; and

WHEREAS, that change, while making the wording of vow #7 more appropriate for Deacons, has the unintended consequences of placing Ruling Elders in subjection to Deacons in the local church, and eliminating any relevance of this vow to the interaction of elders in the higher courts; and

WHEREAS, this constitutional anomaly can be remedied by simply splitting vow #7 into separate sections for Ruling Elders and Deacons;

THEREFORE, the Presbytery of the Southeast respectfully overtures the 26th General Assembly to amend Chapter Fourteen of the Book of Government by substituting the following wording for all of **G 14-1.E.7**:

- | |
|---|
| <p>a. <i>(Ruling Elders) -- Do you promise subjection to your fellow presbyters in the Lord?</i></p> <p>b. <i>(Deacons) -- Do you promise subjection to your fellow officers in the Lord?</i></p> |
|---|

Soli Deo Gloria,

Rev. William R. (Bill) Sharp
Stated Clerk

OVERTURE 06-C



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

May 3, 2006

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic respectfully overtures the 26th meeting of the General Assembly with the following, adopted at its 53rd Stated Meeting, April 29, 2006:

That the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic overtures the 26th General Assembly to amend The Book of Government, chapter 15, by adding the following section:

G.15-11 Renunciation of Jurisdiction. A "renunciation of jurisdiction" shall have the effect of terminating membership and ordination in the church and shall immediately dissolve the relationship of Ruling Elder, Deacon, or Minister. Notice of renunciation shall be given in writing to the Clerk of the appropriate court and becomes effective upon receipt of the notice. In the event an individual orally renounces jurisdiction, this fact shall be confirmed by letter from the court acknowledging that renunciation. The letter shall be delivered in person or by form of mail requiring a written receipt. If the court receives no written response within ten days, the acknowledgement of renunciation of jurisdiction shall be deemed final.

RATIONALE: This amendment seeks to offer clarity re the status of the ordination of an officer who renounces jurisdiction of a court. Present reading of D.3-5 stipulates that renunciation of jurisdiction effectuates the termination of one's church membership and the dissolution of office. It is logically understood that such dissolution has the practical effect of terminating ordination as well, as it seems untenable that a person who renounces connection with, and the church's jurisdiction, would continue in submission to its governance. It is difficult to assume one who has renounced membership and jurisdiction of a court would continue to be accountable to that court. Is it conceivable that an officer who does not recognize nor submit to the *authority* of the court be expected to be held accountable by that court? Such renunciation appears to be at cross-purposes with an officer's vows to subscribe to the government and discipline of the EPC and to be in subjection to one's fellow Presbyters in the Lord (cf. G. 14-1A.6, 7; 14-1E.6, 7). At the same time, should a court continue to provide credentials (or honored recognition) for one who has declared their independence from the court's membership, jurisdiction and authority?

Presently, **The Book of Discipline** defines renunciation of jurisdiction in the sole context of judicial proceedings, and is exercised against an officer with whom a judicial case is in progress or is pending. G.15-1 refers to "... certain conditions under which the officer may be ... divested of office without censure". Several conditions are enumerated in G.15-5, but are limited in application to Ruling Elders and Deacons. In each condition, except for 15-5E, it is implied that ordination remains intact; only the status of service is changed, e.g., from Active to

Overture to 26th General Assembly
May 3, 2006
page 2

Inactive. This overture seeks to offer specificity to the ramifications of renunciation for *each* ordained office.

This Presbytery has experience several Teaching Elders who announce their renunciation of jurisdiction for theological and/or pragmatic reasons, and indicate their desire to sever all ties with Presbytery and the denomination. For example, a TE desiring to seek ordination in an Anglican denomination—a two year process, we were told—found he had to sever his ties with our denomination prior to beginning their ordination process. In these cases, none have appealed to G.15-4 (due to its obvious inapplicability), but have cited D.3-5 to note their departure in a spirit of respect for our polity.

Our sense is that similar cases of renunciation, for similar reasons, could re-occur. Chapter 15, "The Dissolution of an Officer's Relationship", in **The Book of Government** seems to be the proper context to recognize respective dissolutions of all officer relationships. At present, one can only appeal to a non sequitur lifted from **The Book of Discipline**. This proposed amendment seeks to provide for a reasonable and consistent procedure for non-disciplinary dissolutions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Shockley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Howard" and last name "Shockley" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Howard Shockley
Stated Clerk

OVERTURE 06-D



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

May 3, 2006

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic respectfully overtures the 26th meeting of the General Assembly with the following, adopted at its 53rd Stated Meeting, April 29, 2006:

That the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic overtures the 26th General Assembly to amend The Book of Government, 15-5B by the following additions (underlined):

Present Reading: "When membership is placed with another congregation."

Proposed Reading: "When membership is placed with another congregation of the EPC or with a non-EPC congregation."

RATIONALE: The present reading is somewhat ambiguous, with at least two interpretations possible for the meaning of "another congregation." In the overall context of **The Book of Government**, it would seem that "another congregation" refers to another *EPC* congregation. However, read in the broader context of popular understanding, the meaning of "another congregation" could refer to either an EPC or a non-EPC congregation. To avoid an additional provision for membership placed with a non-EPC congregation; this amendment offers clarification for all cases in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Howard Shockley
Stated Clerk

P.O. Box 10 • 261 Lauren Hope Lane • Moore, SC 29369 • 864-587-6440 • Fax 864-587-6439
hshocklev@msn.com

OVERTURE 06-E



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

May 3, 2006

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic respectfully overtures the 26th meeting of the General Assembly with the following, adopted at its 53rd Stated Meeting, April 29, 2006:

That the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic overtures the 26th General Assembly to amend The Book of Government, 15-4 by the following (change underlined):

Present Reading: "When a Presbytery shall divest a Minister of his office without censure, it shall assign him to membership in some particular church, subject to the approval of the Session of that church."

Proposed Reading: "When a Presbytery shall divest a Minister of his office without censure, it shall be at the discretion of Presbytery to assign him to membership in some particular church, subject to the approval of the Session of that church."

RATIONALE: The present reading *requires* a Presbytery, *in every case*, to assign a Minister divested of office to membership in some particular church, provided the Session approves membership. This well-intended provision calls attention to, while making provision for, needed pastoral oversight of a former Minister as well as affirming the constitutional oversight of the local Session. However, provision is needed to take into account those situations in which it may not be the best wisdom or in the best interests of Presbytery and/or the local church to place a former Minister in membership. Provision is needed for cases in which a Minister may refuse the mandatory assignment for reasons of conscience (cf. G. 17-5). In such case, Presbytery's good intentions may appear presumptuous. The proposed amendment seeks to affirm the opportunity for proper pastoral oversight and relationship while allowing an alternative course for exceptional cases.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Howard Shockley
Stated Clerk

P.O. Box 10 • 261 Lauren Hope Lane • Moore, SC 29369 • 864-587-6440 • Fax 864-587-6439
hshockley@msn.com

OVERTURE 06-F



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

May 3, 2006

The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic respectfully overtures the 26th meeting of the General Assembly with the following, adopted at its 53rd Stated Meeting, April 29, 2006:

That the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic overtures the 26th General Assembly to amend The Book of Discipline, 3-5 with the following addition (in bold type & underlined):

Present Reading: A "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."

Proposed Reading: A "Renunciation of Jurisdiction" shall have the effect of terminating membership and ordination in the church and shall immediately dissolve the relationship of Ruling Elder, Deacon, or Minister."

RATIONALE: This amendment is designed to bring consistency with the proposed amendment to G.15-11 (above) and to provide further clarity to the ramifications of renunciation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard Shockley".

Dr. Howard Shockley
Stated Clerk

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hshockley@msn.com

DESCENDING OVERTURES FROM THE 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DESCENDING OVERTURE 05-A

Shall the **Book of Government**, §16-27A, be amended as follows (changes are underlined and in italics):

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>16-27A The Ministerial Committee: Each Presbytery shall have a Ministerial Committee. It shall have at least six members equally divided between Ministers and Ruling Elders. Its quorum for action shall be one-half (1/2) of membership, The Committee shall be established in equal classes for a term of three years. Eligibility to succeed will be determined by the appointing court. Its duties are as follows:</p>	<p>16-27A The Ministerial Committee: Each Presbytery shall have a Ministerial Committee <u>consisting only of Ministers and Ruling Elders</u>. It shall have at least six members <u>and be established and maintained in such a way as to insure that the differences between the number of Ministers and Ruling Elders on the Committee shall never be greater than one</u>. Its quorum for action shall be <u>a simple majority</u> of membership, to include at least one Ruling Elder and one Teaching Elder. Eligibility to succeed will be determined by the appointing court. Its duties are as follows:</p>

Grounds: Present wording, by requiring equal classes for terms of three-year and members equally divided between Ruling and Teaching Elders, requires that Ministerial Committee have memberships evenly divisible by six (six, twelve, eighteen, etc.). Some presbyteries may deem a Committee of six as too small to handle its range of responsibilities and a committee of twelve or more as unwieldy and its vacancies difficult to fill. The amendment is proposed to alleviate this problem by giving presbyteries greater flexibility.

VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIES

Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	79	0
East	46	0
Florida	30	0
Mid-America	18	0
Mid-Atlantic	71	0
Midwest	40	0
Southeast	62	0
West	41	0
		<i>Passed</i>

DESCENDING OVERTURE 05-B

Shall the ***Book of Government***, §11-7, be amended by adding the following sentence? (Changes are underlined and in italics.)

A Session, by a three-fourths vote and approved by Presbytery's Ministerial Committee, may recommend to the congregation that an Assistant Pastor be called as an Associate Pastor without a Search Committee being elected as in the case of G.11-6.

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>§11-7 A Minister may be called as Assistant Pastor. However, the call is issued by the Session. The call shall follow the form indicated above and shall be for a definite period of time, and is renewable. The call shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Assistant. The Call of an Assistant Pastor may be terminated by the Church Session prior to that time only with the consent and approval of the Presbytery. A person serving as Assistant Pastor on the same church staff at the time the pastor position becomes vacant shall not be called to fill that position in the same church, by any means.</p>	<p>§11-7 A Minister may be called as Assistant Pastor. However, the call is issued by the Session, The call shall follow the format indicated above and shall be for a definite period of time, and is renewable. The call shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Assistant. The Call of an Assistant Pastor may be terminated by the Church Session prior to that time only with the consent and approval of the presbytery. A person serving as Assistant pastor on the same church staff at the time the pastor position becomes vacant shall not be called to fill that position in the same church, by any means. <u><i>A Session, by a three-fourths vote and approved by Presbytery's Ministerial Committee, may recommend to the congregation that an Assistant Pastor be called as an Associate Pastor without a Search Committee being elected as in the case of G.11-6.</i></u></p>

Grounds: It is not uncommon for an Assistant Pastor is called, having served to the satisfaction of the Session and church members for a reasonable period of time, to be presented by the Session to the congregation for consideration as an Associate Pastor. This amendment would make election of a Search Committee unnecessary in such cases.

VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIES

Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	73	0
East	46	0
Florida	28	0
Mid-America	21	0
Mid-Atlantic	78	0
Midwest	40	0
Southeast	63	0
West	41	0
		<i>Passed</i>

DESCENDING OVERTURE 05-C

Shall the ***Book of Government***, §11-7, be amended by adding the following sections?
(Changes are underlined and in italics.)

Present wording	Proposed wording
<p>§11-7 A Minister may be called as Assistant Pastor. However, the call is issued by the Session. The call shall follow the form indicated above and shall be for a definite period of time, and is renewable. The call shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Assistant. The Call of an Assistant Pastor may be terminated by the Church Session prior to that time only with the consent and approval of the Presbytery. A person serving as Assistant Pastor on the same church staff at the time the pastor position becomes vacant shall not be called to fill that position in the same church, by any means.</p>	<p>§11-7 A Minister may be called as Assistant Pastor. However, the call is issued by the Session, <u><i>in regular consultation with the Ministerial Committee of the Presbytery.</i></u> The <u><i>terms of</i></u> call shall follow the <u><i>format</i></u> indicated above (<i>G §11-5, F</i>) and shall be for a definite period of time, and is renewable. The call shall stipulate the primary responsibilities to be exercised by the Assistant. The Call of an Assistant Pastor may be terminated by the Church Session prior to that time only with the consent and approval of the Presbytery. A person serving as Assistant Pastor on the same church staff at the time the pastor position becomes vacant shall not be called to fill that position in the same church, by any means. <i>[Note: language from Descending Overture 05-B, if ratified, would be added at this point.]</i></p>

Grounds:

- To standardized procedure and clarify the language of the paragraph.
- The Presbytery Ministerial Committee is in a position to advise and guide the church Session, so that the logistics of offering a call are consistent across the Presbytery and the denomination.
- As those responsible for assisting in the resolution of any issues regarding pastors and their call, the Ministerial Committee has the best interest of all parties involved at heart in the act of establishing a relationship between a church and an Assistant Pastor.
- The addition of the words “terms of” before “call,” changing “form” to format” and inserting the ***Book of Government*** reference serve to clarify the intent of **G.11-7**, and assure the Session considers and stipulates all the required elements of the terms of call.
- The intent is not to usurp any responsibility from the Session, but to assure that issues are understood and agreed upon by all parties prior to issuing the call to an Assistant Pastor.

VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIES

Overture 05-C

Presbytery	Yes	No
Central South	76	0
East	35	12
Florida	28	0
Mid-America	22	0
Mid-Atlantic	80	0
Midwest	39	0
Southeast	60	1
West	41	0
		<i>Passed</i>

REPORT OF THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

This has been a very busy year for this committee. Last June Donald Fortson took EPC greetings to the ARP Synod meeting in Flat Rock, NC and Paul Heidebrecht attended the CRCNA meeting in Palos Heights, IL.

The Interchurch Relations Committee of the Christian Reformed Church invited EPC to attend a portion of their meeting in Grand Rapids, MI. Ed McCallum, Paul Heidebrecht and Steele Stewart were able to attend on February tenth. This invitation came as a response from the CRC because a number of EPC churches had collected money for Katrina Relief, and then turned \$75,000 over to the CRC's Katrina relief effort. They wished to explore the possibilities of other forms of interdenominational sharing. The CRC's printing abilities and educational materials are two resources that our individual churches and EPC are and can utilize. It is hoped that additional sharing opportunities will be found in the future.



Steele Stewart, Chairman

In early March Mike Glodo, Jeff Chadwick and Paul Heidebrecht went to Johannesburg, South Africa for the 2nd World Reformed Fellowship assembly. WRF has a very global representation of seminary and church leaders. Being on a four year assembly cycle it hopes that the assemblies can serve as an opportunity for developing fellowship and partnerships among these leaders with the common bond being the adherence to a Reformed confession. Our representatives felt that EPC should participate in WRF as an opportunity for developing further international exposure.

Near the end of March Christian Churches Together (CCT) had its organizational meeting outside of Atlanta, GA. Mike Glodo and Steele Stewart attended as observers. This body has been meeting annually for five years in order to build a consensus among the 39 denominations and five organizations. Membership includes the mainline Protestant, Evangelical/Pentecostal, Catholic and Orthodox traditions. The common bond is that they are Christian, and as such we need to serve Christ without the historical divisions that have occurred. CCT chose the topic of "poverty" for the current year's focus. Not that they want to reinvent the wheel, but how can CCT facilitate the many poverty programs that the individual churches and denominations already have in place. They are considering "evangelism" as the focus for the following year. The FRC's consensus was that EPC should continue to follow the developments in CCT as an observer.

The FRC held a telephone conference meeting in September followed by a full day meeting near the Atlanta airport on April first. A major focus of those meetings was on the assignment of the 25th General Assembly to the committee in reference to EPC's relationship to World Alliance of Reformed Churches (WARC) and to justify that relationship and to report to the 26th General Assembly. A recommendation will be made. The instructions of the 25th General Assembly were:

The Assembly directed the permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations to study membership in the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and provide justification for remaining in this body and report back to the 2006 General Assembly.

The Committee's recommendation is as follows:

Response: The permanent Fraternal Relations Committee has concluded that the agenda for the World Alliance of Reformed Churches is significantly divergent from that of the EPC. Historically, the primary justification for EPC membership in WARC was to establish and maintain fraternal correspondence with the PC(USA) in order to facilitate the dismissal of churches to the EPC. As such, it provided a venue for mutual redress of concerns as well as the basis for transfer. Current developments within the PC(USA) may make this relationship highly relevant in the coming months.

Recommendation: The committee recommends that EPC membership in WARC be terminated at the adjournment of the 27th General Assembly unless that Assembly reverses, postpones or suspends this action.

During June EPC will be sending representatives to the ARP Synod, the CRCNA Synod, the PCA General Assembly, and the RPCNA General Assembly. The FRC elected Craig Vanbiber to be its chair in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Steele F. Stewart, Jr., M.D., Chairman

REPORT OF THE LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

History

The *ad interim* Long Range Planning Committee was established by the 25th General Assembly as follows:

That the 25th General Assembly approve an ad interim committee on strategic planning consisting of a minimum of four ruling elders and four teaching elders plus a chairman representing all the presbyteries which shall be appointed by the Moderator.



Nate Atwood, Chairman

Grounds: The observance of our 25th anniversary next year as well as the approach of the end of the decade make it timely to evaluate our progress on Vision 2001 and to begin envisioning our mission beyond 2010.

Appointed by the 25th General Assembly Moderator Bill Meyer, the committee members are:

Chairman

TE Rev. Nate Atwood
Kempsville Presbyterian Church
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

RE Mr. Ted Brandsma
West Presbytery

TE Rev. Darden Caylor
Hope Church
Central South Presbytery

RE Dr. Frank Johnson
East Presbytery

RE Mrs. Jan Juday
Midwest Presbytery

TE Rev. Richard Kidd
Lake Pointe Church
Southeast Presbytery

TE Rev. Don Mason
EPC of Plant City
Florida Presbytery

TE Rev. Mike Moses
Lake Forest Community
Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

RE Mr. Joe Schluchter
Mid-America Presbytery

Stated Clerk

TE Rev. Michael J. Glodo,
General Assembly Office
Midwest Presbytery

25th General Assembly Moderator

TE Rev. Bill Meyer
Florida Presbytery

Moderator-Elect

RE Dr. Paul Heidebrecht
Mid-America Presbytery

Assistant Stated Clerk

TE Rev. Ed. McCallum
General Assembly Office
Midwest Presbytery

After initial organizational work, the committee met in Detroit on November 7-8, 2005 and again on March 13-14, 2006. Additionally, the committee held several phone conferences. Between the meetings, the LRPC read 20 books and 19 articles in order to gain a strong knowledge base pertinent to our task (see bibliography in Appendix B). The committee also met with Dr. Paul Borden, author of *Hit the Bullseye*, at our March meeting in Detroit. Representatives of the Committee also held a consultation with Dr. Alan Roxburgh who is scheduled to meet with the Committee at one of its fall meetings.

In addition to our own research, the committee coordinated “Focus Group” discussions at presbytery meetings in order to open up dialogue between the grassroots of the denomination and our committee. Our goal for 2005-2006 has been to create an awareness of the problems and opportunities facing the EPC on a grassroots level. During 2006-2007, our goals are to move the grassroots to discussion towards understanding of what it will take to form a growing, evangelistically effective denomination. In particular, we hope to identify one or two “test” presbyteries within which to pilot changes in operational priorities and practices, as well as organizational change. All minutes of the committee as well as a comprehensive record of our work are available on the web at: <http://epc.org/general-assembly/LRP.html>.

Assumptions

During our November meeting, the Long Range Planning Committee identified what our key operational assumptions would be:

1. The LRPC (Long Range Planning Committee) will focus on developing missional *ethos* and practice in denominational life.
2. The local congregation is the focal point for mission. The EPC rises or falls depending on whether or not the local church succeeds in her mission. Developing missional practice means equipping local churches and developing operational flexibility.
3. The task of the General Assembly and presbytery is to help churches to be missionally successful.
4. The LRPC will initially use the Missional Leadership Institute (MLi) Change Model:2 (awareness, understanding, support, involvement, commitment) outline by Alan Roxburgh (See Appendix A Missional Leadership Institute, www.miliweb.net).
5. The LRPC will work intentionally through presbyteries.
6. The LRPC feels it must challenge the assumption that a church can be a healthy, evangelical, Reformed congregation in a mission field without growing.
7. The LRPC will take the posture of giving voice to people in the denomination and leading a movement rather than imposing a will.

8. The EPC is at a moment when God's Providence has given us a clear identity and yet we are still small enough—and relational enough—to effect meaningful change.
9. Ultimately, the LRPC needs to be prescriptive—but only after a process of careful listening. If the process is flawed, the prescription will flounder.

At our March meeting, after much reading and discussion, the committee crafted a working definition of “missional”: “Missional Churches are reproducing communities of authentic disciples, being equipped as missionaries sent by God, to live and proclaim His Kingdom in their world.”

The committee solicits your prayer and input as we seek to serve both you and the Lord in a task which is much larger than we are.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nate Atwood
Chairman

Appendix A

MLi Change Model



missional leadership institute

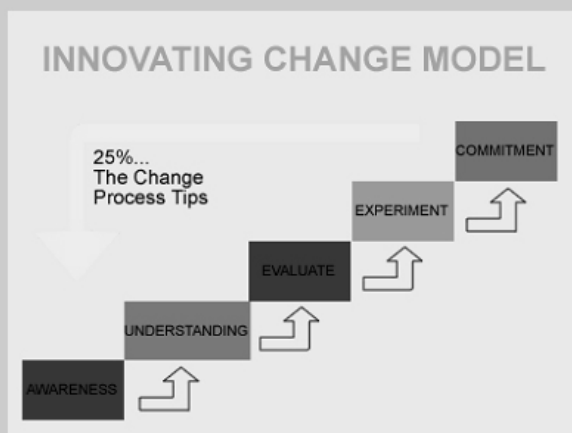
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MLi Change Model

Missional Leadership is about creating environments in which lasting missional change comes from among the people of God and is diffused throughout the community of God's people.

Missional Change must be a bottom-up process that creates an environment in which the people themselves discover the ways the Spirit is calling them into mission and ministry across the street and around the world.

MLi change process is designed to do this.



The Missional Change Model has five stages. Each builds on the one before. In one sense it is like climbing a set of stairs to reach another level of a building. In this sense the model is linear. We believe cultivating missional change requires leaders to learn each of these steps. Shortcutting one subverts the whole process.

At the same time the model is also like a continual loop. In this sense it repeatedly moves back and forth across all the steps. Once the process is initiated, it functions more like a set of spirals moving within one another rather than just a single, one-way, straight line.

For more information about the Missional change process please **contact us**.

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Appendix C – Long-Range Planning Committee White Paper

“Toward a Stronger Future”

A White Paper by the Long Range Planning Committee of the EPC
June 2006

Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. (Rev 3:2 NIV)

The words of Jesus spoken to the church in Sardis may be stronger, even harder, than what we want to hear. Many of us in the EPC are quick to point out—and rightfully so—that we are among those Presbyterians who have reaffirmed our Biblical faith during an age of apostasy. Many of us care deeply about the Great Commission and its wide-ranging implications. We teach well, care for our flocks, and are engaged in missions, particularly among the Muslims. These are just some of the many things we have to celebrate . . . and celebrate we should.

Yet, for all the good news, Mike Glodo, our outgoing Stated Clerk, called our attention to a critical statistic in his 25th Assembly report: 63% of our churches have either “plateaued” or are declining in membership. Each year, as we gather at our General Assembly, we lament our lack of evangelistic growth. Therefore, isn’t it time to do more than merely be concerned? Would not an achievable and worthwhile goal be that we reverse this statistic? Because we are the *Evangelical* Presbyterian Church, it’s time to renew our commitment to the Great Commission. Until such time as a significant percentage of our churches are evangelistically effective (2/3 or more?), it would be hard for any of us to disagree that Jesus’ diagnosis of the church in Sardis has application for us in the EPC—”. . . ***for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.***”

A Brief History of our Committee

We, the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC), were formed by you at the 25th General Assembly (2005):

That the 25th General Assembly approve an ad interim committee on strategic planning consisting of a minimum of four ruling elders and four teaching elders plus a chairman representing all the presbyteries which shall be appointed by the Moderator. Grounds: The observance of our 25th anniversary next year as well as the approach of the end of the decade make it timely to evaluate our progress on Vision 2001 and to begin envisioning our mission beyond 2010.

During the past year we have read voluminously, met several times by conference call and in Detroit, prayed, and spoken with many of you. In fact, the dialogue began at the 2005 General Assembly as “Future Focus Groups” opened up discussion on how we as pastors and elders perceived we were doing as a denomination. Those Focus Groups discussed two topics, “*Describe your church/presbytery/GA,*” and “*How can your church/presbytery/GA be more effective in evangelism and church planting?*”

Some were frustrated by those discussions, while many were energized. The comments were recorded and include honest statements such as, “*My presbytery is like an old steel mill and its operational priorities are rusting and decaying,*” and “*Our General Assembly is like a race horse, lots of fun and fanfare, but always ending up where we started.*” While many of the comments were mildly critical (occasionally more so), there were some very positive comments as well, “*My church is like a mission outpost and operational priorities are to reach the lost and grow fully devoted followers of Christ for His glory.*” (You can read all of the comments of the various Focus Groups at <http://epc.org/general-assembly/LRP.html>.)

Through it all, the frustrating as well as the exciting, we sense a deep love for the EPC, and we treasure both our orthodoxy and our very real successes. Still, there seems to be a holy discontent welling up within us. We are trying to figure out how to “do church” better. This is a good thing.

Against this backdrop, the LRPC has been tasked with painting a portrait of that preferred future. It was immediately clear to us that we could not engage in that task in isolation from you, the pastors and elders who actually lead our churches and church. During this past year we moved “Focus Group Discussions” into each of the Presbyteries, seeking to involve still more of you in a creative dialogue. Our conviction is that God leads the Church through her pastors and elders, and hence it is critical that we all “think together.” ***Our final goal is action based upon a shared conviction that the Gospel requires more from us than we are currently accomplishing. In order to maximize the opportunity for success, the LRPC will recommend a common vision with common goals, including changes in our operational priorities and practices to facilitate that vision and those goals.***

At the 26th General Assembly (2006), we want to further expand the conversation as well as “dial you in” to what we have been learning, both from our study and from our conversations with your peers. More than anything, we are bullish on the church. We are rich in foundational Truth and creative leaders. While there will certainly be moments of disagreement—even sharp disagreement—we believe God is guiding us toward a stronger future wherein we may, in the sight of God, complete the deeds given to us.

America Has Changed

Anyone paying attention to the American landscape clearly sees that our nation is changing. It is now commonly accepted that America has become both a “post-Christian” and “post-modern” nation. What does that mean? For many Americans, it means they no longer believe in absolutes. “Truth” is now “what is true *for you*.” As a result, Christians are increasingly dismissed as “intolerant” when we seek to speak with a prophetic voice to what is true and false and good and evil among our secular acquaintances. We all experience this on an almost daily basis.

At the same time, globalization and multiculturalism have further diluted what was once a strongly Judeo-Christian worldview. Americans have increasingly come into contact with other belief systems making their own claims of truth. In many ways, we are becoming a melting pot of ideas and beliefs with no clear-cut winner claiming the American mind and soul.

On the national scale, it means Americans no longer share a single “meta-narrative.” Once upon a time, Americans generally thought of themselves as a part of God’s story unfolding on the face of the earth. “God,” of course, meant the Judeo-Christian God. The Bible was a part of everyday life, even in the schools, and church was taken for granted.

We all know that has changed. While evangelicalism remains a potent force in America, Christians are now increasingly marginalized in the media, and the town square may no longer display the manger scene at Christmas. Why this drive to expunge Christian symbolism from our national public life? The answer is that increasingly the Judeo-Christian heritage is no longer widely accepted as the binding story of our nation—our “meta-narrative.” As a result, while many Americans are generally “religious” or “spiritually minded” in a very broad sense, the Church and her message no longer occupy the center of society. Our sense of being marginalized mirrors the cultural shift that has taken place in our country.¹

At best we are keeping our heads above water. But the trends of Western Europe and Canada suggest more difficult times may be ahead. In his most recent book *Revolution*, George Barna projects that church attendance in America will drop by one half by 2025.² The World Christian Encyclopedia states that U.S. Christianity loses two million members a year. It further states that, once those folks leave, they generally don’t come back.³ Much of the Church seems to be at a standstill in terms of reaching new people for Christ. The national stagnation of the Church that the World Christian Encyclopedia and Barna note parallels our own experience in the EPC. It seems that we are a microcosm of many trends in our nation. How are we to recover our Great Commission effectiveness in the midst of such enormous cultural change?

Recovering Mission

As the status of the Church in society is changing, we in America increasingly find ourselves in the setting of the New Testament Church . . . outsiders speaking to a largely paganized culture. Tim Keller, senior pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City and a key thinker on the subject of the Church and culture writes:

¹ Even some evangelical Christians—even some of us in the EPC—see these developments as not entirely negative. After all, the Christendom of North America has produced tragic chapters that include the treatment of indigenous peoples, race relations and civil rights, and corruption in government at the highest levels. Some do see these shifts as a day of new opportunity for the Church to regain her pilgrim identity and express herself as an ethical people distinct (“peculiar”) among the peoples of the world. However, we don’t even have to agree on whether there is an up side in order to agree that this shift is clearly taking place.

² Barna, George. *Revolution*. Tyndale Publishing, Carol Stream, Ill, 2005. P. 49.

³ *World Christian Encyclopedia (2nd edition)*. David Barrett, George Kurian and Todd Johnson. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

“The British Missionary Lesslie Newbigin went to India around 1950. There he was involved with a church living ‘in mission’ in a very non-Christian culture. When he returned to England some 30 years later, he discovered that now the Western Church, too, existed in a non-Christian society, **but it had not adapted to its new situation** . . . the Church in the West had not become completely ‘missional’—adapting and reformulating absolutely everything it did in worship, discipleship, community, and service—so as to be engaged with the non-Christian society around it. It had not developed a ‘missiology of western culture’ the way it had done so for other non-believing cultures.”⁴

Many believe that this is precisely the status of the Church in America. When many of us (or many of our churches) began ministry several decades ago, America was in many ways a largely “Christian” nation. Yet, especially over the last couple of decades, things have changed dramatically. *The critical question now before the Church is whether or not we will grasp that we too are missionaries, albeit in our own country.* Given this dramatic shift, it’s time—as leaders—to ask ourselves once again, “Why does my church exist?” Certainly our definitions come from Scripture, but the Bible has much to say about why the Church exists. Is there a “bottom line”? As members of the EPC, we have studied the Bible exhaustively and have stated the answer as to why the Church exists:

“In terms of its work, the first duty of the Church is to evangelize by extending the Gospel both at home and abroad, leading others to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and to provide for the nurture of that faith that all might grow in grace and in sanctification. . . . the Church must never confuse its primary task of evangelism (the Gospel) with the fruit of faith (good works).” (Book of Government §4-3).

The LRPC believes that, initially, this is a discussion about the Church rediscovering her primary *mission*. This is an enormous subject. The first thing to say is that terms must be clarified. Many of us, when we hear the word “mission,” think of foreign missions. A “missional” church, while affirming the work of foreign missions, defines each congregation as a local “mission” in its community. For Americans and Evangelical Presbyterians, the idea is that our local churches have been placed strategically by God in order to reach their increasingly secularizing and paganized communities for Christ.⁵ In fact, Lesslie Newbigin considered North America to be “the most vital missionary frontier of our time.”⁶

Alan Roxburgh, another leading voice on the subject of the Church in Western culture, seeks to connect the local congregation back to the very nature and work of

⁴ Keller, Tim. “The Missional Church”, available at <http://www.redeemer2.com/resources/index.cfm?fuseaction=tkeller>

⁵ *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*, a multi-author work edited by Darrell Guder is considered by many to be the best summation statement on the need for the Church in North America to recover her sense of mission in her own society. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 1998.

⁶ Ibid.

God. He writes about the “*missio dei*,” portraying God as the ultimate Missionary who works to bring the lost into living encounter with Himself through the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. It may seem obvious that this is what the Church is all about, but with great perceptivity Roxburgh comments that for many churches and Christians,

It is no longer about God and what God is about in the world; it is about how God serves and meets human need. More specifically, the God who encounters us in Jesus Christ has become the spiritual food court for the personal, private inner needs of expressive individuals. The result is a debased, compromised, Gnostic form of Christianity which is not the Gospel at all.

The biblical narratives are about God’s mission in, through, and for the sake of the world. The focus of attention is toward God, not the other way around.⁷

The idea is this: The Church does not exist first and foremost for Christians to feel comfortable. The Church exists to join with God in His Mission of reaching the lost for Christ. Against this backdrop, the “plateaued” or declining membership of 63% of our EPC churches is an enormous problem. Even our own Book of Government, cited above, tells us that we are failing in our mission. But of far greater importance than theologians or our own Book of Order is whether or not our own sense of purpose lines up with the very purpose of Jesus Christ:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost. (Luke 19:10)

For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. (Matthew 9:13)

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. (1 Timothy 1:15)

All of our beliefs about the sovereignty of God notwithstanding, an earnest discussion about reclaiming the Great Commission is a dialogue every Evangelical Presbyterian would be deeply interested in. Yes, we believe in election, but we also believe that the Church is God’s ordinary instrumental means by which He calls people to salvation in Christ.

More Than Evangelism

At this point, it’s critical that we add yet another distinction. As important as evangelism is, the missional discussion is about more than evangelism. In short, “missional” is about coming to terms with the Church’s fundamental identity as a “sent” people, a self-understanding which is absolutely critical in a culture that is increasingly distancing itself from the basics of belief in God. Being missional is about both studying our culture and dialoguing with it. This dialogue must translate the Gospel to an increasingly paganized America in such a way that non-believers can grasp Christ.

⁷ “The Missional Church,” *Theology Matters* 10.4 (Sept/Oct 2004), p. 3.

The story of Don Richardson and the “*Peace Child*” comes to mind. Sent to the Sawi people, cultural barriers kept the Sawi from grasping what this missionary was trying to tell them in Christ. The Sawis were hunters and cannibals who lived in a constant state of conflict with other headhunting cannibal tribes in their area. They could not understand Jesus as a Savior in the context of their culture. They saw Him only as a fool, because they valued betrayal as the highest expression of social skill. To their way of thinking, Judas was a hero and Jesus was a sap. Only when Richardson discovered the concept of the Peace Child was he able to actually translate the Gospel faithfully so that it could be understood culturally. The Peace Child, a swapping of two infants between warring tribes, was a means by which hostile tribes could trust each other. Jesus was God’s “Peace Child” sent into this world by the ultimate tribal head, God Himself. Jesus’ arrival meant that God wanted to end the warfare between Himself and man, reconciling His enemies to Himself. The Sawi people suddenly understood and trusted Christ as Savior.^{8 9}

Yes, there is always the threat of accommodation—contextualizing to the degree that the Gospel is compromised. Richardson himself in other instances has been criticized for this. Yet we, your Long-Range Planning Committee, believe ***it is time we heard God utter the other warning as well***—that the danger of not being faithful to our calling and identity as a sent people is as real as the danger of compromising the truth.

Increasingly, this is the task we face. With a culture that no longer shares our “meta-narrative” and does not believe in absolutes, how can we translate the Gospel in Biblically faithful ways so that non-believers understand the Gospel and trust Christ? In other words, how can we be like Don Richardson or any effective missionary you would care to name?

Against this backdrop, the matter is further compounded when we grasp that the history of the evangelical church is that we have largely been able to successfully reach only those people who are already like ourselves (essentially conservative). Matters get still more complex when we realize that our culture is changing not only ideologically, but also ethnically, linguistically, and economically. As Tim Keller puts it:

One of the reasons much of the American evangelical church has not experienced the same precipitous decline as the Protestant churches of Europe and Canada is because in the U.S. there is still a “heartland” with the remnants of the old “Christendom” society. There the informal public culture (though not the formal public institutions) still stigmatizes non-Christian beliefs and behavior. “There is a fundamental schism in American cultural, political, and economic life. There’s the quick-growing, economically vibrant . . . morally relativist, urban-oriented,

⁸ Richardson, Don. The Peace Child. Regal Books, June, 1975.

⁹ Though it appears that it is very much ‘a work in progress’, it’s worth reading the story of College Hill Presbyterian Church as they tried to come to terms with becoming “Missional.” The connection to Don Richardson’s story of taking the Gospel to the Sawi people is drawn from College Hill’s own attempts to recover the Great Commission. You can read their story in the Sept/Oct 2004 issue of “Theology Matters” available at www.theologymatters.com.

culturally adventuresome, sexually polymorphous, and ethnically diverse nation . . . and there's the small town, nuclear-family, religiously-oriented, white-centric other America (with) . . . its diminishing cultural and economic force...two nations..." (Michael Wolff, *New York*, Feb 26, 2001, p. 19.) In conservative regions, it is still possible to see people profess faith and the church grow without becoming 'missional.' **Most traditional evangelical churches still can only win people to Christ who are temperamentally traditional and conservative. 'But,' as Wolff notes, 'this is a shrinking market.' And eventually evangelical churches ensconced in the declining, remaining enclaves of "Christendom" will have to learn how to become 'missional.' If it does not do that it will decline or die.**

. . . we don't simply need evangelistic churches, but missional churches.¹⁰

We have all seen it and sense it, America is becoming two nations (if not more). Even people of our own ethnic backgrounds or socio-economic level look at the world very differently than we do. To be faithful to the Great Commission, we have to learn how to reach people for Christ who are increasingly quite different from ourselves.

Changes in Operational Priorities and Practices

Thus far we've stated the obvious: The EPC must meaningfully come to terms with effective evangelism. We cannot allow this to be anything other than "Job One." We would hope that every pastor and elder in the EPC would sound a hearty "amen" to that. The "missional" side of the debate generates an awareness that we may need to become more thoughtful as we seek to reach our culture for Christ. We have to "get inside their heads" and figure out how best to present Christ. There's really nothing new about that either. Didn't Paul the Apostle make it his method to be "a Jew to the Jews" and "a Greek to the Greeks"? (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

The next subject for serious consideration is how we do things. It has become a management truism that the system you currently have is perfectly designed to yield the results you are currently getting. Said differently, insanity is merely doing the same thing and expecting different results.¹¹ The question we would want to pose is whether or not there are different ways to organize ourselves that might greatly enhance our effectiveness in ministry.

Lyle Shaller puts the same set of thoughts in a different light in *Geography to Affinity*. When is it time to leave things alone? When:

You are convinced the institutional and spiritual health of your denominational tradition is excellent. Your congregations are vital, healthy, and effective in reaching new generations of American-born residents as well as recent

¹⁰ Keller, Tim. *The Missional Church*.

<http://www.redeemer2.com/resources/papers/missional.pdf>

¹¹ http://www.alban.org/weekly/2005/050606_MiddleJudicatories.asp

immigrants to America. Your denominational systems are producing the outcomes you desire and should not be changed.¹²

Yet, reviewing the comments made in our various Focus Groups makes it clear that a significant number of our pastors and elders are already frustrated by how we go about things and want to rethink our denomination's way of doing business. *Can't we be more efficient? Why do we waste so much time? Business gets in the way of prayer, worship, and relationships. Can't we just get on with the main business of reaching the lost and doing it well?* These are the kinds of questions many are asking. The LRPC believes that in many instances these are good questions and deserve serious consideration. Surely there is a way to protect our democratic and Presbyterian sense of process and still find operational effectiveness.

In the final analysis, reviewing our operational priorities and practices is part of our committee's task . . . and we're a bit nervous about it. We know that conversations like this are inherently threatening to some folks, invigorating to others. We are sure that we're not smart enough to come up with a "silver bullet" able to penetrate our moments of ineffectiveness. The task is larger than we are. We are also concerned about thinking through merely "spiritual solutions" (such as "we just need to pray more"). No doubt we do, but why not both pray more *and* figure out more effective ways to handle the human side of doing church?

We do want to be clear that our task is to review our organization, *not our theology*. We take some comfort in the fact that many in our denomination seem open to rethinking how we do church. While we're not sure how to reinvent in the midst of an established tradition, our outgoing Stated Clerk has challenged us with the same questions:

A biblical polity, or governance, is the application of biblical norms applied in a biblical way by taking into account the context. This is why I offer my support, encouragement, and contribution to our next phase of strategic long-range planning in order to examine our current polity. **Governance must be on the table if we are to be serious about strategic planning . . . (this means) an honest and wise assessment of the particulars so that our polity aids and empowers our mission as fully as possible.**"¹³

I believe the most pressing matter of our corporate life today is the relationship of two issues—governance and mission.¹⁴

As the LRPC has begun our work, we have learned that several other denominations are beginning to ask and answer the same questions. For example, the Presbyterian Church in America appointed a "Strategic Planning Committee" in 2000. Their question was, "What are the signs of a healthy denomination and how can

¹² Schaller, Lyle. From Geography to Affinity. P. 21.

¹³ Glodo, Mike. Stated Clerk's Annual Report to the EPC General Assembly. P. SC-9. 2005.

¹⁴ Ibid.

the PCA become more healthy?”¹⁵ In 2005 their committee reported, “Following the 2003 GA, the SPC began Phase II of the Planning Process to consider what changes would be needed in the PCA’s structure, resources, and leadership to implement the Strategic Priorities identified . . .”¹⁶ Studying the work of their committee, it seems that our sister denomination has begun the work of reorganization so as to become more effective.

On a presbytery level, we learned the story of the Central Florida presbytery of the PCA. Working together, the elders and pastors of that Presbytery have found a new and much more satisfying way of doing church. Noting the change, one pastor commented, “We were operating out of an old paradigm. We’d drive halfway across the state to get together, lazily drink coffee, call the roll, seat the visitors, worship with one song, hear a sermon by a pastoral candidate, and address ‘business matters’ in a not-very-efficient manner. There was a growing sentiment that not much was getting done.” The sense was that “The presbytery meetings had focused too much on church business, many pastors felt, and not enough on prayer, equipping, worship, or people just getting to know each other in more than a casual way.”¹⁷ The Central Florida presbytery made a number of basic changes with a very positive effect:

- Spending hours, rather than minutes together in prayer and worship
- Making opportunities to hear each other’s stories
- Bring in the wider church staffs for significant portions of the meeting
- Developing cohort groups to meet together
- Streamlining business dealings¹⁸

The result? “There is a greater sense of trust and delight in being together.” Also, as the presbytery became more purposeful in meeting together, they realized that they became more purposeful in church planting efforts.¹⁹ While this isn’t precisely the story of a local church or denomination becoming missional, it is the retelling of how a presbytery took some risks and reinvented themselves operationally with empowering results. Perhaps Presbyterians can change, after all.

Another powerful story of organizational change is told by Bishop Claude Payne of the Episcopal Church. Facing declining membership and increasing rejection by the unchurched, the Diocese of Texas returned to a first-century Christianity model of the missionary church. Beginning with seeing their chief officer as the “Chief Missionary,” they began to truly focus on the lost and began a complete organizational overhaul. Their goal was to move from maintenance to mission. The results were a significant turnaround in the evangelistic efforts and growth curve of

¹⁵ 2005 Report of the SPC to the Administrative Committee and 2005 Presbyterian Church in America General Assembly. P. 2201.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 2205.

¹⁷ “*We Trust and Delight in Being Together*,” Eileen O’Gorman, byfaithonline.com, http://sites.silaspartners.com/partner/Article_Display_Page/0,,PTID323422|CHID664014|CHID2116846,00.html

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

many of the local churches in that diocese. Changing their collective mindset gave birth to real benefits for particular congregations.²⁰

Increasing numbers of leaders in our own denomination have read the inspiring and challenging story of Paul Borden and the American Baptist Churches of the West. *Hit the Bullseye* focuses on making the difficult choices of organizational change. The subtitle of the book, “How Denominations Can Aim the Congregation at the Mission Field,” captures the thought that each local church has her own immediate mission field—her community—to reach for Christ.

Borden’s story is that of leading a middle-level judicatory (in our system, the presbytery) to reorganize itself in such a way so as to transform itself from a largely maintenance group of churches into a powerful group of evangelistically effective churches. *Hit the Bullseye* is at moments startling in terms of the organizational accountability and change Paul Borden brought to the group of churches he led, but the results are hard to argue with. It is both an inspiring and a hard-nosed story of what can be accomplished when there is sufficient will for a group of churches to hold themselves accountable to the Great Commission.²¹

The New Wineskins movement in the PCUSA has similar aspirations. “Envisioning a New Denominational Reality for the 21st Century” casts a vision for denomination that is more relational, less structured, based on minimal polity, and which is focused on the local church in order to foster mission there.²² Clearly, these are the questions that many evangelicals serving in denominational settings are asking.

While the common thread in each of these stories is not the Reformed faith (to which we are committed), there is a keen sense among many that denominations should serve local churches as they accomplish the Great Commission. Sometimes denominations have hindered rather than helped—despite the best of intentions. We, along with many leaders in the EPC, envision a denomination that serves the local church rather than vice versa. This is precisely what was envisioned by Vision 21. ***The question actively on the table is, “How can we build a denomination that not only envisions this, but accomplishes this?”*** Because of that, we believe that it is critical for us to continually review our governance and operational structure to determine whether or not it is serving the larger purpose of the Great Commission.²³

²⁰ Payne, Bishop Claude and Beazely, Hamilton. Reclaiming the Great Commission. Jossey-Bass Publishing, June 2000.

²¹ Borden, Paul. Hit the Bullseye. Abingdon Press, Nashville. 2003.

²² *New Wineskins, PCUSA, August 02, 2004, “Envisioning a New Denominational Reality for the 21st Century”*

²³ We resonate with Lyle Shaller’s insight From Geography to Affinity, that genuinely reviewing organizational effectiveness is difficult to the degree that we “. . . are convinced the policy-formulation and decision-making processes of your denomination should be driven by (a) precedents, (b) inputs such as budgets, (c) providing jobs for adults, and (d) ideology, not desired outcomes” (Shaller, p. 24) Shaller’s comments have an edge to them and may ruffle some feathers, but we believe that this ethos was at the heart of the original vision for the EPC and consistent with the spirit behind Vision 21. We believe that the shared heart of the

Leadership

Leadership is critical to the process we have begun. As we have studied other denominations and churches that have been able to “turn the ship” (so as to effectively reach our culture for Christ), a key common thread is strong leaders who are personally gifted to engender change. In a penetrating analysis of middle-level judicatories (for us, the presbytery) Alban Weekly notes:

“Middle Judicatories commonly do not know what they are to produce. Most of our denominations have polity books that list in great detail what the middle judicatory, the middle judicatory staff, the local congregation, and the clergy of the congregation are supposed to do. Typically, these lists of functions, actions, and roles are long and exhaustive. But they are neither descriptions of outcomes nor job descriptions. They are lists of all of the possible things that these systems and people might do without any indication of what is important to do in a given place at a given time. Without clarity about what is to be produced, it is not possible to know what is important or unimportant to do.”²⁴

While meaning no disrespect to our Presbyterian heritage, it’s clear from the Focus Group comments taken from the presbyteries of the EPC that many of us are frustrated by our own system. Leadership will be a key ingredient to answering the question as to how we can change or understand our system to make it work towards congregational and denominational effectiveness. The same Alban Institute newsletter notes, “Change begins with a very small percentage of leaders who are natural innovators and explorers.”^{25 26}

We notice that there is a tension in the EPC between “a culture of theology vs. a culture of leadership” and a similar tension between “a culture of plurality vs. the culture of the leader.” For the moment, we do not know what to do with this other than make note of it.

Our Method as a Committee

From Fall 2005 through Spring 2006, we sought to do three things:

1. Pray
2. Learn

EPC—both in national leadership and in local churches—is to build a genuinely effective family of churches and at all costs to avoid a self-perpetuating religious bureaucracy. We take it as a sign of our health that we are able to ask ourselves questions such as these.

²⁴ “Challenges of Middle Judicatories”, Alban Weekly. June 6, 2005. The Alban Institute, www.alban.org/weekly/2005/050606_Renddle.asp

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ John Kotter writes in Leading Change, “Successful transformation is 70 to 90 percent leadership and only 10 to 30 percent management.” *Effective leadership promotes change; management usually maintains the status quo.* “Kotter also writes that leaders who innovate successful change have “a persistent sense of urgency.”

Our bibliography is at the end of this paper. You can access some of our reading materials and executive summaries of what we've read at <http://epc.org/general-assembly/LRP.html>.

3. Listen and Dialogue

The Focus Groups that were a part of the 2005 General Assembly (and which were then carried into the presbyteries) were a part of that listening and learning process. More than anything else, we desire for this to be a “grassroots” discussion in the EPC. We believe that change and vision should be driven from the “bottom up.” This year we will again have Focus Groups at the General Assembly in order to keep the dialogue moving (you can access these on <http://epc.org/general-assembly/LRP.html>). We understand that opening up a dialogue like this can be a bit uncomfortable. But we also believe that we are family—and healthy families talk. Part of what we noticed regarding Vision 2001 was that a well thought out Vision Plan has largely stayed on the shelf. We think part of the problem is that the grassroots did not sufficiently get involved. We want to make sure this is not the case this time.

We are also looking for a “test presbytery” within which to pilot change. The Mid-Atlantic Presbytery has begun an aggressive dialogue on how to become more effective. As an expression of that, Mid-Atlantic has put together a committee to study operational effectiveness and ethos change. That committee has already made a key recommendation which the presbytery has approved—to hire a consultant to review their structures and practices with an eye towards operational effectiveness. Part of their considerations will be whether or not to hire a Presbytery Executive with strong leadership and organizational skills.

We hope that another presbytery or two will also “catch the vision” for missional church and the changes in our operational priorities and practices necessary to bring that about. Assuming that to be the case, we intend to work with those presbyteries both to learn from them and to resource them. We also hope very much to learn from presbyteries that feel they have made real breakthroughs in getting beyond mere bureaucracy to effective ministry. We hope to all learn from each other.

Our process cannot be divorced from Vision 21, our previous strategic initiative. Reviewing Vision 21, it's not surprising to learn that some of what we already sense in our work is consistent with our standing vision statement. That said, no matter how good Vision 21 is, it remains largely “on the shelf.” Determining the fundamental changes in our operational priorities and practices necessary to make good plans and see them implemented will be critical to our work. In that, the entire denomination will have to work together. We believe that many of our proposals will be consistent with Vision 21, yet we hope to speak to the kind of operational and ethos changes necessary to get Vision 21 “off the shelf,” as well as recommend any adjustments which seem prudent.

We also have made a number of key assumptions that, to date, are guiding our committee. None of these are written in stone, and we may find as time goes by that we will need to change one or more of them. In order to fully communicate with you, the members of the General Assembly, we want to advise you as to what they are:

1. The LRPC (Long Range Planning Committee) will focus on developing missional ethos and practice in denominational life.
2. The local congregation is the focal point for mission. The EPC rises or falls depending on whether or not the local church succeeds in her mission. Developing missional practice means equipping local churches and developing operational flexibility.
3. The task of the General Assembly and presbytery is to help churches to be missionally successful.
4. The LRPC will initially use the Missional Leadership Institute (MLi) Change Model:2 (awareness, understanding, support, involvement, commitment).
5. The LRPC will work intentionally through presbyteries.
6. The LRPC feels it must challenge the assumption that a church can be a healthy, evangelical, Reformed congregation in a mission field without growing.
7. The LRPC will take the posture of giving voice to people in the denomination and leading a movement rather than imposing a will.
8. The EPC is at a moment when God's Providence has given us a clear identity and yet we are still small enough—and relational enough—to effect meaningful change.
9. Ultimately, the LRPC needs to be prescriptive—but only after a process of careful listening. If the process is flawed, the prescription will flounder.

Our model for leading change is taken from the Missional Leadership Institute and is known as the “MLi Change Model.” We've attached it as *Appendix A* for your information. The basic assumption of the MLI change model is that for real change to happen it must be owned from the bottom up. Indeed, what could be more Presbyterian? We believe that God speaks to us through the pastors and elders and, as we engage increasing numbers of our pastors and elders in this dialogue, we improve our ability both to hear from God and to put in place the necessary “community ownership” of our shared ideas to engender real change.

This “White Paper,” though already several pages long with appendices included, is really only a beginning. A quick look at our working bibliography (*Appendix B*—a document that will continue to grow) lets you know that the subject of this White Paper is huge. ***It's simply not possible in the context of one paper to deal with all of the subjects at hand or their ramifications.*** This paper is meant simply to bring you in on the education process that we have started.

Finally, we want to be clear that we are only your servants. ***Our committee members (Appendix C) are committed to work hard, but we have no illusions of infallibility in our work.*** We are confident that we will make mistakes along the way, but we trust both in the Hand of God and your loving friendship to guide us as we seek to serve you and the Lord. Please talk to us and give us your feedback, not only at General Assembly, but at our various Presbytery meetings and throughout the year. Your ideas and insights are important to us, and we love the interchange—even if we don't always agree.

One last note on disagreement: The journey we're on guarantees that we'll have moments where we differ—perhaps sharply. Yet, ***healthy families are not afraid of disagreement based on principle—and they still love and listen to each other.***

Given our conviction that God speaks through the process, we invite you to this kind of dialogue.

The EPC is the denomination that God has entrusted to us, and we—all of us who are pastors and elders—are her leaders. Given our God-given leadership responsibility, let's work together to shape the Church so that she might be ever more effective in her mission, completing the deeds Jesus Christ Himself has assigned to us.

REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE



*Art Hunt,
Chairman*

Since the last General Assembly the Ministerial Vocation Committee (MVC) met twice at the General Assembly office on October 14-15, 2005 and March 2-4, 2006. Members of the committee are: TE Art Hunt (Chairman), TE George Yates, TE Eugene Scott, RE Jerry Kidd, RE Bill Meeks, and RE Anne Litzenberger.

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE:

Candidates Educational Equivalency Program (CEEP):

The committee interviewed three new candidates who were approved by their respective presbyteries as Candidates under care with extraordinary status, and reviewed the progress of current candidates. At present there are ten candidates in the

program.

Chaplains Subcommittee: The committee received from TE George Yates updates on EPC chaplains and related issues.

Vision 21 Implementation: The committee participated in planning a joint EPC/ARP Ministers Retreat held at Bonclarken, NC, September 19-22, 2005. The Rev. Steve Brown was the keynote speaker. The EPC had twenty-five pastors and eleven spouses in attendance, eight with scholarships from the Vision 21 Pastoral Care of Pastors Benevolence Fund. The committee is in process of evaluating the possibility of another retreat in fall 2007 at Bonclarken Conference Center.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The following three recommendations are the Committee's responses to matters referred to it by the 25th General Assembly.

1. That Overture 05-C (see pp. MV-4, 5), referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee directing it to provide guidance and clarification to presbyteries regarding the calling and status of retired ministers, *be adopted*.

Rationale: The committee recognized that the issues raised by the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery demonstrate a need to clarify the calling and status of retired ministers. If the Assembly adopts Overture 05-C, the Committee intends to gather information from presbyteries and other relevant sources in order to determine how presbyteries understand and administer current *Book of Government* procedures and *Acts of Assembly* related to retired ministers, understand how other Reformed bodies regard the calling and status of retired ministers, understand how being on the retired roll of presbytery relates to government and retirement plan definitions related to drawing benefits, and determine the best means to provide guidance. Options for the committee include: publishing a letter of advice, proposing revisions or additions to the *Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees*, and/or proposing amendments to the *Book of Government*

2. That Overture 05-D (see pp. MV-6, 7) regarding the transfer of candidates to and from other Reformed bodies, referred to the MVC by the 25th General Assembly *not be adopted*.

Rationale: The central purpose of Overture 05-D appears to be to drop the requirement for a six-month membership in an EPC congregation for candidates coming from other Reformed bodies. The MVC believes the six-month membership requirement should be retained for the following reasons:

- The EPC has a responsibility to candidates coming through EPC churches and presbyteries. Removing the six-month membership requirement undermines this responsibility, giving advantage to those coming from outside the EPC.
 - The EPC does not have an endorsed seminary and has no requirement to initially screen those applicants sending material to churches seeking pastors, making the calling process open to many outside the EPC and even the Reformed tradition. Adopting the proposed overture would open the system even more. The current six-month membership requirement and discretionary one year under care of presbytery gives opportunity for the denomination and potential minister to know each other.
 - There is significant value for candidates coming into the EPC from other bodies to have a strong connection with the denomination before ordination. Adopting the amendment would undermine this value.
3. That the Assembly grant an additional year for the Ministerial Vocation Committee to continue working on the recommendation to add the category of Commissioned Pastor (see pp. MV-8, 9) to the Book of Government and report their conclusions to the 27th General Assembly (2007).

Rationale: The Committee in the course of its discussions on this proposal recognized it needed additional time to consult with the National Outreach and Long Range Planning Committees, to gather additional input from Ruling and Teaching Elders of the EPC, and to further investigate questions including:

- Does the proposal to add the category of “Commissioned Pastor” address a demonstrated, significant need?
- If there is a significant need, is adding the category of “Commissioned Pastor” the best way to address it?
- If the category of “Commissioned Pastor” is added
 - What training is necessary for a person to serve as a Commissioned Pastor?
 - Would examinations for Commissioned Pastors be the same or different than those for Candidates Under Care? If the same exams are used, would standards for Commissioned Pastors be the same as for Candidates? If exams are different, what content areas should be tested and to what depth?

- Should the right to administer sacraments be extended to non-ordained individuals (i.e., a Commissioned Pastor who is a Candidate Under Care but not a Ruling Elder).
- Would Commissioned Pastors have the same standing with the IRS as ordained ministers?
- Do potential Commissioned Pastors need to submit written exceptions to the Westminster?
- How will Commissioned Pastors deal with the potential for “second class” status?
- What is the court of original jurisdiction for a Commissioned Pastor?

Because of Christ,

Dr. Arthur J. Hunt
Chairman

Overture 05-C

Referred to Ministerial Vocation



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

OVERTURE TO 25TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM THE 50TH STATED MEETING PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC April 30, 2005

RECOMMENDATION: That the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic overtures the 25th General Assembly to provide guidance and clarification to presbyteries through the permanent Ministerial Vocations Committee regarding the calling and status of Retired Ministers.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:

This Presbytery—and perhaps others—continues to experience a growing number of Retired Ministers who remain very active in service to Presbytery and the local church in a variety of capacities. For example, at one time we had three of our retired TEs, all past the age of 70, serving as Assistant Pastors. One or two of these were, for the record, considered part-time but probably gave of themselves in full-time ministry. We also had two of our retired TEs serving as Interim Pastors or as Stated Supply of churches seeking a Pastor. We have one retired TE who has been engaged in full-time missionary service since his "official" retirement over two years ago. With the current trend in our society towards greater longevity, we expect these kinds of situations to increase.

We thank the Lord and celebrate His goodness in granting these servants continued good health and mental acuity to be of further service beyond the mandatory retirement date. The experience and wisdom they bring is invaluable. For the good work they perform and their faithful service to Presbytery, we are most grateful and pray their tribe may increase!

However, we have encountered some unexpected complexities which need to be addressed by General Assembly. Some of the predicaments we have faced may become more common place as time goes on.

For example, a Pastor reaches the mandatory retirement age of 70; is retired in accord with G. 15-3, 15-8; his pastoral relationship is dissolved; he remains involved in the life of Presbytery by serving on a standing committee. After a period of time he is called as an Assistant Pastor to another church. Irrespective of the workload specified (part-time or full-time), should Presbytery then "un-retire" such a Minister? He has received a call in the same manner as an Active Minister—should he be treated as such? If so, should Presbytery then "retire" him again upon termination of that call?

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Another problematic area has been our current understanding of calling as it pertains to the Retired Minister. The 24th General Assembly took exception to this Presbytery's reception of a Retired TE by transfer from another Reformed body because the Assembly ruled he did not have a call (cf. G. 11-10; *Act of Assembly* 82-07). In this particular case, the TE in question remains active in an international teaching and preaching ministry and in regularly teaching of an adult Sunday School class in the EPC congregation where his wife is a member. Should the church have called him as an Assistant Pastor just to teach Sunday School in order to fulfill requirements of our polity? Or should his international overseas ministry (by invitation) have been recognized by Presbytery as a valid call and thus meet constitutional requirements? However, if there is no calling agency other than God—or the invitation from a foreign school, seminary or church to preach/teach on an indefinite basis, can we understand that to be a valid call? We cannot do that under our present definition of a call, yet a Minister less than 70 years of age who desires to be an overseas missionary on an indefinite basis may conceivably be granted the recognition of a call.

Several of our Retired Ministers appear to be as busy with the Lord's work as when they were Active Ministers—some say they are actually busier! Is the work they do not a calling of God? Can we conceive of God calling His laborers to seasons of ministry which may differ according to the type of ministry and work involved? Can we think of "retirement" due to age as a Minister simply entering another phase of God's call upon His life? If so, can we affirm what God is doing by enlarging our understanding and definition of a call? We are struggling with traditional concepts of calling—and the inherent limitations placed upon a vital category of the Church's servants which may not be legitimized nor verified in actual practice. It is our sense that we will continue to observe more and more of our Retired Ministers actively engaged in meaningful ministry, affecting the lives of many persons with the Gospel, within and outside the bounds of the Church.

We feel it is time to give serious consideration to our definition of calling in regard to Retired Ministers. We pray the General Assembly may offer its wisdom and guidance in addressing this matter and related concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

Overture 05-D

Referred to Ministerial Vocation



Evangelical Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

OVERTURE TO 25th GENERAL ASSEMBLY FROM THE 50th STATED MEETING PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC April 30, 2005

RECOMMENDATION: That the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic overtures the 25th General Assembly to amend the **Book of Government**, 12-2F as follows:

PRESENT WORDING

After being under the care of a Presbytery for a minimum of one year, the Candidate may request transfer to another Presbytery. Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care for a minimum of one year prior to ordination.

PROPOSED WORDING

Presbytery, upon application of the Candidate, may transfer a Candidate to another Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church or to the Presbytery of another Reformed body, provided both Presbyteries involved and the Candidate's Session approve. A Candidate ordinarily maintains membership in his home church, but may transfer membership provided there is approval by the dismissing Session and the receiving Session and the Presbytery under whose jurisdiction the receiving church belongs approving his candidacy. Presbytery may receive a Candidate from another Reformed body provided the Candidate has been under care for at least one year in that body and is recommended for dismissal by his Presbytery. An applicant coming as a Candidate shall provide sufficient documentation of his standing in that body and must become a member of a particular church in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Upon recommendation by the Ministerial and/or Candidates Committee, Presbytery may, by a two-thirds vote, waive the time required for membership as stated in G. 12-2A in cases of Candidates deemed prepared for ordination by the Ministerial and/or Candidates Committee, and may have received a call to an approved ministry. A Candidate shall, at his request, be allowed to withdraw from the care of Presbytery. The Presbytery may also, for sufficient reasons, remove a Candidate from its roll. In either case, the Stated Clerk shall report Presbytery's actions and the reasons therefor to the Candidate and to the Session of his church.

RATIONALE:

This amendment seeks to address several matters pertaining to Candidates upon which our present **Book of Government** is either silent or unclear.

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Presently, we have provision for a Candidate to transfer to another Presbytery, but the matter of church membership is not addressed. We believe it helpful to recognize and include the Session(s) involved in the life of the Candidate.

We currently have no means for dismissing or receiving Candidates to and from other Reformed bodies. This Presbytery has been contacted by several outstanding individuals under care of other Reformed/Evangelical denominations who, upon learning of the EPC and its unique position within the Reformed family, become greatly interested in seeking ordination with us. A greater challenge has been such Candidates who are willing to receive a call from one of our churches but are presently required to meet very similar requirements for candidacy they have already fulfilled in the current denomination. It would seem consistent with EPC's irenic spirit to grant Presbyteries some discretion and flexibility in determining the suitability of Candidates who are preparing or may be prepared for ordination. In cases in which a call is pending, Presbytery would be permitted to exercise its best judgment in a restrictive sense via a required two-thirds vote upon recommendation by its Ministerial and/or Candidates Committee.

It should be noted that this amendment does not change nor infringe upon requirements for ordination as stated in G. 13-2, et. al. A Candidate who transfers from another Reformed body will still have to undergo the same examination process as a Candidate coming from an EPC church.

Another area not addressed by our current **Book of Government** is that of a Candidate's withdrawal. While *The Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees* offers excellent guidelines in this case, this amendment seeks to address the oversight in G. 12.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Shockley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial 'H'.

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

Recommendations from the 25th General Assembly referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee regarding adding the status of “Commissioned Pastor.”

Recommendation #16

That Chapter 10 of the **Book of Government** be amended (1) by the addition of a new section 10-4 and that subsequent sections be renumbered accordingly and (2) the addition of a new section **14-1-G** at the end of Chapter 14.

10-4 Commissioned Pastor: A ruling elder or candidate for ministry may be temporarily authorized by Presbytery as a Commissioned Pastor to preach the Word, evangelize, moderate a session, administer the sacraments, perform marriages (if civil law allows) and preside at funerals for churches without pastors, mission churches or Presbytery-approved church development works. A Commissioned Pastor is not to be regarded as conferring office in the church.

Authorization shall be for a maximum of three years and may be renewed subject to the same limitation. Such authorization shall specify those powers granted and shall stipulate in which church(es) or ministry contexts those powers are authorized. Such powers shall be exercised only in those contexts. Those granted Commissioned Pastor status shall be examined in the same manner as candidates for ordination and found to have sufficient knowledge of those areas to responsibly discharge the powers granted. A Commissioned Pastor shall be assigned a Teaching Elder of Presbytery as a mentor to act as supervisor and to assist in providing an annual report to Presbytery. For candidates under care, renewal of status as well as annual review shall take into consideration progress toward ordination. This status may be terminated by the action of Presbytery at any time prior to the expiration of the term granted. Upon approval of a Commissioned Pastor, Presbytery shall administer the vows of commissioning either immediately or through a commission at an appropriate later time.

14-1G Upon the authorization of a Commissioned Pastor, the Presbytery shall administer the following vows and conclude with a prayer for the one commissioned appropriate to the occasion.

1. Do you reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Savior?
2. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, totally trustworthy, fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, the supreme, final, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
3. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures?
4. Do you promise that if at any time you find yourself out of accord with the system of doctrine as taught in the Scriptures and as contained in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Catechisms of this Church you will

on your own initiative make known to this Presbytery the change which has taken place in your views since the assumption of this these vows?

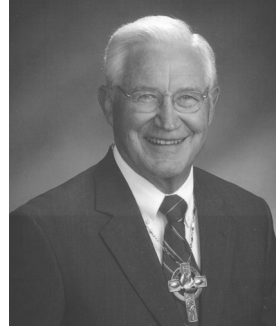
5. Do you affirm and adopt the “Essentials of Our Faith” without exception?
6. Do you subscribe to the government and discipline of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?
7. Do you promise subjection to your Presbyters in the Lord?
8. Have you been induced, as far as you know your own heart, to seek the authority granted you as a Commissioned Pastor from love of God and a sincere desire to promote His glory in the Gospel of His Son?
9. Do you promise to be zealous and faithful in promoting the truths of the Gospel and the purity and peace of the Church, whatever persecution or opposition may arise unto you on that account?
10. Will you seek to be faithful and diligent in the exercise of all your duties as a Christian and a Commissioned Pastor, whether personal or relative, private or public; and to endeavor by the grace of God to adorn the profession of the Gospel in your manner of life, and to walk with exemplary piety before the flock of God over whom you are being granted this authority?

REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways, acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Prov. 3: 5-6 NIV

I begin with a list of thank-you's: to the 25th General Assembly for giving me the opportunity to serve as Moderator and to represent you during this year; to my loving wife, Nancy, who has traveled with me some, and been willing to let me go alone when necessary; to Mid-Atlantic Presbytery for endorsing my nomination & providing funds for Nancy's travel, to many who provided great hospitality during our travels, and to the Lord whose providence ruled over it. My report will focus on two items: Hurricanes & Transitions.



Bill Meyer, Moderator

Hurricanes: You are all aware of the hurricanes that ravaged the United States last summer and fall. You may not all be aware of the tremendous outpouring of support, aid and love that has come from individuals, churches and Presbyteries of the EPC. The financial details are included in the Finance Report. The exciting thing for me is to be a witness to the way you, the EPC, responded. Your response says much about who we are. We are individuals who take it upon ourselves to go and/or give individually. We are small churches who work individually or in partnership with their Presbytery and the Office of the General Assembly to go and to give. We are large churches who work independently and in partnership with Presbyteries and the Office of the General Assembly to give and to go. This is who we are, a variety of individuals, churches and Presbyteries that do things differently, but for the same purpose – lives changed to the glory of God.

The people in the affected areas report that the help they have received from churches and Christian individuals has made the difference for them. On behalf of the thousands of lives that have been helped by you, “Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.” Please continue to pray for them and be ready to assist them even more. They have a long way to go.

Transitions: You will be hearing much during this 26th General Assembly from the Long Range Planning Committee. (Please carefully read their report) You are well aware of the transition that our American culture is going through. You have come to know that the United States is now considered an unchurched mission field by missiologists. The LRPC is going to be talking about how we, the EPC, can become more effective in reaching the unchurched in our communities. To do that will require *transitions* in our thinking and doing at all levels of church/denominational activities.

You are aware of our Stated Clerk transition. I respect and appreciate Mike Glodo very much. He became Stated Clerk during the time I was serving the EPC as National Outreach Director. I greatly value the leadership he has provided for us during these past six years. He has prepared the way for transition. He knows that we, the EPC, like all denominations and churches, must learn better ways of

communicating the timeless truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a changing culture. He has been preparing the Office of the General Assembly to truly become a servant to the local church. As I mention the Office of the Stated Clerk, I thank each of those dedicated people in that office for their tireless work in serving the needs of our churches and pastors. They very much consider themselves to be your servants existing to enable you and your church to carry out the Lord's calling more effectively. This past April one of them, Mrs. Lois Ferguson, was called home by the Lord very suddenly. I thank Him for her life and service, and encourage you to pray for her family and friends as they look to the Lord for comfort.

The Stated Clerk Search Committee will bring a report to you that includes the necessity of transitioning the job description and title of our new "Stated Clerk" so that person will function much more as a visionary servant leader than as a traditional stated clerk. That will initiate even more *transitions*.

It has been my privilege to visit several of our Presbyteries during the meetings when they have conducted *Future Focus Groups*. These group discussions have begun wrestling with the *focus* of the work of Presbytery. There is a growing sense that the Lord desires our denominational structures to be *focused* more on assisting the local church in becoming more evangelistically effective than on governance issues. This doesn't mean discarding the governance function, but seeking to be more of a servant to the local church. This will initiate more *transitions*.

Conclusion: Sometimes, people resist *transitions*, because they remind them of *hurricanes* – a lot of spinning hot air that leaves a tremendous mess in its wake. With that thought I call attention once again to Proverbs 3:5–6: "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*" We are asking the Lord to guide us so that we will be much more effective in carrying out his commission of *making disciples* in our changing culture and thereby, bring ever more glory to him. In every transition, whether it is thrust upon us, or initiated by us, there is always the question: *Do I do it my way or the Lord's way?* Please join me in praying that we will, in fact, trust in the Lord and not lean on our own understanding.

Thank you once again for the great privilege you have given me in being your 25th Moderator.

Blessings,

Bill Meyer

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill Meyer", with a stylized, cursive script.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL OUTREACH COMMITTEE



*Rodger Woodworth,
Chairman*



*Bob Stauffer, National
Outreach Director*

The National Outreach Committee experienced much growth, activity, and change over the past twelve months. Some of the accomplishments are highlighted below:

- Church Planting continues to be a progressive area of our committee. We count over 40 plants at various stages of operation throughout the country. Some of those plants have had official launches this year as well as some reaching particularization status.
- Our biannual Church Planters' Assessment Centers continue to be a tremendous source for identifying qualified Church Planters. Our upcoming summer session is expected to be our largest group to date.
- Natural Church Development training and Project 6:15 as well as other groups continue to play a vital role in church revitalization in our denomination. Powerful testimonies of those churches that have taken the survey and followed through with recommendations have reported progress in church health. Others are beginning to see the effectiveness of these programs.
- The Urban Ministry Task Force is a group that is exploding. The group meets biannually, once at the Office of the General Assembly in Livonia, Michigan, and the other at an EPC host church/site serving in an urban or near urban area. The work being done to reach the unchurched by our individual urban EPC churches is creative, successful, and inspirational as the Women's Faith Focus Urban Plunge can attest to firsthand. These gatherings to pray, share resources, and strategize serve to edify and refresh one another as the UMTF pursues the Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel in every place in the United States.
- The College Ministries Committee shares with the NOC a vision to revitalize college campuses through campus ministry combined with an initiative to plant 25 churches in college towns.
- Mike Glodo, Stated Clerk, wrote and sent a letter of introduction along with several EPC brochures to seminary presidents for the purpose of developing a relationship with the EPC and those seminaries.
- The Stated Clerk, Moderator and Moderator-Elect penned a letter to the denomination on behalf of National Outreach requesting support for the Church Planting Benevolence funds. The NOC included their own letter as well as written testimony from two church planters who received monies from the Benevolence Fund.
- Women's Faith Focus raised \$20,000 this past year and gave to two urban ministry projects. In addition, two of our urban EPC churches hosted the

Women's Urban Faith Focus Mission trips. The first of which was held at The City of Refuge, Houston, Texas and Rev. Rufus Smith April 1 – 7, 2006 ministering to the least, the lost, the locked out, and the left behind. The second will be hosted by New Hope Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Dr. Rodger Woodworth July 31 – August 6, 2006 immersing participants in urban life for a week long, life-changing learning experience.

- The committee worked on the concept of designating a Church Planting Sunday to coincide with Pentecost Sunday 2007. The choice for Pentecost Sunday being that it signifies the original birth date of the church. The goal will be to present a letter to Presbyteries, CDC Chairs, and Stated Clerks with a kick off this fall giving Presbyteries time to include the initiative in their meetings.
- Five Church Planters and their families attended this year's Church Planters Retreat in Bonclarken, North Carolina. Feedback was most positive with emphasis that the experience was not only a refreshment and renewal, but that they felt as a planter, their ministry was embraced by the denomination.
- Bob Stauffer created the *Working with Core Groups Manual* and it is an official working document of the NOC.
- The NOC received two proposals for the Regional Church Development Coordinator position. This is a newly created position that will be funded jointly with the participating Presbytery for two years. Such person will be responsible for the promotion of church health and church planting in his Presbytery. While it is our desire to accept both proposals from the two Presbyteries and their candidates, our funds can only support one coordinator at this time.
- Commissioned Lay Pastor presented last year at General Assembly and referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee for follow up. The MVC along with the NOC agreed to work together to answer questions and further define the language before presenting to General Assembly in 2007.
- The 2006 Thanksgiving Offering will be designated for the joint National Outreach and College Ministries Committees for their church planting initiative in college towns.

While we count our blessings for all that is outlined above and then some, there are still issues of concern and challenge that National Outreach and the denomination face.

In a recent research project sponsored by *Outreach* magazine and the Thom Rainer Group, there were several startling findings published in an article entitled "The American Church in Crisis." Among its findings was that while nearly 40% of Americans consider themselves church attendees, only 17% of Americans are actually in church on any given Sunday. Furthermore, American church attendance has been steadily declining for many years and is expected to fall below 10% by the year 2050 if the trend continues.

The findings go on to indicate that the increase in new churches planted is only ¼ of what is needed to keep up with population growth alone. In other words, we would need to plant almost 10,000 more churches immediately just to keep pace with the current population increase in the United States. The EPC has begun to make good strides in helping to develop within the denomination, and in most of our Presbyteries, a culture that values the process of church planting.

We have made significant progress in establishing a process for church planting that moves from the identification of potential church planters through assessment

and training to actual placement on the field. We now have approximately forty potential and actual church plants somewhere in process throughout the denomination. In comparison to the overall size of our denomination, that is a very significant number. However, many of these plants struggle for the necessary funds to continue to be strong and viable and to prepare to reproduce their own church plants. In addition, the limited funding prevents many of our presbyteries from pursuing other planting opportunities that present themselves simply because they do not have the necessary resources to provide these core groups the financial backing they need to get started.

We are simply hoping, yet again, that you might consider with us ways to give greater emphasis to church planting throughout the denomination, and the ability to raise the necessary funds to accomplish all that the Lord wants us to accomplish in the area of church planting.

We are convinced that unless we have trained, qualified, equipped, and accountable church development staff at the presbytery level, we will never be able to move past what we are currently accomplishing at the denominational level. The statistics indicate that we have been flat in our growth as a denomination now for many years, and that it is due, in part, to the lack of qualified, paid personnel at the presbytery level to carry out the important work for which the NOC is responsible. The National Outreach Committee has addressed this concern fully in the document entitled "Talking Points," and we must more aggressively pursue the establishment of these positions if we hope to grow and be more effective in the work of the Great Commission. Any consideration and help that you can give in this area will be of maximum benefit to the work of the denomination and, more importantly, to the work of the Kingdom.

We have an amazing opportunity in the EPC to make a huge difference in the Kingdom and for the Kingdom with a few well-made decisions about people and financial resources. We, the National Outreach Committee, are not standing still and waiting for these decisions to be made, but we can't do all the work alone. We are doing all that we can to raise awareness about these important issues, but the reality is we need your participation.

In a year when we could see unprecedented opportunities available to us because of the actions of other denominations, we need to be aware and alert to all that the Lord would have us do. We need your help to maximize the opportunities the Lord seems to be providing. Please prayerfully consider with us what the Lord would have all of us do to address these needs, and let us work together to accomplish His will in our denomination and for His Kingdom.

Recommendations to the General Assembly: None

Respectfully submitted,

Rodger Woodworth, Chairman

Robert Stauffer, Director

June 2006

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Moderator Nominee – Dr. Paul Heidebrecht

The Nominating Committee is pleased to place into nomination for Moderator of the 26th General Assembly Dr. Paul Heidebrecht.

Having served as the first-ever Moderator-elect this past year, Dr. Heidebrecht has served as ruling elder at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Warrenville, Illinois, since its beginning in 1989. From 1991-2002, he served as Immanuel's administrative director. He has served four terms on the Assembly's Fraternal Relations Committee and on several committees of the Presbytery of Mid-America.



Paul Heidebrecht

Paul currently serves as executive director of Christian Leaders for Africa, established in 2002 to promote theological education in Africa and develop support for Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology in Nairobi, Kenya.

A native of Winnipeg, Canada, Paul earned his B.A. at the University of Winnipeg. He completed an M.A. in Christian Education at Wheaton College in 1973 and a Ph.D. in History of Education at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. He served for 18 years as editor and vice-president of program development for Christian Service Brigade in Wheaton, Illinois. He is the author of *Fathering A Son* (Moody Press, 1979) and *God's Man in the Marketplace* (InterVarsity Press, 1991).

Paul's wife, Priscilla, teaches English as a Second Language to immigrants and refugees through World Relief. She is also involved in the ministry of spiritual direction. Paul and Priscilla have three grown children: Kecia, Caleb (married to Elisabeth) and Andrew, plus three grandchildren. The Heidebrechts live in West Chicago, Illinois.

Moderator-Elect Nominee – Rev. Bill Vogler



Bill Vogler

Reverend Bill Vogler, pastor of Grace EPC in Lawrence, Kansas, has been tapped to be the Moderator-elect nominee.

A 1974 graduate of the University of South Florida, Bill earned his B.S. in economics. He went on to earn his M.S. in economics at Florida State University in 1976. God led him into the ministry and Bill then earned his Master of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1986.

Ordained by the Presbytery of the West in 1986, Bill served as Associate Pastor (1986-89) at Bear Creek EPC in Lakewood, Colorado, followed by a call to pastor Grace EPC in Lawrence where he has ministered from 1989 to the present. He has been active on the Presbytery Ministerial Committee,

serving both as member and chairman. On the General Assembly level, Bill has chaired various standing committees, the Assembly Nominating Committee and the College Ministries Committees.

Bill and his wife of 32 years, Karen, are the parents of three – Joshua (Nicole), Sarah (Damon) and Grace. Joshua and Nicole are expecting the Voglers' first grandchild in August.

Slate of Nominations – Permanent Committees & Boards

Committee on Administration

Class of 2009

RE Hadley DePuy (East)
TE Tom Ryan (Mid-America)
RE Ed Wedin (Central South)

Board of Benefits

Class of 2009

RE John Baird (Midwest)
TE Ron Horgan (Midwest)

Committee on Christian Education & Publications

Class of 2009

TE Tommy Overton (Southeast)
Cindy Ziemba (Midwest)

Class of 2007

RE Alton Bennett (Midwest)

Committee on College Ministries

Class of 2009

TE Pedro Govantes (East)
RE Jeffrey Sich (Mid-America)

EPC Foundation

Class of 2009

RE Nate Kilton (Florida)
RE Dick Oestreicher (Midwest)
RE Dave Jonckheere (Midwest)
RE Stephen Ruckel (Mid-Atlantic)
RE Bill Johns (Southeast)
RE Howard Kast (West)

Class of 2008

Class of 2007

Committee on Fraternal Relations

Class of 2009

RE Al Herweyer (Southeast)
TE Jimmy McGuire (Midwest)

Committee on Ministerial Vocation

Class of 2009

TE Ken Jones (Southeast)
RE Ann Litzenberger (Florida)

Committee on National Outreach

Class of 2009

TE Eli Morris (Central South)
RE Carolyn Nystrom (Mid-America)
TE Shawn Robinson (West)
RE David Satterthwaite (Midwest)

Class of 2007

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2009

RE John Graham (Southeast)
TE Don Galardi (Midwest)
TE Steve Riser (Southeast)

Presbytery Review

Class of 2009	TE Edward Davis (Midwest)
Committee on Student Ministries	
Class of 2009	Mike Bonser (Midwest) TE Corey Gray (East)
Committee on Theology	
Class of 2009	TE Paul Husband (Central South) RE Tom Werner (Mid-America)
Committee on Women's Ministries	
Class of 2009	Jeane Mobley (Mid-Atlantic) Annette Phillips (Mid-America)
World Outreach	
Class of 2009	TE Thom Burbridge (Midwest) RE Bob Sluka (Midwest) RE Jim Thomason (Mid-Atlantic)

Administration	Christian Education & Publications	Fraternal Relations
RE Doug Almquist	RE Roger Alford	RE Richard Blair
RE William Barker	TE Michael Allday	RE David Burgess
TE Chuck Baynard	RE Richard Bennett	TE Darian Burns
RE Warren Berger	RE Roger Brandenburg	RE Jody Burton
RE Jan Bole	TE Tim Brown	TE Tom Dages
RE Gary Boystel	RE Lee Campbell	TE Ron DiNunzio
RE Mark Brinker	TE Charles Colson	RE Charles Frady
TE Steve Brown	TE Chris Deneen	RE George Gorman
RE Frank Carter	RE Rex Dunlap	TE Douglas Graham
RE David Dibble	RE Philip Engstrom	RE John Griffin
RE Larry Doak	TE Ehud Garcia	TE Bill Hampton
TE David Dwight	TE Robbie Griggs	RE Alan Herweyer
TE David Fenska	RE Charles Hoppe	RE Earl Hopper
RE James Ferguson	TE Mike Klassen	RE Rister Jenkins
TE William Flannagan	RE Anne Litzenberger	TE Stephen Jones
RE A. Seaton Garrett, Jr.	TE David Long	TE Tom Musselman, Sr.
TE Mike Gatliff	RE Brian McClellan	RE Glenn Parker
TE Chris Gibson	RE Dan McGrew	RE Tim Quick
RE Allen Guffey	RE Bill Miller	RE Tommy Rogers
RE John Ivy	TE Andy Moehn	RE Barry Saunders
TE Tommy Jordan	TE Bill Moore	RE Knox Sherer
RE Milton Knowlton	TE T.M. Moore	TE Rufus Smith, IV
RE David Larson	TE Tommy Overton	TE Jim Thyne
TE Ian Leslie	TE John Patterson	TE James Van Dyke
RE Joe Meller	TE Charles Reese, Sr.	TE Craig Vanbiber
RE Mirv Metzger	RE Max Riddle	TE Robert Vincent, Sr.
RE Al Moore	RE Bob Roach	RE Nevin Webster
RE James Neil	RE Wilma Sanders	TE Brad Yorton
RE Dan Morgan	TE Robert Shull	
RE Virginia Patterson	RE Joe Slesinski	
RE John Perry	RE Alva Steffler	
TE Ron Ragon	RE Eddie Wilson	Memorials & Appreciation
RE Tom Reesor	RE Russ Wing	
RE David Rilling	RE Richard Young	RE Richard Byland
RE Jose Rojas		RE Thomas Henson
TE Dan Rose		RE Andy Holt
TE Howard Shockley		RE Samuel Huckabee
RE Nancy Stauffer		TE Joe Laher
TE Craig Strickland		RE Jack Loflin
TE Dan Wilburn		RE J. Matthew Settle
RE Charlie Williams		TE Clay Smith
		TE Paul Swets
		TE Ken Van Kampen

Ministerial Vocation	National Outreach	Overtures & Resolutions
RE Robert Avis	TE Keith Andrews	RE John Adamson
TE Richard Barany	TE Robert Barnett	RE Malcolm Bain
TE David Brown	TE David Beaty	RE Charles Belt
TE Jim Coleman	RE Henry Beck	RE Gwynn Blair
TE Ron Cox	RE John Brown	TE Kent Bull
TE Neil Ellison	TE Randy Brown	RE Robert Cload, Jr.
TE David Galbraith	RE Frank Clepper	RE Douglas Cole
RE Ted Hailes	TE Craig Cramer	TE Edward Davis
TE Don Hardman	TE Jamie Cupschalk	RE James Eckert
TE Brian Holt	TE Jimmy Davis	RE James Harrington
RE George Hoyt	RE Terry Edwards	TE Vernon Holstad
RE Connie Jennings	TE Mateen Ellass	RE Barry Isenberg
TE Kenneth Jones	TE David Fischler	TE Scott Jackson
RE Dexter Kuhlman	TE Dennis Flach	RE Wendell Jones
RE Synesio Lyra, Jr.	TE Kurt Gebhard	RE Al Lackey
TE Tim Mallard	RE Jim Harris	RE Norman Lampe
RE Darren McKethan	TE Ron Horgan	TE David Martin
TE David McLean	TE Marc Huebl	TE Tom Masterson
RE Gordon Miller	TE Bill Hyer	TE Carter Mills
TE Rhett Payne	TE Chuck Jacob	RE Jim Mindling
RE Leonard Pilgrim	RE Bill Johns	TE Ron Odum
TE Russ Ragon	TE Steve Keller	TE Waring Porter
TE Matthew Sullivan	TE Stephen Kelley	RE Scott Proctor
TE Don Sweeting	RE Rob Liddon	RE Allen Roes
TE Bill Vogler	TE Bill Lindner, Jr.	TE Bill Sharp
TE Doug Walker	TE Dick Little	TE Ramona Spilman
TE Sandy Willson	RE Diane Manon	TE Nancy Stewart
TE George Wood	TE Scott McKee	RE Jim Thomason
RE John Worden	TE Eli Morris	RE Charles Torpy
TE Alan Wright	RE Tom Musselman, Jr.	TE Scott Waters
TE Roy Zinn	TE Don Neighbours	RE Brien Williams
	RE Carolyn Nystrom	TE George Yates
	TE Carter Sanger	
	TE Neil Smith	
	TE Wayne Uppendahl	
	RE Mark Walcott	
	TE Kirk Werner	

Student Ministries	Theology	Women's Ministries
RE Jason Bewick	TE David Brogren	RE Brian Broadway
RE Chad Boniface	RE Carolyn Carson	TE George Callahan
TE Peter Bowell	TE Keith Cobb	RE David Carriker
RE Annette Brandenburg	RE Chris Curtis	RE Tom Carver
RE Ken Casey	TE Ed G. Davis	RE Walter Clothier, Sr.
TE David Chambers	TE Bruce Demarest	TE Grady Davidson
TE Alan Dollar	TE Marty Fields	RE Edith Ege
TE Brett Eubank	TE Howard Finkel	TE Don Fortson, III
TE David Franklin	RE Ted Galyon	RE Betsy Fryar
TE Jeff Gardner	TE Daniel Gilbert	RE Marta Gillilan
TE Brett Garretson	TE Bruce Gimbel	TE James Glasgow
TE Pedro Govantes	RE Joe Gruneisen	RE Hawley Ingram, Jr.
RE Alan Johnson	TE Robert Hamd	RE Stu Irwin
TE Richard Kidd	RE Brad Houff	RE Nate Kilton
TE Gary Koerth	TE Gene Huntzinger	RE Gary McGhee
TE Scott Lawry	TE Steve Kerhoulas	RE Ken Millice
RE Jack Nelson	TE Daniel Krodel	TE Perry Mobley
RE Rod Ortega	TE Richard Lanning	RE Joe Moody
RE Chris Perciante	TE Fred Lian	RE Steve Moss
TE Ron Pierce	RE Bob Matthews	RE Maggie Noll
RE W.A. Ray	RE Rives McCord	TE Austin Olive, Jr.
RE Robert Sayle	TE Tim Mindling	RE Kirk Riggins
TE Jonathan Schwartz	TE Ed Murrey, IV	RE Richard Sistare, Jr.
RE Bill Simmons	RE Donald Nelson	TE Bud Sparling
RE David Sincerbox	RE Mark Noll	RE Alan Smith
RE Kevin Smith	RE Loy Oakes	RE Don Stickney
RE Mike Smith	RE Rob Prater	RE Karen Walkup
RE Hillard Strong	TE Julian Reese	
	TE Steve Riser	
	RE Norman Roberts	
	RE Ken Roberts	
	TE Sam Rowen	
	RE Ray Sawmiller	
	TE Todd Smedley	
	TE Clint Stockton	
	RE Bruce Tanner	
	RE Roby Wallin	
	TE Gary Westra	

World Outreach
TE Bruce Anderson
TE Ben Borsay
RE Bill Brooks
RE Bill Bumford
TE Steve Burton
TE Ron Burton
TE Randy Carstens
RE Carroll Coakley
RE Charles Collins
TE Ron Crews
RE Tom Dinan
TE Mike Frison
TE Chris Furr
RE Joe Hartzog
TE Paul Husband
RE Ron Kiefer
RE James Klassen
RE Matt Kunze
RE Ron Lagerman
RE Craig Lyle
TE Tim MacGowan
RE John Manon
TE Paul Manuel
TE Jack Maxwell
TE Adger McKay
TE Ron Meyer
RE Olin Morris
TE Jim Murphy
RE Carol Plueddeman
RE Jim Slyman
TE Peter Stam
RE Walter Stevenson
TE Don Van Dyke
TE Brad Werner
TE Bob Wilbur
TE Steve Wilkinson
TE Louis Woods

MINUTES OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

May 20, 2006

The Permanent Judicial Commission met via telephone conference call on Saturday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time. Members present were RE John Graham (Moderator), TE Percy Burns, TE Don Galardi, RE Sam Searcy, RE Jim Rimmel, RE Dale Schaefer and RE Tony Register. Unable to be present were TE Jim Letizia and RE Reese Baker. Also present was Stated Clerk Mike Glodo.

Moderator Graham began with prayer. Upon motion, the agenda was adopted as proposed.



John Graham, Moderator

The Moderator reminded the Commission of its responsibilities under *Book of Government* 16.27-B. There are two potential questions before the Commission regarding interpretations of the *Book of Order* related to review of presbytery minutes. There are two overtures calling for amendment of the Constitution which will require comment on the clarity, consistency (with the *Constitution*) and compatibility (with the *Constitution*) of that overture.

Overture from Florida Presbytery to amend G.10-2.

The Commission took up the overture of the Florida Presbytery regarding change to **G.10-2** to restrict the office of Teaching Elder to men only.

The Commission found the overture generally clear, consistent and compatible with the Constitution with the exception of one matter. The Commission discussed at length whether the amendment would deprive existing women teaching elders of office and whether, if so, it would violate due process by doing so. Further discussion arose regarding whether this overture would impinge upon the irrevocable right of a presbytery's role in the approval of ministers expressed in G-7-5.

Upon motion, the Commission found that the overture, while clear and consistent, is incompatible with the Constitution because it would infringe upon the irrevocable rights of a presbytery under **G-7-5** which states "The particular church has the right to call its own pastor(s), provided the Presbytery concurs by receiving such pastor(s) into its membership."

Upon motion, the Commission advises against the adoption of this overture because of the above-described incompatibility, EPC's past practices concerning ordination of women, its existing position paper on the ordination of women, its motto and its leaving to presbyteries the fundamental role of applying ordination standards in the EPC.

Recommendation re past RE moderators.

Upon prior suggestion of one of its members, the Commission gave consideration to the subject of past ruling elder moderators who are no longer members of EPC congregations. G.16-21-C provides that past RE moderators remain eligible for membership in the court of General Assembly as long as they maintain active membership in an EPC congregation. This provision anticipates the situation in which a past RE moderator is not named as a commissioner by the local church. However, it does not provide for occasions such as necessary geographical moves and dismissal of congregations in which past RE moderators lose their local EPC membership.

Upon motion, the Commission recommends that *Book of Government* 16.21-C be amended with the addition of the following sentence:

Past Ruling Elders moderators who are not able to maintain membership in an EPC congregation for reasons other than church discipline may continue to be eligible for membership in General Assembly upon approval by the presbytery in whose geographic boundaries they reside.

Recommendation re service of transferred ruling elders.

The Stated Clerk brought to the Commission's attention situations in which a person ordained as a ruling elder in one congregation transfers membership to another congregation for legitimate reasons. In order not to infringe upon the latter congregation's right to elect its own officers, that elder is not eligible to serve as a ruling elder unless elected. Although in one sense we view ordination as for life, the power of order is effectively removed from such persons.

Upon motion, the Commission adopted the following recommendation to the 26th General Assembly.

Recommended, that the *Book of Government* be amended by the addition of a second paragraph to Section 15-7 so that the entire section shall read as follows (addition in *italics*):

Service of inactive Ruling Elders: A Ruling Elder who is not currently serving as an active Ruling Elder may be elected by the Church Session to be its representative to the Presbytery and General Assembly. The person so elected shall make diligent report to the electing court.

A church session may, if it desires, establish a process by which it may empower a person previously ordained as a ruling elder in another EPC congregation or in another denomination within the Reformed family of churches to serve in the same capacity as an inactive (not currently serving on session) elder. Such a person may not serve on active session apart from election by the congregation. A session should assure itself by adequate training and examination that such a person holds to and affirms the vows of office within the

EPC. Under no circumstances should such a person be so empowered if office has been previously removed as a result of church discipline.

Grounds: This amendment would provide a means for those qualified and willing to serve in the same capacity as inactive elders (e.g. power of jurisdiction, representation in church courts) to do so without taking away the congregation's role in electing officers.

Overture of Southeast Presbytery re amendment of G.14-1-E-7.

Southeast Presbytery is seeking to delineate the seventh ordination vows for ruling elders and deacons to prevent the implication that ruling elders subject themselves to deacons.

Upon motion, the Commission found the overture clear, consistent and compatible with the Constitution.

Requested potential ruling from Southeast Presbytery regarding exception to minutes.

The 25th General Assembly took exception to minutes of the 64th meeting of the Southeast Presbytery as follows:

Terms of call are not summarized in the body of the minutes as required by Act of Assembly 98-04.

Act of Assembly 98-04 states:

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.

Per the attached response from Southeast Presbytery, it is explained that approval of details of terms of call are commissioned to the Ministerial/Candidates Committee and asserts that disclosure of details in the minutes is not necessary to fulfill Act of Assembly #98-04. Southeast Presbytery requests that, if this response and practice is not acceptable to the Presbytery Review Committee, that the matter be referred to the Permanent Judicial Commission.

The Commission discussed the substance of Southeast's response but, upon motion, declined to take action unless and until the matter is referred to it.

Presbytery Review – Mid-Atlantic Presbytery's appointment of a commission through a committee.

The 25th General Assembly took exception to the minutes of the minutes of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery wherein it authorized its Ministerial Committee to appoint a commission. Part of its response asserts that G.16-26-B allows such action by allowing a committee of a court to appoint a commission. Does the Commission wish to comment on Mid-Atlantic's interpretation unsolicited?

The Commission discussed the substance of Mid-Atlantic's response but, upon motion, declined to take action unless and until the matter is referred to it.

Election of PJC Moderator for 2005-2006.

Upon motion, the Commission re-elected John Graham as its moderator for the 2006-2007 assembly year.

Having completed its agenda, the Commission adjourned at 1:04 P.M. with prayer by Don Galardi.

Respectfully submitted,

John Graham, Moderator

MINUTES OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

June 9, 2006 - Telephone conference meeting

The Permanent Judicial Commission met via telephone conference call at 3:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, June 9, 2006. Members present were John Graham (Moderator), Jim Rimmel, Jim Letizia, Don Galardi, Tony Register and Dale Schaefer. Also present was Stated Clerk Mike Glodo.

The meeting opened with prayer led by Tony Register. The agenda was adopted as distributed.

Request from Presbytery Review Committee chairman Jay Curtis to clarify PJC ruling in 11th General Assembly (1991) minutes.

The Commission first took up the request of Presbytery Review Committee chairman Jay Curtis requesting clarification of the 11th General Assembly regarding the exclusive responsibility of a court to create a commission (see letter of request, Mid-Atlantic Presbytery response to PRC, and pages 50-51 and 166-67 of the 11th General Assembly minutes attached).

By way of background, this is in reference to an exception to the minutes of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery where the presbytery authorized a commission, but delegated the naming of the commission members to a committee. Mid-Atlantic and Presbytery Review have asked for clarification, given that the presbytery had authorized the creation of the commission as a whole and explicitly authorized one of its committees to name the commission members.

By common consent, the PJC determined that the previous ruling pertained to the creation of commissions, but not necessarily to the naming of commission members.

Upon motion, the PJC does not regard the appointing of commission members as distinct from the creation of the commission itself. While the PJC appreciates the desire for flexibility implied in Mid-Atlantic's action, it cannot find grounds to allow it under the *Book of Government*. Those wishing for courts to have this flexibility in appointing commission members should seek that freedom through amendment of the Constitution.

Overture of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery dated May 3, 2006 re amendment of G.15-5-B.

Regarding the overture of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to amend G.15-5-B, the Commission finds the overture compatible, consistent and clear. The Commission makes no recommendation regarding the adoption of this overture.

The Commission has no comment regarding the advisability of this overture.

Overture of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery dated May 3, 2006 re amendment of G.15 by addition of paragraph G.15-11 entitled "Renunciation of Jurisdiction."

Regarding the overture of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to amend G.15 by addition of paragraph G.15-11, the Commission finds the overture compatible, consistent and clear.

The Commission believes there are many implications to this overture, some of which we may not be fully aware. Therefore, upon motion, the Commission recommends this overture be referred to the permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee for study and recommendation.

Overture of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery dated May 3, 2006 re amendment of D.3-5.
Regarding the overture of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to amend D.3, the Commission finds the overture compatible, consistent and clear.

The Commission also believes there are many implications to this overture, some of which we may not be fully aware. Therefore, upon motion, the Commission recommends this overture be referred to the Ministerial Vocation Committee for study and recommendation.

Overture of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery dated May 3, 2006 re amendment of G.15-4.
Regarding the overture of Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to amend G.15 by addition of paragraph G.15-11, the Commission finds the overture compatible, consistent and clear.

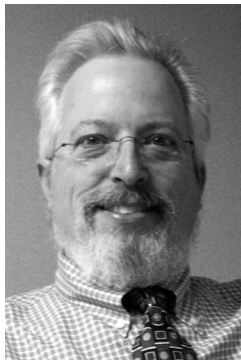
The Commission has no comment regarding the advisability of this overture.

Having completed its agenda, the Commission adjourned with prayer led by Mike Glodo at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Graham, III, Moderator

REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE



Jay Curtis, Chairman

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Presbytery Review Committee is established to implement our governmental principle of review and control. At its meeting May 22-24, 2006 the Committee first reviewed presbytery responses to exceptions issued by the 25th General Assembly (2005), reviewed presbytery responses to answerable notations (*Rules for Assembly* 8-11.C-2) and then reviewed certified copies of Minutes from meetings of presbyteries subject to review as per *Rules for Assembly* 8-11 and *Act of the Assembly* 98-05.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 26TH GENERAL

ASSEMBLY

Regarding the Presbytery of the Central South

Recommendation #1: That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of the Central South to issues pending from the 25th General Assembly as adequate (see Attachment A).

Recommendation #2: That the Minutes of the Central South Presbytery be approved.

Regarding the Presbytery of the East

Recommendation #3: That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of the East to issues pending from the 25th General Assembly as adequate (see Attachment B).

Recommendation #4: That the Minutes of the East Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions and remanded for correction:

1. 73-10C (Corey Gray) 74-23C (David O'Connell) – Presbytery approved terms of call that did not include EPC medical insurance, contrary to of Acts of Assembly 81-04, 81-06, and 88-08.
2. 74-23A – The advice of the Ministerial Committee effectively endorses non-compliance with Act of Assembly 81-04, 81-06, and 88-08.

Regarding the Presbytery of Florida

Recommendation #5: That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of Florida to issues pending from the 25th General Assembly as adequate (see Attachment C) with the following comments:

1. Minutes 42:12 – The presbytery is correct in stating that it took no action and gave no advice as a court that directed commissioners to General Assembly on how to vote regarding a motion to dissolve the Florida Presbytery. The Minutes do, however, attribute such a statement urging a negative vote to the Moderator of the General Assembly speaking in his office as Moderator. These remarks

should have been made in the context of speaking as a member of the presbytery rather than from his office of Moderator, making clear that these were personal comments.

2. Minutes 43:18 – For clarity, correspondence to the Assembly should restate the substance of overtures when making initial reference to them.

Recommendation #6: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of Florida be approved with the following exception and remanded for correction:

46:14 – While the Assembly through its National Outreach Committee commends the Natural Church Development process to all churches and presbyteries, and while the Assembly commends the effort of the Florida presbytery to encourage evangelism and renewal within its bounds, the Presbytery exceeded its authority (G.16-16) in requiring churches to take the NCD survey and report back its results.

Regarding the Presbytery of Mid-America

Recommendation #7: That the Assembly receive responses of the Mid-America Presbytery to issues pending from the 25th Assembly as adequate (see Attachment D) and allow another year to resolve exceptions regarding medical insurance, recognizing the progress that has been made.

Recommendation #8: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved.

Regarding the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

Recommendation #9: That the Assembly receive the responses of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to matters pending from the 25th Assembly as adequate (see Attachment E) with the exception of a remaining question to be clarified through the Permanent Judicial Commission report.

Rationale: The language of the Presbytery's Minutes (p. 264, 9C.06H) is ambiguous in saying, "presbytery authorizes the ministerial committee to appoint a judicial commission," seemingly contradicting Act of Assembly 91-05 which states that only the court can appoint a commission. Presbytery's response clarified the fact that the presbytery created a judicial commission and then authorized the Ministerial Committee to name its members. The Mid-Atlantic is not correct in its response in asserting that entities other than a court as defined by the Book of Government (i.e., General Assembly, Presbytery, Session) may create a commission (Act of Assembly 95-01).

The Committee has requested an opinion from the Permanent Judicial Commission as to whether the 1991 interpretation of the constitution adopted by the 11th General Assembly intended to speak exclusively to the creation of commissions or also intended to speak to the naming of commission members.

Recommendation #10: That the Minutes of the Mid-Atlantic Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions and remanded for correction:

- a. P. 385 (10C.10) – Considering this motion is out of order, as it is not a matter related to the call of this special meeting.

- b. P. 385 (10C.10) – A commission does not have authority to appoint another commission. Commissions are appointed by the court as a whole (Act of Assembly 91-05).

Regarding the Presbytery of the Midwest

Recommendation #11: That the Assembly receive responses of the Presbytery of the Midwest to matters pending from the 25th Assembly as adequate (see Attachment F) with the following comment and exception:

1. Minutes 106-9 (Comment) – Presbytery’s response regarding TE. Surprenant’s educational credentials does not contain sufficient information. It indicates seminary graduation, but not what degree was received. The Committee is aware that TE Suprenant received an M.Div. degree. In the future the presbytery should be careful to supply sufficient information.
2. Minutes 107-9 (Ministerial Committee Report) (Exception) – The presbytery’s response adequately answers the question of a congregational meeting being held to dissolve the pastoral relationship of Rev. Keough. However, there is no indication in subsequent minutes that Rev. Keough has been dismissed although his name disappears from the roll. The Midwest Presbytery is directed to take action to clarify Rev. Keough’s status and record it in their minutes. Until that time, Rev. Keough is a member of presbytery.

Recommendation #12: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest be approved with the following exception and remanded for correction:

Minutes do not record that ordination/installation commissions for Keogh (104-14), Kil (p. 242), Boomer (p. 243), and Brown (p. 258) have completed their work, that their minutes have been received and that they have been dissolved.

Regarding the Presbytery of the Southeast

Due to the important issues raised in the response of the Southeast Presbytery to matters pending from the 25th Assembly regarding the way commissions are utilized in the governance of the church and what information may be rightfully deemed confidential, the Committee is taking an additional year to study these concerns and recommend a response to a subsequent Assembly (see Attachment G).

Recommendation #13: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved.

Regarding the Presbytery of the West

Recommendation #14: That the Assembly receive responses Presbytery of the West as adequate (see Attachment H), thereby allowing another year to resolve exceptions regarding medical insurance.

Recommendation #15: That the Minutes of the Presbytery of the West be approved.

Other Recommendations

Recommendation #16: That the Assembly issue the following advice to all presbyteries:

1. Presbyteries should evaluate their practices of appointing advisors for candidates under care. G.12-2D stipulates that the advisor should ordinarily not be the candidate’s pastor. The Committee has observed that it is not uncommon for the candidate’s pastor to be the appointed advisor.

2. Presbyteries are reminded that their first priority is to encourage evangelism and renewal within its bounds (G.4-3, 16.16F). Minutes should show evidence that this priority is being realized.
3. The Board of Benefits and Stated Clerk are to be commended for bringing benefit to the larger good through medical plan improvements and through effecting greater levels of participation, especially among mandatory participants. A majority of Presbyteries are in compliance with the mandatory participation requirement for ministers. Those Presbyteries not in compliance are urged to continue their work toward full compliance.
4. Presbyteries are cautioned concerning the risks inherent in the practice of calling a person as pastor before candidacy requirements have been met. In some cases people in this situation join the church and are almost immediately elected, ordained and installed as ruling elders. Presbyteries and Sessions should note the admonishment from Scripture not to be hasty in the laying on of hands (1 Tim. 5:22).

Recommendation #17: That the Assembly refer G.11.5F(5) to the Board of Benefits to clarify the intent of the phrase “the denominational retirement plan.”

Rationale: The constitutional requirement for ministers to be part of the denominational retirement plan may be outdated and no longer in keeping with the retirement plan document adopted by the Assembly.

Recommendation #18: That the Assembly approve the proposed financial reporting guidelines for presbytery minutes (see Attachment I).

OTHER MATTERS

- The Committee requested an interpretation of the intent of Act of Assembly 91-05 (See Attachment J).
- The Committee elected Jay Curtis as chairman for the upcoming Assembly year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay Curtis, Chairman

Attachment A

Responses from the Central South Presbytery



PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH

Office of the Stated Clerk
201 Magnolia Place
Natchez, Mississippi 39120
Telephone & Fax (601) 445-5010
E-Mail: censoepc@bellsouth.net

DATE: Tuesday, April 11, 2006

TO: Presbytery Review Committee of the General Assembly
FROM: Dennis C. Flach, Central South Presbytery Stated Clerk
SUBJECT: Presbytery Responses to GA Minutes Review

ERRATA

A. Regarding notations requiring responses:

The Assembly remanded the minutes of the 60th Stated Meeting to the Central South Presbytery for correction:

60:15 (p. 302) – Minutes do not indicate that presbytery approved Mr. Wise as a candidate with extraordinary status by a 2/3 vote. Presbytery's response that "the required 2/3 majority was exceeded by unanimity" is inadequate. Stating that the vote was unanimous may or may not mean that 2/3 of the voting members voted in the affirmative. If the candidate did receive the required 2/3 majority, minutes must either record the vote count or state the fact explicitly.

CSP Response: *The candidate received the required 2/3 of voting members in affirmative.*

B. Approved the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South with the following exception, remanding the minutes of the 63rd Stated Meeting for Correction:

63.17 – Insufficient information: Report of executive session must reflect the authority of the court in the *Book of Discipline* for its actions and that due process was followed.

CSP Response: *Authority of the Central South Presbytery entering executive session and taking the action described in Minutes 63.17 are grounded in the Book of Discipline 10-9A and due process followed accordingly.*

C. The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notations requiring responses. *Rules for Assembly* (as amended by the 24th General Assembly) define such notations as having "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 to the Presbytery Review

Committee" (Rules 8-11C). The response may need to include action of the presbytery to correct their minutes to show that constitutional requirements were followed.

1. 62-22 – Minutes regarding Meyer, Hickman, McCutcheon and Cox should be rewritten for greater clarity regarding actions that have taken place. Examples: a) Presbyteries act to dismiss or receive, not transfer (transfer is a description of what happens as a result of dismissing and receiving), b) ministers are not dismissed from the roll but removed ("dismissed" requires a receiving body).

CSP Response: *The Review Committee notations are noted and presbytery will resolve to comply in future minutes reporting.*

2. 64.24 – Omission: Terms of call were approved for Russell and Carsten without housing allowance.

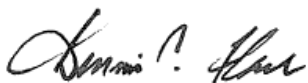
CSP Response: (a). *Rev. Russell is bi-vocational and terms of call offered by Second Presbyterian were for part-time Assistant Pastor position; housing allowance was addressed through his out-of-bounds employment at the Urban Theological Center, Memphis TN.* (b). *Carstens – at time of approving terms of call had not specified what portion of available cash (\$57,750) would be allocated for housing in view that he did not as yet secured permanent housing in Anna IL.*

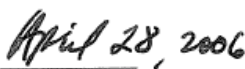
3. P. 367 – Housing allowance approved for Oliphant appears high. Does this comply with IRS requirements?

CSP Response: *Dr. Oliphant's annual housing expenses are justifiable with*

IRS stipulations and he has provided support to satisfy IRS scrutiny.

ADOPTED BY THE 68th STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING:


Dennis C. Flach, Stated Clerk
Central South Presbytery


DATE

Attachment B
Responses from the Presbytery of the East

Evangelical Presbyterian Church
PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST
OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK

February 7, 2006

Rev. Mike Glodo, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive
Suite 567
Livonia, MI. 48152

Dear Mike,

The Presbytery acted in response to your letter dated November 15, 2005, and provides the following response related to the Minutes of the Presbytery of the East. For your convenience, I will cite each item and indicate our response.

Approved the Minutes of the Presbytery of the East with the following exception:

1. Minutes contain no evidence that the presbytery exercised its responsibility of review and control through review of session minutes (G.16-16C).

Response: The Session Records Committee has a full complement of officers and will fulfill its responsibility of review and control. Reports of the Session Records committee will be an attachment in presbytery minutes.

2. 71st Stated Meeting (Ministerial Committee): No record that TE Kniffen and TE Wong fulfilled the constitutional requirement of signing the Ministerial Obligation Form (G.16-16L).

Response: TE Kniffen and TE Wong have signed the Ministerial Obligation form.

The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notations requiring responses.

1. 70th Stated Meeting (Stated Clerk's Report): Insufficient information--no summary of terms of call. It is unclear as to why, when this is a Ministerial Committee responsibility, this matter appears in the Stated Clerk's report.

Response: Rev. Barany's terms of call should have been reported under the Ministerial Committee's report. His 2004 Terms of Call as an EPC missionary are as follows:

Annual Cash Salary: \$27,915

Foreign Cost of Living Adjustment	included in salary
Housing Allowance	Agency pool
Social Security Allowance	\$ 5,184
Pension (10% or \$2000 minimum)	\$ 3,310
Insurance Package	\$ 7,812
<u>Administrative Cost Factors</u>	
WO Administration	\$ 2,731
Cooperating Agency (US)	\$ 7,630
Cooperating Agency (Field)	\$ 6,461
Cooperating Agency (International Council)	\$1,354
<u>Ministry Related Expenses</u>	
Travel to/from Field Escrow	\$ 1,200
Personal Ministry	\$ 1,980
Auto Replacement Escrow	\$ 3,600
Study Leave Allowance	\$ 800
<u>Other Allowance(s)</u>	
Children's schooling	\$3,500
WO Conference Fund	\$ 750
Total Annual Support	\$74,227

2. 70-3 (Ministerial Committee) -- Insufficient information regarding the examination and call of Chaplain Mallard. Minutes have no record that the call as chaplain was approved. Minutes have no record that presbytery received a written list of exceptions to the Westminster Confession and acted to approved or disapprove.

Response: Presbytery approved his call to Army Chaplaincy active duty. The minutes failed to record this approval. Chaplain Mallard had no exceptions to the Westminster Confession of Faith. He stated that he has no exceptions on the floor of Presbytery and provided that statement in writing.

3. Pp. 156-157: Minutes do not record the churches represented by members of commissions to ordain/install Kniffen and Wong. Without such information the Assembly cannot determine the constitutionality of presbytery action.

Response: Rev. David Kniffen's commission members to ordain/install by name and church were as follows:

TE Leo Jalszynski	Circleville
TE John Torres	Goodwill
RE Michael K. Brown	Goodwill
RE Perry Songer	Goodwill
TE Stu Pohlman	Out of Bounds, alternate

Rev. Jordan Wong's commission members to ordain/install by name and church were as follows:

TE John Torres	Goodwill
TE Leo Jalszynski	Circleville
RE Mark Guinup	Goodwill
RE Daniel Fritsch	Goodwill
RE David Hughes	Goodwill
Alternates	
TE Dr. Glen Knecht	Fourth
TE Stewart Pohlman	Out of Bounds
RE Donald Armand	Goodwill
RE Jeffrey Mentz	Goodwill
RE Donald Nichol	Goodwill
RE Perry Songer	Goodwill

Others invited to participate

Dr. David Wong, Rev. Jordan Wong's father, pastor at Washington International Church, a Christian Missionary & Alliance church

4. P. 169 (72-15E): The record needs greater clarity on actions related to Darian Burns. Authority for the actions described should be clarified, e.g., Presbytery has no authority to transfer church membership or to install as an elder. Did the congregation elect Mr. Burns as an elder? There is no mention of his ordination as a ruling elder. For clarity, record should read "transfer his candidacy from Presbytery of the Southeast."

Response: Prior to the 72nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the East, Mr. Burns requested transfer of his candidacy from Presbytery of the Southeast to the Presbytery of the East. The Presbytery of the East received him at the 72nd meeting, 72-15H. The Presbytery recommended at 72-15E, that he transfer his membership from First Presbyterian Church, Rome, GA., to Dundalk, and that the Session consider nominating him to serve as a Ruling Elder at Dundalk until such time as his written examinations and examination in the Ministerial Committee and on the floor of Presbytery were complete. At the 72nd meeting, Presbytery authorized him to preach at Dundalk and directed that the Interim Pastor, Dr. Bill Jones, continue to administer the sacraments.

In preparing for his membership transfer and consideration as a Ruling Elder, Dundalk announced a congregational meeting by letter and verbal announcement on January 23, 2005 with the meeting scheduled February 6, 2005. Mr. Burns' membership was transferred from First Presbyterian Church to Dundalk during the month of February, 2005. He was received as a member at a Special Meeting of the Session, February, 6, 2005 and was nominated as a Ruling Elder. The Special Congregational Meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. February 6, 2005, and elected Mr. Burns as a Ruling Elder.

The session installed him as a Ruling Elder, under the provisions of **The Book of Order**, BOG14-E.

The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notations with regard to typographical and stylistic matters.


Response:

1. Numbering sequence is a problem in all minutes reviewed and needs to be corrected.

Response: Numbering is now in accordance with published policy.

2. September 25, 2004 stated meeting is not numbered as required by *Rules for Assembly* (9-11.G1).

Response: Numbering in future minutes will be in accordance with the *Rules for Assembly*.



Ron Meyer
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the East

Copy to:
Moderator, Presbytery of the East
Moderator-Elect, Presbytery of the East
Assistant Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the East

Attachment C

Responses of the Presbytery of Florida



Evangelical Presbyterian Church Presbytery of Florida

5150 Oleander Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34982
Phone (561) 468-0869

Robert J. Garment, Stated Clerk

November 1, 2005

Response to the Report of the Presbytery Review Committee

The 25th General Assembly, meeting in Golden, Colorado took the following actions related to the Minutes of the Presbytery of Florida:

Recommendation #36: Having requested but not received information to determine whether or not constitutional standards have been met, the Committee recommends that the Assembly issue the following as exceptions to the minutes of the Florida Presbytery:

1. 40.13 – Omission: Minutes need to specify what variety of calling is part of this out of bounds call for Rev. Tchividjian (pastor, chaplain, evangelist, etc.).
2. 40.13 – No record of TE Tchividjian signing the required Ministerial Obligation (G.16-16L).

Response: Rev. Tchividjian was called to serve as Pastor of New City Presbyterian and his Ministerial Obligation form is on file in the Clerk's office.¹

Recommendation #37: That the Assembly approve the minutes of the 42nd Stated Meeting with the following exceptions and remand them for correction:

1. 42.12 – The presbytery's advice to members to be prepared to speak against a recommendation at General Assembly is without authority, and, in effect, constitutes an instruction to its member commissioners how to vote (G.10-4, last sentence).

Response: 42.12 is a summary of the GA Moderator's address to the presbytery including a response to various questions of concern about the possible dissolution of Florida Presbytery. The GA Moderator's comments do not constitute an action of the presbytery nor the advice of the presbytery.

2. The presbytery's practice of the Moderator making reports and motions without relinquishing the chair is out of order. The Presbytery has not responded to notations on this matter (e.g., correspondence of Nov. 15, 2004) and is directed to change its practice.

Response: We can find no record of the Moderator making motions unless the PRC is referring to the recommendations coming through Presbytery's Council. Nevertheless, the court does acknowledge failure to relinquish the chair for reports and will amend its procedures accordingly. ²

Recommendation #38: That the Assembly declare the Florida Presbytery to be non-compliant for failure to submit certified copies of approved minutes of their 43rd and 44th Stated Meetings as required by *Rules for Assembly* 8-11 and *Acts of the Assembly* 98-05.

Response: Acts of Assembly 98-05 states that presbyteries are to provide the PRC with "certified copies of the pages of their minutes subject to review as they appear in the official minute books of the Presbytery..." Florida Presbytery sent the PRC certified copies of all minutes that were approved, signed, and bound in the minutes book as of the date requested. Minutes of the 43rd Stated Meeting were approved at the 2/14/2005 Stated Meeting after which they were printed and bound for signature at the 5/14/2005 meeting. There was insufficient time to mail the certified copy prior to the PRC's May meeting. The Minutes of the 44th Stated Meeting were approved at the 45th Stated Meeting and are scheduled to be signed at the 46th Stated Meeting in October 2005. Certified copies of these minutes will be included in the annual submission of minutes in the spring of 2006.

Recommendation #39: That the Assembly issue the following as exceptions to the provisional minutes of the 43rd and 44th Stated Meetings and remand them for correction:

1. 44.11 – Minutes do not record that Rev. Lacich gave permission for the judicial process to continue past the date of renouncing jurisdiction. Presbytery may not continue judicial process unless that permission has been given. Renunciation has the effect of terminating membership in the church and dissolving the relationship of the minister. With the absence of permission to continue proceedings, the Presbytery's action of divesting Rev. Lacich from office is in non-compliance with D.3-5 and is remanded to the Presbytery for correction.

Response: 44.11 Does not represent judicial sanction as suggested by the PRC's reference to D.3-5. The Judicial Commission's report should have included the phrase "without censure," to make clear that divestiture was the result of Rev. Lacich's renunciation of jurisdiction *not* as a disciplinary sanction. Further, the right of a presbytery to divest without censure when a minister renounces jurisdiction has been addressed previously by the PJC and upheld as a legitimate, non-disciplinary response to such renunciation. (See PJC report sections 2 - A and 2 - B on page 236 of the minutes of the 21st General Assembly)

2. 43.18 -- The overture adopted by Presbytery is not in the record of the meeting (*Act of Assembly* 98-05).

Response: 43:18 refers to an Overture previously presented and referred to the Sessions for review prior to Presbytery action. The text of the overture is printed in the Minutes of the 42nd Stated Meeting, section 42-14

3. 44.15 – Minutes do not state whether or not Rev. Manuel had exceptions to the Westminster Confession.

Response: This omission has been referred to the Ministerial Committee for correction.³

4. 44.15 –: Minutes do not record length of service or specific duties as Assistant Pastor (Rev. Manuel).

Response: This omission has been referred to the Ministerial Committee for correction.⁴

^{1,2,3,& 4} These omissions and/or errors will be recorded in the Minutes of the 46th Stated Meeting along with the other responses noted above.

The above responses were approved by the Presbytery of Florida at its 46th Stated Meeting on October 8, 2005 and recorded in the minutes thereof.



Robert J. Garment
Stated Clerk

Attachment D



THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESBYTERY OF MID-AMERICA

Dexter Kuhlman - Stated Clerk
1926 Prospector Ridge Ballwin, Missouri 63011 PHONE 636-458-2906 FAX 636-458-613

May 4, 2006

Rev. Michael Glodo
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive
Suite 567
Livonia, MI 48152

Dear Mike,

The following responses to the Exceptions from the 25th General Assembly were approved by the Presbytery at its Forty-Fifth Stated Meeting.

Exceptions: Regarding Presbytery's responses to exceptions issued by the 24th General Assembly (2004)

The Assembly received the responses of the Mid-America Presbytery to exceptions issued by the General Assembly thereby granting the presbytery's request for an additional year to resolve the exceptions regarding medical insurance with a response forthcoming to the 26th General Assembly. Further, the Assembly noted the inconsistency of the above request for additional time with action taken at the 49th Stated Meeting (P384) to reaffirm terms of call that were out of order and remanded these minutes to the presbytery to correct the inconsistency.

Response: With reference to the 24th General Assembly, the 25th General Assembly gave an additional year to resolve this matter. Presbytery was granted an additional year and feels it has gained some progress and feels an additional year will be sufficient for resolution.

Since this exception was first noted, the Presbytery has made considerable efforts toward gaining compliance. There has been progress and we expect resolution by our next meeting. In light of the progress and what appears to be a pending resolution, we request an additional year to report a final response.

With reference to the notation, Presbytery is still working to resolve the original exception and the statement made in the 40th Stated Meeting (p. 384) should not be construed contradicting those efforts for resolution.

1. P. 372 - Terms of call for Shay Roush were approved without required EPC group insurance (*Act of Assembly 81-04, 81-06 and 88-08*).

Response: Presbytery requests that this exception be subsumed under the above request for additional time given the progress toward resolution that has been achieved.

2. P. 372 - item 1 - A summary of change in terms of call need to be in the body of the minutes (*Acts of Assembly 98-04*)

Response: The summary of changes of terms of call will be included in the body of the minutes.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dexter A. Kuhlman".

Dexter A. Kuhlman

Attachment E

Responses of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC 53rd Stated Meeting

RESPONSES To Exceptions & Notations to Presbytery Minutes As Reported by the 25th General Assembly

[The Presbytery Review Committee reported the exceptions indicated below. Presbytery's responses follow.]

EXCEPTIONS:

P. 264(9C.06H) – Presbytery was out of order in authorizing a Committee to appoint a Commission. Commissions are appointed directly by the court (G.16-26A)

Response: Mid-Atlantic Presbytery believes it acted in accord with the **Book of Government** and Presbytery's **Bylaws** for the following reasons:

a. The original recommendation to Presbytery from its Ministerial Committee sought to address future pastoral and disciplinary issues involving a Teaching Elder of Presbytery; however, as noted in the Minutes, the Stated Clerk called a point of order regarding the recommendation: to wit, the proposed commission consisted of seven Teaching Elders and only one Ruling Elder; further, there was no duration specified. This point of order was sustained by the Moderator. As discussion ensued, names of several Ruling Elders who might serve were suggested, some of whom were not present. A substitute motion was offered, and passed, to authorize the Ministerial Committee to find commissioners willing and able to serve. Please note Minutes, 48.28E (2) wherein it is reported (at Presbytery's next meeting) the members of the commission (three Ruling Elders and four Teaching Elders). There was no objection from the court re members of the commission.

b. It is noted in G.16-26B the absence of any restrictive language pertaining to the *method* a court may use to appoint commissions. In fact, a literal reading of the section entertains the appointment of commissions by (a) the court; (b) the Moderator of a court; (c) even a *committee* of a court! Cf. G.16-26A, by contrast, states, "A committee is appointed by a court"

c. While Presbytery recognizes the wisdom of *Acts of the Assembly*, 91-05 and supports the principle that no committee can, in and of itself, independently create a commission. However, we maintain that the Presbytery, or any court, should have the right to *delegate* its full or limited authority by the will of the court in order to expedite its intent and decisions. In fact, we find our constitution recognizes and affirms this right in G. 16-26.

The Presbytery Review Committee reported the notations indicated below. A proposed response follows.

NOTATIONS:

9C.06H, P.264 – The record is not clear as to why a judicial commission was formed in light of the role of the Ministerial Committee in bringing the matter to the attention of the full court.

Response: Please reference 9C.06H, "This commission shall be responsible for investigating present and additional allegations and/or charges which may be reported, and to implement appropriate disciplinary and restorative action as necessary." Also see 9C.06G, "RATIONALE" wherein it is recorded that the MC only met with the Minister in question a few hours prior to the called meeting of Presbytery.

Presbytery appreciates the oversight role of the Ministerial Committee; however, it does not understand the MC has inherent authority for formal judicial process unless so appointed. As implied from the above statement, the MC reported to Presbytery its concern for "future allegations and/or charges" which could be grounds for formal process and/or further sanctions; thus necessitating its judgment that a judicial commission should be appointed.

The Presbytery Review Committee also reported notations with regard to typographical and stylistic matters.

These are noted and corrections made to the Minutes as indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Howard Shockley, Stated Clerk

Attachment F

Responses of the Midwest Presbytery

To: Presbyters of the Midwest Presbytery
From: John Calvin Manon, Stated Clerk

The 25th General Assembly, meeting at Lookout Mountain in Colorado, took the following actions related to the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest:

Regarding matters pending from the 23rd General Assembly (2003)

That the Assembly received the responses of the Midwest Presbytery to exceptions issued by the 23rd Assembly deemed inadequate by the 24th Assembly as adequate, with the exception of #2 (regarding the installation of Rev. Porter) and remanded the minutes to the presbytery for correction. Presbytery's response did not indicate that their minutes have been corrected to include the missing information. It is not adequate to have the information in commission minutes without being spread on the minutes of the presbytery (*Act of Assembly* 98-04, G. 16-26B).

Response: At its 105th meeting, the Presbytery of the Midwest accepted the Stated Clerk's responses to the Presbytery Review Committee that included: "TE Jimmy McGuire's name was omitted in the minutes but did appear on the 'commission to install minutes'" and is now spread on the minutes of Presbytery.

Approved the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Midwest with the following exceptions:

1. 105-8: Actions of Commissions should be in the body of the minutes rather than attachments (G.16-26.B; *Act of Assembly* 98-04).

Response: The Fellowship EPC Administrative Commission report of its actions has been inserted into the body of minutes of the 105th meeting.

2. 105: Even though a resolution from a Session was defeated, its substance was significant enough to have been summarized in the body of the minutes.

Response: A summary of the defeated resolution: The Presbytery had formed an Administrative Commission to investigate dissention and conflict at one of the churches in the Presbytery. Subsequently, a sister church responded to the actions of the Commission by presenting a resolution supporting a fellow member of presbytery, to affirm the importance of due process, to learn from the experience, to uphold church discipline, and to affirm our Presbyterian heritage and commitments. The premise of the resolution seemed to be that the Administrative Commission failed in its task by not taking or recommending disciplinary action against those who had sinned by word and action in the turmoil surrounding the difficulties of the church. Although the Presbytery seemed sensitive to the concern of the sister church and the intent of its resolution, the Commission's response that the recommendations were flawed by inaccuracies and incomplete information, by confusion regarding the mandate of the Commission, and by unwarranted conclusions prevailed and the resolution was defeated.

3. 105-14 (7th and 8th motions) – The substance of the terms of call does not appear in the body of the minutes as required by *Act of Assembly* 98-04.

Response: The substance of the terms of call are now spread on the minutes of the 105th meeting.

4. 109-7 (Stated Clerk/Treasurer's Report) – Report of a complaint filed against the presbytery should be recorded here, not in the Council Report. The Stated Clerk, not the council, is the officer of the presbytery that officially represents the court in this process.

Response: Notice of this complaint is now reported in the Stated Clerk/Treasurer's report.

Recommendation: The above responses to exceptions be adopted.

In addition, the 25th General Assembly issued the following advice to all presbyteries:

1. Presbyteries are reminded to fulfill their responsibility to commend members to another congregation when dissolving a church (G.5-5).
2. Presbyteries minutes should be clear in their use of terminology when receiving and dismissing ministers. Presbyteries dismiss to and receive from other presbyteries or ecclesiastical bodies. "Transfer" is the term describing what has happened once that transaction has been completed. If one party has not completed the transaction, then the Minutes should reflect that the action is pending and subsequent minutes reflect that the action has been completed.
3. Ratio correction is a constitutional requirement (G.16-14) and should be published in the minutes of presbytery.
4. Minutes submitted for review should be copied from the numbered pages of the bound book (*Act of Assembly* 98-05)
5. Presbytery has authority to approve out of bounds calls (G.10-3, last paragraph), but not to determine terms of call for those situations. Presbyteries are reminded to use the "Call to a Validated Ministry Outside the Bounds of Presbytery" form in the Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees.
6. Use of term "laying on of hands" should be reserved for the service of ordination.
7. Presbytery should review its use of terminology for clarity regarding ministerial status. Presbyteries have three rolls: active, inactive and retired. Within the active roll there are some who have the status of without call. There is no "without call roll." Within the retired roll there are those who have an inactive status.

Response: So noted by the Presbytery of the Midwest.

The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notations requiring responses. *Rules for Assembly* (as amended by the 24th General Assembly) define such notations as having "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 to the Presbytery Review Committee" (*Rules* 8-11C). The response may need to include action of the presbytery to correct their minutes to show that constitutional requirements were followed.

1. The Committee has direct knowledge of events of the meeting and there seems to be some insufficiencies in 105-8.

Response: A postponed motion from the previous stated meeting was defeated, following the reading of a Resolution on Presbytery Oversight, its nearly 100 minute discussion, the Administrative Commission's Response to the Resolution, and the defeat of the Resolution on Presbytery Oversight. All these aforementioned items were listed in 105-8

2. 106-8 (4th and 11th motions): Insufficient information – The summary of terms of call does not specify if Rev. Hunt and Rev. Surprenant's medical insurance was the EPC Medical Plan or other.

Response: The terms of call as provided to the Stated Clerk stated, insurance/medical insurance and was thus reported. In checking with the Benefits Office of the General Assembly, both Reverend Hunt's and Reverend Surprenant's medical insurance was with the EPC.

3. 105.14 – Typographical in 5th motion: should read "Presbyterian Church in America."

Response: The typographical error "Presbytery Church in America" has been changed to "Presbyterian Church in America."

4. Minutes reviewed were certified by the Stated Clerk but do not contain signatures of officers or page numbers from the official book of Minutes. In the future, Presbytery should comply with *Acts of Assembly* 98-05, submitting minutes copied from the official book of minutes with consecutively numbered pages.

Response: So noted by the Presbytery.

5. 106-9 (Rev. Surprenant): Insufficient information – Record does not indicate that educational credentials were presented and approved (*Act of Assembly* 02-07).

Response: TE Hal Polk, Chairman of the Ministerial Committee indicates the Committee's file shows that Reverend Steve Surprenant graduated in 1998 from Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, Florida.

6. 107-9 – (Ministerial Committee Report): Insufficient information – The record is unclear as to whether the congregation of Oakland Avenue had a congregational meeting to dissolve the pastoral relationship of Rev. Keough. If not, the Ministerial Committee action is out of order. Further, there is no record of presbytery dismissing Rev. Keough to another body yet his name disappears from the roll.

Response: A review of the records of Oakland Avenue indicate a Congregational Meeting was called on July 11, 2004, with 82 members voting to accept James Keough's resignation. Presbytery will act to dismiss the Reverend James Keough.

Recommendation: The above responses to notations requiring responses be adopted.

The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following advice to the Midwest Presbytery:

107-9 – (Commission to install George Boomer): Although constitutional requirements were met, the commission representation poorly represents the fact that installation is an act of the presbytery rather than the local church. Ordination/installation commissions are an opportunity for the particular church to see that they are part of larger church.

Response: The Presbytery has made note and will advise its Ministerial Committee to encourage greater participation by the Presbytery on ordination/installation commissions.

The Presbytery Review Committee reported the following notations with regard to typographical and stylistic matters.

1. 105 – Typographical: Numbering is incorrect (two sections are numbered 105-8)
2. 105 – Stylistic: Titles of documents (e.g., *Resolution on Presbytery Oversight*) should be consistently formatted with italics.
3. 105-8 – Stylistic: The formula "On motion" should only be used when an action has been passed.
4. 105-8 -- should state "Don Galardi moved a *Resolution on Presbytery Oversight*. The *Resolution* was seconded and the floor was open for discussion..."
5. 105-14 – 2nd motion: Misstatement of fact – a denomination (in this case the PCA) does not dismiss ministers, only a presbytery does. The process is properly called receiving and dismissing.
6. 106-12 – There appears to be no follow up on presbytery's direction to Council to bring a proposed bylaw to a future meeting.
7. 107-16 – Typographical: caption should read "New Beginning Administrative Commission."
8. 107-13 – Insufficient information: the record is unclear as to what motion was postponed.
9. 108-8 – Editorial: There is no indication of the significance of the asterisks.
10. 108-13 (first two motions) – Typographical: should read "making no progress over an extended period..."
11. 109-13 – Insufficient information re complaint filed with Permanent Judicial Commission. As presbytery is the defendant in the complaint, minutes should include a summary of the substance of the complaint. Presbytery is reminded that future minutes should reflect the ongoing status of the complaint.

Response: The Presbytery has made note of the above notations regarding typographical and stylistic matters.

Recommendation: The above notations be corrected accordingly.

Attachment G



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

27 March 2006

Rev. Michael J. Glodo, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Suite 567
Livonia, MI 48152

SUBJECT: Presbytery Response to the "Exception" to Minutes by the 25th GA

Dear Mike,

The Presbytery of the Southeast has approved the attached response to the one "Exception" to its minutes reported by the PRC at the 25th General Assembly. The response to this "Exception" is recorded in the minutes of the 67th Stated Meeting of our Presbytery, along with the PRC's typographic and stylistic notations. Accordingly, the relevant excerpt of paragraph 67-32 (Errata) is enclosed.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Rev. William R. (Bill) Sharp
Stated Clerk

1 Enclosure: *Errata Excerpt from SEP Minutes #67*

EXCEPTION and NOTATIONS
to Approval of Presbytery of the Southeast Minutes
by the EPC 25th General Assembly

- I. **EXCEPTION:** 64-23M (Rev. Werner) – Terms of Call are not summarized in the body of the minutes as required by *Act of Assembly* 98-04.

RESPONSE: In an effort to maintain confidentiality in handling ministerial Terms of Call, the Presbytery of the Southeast annually appoints its Ministerial / Candidates Committee as an Administrative Commission (BOG 16-27.A.10) to approve all Terms of Call presented to Presbytery during the year, whether related to new calls or changes in existing calls (64-10A). In this case the Commission to Approve 2005 Terms of Call met in advance of this Ministerial Committee Report to Presbytery and considered Rev. Werner's new Terms of Call as an Evangelist. The report of this commission was recorded in the body of the minutes in question at 64-23K, and included the fact that Rev. Werner's Terms of Call were reviewed and approved, pending Presbytery enrollment and approval of his call – the latter being recorded in 64-23M, cited in this exception. The commission report (64-23K) also stipulated that all Terms of Call approved by the commission were found to comply with all constitutional requirements and relevant Acts of Assembly. Additionally, the minutes of this commission, which are attached to the minutes of this 64th stated meeting, explicitly address all of the EPC Terms of Call requirements / criteria, including 10% Pension, EPC Health Plan, 4 wks Vacation, 2 wks Study Leave, and Effective Date / Duration. Indeed, the Presbytery of the Southeast does not approve Terms of Call that do not meet these criteria, including those related to EPC Health Insurance, as the minutes of this commission demonstrate by remanding a pastor's Terms of Call changes because they did not include the EPC Health Plan. In relation to the requirements of Act of Assembly 98-04, cited in this exception, it is the understanding of the Presbytery of the Southeast that it is not necessary to include details of a minister's Terms of Call in the body of Presbytery minutes in order to convey "*a basic understanding of the actions taken by the Presbytery*" to verify their constitutionality and subsequently approve their implementation. If this view and practice are unacceptable to the Presbytery Review Committee, the Presbytery of the Southeast would respectfully request that the matter be referred to the Permanent Judicial Commission in accordance with BOG 16-27.B.1.


- II. **NOTATIONS (typographical and stylistic) – cited as follows:** (*No response required*)
1. 63-10E.7 – Editorial Comment is not appropriate. (*i.e.*, "PTL")
 2. 64-10 – Omission: The Stated Clerk's Replacement Proposal does not appear in the body of the minutes (*Act of Assembly* 98-04).

Attachment H



PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST
4677 Springmeadow Lane, Castle Rock, CO 80109
Phone: 720-529-5950 Fax: 720-529-5951
E-mail: PresofWest@aol.com

TO: Rev. Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church

FROM: Dr. Cecil A. Matthews, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of the West 

RE: Response to the Presbytery Review Committee Exceptions

DATE: December 20, 2005

We appreciate the time and energy that the Presbytery Review Committee has taken to read and review all of the minutes of the Presbytery of the West and to help us improve these minutes through the suggestions made in the 25th General Assembly Presbytery Review report.

Our responses to the listed exceptions are below:

1. "That the Assembly received the responses of the Presbytery as adequate, thereby granting the request of the Presbytery for an additional year to resolve the exception regarding the medical insurance with a response forthcoming to the 26th General Assembly."

The remanding of exceptions 69-10, 70-16D, and 71-15A, approving a call for a teaching elder with EPC group insurance being out of accord with Acts of the Assembly 81-04, 81-06, and 88-08, is still being addressed and discussed by the Ministerial Committee and has not been brought to the floor of the Presbytery for correction. An additional year to resolve the exception is requested.

2. 72-12: "Insufficient information--Minutes do not record the presbytery action related to review of session minutes."

In the future minutes will record the Presbytery action related to the review of session minutes.

3. P. 8-029 (73rd Stated Meeting, Attachment 7): "Advice received by the presbytery from the Ad Hoc Committee on Extraordinary Status (section 2a) is contrary to the constitution. G.12-2H gives presbytery the right to waive part or all of the total educational requirements for ordination."

The report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Extraordinary Status is designed to clarify the process and to provide information about attaining extraordinary status, not to substitute for G.12-2H. The members of the Presbytery will be advised again that Presbytery has the right to waive part or all of the total educational

requirements for ordination.

4. 73-15A/B: "Insufficient information to determine if presbytery as a whole examined TE Wilkinson and TE Ragon in the required areas (G.13-2, 4)."

Presbytery as a whole did examine TE Wilkinson and TE Ragon in the required areas. This information will be included with more clarity in future minutes.

We are requesting that the Stated Clerk and the Presbytery Review Committee will find these responses both acceptable and complete.

Financial Reporting Guidelines for Presbytery Minutes

Proposed 11/16/05

As requested by the Presbytery Review Committee (reference), the following guidelines are recommended for reporting financial information in the minutes of presbyteries. The below guidelines prescribe a range of specificity within which each presbytery can determine what serves its purposes best. Financial reporting within the approved minutes of presbyteries must:

Annually

- Indicate reception and approval of annual audited or reviewed statements of financial position (balance sheet) and operations (income statement). The nature of the auditor's opinion (e.g. unqualified, qualified, etc.) and any concerns (such as expressed in financial footnotes) must be indicated in the record. The audited statements themselves may be indicated as on file in the Stated Clerk's office.
- If not indicated in the audited or reviewed financial statements, include budget performance in the minutes as indicated below.
- Approval of budget for coming year with the following specified:
 - Budgeted income delineated between income from churches, income from individuals and any other source exceeding 5% of total projected income.
 - Budgeted expenses for major operational budget divisions (e.g. administration, church development, etc.) and for any line item in excess of 5% of total projected expenses.
 - It is highly recommend, but not required, that budgeted income include projected contributions from individual churches or, at a minimum, each individual church's per member asking. This information may be included in an attachment which is referenced in the minutes and included as part of the minutes.

Stated Meetings

- Statement of financial position (balance sheet) as of the most recently completed reporting period including at a minimum the following delineations:
 - Restricted (i.e. designated) cash ("cash" meaning all liquid assets)
 - Unrestricted cash

- Other assets
- Statement of financial operations (income statement) as of the most recently completed reporting period (e.g. month end) including at a minimum the following delineations:
 - Budgeted and actual income (i.e. budgeted versus actual) on a year to date basis delineated between income from churches, income from individuals and any other source exceeding 5% of total projected income.
 - Budgeted and actual expenses for major operational budget divisions (e.g. administration, church development, etc.) and for any line item in excess of 5% of total projected expenses.
 - Although not required, it is recommended that giving of individual churches be included in the record, as an attachment if preferred.

Called Meetings

There is no financial reporting required in the minutes of called meetings of presbytery except where financial matters are part of the agenda or where relevant to other agenda items (e.g. approval of funding for a commission where not otherwise included in the annual budget).

These financial reporting items may be published in the narrative text of the minutes or placed as an addendum at the end of the respective minutes.

May 24, 2006

Permanent Judicial Commission
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
ATT: Rev. Michael Glodo, Stated Clerk

RE: Request for clarification of Act of Assembly 95-01

The Presbytery Review Committee, in its 2006 review of presbytery responses and minutes, has experienced difficulty in understanding how the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic interprets the intent of Act of Assembly 91-05 in the way it forms commissions. Therefore the Committee requests your help with regard to the following question:

Did the 1991 interpretation of the constitution adopted by the 11th General Assembly (below) intend to speak exclusively to the creation of commissions or does it also speak to the naming of commission members?

“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 BG 16-26B (see also 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 of the 11th General Assembly, p. 167)

Sincerely,

Jay Curtis, Chairman
Presbytery Review Committee

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

It is an honor and privilege to report to you for the sixth and final time as your Stated Clerk. At the previous five assemblies I have attempted to provide you with an empirical assessment of the state of our denomination as it was reflected in the financial, attendance and membership statistics of the churches. While these do not tell the full story, they are important factors in assessing our health and faithfulness as a denomination.

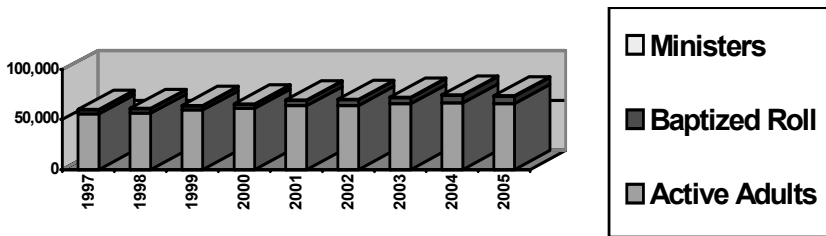
Membership analysis.

Inclusive membership at the end of 2005 was 73,512, virtually unchanged over the previous year. When adjusted to account for the dismissal of the near 2000-member Forest membership increased, but only negligibly.



Mike Glodo

Churches reflecting gains in members rose measurably, from 37% in 2004 to 43% in 2005. Conversely, churches reflecting losses declined while churches with no significant change in membership were approximately the same. (See Membership Statistics on p. SC-7.)



While the number of declining or plateaued churches does present cause for concern, a closer analysis of the five-year trend indicates that fewer churches fit those categories over the longer term. In other words, while in any given year a particular church may experience a decrease in membership, the majority of those are healthy churches which have experienced a net growth in the most recent five-year period.

Five out of eight presbyteries have a majority of churches which grew in membership over the last five years. Of particular note are presbyteries which have energetically implemented the Natural Church Development revitalization strategy, such as Florida Presbytery which has mandated it for all churches and where seven out of the nine congregations grew in membership during 2005.

As with membership, the number of churches was virtually unchanged at 182 congregations, up by a net of one from the previous year.

Fiscal analysis.

The end of 2005 found the General Assembly on solid financial footing despite some significant uncertainties. The dismissal of one large, Per Member

Total churches as of June 23, 2005	181
Received from independence	-
Received from other denominations	3
New mission churches or mission groups	3
Former from merger	1
Dismissed to other denominations	-
Dismissed to independence	(2)
Dissolved	(3)
Total churches as of June 22, 2006	<u>182</u>

contributing congregation and the announced diversion of Per Member Giving by another will have their full impact in 2006. However, the latter did result in a nearly 5% drop in income in 2005.

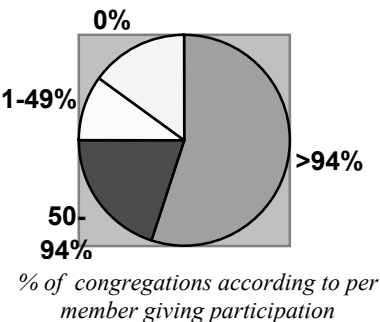
Previously the Assembly had instructed the Committee on Administration (CoA) to reduce the level of dependence upon market earnings. During the unprecedented gains of the 1990's, earnings from investments had become approximately 14% of the normal operating budget. This resulted in a "whipsaw" effect when market conditions changed, requiring disruptive adjustments to compensate. The CoA, under the excellent leadership of Finance Committee Jerry Brundle and Financial Manager Annette Minard, has begun a gradual weaning. The Finance Committee has also taken significant steps in consolidating its fund management under professional direction.

Though reduced reliance on investment income and the actions of staff and program committees to hold back expenses in light of the loss of Per Member Giving mentioned above, the year ended with an operating surplus of \$120,000. The CoA is phasing in a policy of directing surplus investment income toward capital and similar needs.

With the revenue uncertainties mentioned, General Assembly staff and program committees exercised restraint and care in contributing to the positive fiscal outcome. I am concerned that the kind of volatility experienced this past year surrounding Per Member Giving will, over time, degrade program and overall leadership if it is a regular occurrence. The changes of plans necessitated, the uncertainty that affects goal-setting and planning and the general anxiety it produces could take a toll over time, resulting in either the frustration and limitation of capable leadership or directly effecting the quality of leadership that can be attracted to serve at the General Assembly level.

Per Member Giving.

Notwithstanding the volatility mentioned above, many congregations continue to contribute consistently and generously to the corporately-discerned and -determined cooperative work of the Assembly. In spite of the aforementioned factors, Per Member Giving declined only by 3% over the previous year. Average per member giving of \$17.22, reflecting historical participation levels.



Under-support of Per Member Giving is fairly focused. Ten per cent of churches, representing 22% of total membership, constitute 59% percent of the difference between actual per member giving and the total per member goal. Less than 2% of churches comprise 51% of that differential. Fifteen per cent of churches, some of whom surely are not able to do so, gave nothing toward per member. It would take only nominal improvement among those who are able to share the burden more equitably. Future increases could be significantly delayed or present levels reduced by greater participation as well as by growth in membership. As the table on page SC-11 shows, this under-support is not due to lack of means. It seems, rather, due to wide variances in how congregations view their relationship to, involvement in, obligation to, etc. cooperative mission. The chart at right illustrates the widely varying degrees to which congregations share in the Per Member Giving. Each section represents the number of congregations that contribute toward the Per Member Giving in the four different percentage ranges.

In my report last year, I took some space to explain how the Per Member Giving support a unified General Assembly budget – its history, philosophy, advantages, etc. The fact is our collective burden is very low in comparison to connectional denominations and it achieves a great deal in terms of resources, services and programming and does so at a very low cost.

As we will hear from the Long-Range Planning Committee at this and future assemblies, we are to be focused on mission, not on maintenance. I began my six years as Stated Clerk with a mandate to staff and volunteer leadership to keep before us two notions – “the consent of the governed” and “value-added.” Those who serve in leadership and governing roles do so desiring to represent the unilateral, unconditional reign of Christ as head of the Church. However, His reign is characterized as that of a servant (Phil. 2:3-8). While we Presbyterians profess to know too much of human nature to expect that individually we will always accept authority gladly with submission, I have led on the assumption that the great majority of well-intended parts of the EPC family will support leadership that aspires to Christ’s servant model – thus “consent of the governed.” I have believed that the Office of the General should lead, not as if it deserves its authority, but in a way that acknowledges authority “ascends before it descends,” that it depends upon the consent of the governed.

I have also attempted to lead in such a way that brings blessing – “value-added.” Vision 21 saw with great foresight what is now becoming a common refrain in discussions on church governance above the congregational level. The missional church concept calls for middle judicatories which see the congregations as primary. In that vein, I have advocated responsiveness and openness, an approach to service which does not discriminate based upon church size or influence.

Despite an imminent transition in the Office of the Stated Clerk, General Assembly staff and volunteer leadership consists overwhelmingly of those who believe their callings are an honor and stewardship rather than deserved. The question that looms at some point in the future, be it the near- or mid-term future, is how long that mindset can persevere in a resource-challenged climate.

The disproportionate participation in Per Member Giving will eventually result in one of several possibilities. Existing quality, servant-oriented, open-system leadership will grow weary and discouraged such that leadership transition will be a given in our denomination life or the Assembly will not be able to continue to attract the quality of leadership it currently enjoys or both.

I would urge the Long-Range Planning Committee, at the appropriate time and in consultation with the Committee on Administration, to directly and openly address the historical disparities in Per Member Giving.

Benevolence Giving.

Significant growth in missions giving continues, reflecting, I believe, 1) the appropriately high confidence in World Outreach under Jeff Chadwick's able directorship, 2) the exceptional quality of our World Outreach missionaries serving around the world and 3) the commendable commitment typical of EPC congregations to global missions.

On the subject of benevolence giving in general, a number of brief observations are in order:

- Giving to individual missionaries increased 7% while World Outreach benevolence giving increased by over 50%.
- World Outreach and National Outreach have shown virtually opposite trends, with giving to World Outreach for the first year in recent memory exceeding National Outreach.
- Just over 10% of churches contributed more than half of benevolence giving, 2% contributing over a fourth of the total.
- National Outreach benevolence giving has declined for five straight years, probably reflecting to some extent the absence of a visible, high profile national church planting project.
- The number of churches giving \$1,000 or more has been decreasing incrementally since the year 2000 when 55 churches contributed at that level.
- 72% of churches support World Outreach missionaries to some extent, nearly 90% of whom gave \$1,000 or more.
- Nearly half a million dollars was sent through the Assembly for hurricane relief, the vast majority of which went to World Relief and the Central South Presbytery which will provide a special report on its relief efforts.

Retrospective.

On January 1, 2001, the Assembly was facing a major transition in leadership, a developing crisis in its medical plan (including litigation unrelated to the larger crisis), resolution of its long-standing confusion over the relations of "The Essentials" and the Westminster standards and a looming identity crisis brought about by generational and cultural changes. By God's grace and through the committed, skilled leadership of dozens of staff and volunteers, the crises have been resolved.

Nearly every one of the last six years has seen a large, growth-oriented church leave the denomination for independence every year. It seems on the one hand we too low of a commitment to our connectional principles and yet on the other hand they seem overly-constraining to some.

My call for dialog at unprecedented levels of openness and for a new, vigorous, grass-roots oriented process of long-range planning, seemed ominous to some and was not sufficient for others. My commitment to “stay the course of change” sounded to some like “stay the course” and only “change” to others.

Yet I could not have expected the overwhelmingly positive and supportive reception I have received as your Stated Clerk. The EPC is a generous church – generous among most with resources, almost universally generous with encouragement. I am deeply grateful for that.

I am also immensely grateful for the people with whom I have served. Your denominational staff is an exceptional group of people who are long-suffering – especially when it comes to the support and attention they need and deserve from their Stated Clerk.

Your volunteer leadership is exemplary. While contemporary life brings unprecedented demands and extra-local service provides few extrinsic rewards, there continues to be a line of qualified, godly and committed leadership participating actively in the governance and mission of the EPC. You have my eternal gratitude in extending to me the trust and the honor of calling as your Stated Clerk.

Encouragement.

It was six years ago this week that, on one evening of the 20th General Assembly, I preached a sermon series – those of you who were present will know what I mean by that – based on Matthew 5:14-16. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” I still believe today about the church’s mission what I said that night. It is, I believe, what Jesus intended in those words.

In a word, it is not being right, but doing good which glorifies God and draws the nations to his reign. This is not a renunciation of doctrine. Doctrine is tantamount. After all, I have given my life’s vocation to its understanding, defense and propagation. Neither, as well, do I imply at all that our merit is in anything other than the substitutionary active obedience of Christ imputed to us as righteousness by grace alone through faith alone.

We must be as quick to renounce any notion that mere activism is what Jesus commended. We are not faithful to our king by being busy. “Everything we do in the church should be able to draw its relationship to the person and work of Christ, even if in some cases that line has to be drawn longer than in others.”²⁷

I believe the Long-Range Planning Committee is on the right track to bring into our vocabulary the concept of a “missional” church. I have not found a way to say it any better than in my report to you last year. We have learned over our first twenty five

²⁷ “A Rapture Reverie: Commending the Groundhog,” p. 3,
<http://www.epc.org/general-assembly/documents/ARaptureReverie.pdf>.

years of how to be together as a denominational family, but we still have the challenge before us of learning how to *do* God's work together. Being a missional church means understanding that the church's fundamental identity is one of being sent. Sending is not only something we do, being sent is something we are. But this does not line up according to the old, somewhat stereotypical lines of doctrine versus action. It calls for unprecedented doctrinal acuity, faithfulness to what we confess in our standards. It calls for incisive analysis of our context and how to be the presence of the reign of God where we "are/sent." It also calls for aggressive, visionary leadership; restless implementers who see opportunity. As I appealed last year, this is no time for the tired dichotomy of thinkers versus doers.

That evening six years ago I asked the question "Are we the light of the world or are we a mirror of it?" I continue to believe that our greatest limitations, the greatest sources of weakness, are found in our worldliness. I am persuaded that, to a great extent, we have "traded citizenship for discipleship," whether in the tall steeple social status of the traditional form or the market-driven consumerism of contemporary forms. Traditional churches may be "maintenance" or "mission," either one. The same goes for more contemporary expressions of the church. In addition to a traditional/contemporary continuum or an evangelical/Reformed continuum, we need a third axis – missional or non-missional. This is what the Long-Range Planning Committee is challenging you to do. I believe what LRPC member Frank Johnson spontaneously expressed at its last meeting – "God is blessing us, folks, He really is."

For my part, I return to teaching a wiser more able man. One of the critical components of that missional identity is leadership training, training of the kind of pastors who are theologically deep, contextually aware and missionally impassioned. I hope that we will one day see in the EPC an institute to provide and reinforce that kind of approach to pastoral ministry in the post-Christendom world which is upon us.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Glodo
Stated Clerk

**STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENT TO STATED CLERK'S REPORT
TO THE 26TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Membership Statistics

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	+/-
<i>Churches...</i>										
...reflecting gains	53%	54%	59%	48%	43%	44%	31%	37%	43%	+16%
...reflecting losses	29%	32%	30%	37%	34%	30%	28%	28%	24%	-14%
...with no change	13%	14%	11%	15%	23%	26%	41%	35%	33%	-6%
<i>Professions of faith</i>										
Adult	566	1,117	1,102	906	1,280	1,087	1,101	1,156	896	-22%
Youth	540	541	575	473	603	535	569	512	490	-4%
Total	1106	1,658	1,677	1,393	1,883	1,622	1,670	1,668	1,386	
<i>Baptisms</i>										
Adult	691	688	756	860	649	824	620	596	587	---
Covenant (Infant)	843	946	1,087	1,030	1,330	1,194	1,294	1,252	1,223	+2%
Total	1534	1,634	1,843	1,973	1,979	2,018	1,914	1,848	1,839	
<i>Sunday school enrollment</i>	37,158	35,758	34,251	33,021	32,726	34,898	31,889	33,659	32,840	-2%

Churches Received and Organized, June 23, 2005-June 21, 2006

Central South

None

5. Third Presbyterian Church,
Dubuque, IA (Received from
Presbyterian Church USA)

East

1. Bethlehem Steltz Reformed
Church, Glen Rock, PA
(Received from United Church
of Christ)

Mid-Atlantic

None

Midwest

None

Florida

None

Southeast

6. New Hope EPC, Kingsport, TN
(merger of Lynn Garden & Mt.
Calvary)
7. Trinity Presbyterian Church,
Loganville, GA (Mission
Church)

Mid-America

2. Christ Church, Edmond, OK
(Mission Church)
3. Cornerstone Community Church,
Bemidji, MN (Mission Church)
4. Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian
Church, Rural Abilene, KS
(Received from Presbyterian
Church USA)

West

None

Churches Dissolved or Dismissed, June 23, 2005-June 21, 2006

Central South

1. Iglesia Hispana Cristo el Rey,
Brandon, MS (Dissolved)

Midwest

None

East

None

Southeast

4. Lynn Garden Presbyterian
Church, Kingsport, TN
(dissolved)*
5. Mt. Calvary Presbyterian
Church, Kingsport, TN
(dissolved)*

Florida

2. Cypress Pointe EPC, Oviedo, FL
(Dissolved)

Mid-America

3. Christ Church, Edmond, OK
(Dismissed to independence)

West

None

Mid-Atlantic

4. Forest Hill Church, Charlotte,
NC (Dismissed to
independence).

**Merged to form New Hope EPC,
Kingsport, TN*

Financial Statistics.

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
Giving to Presbyteries	700,714	724,313	709,694	652,405
<u>Giving to General Assembly</u>				
<i>Per member asking</i>	1,121,310	1,154,902	1,068,063	986,291
<i>Missionary Support</i>	2,041,626	1,909,722	1,796,918	1,556,454
<i>Benevolence Giving</i>				
World Outreach	127,885	84,536	76,439	73,230
Women's Ministries	37,970	37,662	44,925	62,791
Special Offerings	1,028,132	289,516	277,105	
National Outreach	61,316	97,546	122,022	140,150
Church Loan Fund	1,000	3,500	11,438	11,488
Church Development	42,045	47,080	38,980	40,980
Student Ministries	5,306	1,650	3,550	1,700
Other Designated Giving	64,542	58,604	90,630	38,451
<i>Total Benevolence Giving</i>	1,368,196	620,094	658,416	523,932
Total Giving to GA	4,531,132	3,684,718	3,530,070	3,070,140
<i>Other designated giving:</i>				
Vision 21 Implementation	39,719	34,214	42,447	8,900
Vision 21 Pastoral Care	5,765	1,242	275	500
Medical Benevolence	1,200	1,400	1,200	1,375
Moderators Scholarship Fund	2,676	3,835	2,870	3,200
Reflections Magazine	--	--	--	--
Jumper Scholarship	2,031	4,094	4,615	7,250
Staff Support & Development	20	--	152	870
Designated Miscellaneous	7,792	13,818	21,898	2,170
Publications	--	--	--	--
Ministerial Endowment	--	--	--	320
Chaplains' Activities	--	--	--	840
Christian Education/Library	--	--	10,500	10,000
Other income	5,330	--	6,673	3,400

Approved 2005

Benevolence Askings Projects	Goal	Actual	% of Goal
<i><u>National Outreach</u></i>			
Church Planting	\$ 100,000	36,196	36%
Church Loan Fund	25,000	1,000	4%
<i><u>College Ministries</u></i>			
College Leadership Development	20,000	3,100	10%
College Leadership Summit	5,000	56	1%
<i><u>Student Ministries</u></i>			
Ministry Development	8,000	1,950	24%
Student Scholarships	3,000	200	7%
Youth worker/leader development	10,000	--	0%
<i><u>Women's Ministries</u></i>			
Per Woman Asking	20,000	10,137	51%
Faith Focus	45,000	27,834	62%
<i><u>World Outreach</u></i>			
East Asia Seminaries	15,000	--	0%
Argentina Leadership	5,000	--	0%
Argentina WO Church Planting	7,500	6,000	80%
St. Andrews Mercy Ministries	--	833	--
St. Andrews Presbytery Church Planting	15,000	23,308	155%
St. Andrews Pastoral Scholarships	10,000	5,333	53%
Muslim Field Development	25,000	9,667	39%
Muslim Field Agricultural Development	10,000	16,067	161%
Muslim Field KL School	--	1,800	--
Kazakhstan Team Ministry	7,500	44,090	588%
Kazakhstan Outreach & Mercy Ministry	10,000	4,499	45%
Ethiopia Mekele Youth Center	10,000	--	0%
Brazil RTS Project	30,000	--	0%
Brazil Edward Davis Library	20,000	3,500	18%
Kazak Rakum Church Bldg and Land	--	5,175	--
World Outreach – General	--	7,613	--
<i><u>Other Benevolences</u></i>			
Vision 21 Implementation	100,000	34,214	34%
Vision 21 Care of Pastors & Spouses	8,000	1,242	16%
College Ministry Leader Summit	5,000	--	0%
College Ministry Leadership Development	10,000	--	0%

Presbytery Per Member Giving according to Means

Presbytery	Rank by Congregational Offerings per Member²⁸	Rank by Per Member Giving to General Assembly²⁹	Differential
Central South	1	7	-6
East	8	6	+2
Florida	5	4	-1
Mid-America	4	2	+2
Mid-Atlantic	3	3	-0-
Midwest	7	1	+6
Southeast	6	5	+1
West	2	8	-6

²⁸ Total offerings of churches divided by total membership.

²⁹ Total contributions to Per Member Asking divided by total membership.

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**SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR
THE STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATUS REPORT
May 25, 2006**

"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases."
(Proverbs 21:1, NIV)

The Search Committee for the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly has been fervently working to have a nomination to make at next month's General Assembly. The Committee has been busily searching for that person we hope will take office at the conclusion of Mike Glodo's term at the end of December 2006. However, at this time, it appears that the Search Committee will not be prepared to make such a nomination to the upcoming General Assembly.

Since the Committee began its work, it has interviewed half a dozen candidates and communicated with a number of others. The Committee gave special attention to one name that was proposed from several sources as a potential candidate. For the last several months the Search Committee has diligently and prayerfully proceeded with that person believing him to be an excellent candidate for the responsibilities of Stated Clerk and for the EPC's future direction. In the last few days, this candidate has informed the Search Committee that he cannot accept the nomination at this time. That person was Dr. Luder Whitlock. Dr. Whitlock has been a great friend of the EPC and gave us much insight into the potential role of a Stated Clerk. He is a former President of Reformed Theological Seminary and current Interim President of Erskine College and Seminary.

The Search Committee believes the call of a new Stated Clerk is ultimately God's call and is continuing the search. The Search Committee is trusting in the Lord as to where He will lead us at this point. As such, the Committee will request that the 26th General Assembly extend the Search Committee for up to a year. I am somewhat optimistic that it will not take that much additional time.

The Committee on Administration was apprised of this announcement last week and the Assembly officers and CoA Chairman Dr. Orin Littlejohn have begun planning for the possibility of a reconvened Assembly to elect a nominee – should the Search Committee be prepared to make a nomination before year's end – or for operating under an interim arrangement until the 27th Assembly should that be necessary.

John Adamson, Chairman, Stated Clerk Search Committee

Other members: Rev. Richard Alberta, Mrs. Zelda Artz, Rev. John Crimmins, Mr. John Graham, Rev. Jeff Jeremiah, Mr. Dexter Kuhlman, Dr. Wes Mabin, Rev. Bryan Slater.

STATED CLERK SEARCH COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

The Search Committee for the Stated Clerk was established by the 25th General Assembly in June 2005 with the following provisions:

1. The Search Committee shall consist of nine members, one from each presbytery (four teaching elders and four ruling elders) and one at-large member who shall be its chairman, subject to the 25th General Assembly's approval of this search process.
2. Although not an absolute requirement, the Search Committee should seek to identify the candidate from teaching elders within the EPC.
3. The position description of the Stated Clerk, as approved as part of Vision 21, shall be the basis upon which candidates are identified and a nomination made. The Stated Clerk-elect will be an ex-officio member of any long-range or strategic planning committee and, through participation in that process, shall have the opportunity to strategically shape the position description
4. No later than April 15, 2006, the search committee will announce the name(s) of its nominee(s) and provide biographical information to all churches and presbyteries.
5. The Stated Clerk will be elected at the 26th General Assembly (June 2006).
6. The Stated Clerk-elect will assume responsibilities no later than January 1, 2007, the timing, transition and overlap with predecessor subject to the approval of the Committee on Administration.
7. If coming from another denomination, the Stated Clerk-elect will be examined as outlined in *Book of Government* §13-5.

Members of the Committee appointed by the 25th General Assembly were:

RE John Adamson (Central South), Chairman
TE Richard Alberta (Midwest)
RE Zelda Artz (East)
TE John Crimmins (Central South)
RE John Graham (Southeast)
TE Jeff Jeremiah (West)
RE Dexter Kuhlman (Mid-America)
RE Wes Mabin (Florida)
TE Bryan Slater (Mid-Atlantic)

As reported to the 26th General Assembly in June 2006, the Committee worked regularly and diligently over the course of the year, but was not prepared to make a nomination at that time. However, we expressed some hope that we could complete our work in the very near future, well ahead of the 27th General Assembly.

The Committee is pleased to announce the completion of its work in bringing a nominee and expresses its gratitude to those who petitioned for and those commissioners participating in the called General Assembly.

As reported to the 26th General Assembly, the Committee had engaged in a great deal of valuable strategic discussions within itself, with candidates and with consultants. It

spent a considerable number of weeks, even months, in serious conversations with one of those consultants about the prospect of his candidacy. As soon as the Committee broke off that particular dialog in order to widen its scope once again, several Committee members immediately and privately suggested to the Chairman that Jeff Jeremiah (Cf. Attachment A) be pursued as a candidate.

Dr. Jeremiah's name came to the Committee from a variety of sources during the early stages of gathering input from across the denomination. Thus he was asked about his interest as were all viable candidates suggested at the time. He indicated firmly that he did not wish to be considered, but felt he could best serve as a good representative of his presbytery and as a productive Committee member. When the Committee raised the prospect of his candidacy some nine months later, he indicated an openness. Those months of information gathering and strategic analysis while he was not a candidate had illuminated the strategic opportunity of serving as Stated Clerk such that, in God's Providence, there was now an openness.

At that time, Dr. Jeremiah resigned from the Committee and the Committee proceeded to evaluate his candidacy thoroughly and carefully as it had for a host of candidates. Through that process, the Search Committee prayerfully and unanimously concluded that Dr. Jeffrey Jon Jeremiah was the person God was calling to serve as the next Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. It is with this background and history and with overwhelming enthusiasm that we nominate him.

Respectfully submitted,

John Adamson, Chairman

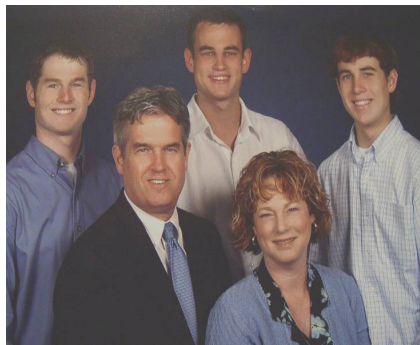
Attachment A: Biographical information: Jeffrey Jon Jeremiah

Attachment B: Proposed Amended 2007 Administration Budget

ATTACHMENT A

Biographical Information Stated Clerk Nominee Jeffrey Jon Jeremiah

The Search Committee for the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly is pleased to announce Dr. Jeffrey Jon Jeremiah as its unanimous nominee for election as the next Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. Dr. Jeremiah currently serves as pastor of First Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Renton, Washington and is a member of the Presbytery of the West. He was received into the Presbytery of the East in 1987 along with Fourth Presbyterian Church of Bethesda,



Maryland. Dr. Jeremiah served as Associate Pastor at Fourth from 1980 until being called to First EPC in 1994. At Fourth Presbyterian, his primary responsibilities ranged from adult education and overall Christian education to executive pastor and senior associate, beginning his ministry under Dr. Richard Halverson, with Dr. Robert Norris as pastor at the time of his call to Washington state.

Originally ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) – then the United Presbyterian Church in the USA – Jeff was active in Presbyterians United for Biblical Concerns, an evangelical renewal movement and one of the predecessor organizations to the now-Presbyterians for Renewal.

Jeff has been married to Cynthia Anne (Cindy) Coughlin for twenty-eight years. Together they have three sons – Daniel (24), Jeffrey (22) and Michael (18) who all live in Washington State. A graduate of The College of William and Mary in 1976 with a Bachelor's of Business Administration, he earned the Masters of Divinity from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1980 and the Ph.D. in History from George Washington University in 1992 through his work on the Westminster divine and 17th Century English Presbyterian and Anglican Edward Reynolds.

In his twelve years at First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Dr. Jeremiah has led the church through a period of physical, fiscal and participatory growth with three building programs, two capital campaigns, a seventy per cent growth in attendance, sixty per cent growth in membership and a threefold increase in giving. He describes First EPC as a church family whom God has given “remarkable growth in love for Jesus Christ and...a passionate commitment to proclaim His Gospel in a cultural setting that is increasingly antagonistic to His exclusive truth claims” led by “strong lay leadership in the Session, Board of Deacons and Christian Education ministries.”

As a member of the Presbytery of the West, he has served as Moderator and as a representative on the General Assembly's Ad Interim Committee on the Westminster Confession and “Essentials of Our Faith.” At the General Assembly

level Jeff has been a member of the permanent Theology Committee for the last three years, including the last two as its chairman.

Appointed by the 25th General Assembly, the Search Committee had reported this past June its hopes to have a nominee in the fall prior to the conclusion of current Stated Clerk Mike Glodo's second term at year-end. Both the Search Committee and the Committee on Administration desire to see a called meeting of the 26th General Assembly through electronic conference means in order to conduct the election. Only commissioners to the 26th General Assembly are eligible to petition for and participate in a called General Assembly. Those commissioners will receive a letter very soon inviting such petitions.

ATTACHMENT B

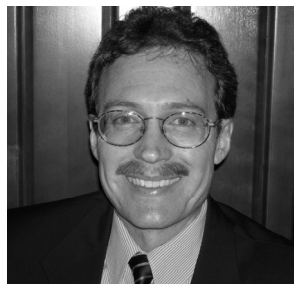
Proposed Amended 2007 Administration Budget

	2005 Budget	2005 Actual	2006 Budget	2007 Cur- rently Ap- proved	Recom- mended Change	2007 Pro- posed
<i>Personnel Disbursements:</i>						
Stated Clerk Salary	92,700	94,663	95,000	97,900	32,100	130,000
Program Staff Salaries	358,000	332,184	395,700	424,000	10,000	434,000
Support Staff Salaries	118,500	122,927	129,900	144,000		144,000
Staff Insurance/Pension	167,000	135,032	169,100	183,000	4,000	187,000
Executive Expense Allowance	7,300	6,786	7,300	7,300		7,300
Staff Travel/Expenses	46,000	44,840	43,700	45,000		45,000
Executive Travel	25,000	17,163	25,000	25,000	15,000	40,000
Taxes/Worker Comp	33,000	30,881	40,400	37,000		37,000
Officer/Director Liability	10,500	9,360	11,000	10,500		10,500
<i>Subtotals</i>	<i>858,000</i>	<i>793,836</i>	<i>917,100</i>	<i>973,700</i>	<i>61,100</i>	<i>1,034,800</i>
<i>Administration Disbursements:</i>						
Contingencies	5,000	2,463	5,000	4,000		4,000
Telephone/Internet Access	13,000	12,094	13,000	15,100		15,100
Office Supplies	11,000	7,674	10,000	9,000		9,000
Printing & Promotion	32,000	31,740	27,200	27,200		27,200
Postage	29,000	28,376	28,000	29,000		29,000
Technology Support	20,400	20,328	22,000	20,000		20,000
Financial Audit	4,000	4,600	4,200	4,500		4,500
Professional Fees	5,000	-	4,000	3,000		3,000
Miscellaneous	4,000	1,225	2,000	2,000		2,000
Office Development	6,000	5,125	4,000	4,000		4,000
Committee Travel/Expense	70,000	54,201	56,000	58,000		58,000
GA Administration	21,000	24,704	21,000	21,000		21,000
Staff Technical Training	3,000	2,400	2,000	4,000		4,000
Pension Fund Administration	9,000	8,309	9,000	9,000		9,000
Fraternal Relations	10,000	8,670	8,000	8,000		8,000
Presbytery Devel/Support	3,000	2,263	2,000	2,500		2,500
Leadership Development	3,000	788	2,000	2,000		2,000
Christian Ed/Resource	2,000	46	2,000	2,000		2,000
Office Rent and Utilities	154,000	145,052	155,000	159,500		159,500
Other Maintenance/Insurance	8,000	6,554	8,000	8,000		8,000
Capital Replacement Escrow						
Van Expense	2,500	3,156	2,500	3,500		3,500
<i>Subtotals</i>	<i>414,900</i>	<i>369,767</i>	<i>386,900</i>	<i>395,300</i>		<i>395,300</i>
Grand Totals	1,272,900	1,163,602	1,304,000	1,369,000	61,100	1,430,100

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR

WORK OF THE DIRECTOR

The Committee on Administration met and approved the Foundation corporate charter and bylaws on April 7, 2006. The CoA authorized the Director to begin the incorporation process to establish the EPC Foundation, Inc. This was preceded by a meeting by the CoA on March 15, 2006 to provide feedback from a lengthy review process in which the CoA studied the documents and relevant issues regarding forming a denominational foundation. A work group was suggested at the request of the CoA in order to begin the process of formulating a Board of Directors for the Foundation. The initial work group consisted of five members who met on March 24-25, 2006 to discuss additional legal and business issues. The members present were RE Bill Johns, RE David Jonckheere, RE Nate Kilton, TE Stephen Ruckel and Dick Oestreicher. Del Wensley, Stewardship Director and Executive Director of the Foundation, and Stated Clerk Mike Glodo participated as well. This work group spent a considerable amount of time reviewing each By-law, Article and Section. Careful consideration was given to both present and future concerns.



Del Wensley, Director

Purpose of the Foundation

The purpose of the EPC Foundation is to support the vision and effectiveness of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and its family of Christ-centered churches by providing comprehensive solutions that integrates estate planning, financial services, planned giving, and stewardship education.

The concept of the EPC Foundation has been discussed for over a decade in the Committee on Administration and in long-range strategic planning committees. We are grateful for the leadership and collaboration from many individuals who have spent a considerable amount of time getting us to the point we are now at. It is at this crucial time in our EPC history, especially during this 25th anniversary year, that we look to the Lord to bless the fruit of our labor. Our prayer is for the Lord to continue to work in the hearts of generous givers all across the denomination and that our family of Christ-centered churches will be blessed with all the financial resources that they need for effective ministry in their communities.

The EPC Foundation will assist and partner with local churches and Presbyteries to develop stewardship education and planned giving programs. By utilizing the services of the Foundation, churches and Presbyteries can be proactive in raising the financial resources that are necessary for long-range ministry goals, along with current ministry needs.



Foundation Work Group

The work group that met on March 24-25, 2006, identified four key priorities:

- Promotion and communication of Foundation services for local churches and individuals.
- Identifying congregational, presbytery and assembly strategic ministry objectives in need of funding EPC
- Raising financial resources for the identified strategic ministry objectives of the EPC
- Developing programs and services for serving individuals, congregations, presbyteries and the General Assembly

I. Promotion & Communication:

A. Begin to coordinate the Foundation “Advisory” Board:

This advisory board would include EPC members throughout the U.S. who are experienced in law, finance, business, etc. who can act in a volunteer capacity to train local church lay leadership about stewardship and the EPC Foundation, as well as assist the Foundation with technical advice.

B. Develop publicity both in print and on the web:

It is vital to develop newsletters, donor appeal letters, articles, testimonials, bulletin inserts, PowerPoint slide projects, pod casts, and website information. The Foundation & Stewardship website can have a complete menu of services and resources that will have downloadable forms, applications and brochures.

II. Discerning the financial needs of the EPC:

- A. Begin to develop a pastoral reference board: It is important to learn about the real financial needs of the local church and the assistance that they need to accomplish their plans.
- B. Work with EPC directors, committees, and other Presbytery personnel: Collaborate with others to determine ministry resources, grant projects and other financial needs.

III. Raising the financial resources for the EPC:

- A. Focus on effective Presbytery-led Church planting and development campaigns
- B. Integrate donor interests and recommendations with local Church ministry needs and projects

IV. Developing Foundation & Stewardship Services:

- A. Establishing guidelines regarding complex gifts such as real estate, etc.
- B. Balancing the needs for current gifts vs. planned gifts, including bequests.
- C. Determining the types of services, such as Charitable Gift Annuities, Charitable Trusts, Donor-Advised funds, “field of interest” funds, and endowments.
- D. Establishing “Local Church Foundations.”

Vision 21 Benevolence Askings

I appreciate all who have supported the strategic plans and implementation of Vision 21. Through the Stewardship Director's initial work, the establishment of the EPC Foundation is complete; the Board of Directors has been nominated; and plans are made to begin raising the financial resources necessary for the accomplishment of Vision 21. I am anticipating continued blessings upon the work of the Foundation. Therefore, I ask that you make plans to participate and partner with the newly-formed foundation and with me as Stewardship Director in this critical phase of implementing the EPC's long-range strategic plans. We hope you will agree that the EPC Foundation is a worthy, strategic investment for tremendous future benefits for those God has called us to serve in the U.S. and around the world.

Stewardship Director Travel

I attended the Presbytery of the West (Feb. 17-18) and the Southeast Presbytery (May 5-6). Besides attending General Assembly, I will continue to visit other churches and Presbyteries throughout the coming year.

The EPC Foundation, Inc.

The Nominating Committee will nominate a list of individuals to serve on the initial Foundation Board of Directors. These members will serve for various terms. The Chairman of the Board will be nominated by the Moderator of the General Assembly. The Stewardship Director will become the Executive Director of the EPC Foundation. Del's job duties and responsibilities will remain the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Del Wensley

Director of Stewardship, Office of the General Assembly
Executive Director, The EPC Foundation

REPORT OF THE STUDENT MINISTRIES COMMITTEE



*George Boomer,
Chairman*



*Marc Santom, Student
Ministries Director*

Work of the Committee

I. Overview

In a culture that many consider to be both postmodern and post-Christian, our youth workers face a daunting task to say the least. Over this past year, we have had heart-to-hearts with many of our youth workers about the challenges they've been facing: losing graduating seniors to the snare of university relativism, being pressured to take on the nurturing and discipling roles abdicated by parents, trying to meet felt needs while simultaneously awakening students to deeper theological understanding, and competing with the demands of education, extra-curricular activities, jobs, materialism and unhealthy relationships on their students—just to name a few. And many of these front line, battle-wearied warriors are meeting such challenges head-on while trying to keep harmony with their own spouses and children, pursuing seminary degrees, balancing their tight budgets and, above all, keeping a vibrant faith relationship with Christ nurtured.

It is in this context that EPC Student Ministries endeavors to be there for our junior and senior high students by being there for our youth workers. We hope that we will not be their biggest cheerleaders; that's the church's privilege. But we're content to do all that we can to: 1) inspire them to do ministry with passion, excellence and joy, 2) connect them to other youth workers in their presbytery and across the EPC, and 3) empower those in need of support, counsel, training and resources so that they can see their ministerial visions come to pass.

Even though I've enjoyed the delights and challenges of these past two or three years of transition, recalibrating and re-evaluation in Student Ministries, I must admit that I'm more than eager to head full steam down the road that's clearly before us. And I will be mindful to enjoy the clarity of this road while it lasts, because in the youth ministry industry, change and transition can infiltrate when you least expect it. Knowing that I'm standing shoulder to shoulder with the Student Ministries Committee in our essential purposes and core values makes our journey together one with stable footing. And because of the youth ministries that depend upon us to be purposeful and stable, we are constantly reminded that we are here for them—they are not here for us.

II. New Name & Logo

This new Assembly year, *Student & Young Adult Ministries* (SYAM) will now be known as *EPC Student Ministries*. This name change was precipitated by the formation of the new EPC College Ministries Committee. Since this Committee now is tasked to address the ministry needs of college and college-age students, it would be misleading for SYAM to keep its name. Consequently, the logo had to be changed:



III. Committee Member Update

The Fall 2006 Student Ministries Committee will mark the first meeting of the new General Assembly year. The following are the six committee members:

- A. **George Boomer:** TE, Knox Presbyterian Church (Harrison Twp, MI)
- B. **Brandon Bates:** TE, Lakeside Presbyterian Church (Brandon, MS)
- C. **Sonny Flowers:** RE, River Oaks Community Church (Lewisville, NC)
- D. **Tom Ghena:** RE, Grace Chapel (Farmington Hills, MI)
- E. **Corey Gray:** TE, Fourth Presbyterian Church (Bethesda, MD)
- F. **Mike Bonser:** Student Ministries Director, Faith Presbyterian Church (Aurora, CO)

IV. Summer Missions Preview

As of 5/17/06, we had 508 participants from 26 EPC churches registered for our 7 mission trip weeks. Below is brief commentary on each trip's development.

- A. **Appalachian Impact:** Having left the EPC to fill an OPC pulpit in Idaho, EPC Student Ministries was in real need of someone to do the preliminary planning and legwork, as well as provide strong leadership during the two mission weeks. Last year, that need was filled in the person of Sonny Flowers (youth director and ruling elder from River Oaks Community Church). Many students and leaders responded that last year's two weeks were some of the best and most well organized Kentucky trips they've ever been on. As of now, we have 9 churches made up of 177 participants planning to attend—not to mention two other EPC churches who will come later in the summer to do work of their own (River Oaks and North Park).
- B. **Tunica Impact:** This will be the fourth year that we have partnered with Paul Husband and Tunica Community Ministries for summer missionary endeavors. As of now, three EPC churches made up of 42 participants are planning to journey to Tunica, Mississippi to help cross racial lines with the Gospel in action (via home repair, VBS, orphanage & prison ministry)
- C. **Baltimore Blitz:** Because of last year's trailblazing efforts of Corey Gray (Fourth Presbyterian) and the offer of partnership from Habitat for Humanity, EPC Student Ministries is again offering Blitz for churches this summer. In addition to senior high students from Fourth, two other EPC churches comprised of 55 additional participants will trek up to Baltimore's Sandtown district to help Habitat in their community renaissance endeavors.
- D. **Mission Mexico:** From July 1 - 7, one EPC church will partner with Student Ministries and Adventures In Missions (AIM) for our fourth annual AIM trip to Mexico. Last year, overall reports were very favorable from the leaders of our four churches. Student Ministries is already investigation other sending organizations and churches through which to send future teams to Mexico.

As of now, we have plans to send EPC senior high groups to Reynosa next summer through Son Servants (the mission arm of Presbyterians for Renewal).

- E. **Project Katrina:** It came as no surprise that this trip filled up very quickly and needed a waiting list to accommodate other churches. We had room for 6 church teams of 15 participants over two separate weeks. Not only have those spots been filled to capacity, but (thanks to the legwork of former Student Ministries Committee Chair, Brian Land) an additional 120 participants will be making their way to serve in New Orleans as they stay in a nearby state park. There are still a lot of questions to be answered and details to be sorted out as we prepare for these two weeks of service in July alongside Faith Presbyterian Church (Covington) and Trinity Christian Community. Corporately, we anticipate joining the rebuilding process with a \$40,000 budget over the two weeks of service.

V. **Presbytery Connector Network**

Of the 8 Presbyteries in the EPC, 7 of them now have Presbytery Connectors. As we work on getting one more, we'll get rolling in implementing this network for the mutual benefit of EPC Student Ministries and the churches. Through this network, we can more effectively build a network of relationships. Once relationships are established and strengthened, we hope to see our student ministries being able to partner together in ministry endeavors, communicate more freely year round and be able to more quickly address needs and welcome new youth workers into the denomination. Below is the list of our current Connectors:

<p>➤ Presbytery of Central South Christy Tayloe Hope Church San Antonio, TX ctayloe@hopeisreal.org</p>	<p>➤ Presbytery of the East Justin Sembler Faith Presbyterian Church Kingstowne, VA jsembler@verizon.net</p>
<p>➤ Presbytery of Florida Freddie Albaugh EPC of Plant City Plant City, FL kfalbaugh@yahoo.com</p>	<p>➤ Presbytery of Mid-America Jay Westra Central Presbyterian Church St. Louis, MO JWestra@centralpres.com</p>

<p>➤ Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic James Sinsel Trinity Presbyterian Church Florence, SC jsinseltpc@aol.com</p>	<p>➤ Presbytery of the Southeast Austin Prater Brainerd Presbyterian Church Chattanooga, TN AUSTINBPC@comcast.net</p>
<p>➤ Presbytery of the West Mike Bonser Faith Presbyterian Church Aurora, CO mbonser@faithpc.org</p>	

VI. Committee's Decision on Future Youth Conferences

With this being the second summer that Student Ministries has not offered a summer conference for senior high students, the Committee is still deliberating on how to proceed in the near future. While it's the consensus of the Committee that we are currently not in the position to spearhead a new conference endeavor, we are looking at the possibility of partnering with other conferences which are run largely by men and women who hold a Reformed witness of faith—namely *Fun In The Son* and the *RYM Conference*.

The Committee hopes to have a clearer sense of what (if any) partnership we should enter into with Youth Conference Ministries (formerly Presbyterians For Renewal) and/or RYM (Reformed Youth Movement) by our October, 2006 Committee Meeting. As of now, at least 8 EPC churches are planning on attending one of these two conferences. Marc Santom will be doing a seminar at the *Fun In The Son* conference in Jekyll Island, GA this summer. We will survey both EPC youth workers and students to see what they're thoughts were on each conference. All of this feedback will be key in contributing to our Committee's decision at our October meeting in Livonia.

VII. EPC Youth Worker Oasis

This year's Youth Worker Oasis is slated for Oct. 22-25 at a Country Inn & Suites near Orlando. Even though the church is an hour away, EPC of Plant City has graciously agreed to sponsor the event through financial contributions and the pastoral presence of Don Mason and Freddie Albaugh. Our plans to bring in EPC ordained speaker, Rich Van Pelt, fell through at the last minute. Therefore, we are contracting with RTS faculty members to come and speak to our youth workers—namely, Jim Coffield, Mark Futato and Mike Glodo. Our future Oasis sites potentially include St. Louis, MO and Denver, CO.

VIII. Student Ministries & Vision 21

- A. Student Ministries has taken a keen interest in assisting in Vision 21's goal of *Congregational Development*: "to provide resources and services to the presbyteries and churches, to offer encouragement, training, and other helps, in conjunction with the presbyteries, that the whole church may be effective in its total ministry." We are taking steps toward this goal by offering youth ministry training at the presbytery level, offering free books and other

student ministry resources to churches and presbyteries (which also helps fulfill the *Organizational Development* Goal), as well as through our effectively-functioning Presbytery Coordinator Network—which helps us offer training, resources and encouragement along well developed lines of relationships.

- B. In consideration of the Family Development’s Goal to “...encourage those congregations blessed with abundant resources to reach out to those congregations whose needs are great (1 Timothy 5:8),” we hope that our Presbytery Coordinator Network will be an appropriate and effective avenue by which to help match needy youth ministries with stronger ones within the same Presbytery. And, on a Presbytery level, these relationships and networks are more likely to continue before of the proximity of the churches one to another.

RECOMMENDATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

To amend the Student Ministries committee description to allow more flexibility in the nominating process so that the most qualified and available members can be nominated and elected. See proposed changes below.

Committee description as it now appears in the Rules for Assembly (9.1.G)	Proposed changes
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.	1. Membership to be composed of a minimum of two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders in three rotating classes of two each. Two of the remaining positions may be filled with non-ordained EPC youth workers 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.	2. Duties: to be responsible for conferences and mission trips, student ministry resourcing, youth worker equipping, and other youth ministry (middle school and high school) related concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc R. Santom
EPC Student Ministries Director

George Boomer
Student Ministries Chairman

REPORT OF THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Members of the Committee on Theology are TE Mateen Ellass (Mid-America), TE Paul Husband (Central South), TE Jeff Jeremiah, Chairman (West), RE Gordon Miller (Mid-Atlantic), RE Bill Painter (Midwest) and RE Tom Werner (Mid-America). Mike Glodo attends our meetings, and is an active and valuable resource to us. The committee met at the GA offices on October 21-22, 2005, and via telephone conference call on February 23, 2006.



*Jeffrey Jeremiah,
Chairman*

Work of the Committee

The following is a summary of the committee's work in 2005-2006.

1. **Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse.** The committee was asked by the 25th General Assembly to address the issue of domestic abuse as follows:

[That Overture 05-F] be referred to the permanent Theology Committee "to publish a Position Paper on Domestic Violence and the Church's Response. This paper shall include biblical guidelines on how our churches may provide resources and intervention for families suffering from domestic violence including steps the Session can take to stop the abuse and to hold the abuser accountable in an effort to save the marriage or the spouse. In addition to the Position Paper, a separate document of written guidelines shall include advising the Session on how to proceed judicially, if needed, against an unrepentant member for the sin of continued violence against spouse and children.

Committee members spoke of their experience with domestic abuse in the church. After some discussion, the Committee members indicated that a proper response might be a Pastoral Letter to the denomination. Possible subtopics might include the following listed by committee members:

- There is no place for physical abuse in Christian marriage;
- The imperative of church discipline;
- The need of the Session to know local law on abuse;
- The need of the Session to know community resources;
- The need to include women in care teams;
- Common "blind spots" of a church Session;
- Recommendations for the Session, such as asking a qualified mental health professional to address the Session;
- The need for the Session to balance the preservation of the marriage and the safety of the person abused;
- What constitutes abuse? The recognition of mental and emotional abuse;
- The Session's difficulty of recognizing/assessing proof of abuse; A balanced view of both parties; The limits of assessing abuse.
- Abuse as grounds for divorce;
- Marriage paper and "one-flesh" principle.

The committee drafted a Pastoral Letter at its October 21-22 meeting which was revised and approved at its February 23 meeting. That proposed pastoral letter is contained in Attachment A of this report.

2. **Response to Overture #05-E.** In referring Overture #05-E, the 25th General Assembly asked our committee to:

- a. Review the theology pertaining to, and the practice of, that view of the doctrine of the Covenant known as *paedocommunion*, that would admit all Covenant children to the Lord's Table either by a very limited profession of faith or by no profession of faith, but simply on the basis of God's Covenant promises ratified through baptism, and
- b. Offer a pastoral recommendation to the presbyteries regarding the acceptability of this theology and practice as being either being permissible or an impermissible exception to the Confession, Catechisms and Book of Order of this Church.

The committee engaged in an extensive discussion of this issue, and drafted a response at its October 21-22 meeting which was approved at its February 23 meeting. That response is contained in Attachment B to this report. The "Pastoral Letter on Children and the Lord's Supper" as adopted by the 13th General Assembly (1993) and referred to in the response is contained in Attachment C to this report.

3. **Officer Training Manual.** Our committee met jointly with the Christian Education and Publications Committee to discuss the Officer Training Manual. The committees were asked by the General Assembly to (1) make the two chapters on church history one chapter, and (2) to review the wisdom of including the topic of "Christian Hedonism" as Chapter 11. Tom Werner (Theology) and Brad Strait (CE & Publications) drafted a single chapter of church history. The Committees also agreed that the material on "The Purpose for which God Created the World" (Chapter 11) should be included in the manual, but the Christian Education Committee will review and edit and decide how the material should be used

4. **2006 General Assembly** - Jeff Jeremiah and Bill Painter will serve as committee representatives at the 2006 General Assembly.

5. **2006–2007 Chair.** The committee elected Jeff Jeremiah as chairman of the committee for 2006-2007.

Recommendations to the General Assembly

1. The Committee on Theology recommends the General Assembly adopt the proposed "Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse" (**Attachment A**).
2. The Committee on Theology recommends the General Assembly adopt its response to Overture #05-E (**Attachment B**).

ATTACHMENT A

A PASTORAL LETTER ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

There is no place for physical abuse in a Christian home. However, the disturbing reality is that abuse is a problem, which can be found in the homes of families claiming the name of Christ.

The EPC has previously adopted a Position Paper on the sanctity of marriage in which our denomination discussed the nature and character of marriage as a sworn fidelity, a solemn covenant between a man and a woman before God. At the center of this covenant is a principle that in marriage a man and a woman become one flesh (Genesis 2:24; cf. Matthew 19:5; I Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 5:28-29). Physical abuse violates this principle.¹

The husband more often commits physical abuse than the wife.² There is a particular danger of physical abuse in a traditional male-dominated marriage.³ Therefore, the men in our congregations need to be especially sensitive to what it means for a man to love his wife as Christ loved the church. (Ephesians 5:25-27)

Abuse, however, is not limited to physical violence. Verbal, sexual, psychological, emotional or mental abuse is also a violation of the one-flesh principle of marriage.⁴ However these patterns can be complex and ambiguous in their expressions. Sessions must be very careful in their fact-finding and assessment of the presence of these forms of abuse. They should be aware of the possibility of manipulation by one or both parties.

The church as a whole, and the Session as the leadership of the local church, has a responsibility to address the issue of domestic abuse proactively. For too long the evangelical community has acted as if the issue of domestic abuse does not exist in Christian homes.

As the body of Christ, our churches should foster and encourage an environment of openness, honesty and sensitivity in which church members are able to raise significant life struggles with one another, and to seek help, safety and healing. In such an environment, sin such as domestic abuse is confronted and repented of, and biblical forgiveness, restoration and reconciliation are pursued.

Therefore, Sessions should:

Ensure that the biblical model of marriage is taught, promoted and celebrated in the church;

- Teach healthy means of conflict resolution in marriage and family relationships;
- Ask itself whether it would be perceived as a safe place for victims of abuse to seek assistance;
- Educate itself on the issues, patterns and evidences of domestic abuse. It is strongly suggested that a local qualified mental health professional address the elders on this issue;

- Ensure that victims of abuse are heard and respected. In the case of women victims, other women in the church should be part of the support system;
- Intervene in domestic abuse situations, balancing the need for biblical reconciliation and the preservation of the marriage with physical safety and protection;
- Pursue the goal of repentance and restoration and, where appropriate, formal church discipline;
- Know and call on local resources, agencies and mental health professionals who treat perpetrators and victims of domestic abuse;
- Be familiar with local and state laws concerning domestic violence. Reporting to law enforcement agencies may be appropriate, or even required in some instances, such as those involving children.

The failure of the church to address known cases of domestic abuse, and to protect its members, brings dishonor on Christ and His bride, the church. Confronting abuse may be difficult and time-consuming, and may be viewed as a distraction from other important matters. However, one of the four marks of a true church is the exercise of Scriptural discipline.⁵ Our willingness to deal with this issue demonstrates our membership in the true church of Jesus Christ.

¹ “Position Paper on the Sanctity of Marriage.”

² *Harvard Medical Review*, April 2004, which states that 9 of 10 cases of domestic abuse are perpetrated by men on women.

³ One important study found that “less than three percent of wives in egalitarian marriages had been beaten by their husbands in the previous year. In traditional marriages where the husband was dominant, 10.7% of wives had been beaten – a rate of violence more than 300% higher than for egalitarian marriages.” Diana R. Garland, *Family Ministry*, (Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity, 1999), 201. Another study that included over 20,000 married couples produced similar results. Spousal abuse by the husband was 400% higher in traditional marriages. “National Survey on Marital Strength: Executive Summary,” at www.lifeinnovations.com.

⁴ “Position Paper on the Sanctity of Marriage.”

⁵ *Book of Government* 1-5.

ATTACHMENT B

Referred to the permanent Committee on Theology:

That **Overture #05-E** from the Central South Presbytery be adopted and that the General Assembly refer it to the permanent Committee on Theology, asking it to:

- a. Review the theology pertaining to, and the practice of, that view of the doctrine of the Covenant known as paedocommunion that would admit all Covenant children to the Lord's table either by a very limited profession of faith or by no profession of faith, but simply on the basis of God's Covenant promises ratified through baptism; and
- b. Offer a pastoral recommendation to the presbyteries regarding the acceptability of this theology and practice as being either a permissible or an impermissible exception to the Confession, Catechisms, and Book of Order of this Church.

Response of the Committee on Theology:

In reference to item a, the Committee on Theology does not believe a review of the theology and practice of paedocommunion is necessary at this time.

The Committee commends to the General Assembly the "Pastoral Letter on Children and the Lord's Supper" which "sets forth theologically the biblical principles which should be applied to the questions we face as Christians and churches in evaluating and responding to the issue of children and the Lord's Supper." This Pastoral Letter was adopted by the 13th General Assembly in 1993.

In reference to item b, we do not think it prudent to make the requested recommendation to the General Assembly.

The permanent Committee on Theology has affirmed "the exclusive role of each individual presbytery in examining and evaluating candidates for ordination and church office (including their theological competence). The intent of this action is to support the goals of Presbyterian unity and diversity that are fundamental to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church." (17th General Assembly Minutes, p. 35)

We recognize that this right of the presbytery is qualified by such long-held practices such as the standardized written examinations and extraordinary candidate process delineated in the *Procedure Manual*, as well as the right of complaint and appeal granted by the *Book of Discipline*. However, it is the position of the permanent Committee on Theology that in the matter of paedocommunion the Assembly confirm this right of the presbyteries in determining what is a permissible or impermissible exception to the Confession, Catechisms and *Book of Order* of the church.

ATTACHMENT C

Pastoral Letter on Children and the Lord's Supper

As adopted by the 13th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

This pastoral letter sets forth theologically the biblical principles which should be applied to the questions we face as Christians and churches in evaluating and responding to the issue of children and the Lord's supper.

A pastoral letter is intended to shine the light of God's word broadly on a general area of concern to the Church. Requiring the approval of only one General Assembly, it is not as definitive as a Position Paper, which requires the approval of two General Assemblies (including a minimum of one year circulation among the presbyteries). The primary purpose of a pastoral letter is to guide churches within the EPC rather than to identify our positions to the world. (Act of Assembly 97-13)

The Committee on Theology issued this pastoral letter to the 13th 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 and 29, the Westminster Shorter Catechism, questions 96 and 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 12th 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 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.

REPORT OF THE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

Work of the Committee

Throughout this year, the Women's Ministries Committee and the Interim Director of



*Jeane Mobley,
Chairman*

Women's Ministries focused on clarifying the vision, purpose and direction necessary for EPC Women's Ministries to do its part in responding faithfully to God's call to the EPC.

Substantial effort has been directed toward determining the possible scope and focus of a full-time Director of Women's Ministries. In addition, the Committee and Interim Director worked to create a framework for a women's ministries leadership training initiative that would be implemented



*Jacky Gatliff, Interim
Director*

within each presbytery.

Members of the Women's Ministries Committee are Jeane Mobley (Chairman), Libby Cooper, Marge Davis, Sammie McWhirter, Annette Philips and Debbie Smith.

Proposal for Full-Time Director of Women's Ministries

At its April 6-7 meeting, the Committee on Administration voted to recommend to the General Assembly the proposal for a full-time Director of Women's Ministries with slight modifications. That proposal is included in the Committee on Administration report as Attachment E.

Faith Focus 2005-2006

Urban Faith Focus

The Urban Faith Focus project raised \$24,243.86 which was distributed to two urban ministries to support part-time youth ministry positions for one year. The recipients of the funds were Hope Fellowship, Nashville, Tennessee and Military Avenue EPC, Detroit, Michigan.

Women's Ministries is sponsoring two week-long urban plunge projects to allow EPC women to experience and learn about urban ministry at two different sites. The Houston Urban Plunge took place April 1-7, 2006 with Pastor Rufus Smith and the City of Refuge EPC. The week focused on serving and learning about urban ministries through COR and other ministries in the community. The women participating experienced and participated in opportunities to develop ministry skills, particularly knowing how to assess urban ministry needs and resources required to meet them.

The Pittsburgh Urban Plunge week will take place July 31-August 6, 2006, with Dr. Rodger Woodworth and Hope EPC. With the same intention and purpose, women

will be able to gain understanding of the theological and biblical framework for urban ministry. Hands-on opportunities in urban ministry within the neighborhood surrounding New Hope will provide the women with valuable experience that can be translated into use in their local church settings.

Faith Focus 2006 – 2008: *Caring Abundantly for EPC Missionary Women*

For the **Faith Focus 2006-2007** project, EPC Women's Ministries will join with EPC World Outreach to provide unique support and care for missionary women who are serving through the EPC. Funds given to this project will make it possible for our women to attend a four-day retreat designed especially for them in a location accessible to each of the EPC missionary women. This unique retreat will be a collaborative effort with "Women of the Harvest," a ministry dedicated to serving and encouraging women in cross-cultural service.

This "Women of the Harvest" Retreat, to be held in early 2008, will enable our missionary women to step away from the stressors of their lives to be pampered and to develop friendships with other women in their parts of the world. A dozen women from home EPC churches will be needed to volunteer as conference support staff. Following the retreat, our women will have the benefit of two additional days spent together with EPC women where they will receive additional support in such areas as counseling, financial planning services and resources to support the unique educational needs of missionary children.

***The Well* Newsletter**

A resource created for Women's Ministries leaders, *The Well: Women Equipping, Leading and Loving*, was first published in February, 2006. To be published three times annually, each issue of *The Well* will focus on a theme that will be reflected in each of the articles. Women's Ministries leaders from across the EPC have contributed to its content. *The Well* is available on the Women's Ministries website: <http://www.epc.org/ministries/womens-ministry/index.html>

In addition, print copies are forwarded to designated ministry leaders in each church.

10th EPC National Women's Conference

The 10th EPC National Women's Conference will tentatively take place in Southern California in the spring of 2008. Women's Ministries leaders from the Presbytery of the West have expressed a desire and willingness to provide support and leadership in implementing the details of the conference. The process is underway to select a speaker for the conference. The name of the speaker will be submitted to the Committee on Administration for approval in November, 2006.

General Assembly 2006

The schedule of programs and speakers for the Women's Ministries General Assembly program were chosen with the intention of equipping women in leadership skills to be used in their local church settings, to learn about the Women's Ministries initiatives being developed and implemented through the office of EPC Women's Ministries, and to encourage women in their desire to know the Father, Son and Holy Spirit more fully in their personal lives. The following events are scheduled for the General Assembly Women's Ministries schedule:

- **“Covering the Homeless” Ministry Project**
EPC Women serving together as we support the Women’s Ministries of First Presbyterian of Rome in making no-sew fleece blankets for a local shelter.
- **Pastors’ Wives and Missionary Wives Luncheon**
“At His Throne” with Nancy Holland, Valleybrook EPC, Hixson, TN
Six women, from varied walks of life, find themselves suddenly at the feet of Jesus. If this was your story what would you do? Would you hide? Would you be filled with regret? Would you sing to the Lord? Jesus often encouraged His disciples, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
- **Women’s Ministries Leaders/Directors Dinner**
Women’s Ministries director/volunteer leaders are invited to join the Interim Director of Women’s Ministries and the Women’s Ministries Committee for dinner and conversation regarding the future and direction of EPC Women’s Ministries.
- **Women’s Ministries Luncheon**
Speaker: Michele Rickett, *Sisters in Service*, President and CEO
In 1996, Sisters in Service began empowering indigenous Christian women to light their worlds for Christ. Today, SIS consists of 20 chapters across the United States, hundreds of advocates-at-large, and other advocacy groups formed in women’s Bible studies or women’s departments of churches. They network abroad with indigenous projects, bringing resources to realize the ministry dreams of oppressed Christian women around the world.
- **Women’s Ministries Compassion Fair**
Women’s Ministries are invited to showcase their experiences in projects and ministries of outreach and compassion that they provide in their local churches, communities and the world. The opportunity to provide resources to other women’s ministries who are seeking new ideas and opportunities for ministry will allow women to leave General Assembly envisioning new possibilities to be a part of God’s work in the world.

Recommendations to the General Assembly:

None (see Committee on Administration recommendation regarding proposal for full-time Women’s Ministries Director).

Respectfully submitted,

Jeane Mobley
Chairman

Jacky Gatliff
Interim Women’s Ministries Director

REPORT OF THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE



*Jeff Chadwick (and friend)
Director*



Bern Draper, Chairman

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE:

1. Meetings and Membership of Committee

The World Outreach met in three stated meetings since the last General Assembly: September 15-17, 2005; January 19-21, 2006; and March 16-18, 2006. The members of the committee are TE Bruce Anderson, RE Mike Aoun, TE Thom Burbridge, RE Bern Draper (Chairman), RE Ted Galyon, RE Howard Hjelm, TE Gene Huntzinger, RE Bob Kuseski, and RE Jim Thomason, along with Stated Clerk Michael Glodo and General Assembly Moderator Bill Meyer.

2. 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

Field of Service

Dave and Wendy
Anthis, Joel and Cindy
Rob and Iris
Bain, Jeff
Barany, Dick and Linda
*John and Barbara
Brake, Jeff
*Branch, Paul and Elizabeth
*Dan and Catherine
Christie, Laurie
Clark, Dan and Jan
Cole, Allison
(This is a pseudonym used for security purposes.)
Fain, John and Dawn
Gibson, Chris and Debbie
Randy and Martha
*Robert and Joyce

Kazakhstan
Nigeria
Central Asia
Russia
Currently on leave of absence
SE Asia
Russia
Argentina
Kazakhstan
England – Muslims
US based/International
Arab Gulf
SE Asia
Hungary
SE Asia
Middle East

*Bill and Janie	Central Asia
*Travis and Stephanie	East Asia
Holt, Brian and Ginny	Ethiopia
*Jeff and Lynne	SE Asia
Stephen and Belinda	England/Muslim World
Matt and Michelle	South Asia
Lance and Lisa	Middle East
Levy, Missy	England/Muslim World
Livingstone, Greg and Sarah (Sally)	England/Muslim World
McCaskill, Austin and Beverly	Albania
*McCurry, John and Carlene	US based/Muslim World
McKelvey, Sean and Angie	US based/Muslim World
*Jeff and Nancy	SE Asia
*Meeks, Gina	US (Currently on leave of absence.)
*Meyer, Ross and Sandy	US (Currently on leave of absence.)
Tim and Karen	Central Asia
Tim and Kim	Central Asia
Tim	Middle East
Nykamp, Jon and Kristi	Ethiopia
*Scott, Laura	Hungary
Ryan and Kelly	Arab Gulf
Sparling, Bud and Carol	US based/International
April	East Asia
*Thrash, Phil and Diane	Germany
Walker, Dave and Deb	Singapore
Brandon and Liz	Middle East
*Allen and Pat	Kazakhstan
The Youngs	South Asia

**Indicates a worker working directly under World Outreach*

Included in the list above are the following new missionaries, appointed since the 25th General Assembly:

- April (Westminster, Bluefield, WV) – East Asia
- Laura Scott (Cedar Springs EPC, Knoxville, TN) – Hungary
- Robert and Joyce (Presbytery of the Central South) – Middle East

Offsetting this gain of three missionary units in our EPC family is the loss of one of our missionary families, Chuck and Kim Creech, who have had a change in their ministry over the past year and are no longer serving as missionaries under World Outreach:

With these changes over the past assembly year, the current World Outreach family of workers includes 79 adults and 74 children (college age or younger), serving or living in more than 20 different nations.

3. The World Outreach Vision:

From its inception, the goal of World Outreach has been church planting, with a particular (though not exclusive) emphasis on unreached Muslim people groups. The Values and Commitments section of the Master Plan describes our particular philosophy of church planting as one that begins with evangelism and which comes full cycle when those new believers are gathered together as the church, national leadership has been trained and the new church has sent out its own church planters among their own people, or cross-cultural missionaries to other peoples among whom the church has not yet been established. Yet even that is not the end goal. The end goal is that God would stir up a church planting movement through which this cycle is replicated over and over and over again among a particular people group, and cross-culturally in other people groups through the growth of and commitment to a missions vision.

A. Implementing the Vision: Master Plan

The General Assembly's Master Plan for World Outreach is the road map for the work of World Outreach. In that document the General Assembly affirms its intended destination (the vision and mission), and defines the specific route (priorities and major focus areas) it believes God has called us to take to get there. Approximately every third year, World Outreach submits proposed Master Plan revisions to the General Assembly, reflecting the progress (or lack of it) in those goals and objectives, and any changes in emphases, priority or direction to which the World Outreach Committee believes the Lord is calling the EPC in the area of world missions. In other words, the periodic revisions to the Master Plan submitted to the GA give the church gathered a chance to reaffirm its destination, and to define any changes that seem to be wise in the route we will take to get there.

At this 26th GA, the World Outreach Committee presents proposed Master Plan revisions to the General Assembly which:

- 1) Continues to define our priority as church planting among unreached peoples, with a primary, though not exclusive, focus on Muslim peoples, and which refines our vision and mission/strategic planning statements to more clearly communicate those emphases.
- 2) Weaves the “full-cycle church planting” philosophy (*see item B below*) throughout the entire plan to more clearly unify our message and communicate the missions focus and strategy to which we believe we have been called and which has been affirmed as our charge by the General Assembly.
- 3) Identifies Azerbaijan and Lebanon as two of the three new WO Muslim world fields that the current Master Plan sets as a goal by 2008, and calls us to aggressively pursue new opportunities in strategic Muslim areas for which we will recruit and send new WO church planting teams.
- 4) Calls us to continue to send missionaries to serve in cooperative agreement with other mission agencies in key places and ministries which the WO Master Plan has identified as strategic missions opportunities for the EPC (which may or may

not be within the Muslim world), and which allow us to maximize our resources and network effectively with our partners.

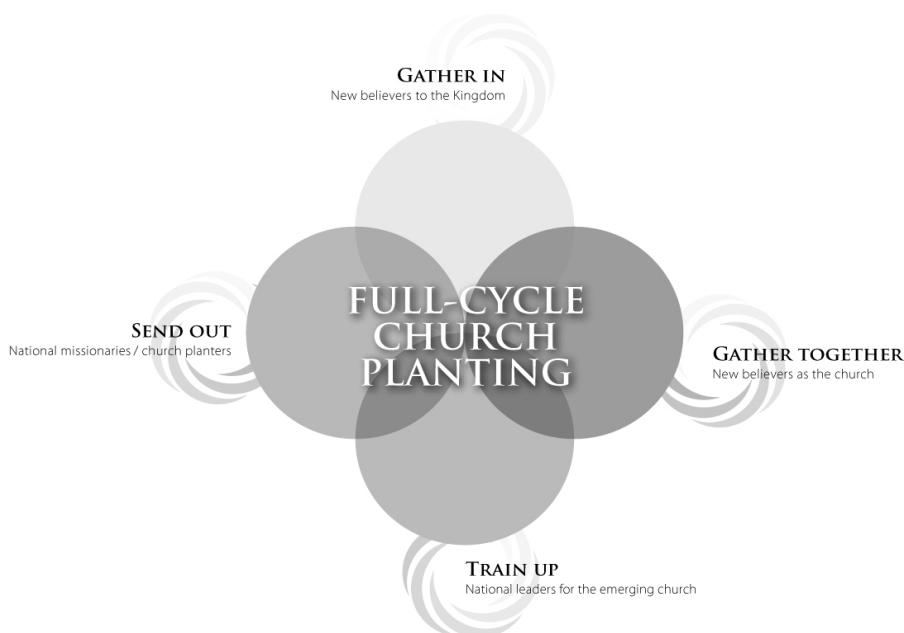
- 5) More clearly defines theological education of national church leaders/pastors as one of our strategic initiatives for which we will actively seek WO missionaries, most likely sent in cooperative agreement with other like-minded mission agencies or institutions.
- 6) Identifies church planting work in Europe among post-moderns/emergent generations as a new area of emphasis, while continuing our emphasis on church planting among Muslim immigrant groups in Europe.

B. Communicating the Vision:

The World Outreach Committee has identified communication of our destination (vision), and our proposed route to get there (priorities and opportunities for service), as one of the key areas of emphasis at this time. We are seeking to identify ways to more clearly and powerfully communicate to the “person in the pew” throughout the denomination, as well as to the larger mission community itself. Though the plans for that are still in the earliest stages, some things that are coming to the forefront are:

1. Full-Cycle Church Planting Model:

In our effort to communicate this vision to the EPC family of churches, and to mobilize the people of the EPC to adopt and accomplish this vision, World Outreach has begun to speak of this particular model of church planting as ***full-cycle church planting*** and to depict this model as shown below:



2. Church and presbytery visits:

WO Director, Jeff Chadwick, and WO Coordinator of Muslim Ministries, John McCurry, have sought, and continue to seek, increased opportunities to meet with missions committees, speak at churches and presbyteries, and meet one-on-one with church and presbytery missions leadership to listen to their mission needs and priorities and to share with them the vision and goals of WO. The input from the church and presbytery leaders played a large part in shaping the proposed Master Plan revisions, and we have seen an encouraging openness among many of the churches to an increased participation in and commitment to the ministry of World Outreach.

3. Publicity material/ Broader presence in missions gatherings and publications:

In 2006 the committee will invest in the production of new materials that will clearly and effectively communicate the WO vision and opportunities for service with WO to EPC members and leaders, including materials that are specifically designed to be distributed at Urbana. In addition to presenting the vision to our own members, we are also participating more intentionally in multi-agency missions gatherings outside the EPC. We are developing ways, including strategic advertising in missions publications, to make our goals, distinctives and opportunities for service more well-known in the broader missions world. This is where many of our own members receive most of their information about missions organizations, mission strategies, and missions opportunities so we believe we need to be much more visible in this arena.

4. WO Missions Internships and Shorter-Term Service:

World Outreach has traditionally sent missionaries as either short-term (two years) workers, or long term/career (four years with an expectation to recommit for at least another four years). This has served us well in a number of areas, but has increasingly shown itself to be an incomplete model for missionary service in our time. More and more we are seeing the need to be able to send workers to serve for shorter terms.

In response to that need, the Committee on Administration approved our proposal to redefine our short-term assignments as those lasting two years *or less*. Though open to all, these short-term assignments are targeted primarily at college/post college young people and second career adults. The goals for these assignments will be to serve our career missionaries by providing human resources that are strategic to accomplishing their long-term goals, while also letting these short-term workers see career missions service first-hand as a part of exploring God's long-term call for their lives. Types of service in this category would include teachers, teaching assistants, medical personnel, administrative and clerical assistants, youth and children's outreach workers, nannies, home school helpers, business consultants, guest house operators, field treasurers, evangelistic outreach event workers, etc.

This expanded short-term option is working well for a number of agencies and has been one of the primary entry paths for many of their career missionaries. As these short-term workers are mentored by veteran missionaries and are exposed to a more realistic view of being a missionary than they receive in their typical one to two-week mission trip, and as they take time in strategic seasons of their lives to explore God's

call, many people respond by committing themselves to the challenge and privilege of devoting their lives to missionary service. Or, if they are not called to missionary service they often return to serve in local churches with an expanded worldview and a passion for outreach which blesses the church and impacts the world.

Our experience has shown us that our members are actively seeking out and participating in opportunities such as these through other agencies. Certainly we are thankful for our members to receive the training and experience that these other opportunities provide. However, as these EPC members consider longer-term service the most natural place for them to consider serving is with the same agency that provided their shorter-term experience. As a result, World Outreach loses contact with some of our “best and brightest” in the recruitment process. We also miss out on the privilege of partnering with our churches to shape the missions vision of our own members and to prepare them for fruitful service in their local stateside congregations as world Christians, or for effective long-term missionary service. We believe this revision of our short-term structure will prove to be very effective in mobilizing EPC members to consider the call to missions service or to serve more effectively in their local congregations.

5. Urbana:

Every three years World Outreach participates in Urbana, the largest student missions conference in the world. Close to 20,000 students attend each Urbana and are challenged to be world Christians with a healthy and vibrant missions vision. Many of these students come seeking a place to serve the Lord on the mission field. Often they are seeking the shorter-term avenues of service mentioned above, through which many are then called to longer-term service.

World Outreach is partnering with the College Ministries Committee to mobilize a large number of EPC students to attend Urbana 2006. We are gearing up in a significant way to be prepared with a variety of opportunities for service specifically designed to meet the needs of our EPC college and post-college students and to provide an avenue through which they can explore or fulfill their call to missionary service in partnership with World Outreach.

Dates for Urbana 2006 are December 27-31. We would ask the prayers and efforts of all General Assembly commissioners to get the word out in their presbyteries and churches and to encourage their churches and presbyteries to provide scholarship assistance for students.

6. Missionary Giving

We are grateful to the churches and presbyteries of the EPC for their continued support of our World Outreach missionaries and Benevolence Asking Projects. The total for all missions giving increased in 2005 by 10%, bringing us to a total of \$2,200,099 given for all World Outreach personnel and projects. Though this is a significant increase for which we are very thankful, the bold goals approved by the General Assembly for the development of new teams and the sending of new missionaries with cooperative agencies will require an even stronger “stepping up to the plate” by every member of the EPC family of churches.

The committee would respectfully request that each of our EPC churches prayerfully give a priority position to those members of our World Outreach family who are seeking financial and prayer partnership within their own denominational family. We would also request that each church set a goal of increasing the number of World Outreach missionaries who are a part of their own missions family by at least one unit every year for the next three years. The opportunities that God has opened up for us are exciting, challenging, and strategic ones for the advancement of the Kingdom. We believe that these opportunities, and the missionaries who are being sent out to take hold of them, are worthy of the full support and partnership of our family of churches.

7. Conclusion

By God's grace, the EPC has been used of God to see two national churches emerge to bear witness in Kazakhstan and Argentina to the good news of the Kingdom of God. In his mercy and providence he has laid before us new challenges in Malaysia, Azerbaijan, Lebanon and in many other strategic locations throughout the world where we work in partnership with our cooperative agencies.

As this 25th anniversary year of the founding of the EPC draws to a close, we give thanks for the things that God has chosen to do in and through our family of churches, both at home and around the world. World Outreach is seeing the reality of its goal of ***full-cycle church planting*** being fulfilled because of the partnership that this family of churches shares. Men and women, boys and girls, have bowed their knee before the Savior and have given to him the worship, honor, and obedience that are due him. Covenant families have been established in a variety of cultures throughout the world, where now, by God's mercy and grace, even some Muslim background children will never know a time when they did not know of Christ's love for them. The Gospel of the Kingdom has been preached and embraced, the Church has been established, individual churches have been planted, national leaders have been trained, and national missionaries are being sent.

Yet as we enter the next quarter century, we continue to cry out to God for a renewed and renewing commitment, a fresh and strategic vision...resulting in a radical obedience to the call of Christ, so that we might make a radical impact on, and a radical difference in, the peoples and cultures of the world!

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. That the General Assembly renew our cooperative agreements with Arab World Ministries, OC International, SIM International, and Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Grounds: The World Outreach Manual calls for a periodic review of cooperative agreements. After reviewing these organizations the committee is fully satisfied that each of these organizations continues to meet all required criteria for cooperative agencies and that these agreements are still beneficial to the work of the EPC through World Outreach.

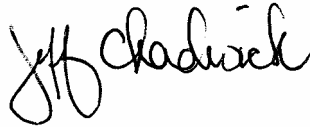
2. That the General Assembly approve the revised World Outreach Master Plan as presented in WO Attachment #1.

Grounds: Approximately every third year, World Outreach submits proposed Master Plan revisions to the General Assembly for approval, reflecting progress that has been made in our focus areas since the last revisions, and any changes in emphases, priority or direction to which the World Outreach Committee believes the Lord is calling the EPC in the area of world missions. The revised plan presented in WO – Attachment #1 is the result of the committee's diligent and prayerful reflection over the past year, in consultation with our missionaries and the missions leaders of our churches and presbyteries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bern Draper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bern Draper
World Outreach Committee Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Chadwick". The signature is cursive, with the first name "Jeff" written in a more compact, stylized manner than the last name "Chadwick".

Jeff Chadwick
World Outreach Director

WORLD OUTREACH MASTER PLAN

Mission Statement

Our global vision is to glorify God through full cycle church planting which firmly establishes the Church of Jesus Christ among the least-reached peoples, with a primary focus on the Muslim world.

Values and Commitments

The foundation of World Outreach is the written Word of God. Building upon that foundation, we commit ourselves to

- Faithful **proclamation** of the Gospel to the nations until the Lord returns,
- Fervent **prayer** for the evangelization of the world, and
- Active **participation** in that glorious task through ministries of Word and deed.

Seeking to be sensitive and responsive to the Holy Spirit's work throughout the world, we pray that God will use us to

- Gather God's people, scattered among the peoples of the earth, into the Church of Jesus Christ.
- Establish and develop indigenous reformed churches which relate to one another in a connectional manner and which relate to their context in a Biblically faithful and culturally compelling way.
- Identify, train, and develop national leadership from and for the indigenous churches.
- Equip and motivate indigenous churches to participate in cross-cultural missions.

Pursuing these goals, we will endeavor to

- Engage the participation of every member of the EPC in fulfilling the goals of our mission.
- Partner with other evangelical churches and organizations to demonstrate the unity of the Body of Christ.
- Administer entrusted resources in an efficient and effective manner with full accountability.
- Provide excellent care for our missionaries, caring for them as family, doing all that we can to ensure their spiritual, physical, and emotional well being as individuals, families, and teams.

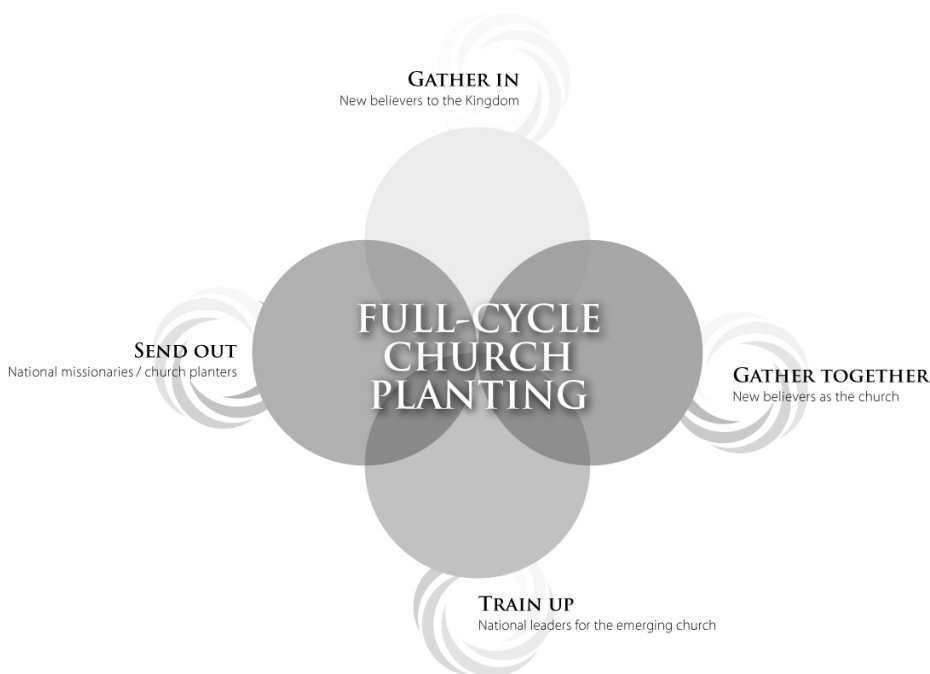
As the missions arm of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, we are also committed to the constitutional documents of our denomination, which are the

Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, the EPC *Book of Order*, and “Essentials of Our Faith.”

WO Vision Statement

World Outreach is the mission mobilizing and sending arm of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Our principle calling is to the work of **full-cycle church planting** among the least-reached peoples, with a primary focus on the Muslim world.

We will also pursue strategic partnerships which advance the full cycle of church planting where the church has already been established but has not yet grown to maturity, and we will pursue ministries which support and equip our missionary church planters and national church leaders, and which mobilize the people and churches of the EPC with a compelling mission vision.



EPC Mission Priorities

I. Muslim World Church Planting

“Our principle calling is to the work of full-cycle church planting among the least-reached peoples, with a primary focus on the Muslim world.”

A. World Outreach Church Planting Teams/Fields

(These are teams sent directly by, reporting directly to, and cared specifically for by World Outreach.)

- Kazakhstan
- Malaysia
- Azerbaijan
- Lebanon
- New Muslim fields to be identified

B. Partner (Cooperative) Agency Church Planting Teams/Missionaries

(These are teams/missionaries sent jointly by World Outreach and a partner (cooperative) mission agency approved by the General Assembly. As such, the partner agency has the front-line responsibility for strategy, oversight, and missionary care. Those responsibilities, however, are carried out in consultation with World Outreach.)

C. Ministry Among Muslims in the United States

II. Strategic Church Planting Ministries/Partnerships

“We will also pursue strategic ministries and partnerships which will advance the full cycle of church planting where the church has already been established but has not yet grown to maturity...”

World Outreach has identified the following nations/geographic areas as providing opportunities for strategic ministries and partnerships in which we have an opportunity to advance the full cycle of church planting:

- Argentina
- East Asia
- Tyumen, Siberia
- Europe (40/70 Window – with a particular focus on church planting among postmoderns/emergent generations)

In addition, World Outreach has identified the following ministries as those that are strategic areas of emphasis for World Outreach across geographic boundaries:

- Overseas International Churches
- North American Ethnic Ministry
- Theological Education for National Church Leaders

III. Missions Mobilization and Personnel Development

“...and we will pursue ministries to support and equip missionary church planters and national church leaders, and to mobilize the people and churches of the EPC with a compelling mission vision.”

A. Mission Personnel Development

(This area of emphasis focuses on training and equipping our missionaries and the national church leaders with whom we partner.)

B. Missions Vision Development

(This area of emphasis focuses on promoting a missions vision within the denomination, and nurturing missions consciousness and excellence in EPC churches and presbyteries, enabling the EPC to truly be a missions church.)

C. Missionary Care

(This area of emphasis focuses on caring excellently for our missionaries, doing all that we can to ensure their spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being as individuals, families and teams.)

PART III
DOCUMENTS

Rules for Assembly

As amended through the 26th 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. Though the Moderator-elect will normally be the presumptive nominee, the Committee on Nominations must make such nomination. The floor shall be opened for additional nominations. There shall be only one nominating speech per nominee not to exceed five minutes for each nominee. No seconding speeches shall be permitted.
- 2-4** The second order of business shall be the election of a Moderator-elect according to the same procedure as the election of Moderator.
- 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. If there is only one nominee, a motion for a voice vote to elect by acclamation shall be in order.
- 2-6** The Moderator and Moderator-elect shall assume their respective duties immediately upon being declared elected.

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. Moderator-elect

- 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.

V. The Stated Clerk

- 5-1 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)
- 5-2 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.
- 5-3 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.
- 5-4 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.
- 5-5 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.
- 5-6 The Stated Clerk shall be the parliamentarian of the General Assembly.
- 5-7 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.

VI. The Assembly Arrangements

- 6-1 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.
- 6-2 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.
- 6-3 The first order of the day, except the opening day, at the beginning of the business session shall be the presentation of a docket listing the business which is to be considered that day. Revision of the docket may be necessary during the day.
- 6-4 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.

VII. Communications and Overtures

- 7-1** 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.
- 7-2** The Stated Clerk shall recommend to the Assembly reference for all communications.
- 7-3** An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific matter.
- 7-4** 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.

VIII. Reports to the General Assembly

- 8-1** 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.
- 8-2** 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.

IX. Assembly Committees

- 9-1** All business shall ordinarily come to the floor of the Assembly for final action through Assembly committees, except reports of ad interim committees, which shall report directly to the Assembly. The following committees shall handle the matters indicated:
 - A. Administration - concerning administrative matters
 - B. World Outreach - concerning world missions
 - C. National Outreach - concerning home missions and evangelism
 - D. Christian Education & Publications - concerning Christian education and publications
 - E. Ministerial Vocation - concerning preparation and care of ministers
 - F. Fraternal Relations - concerning other denominations and agencies
 - G. Memorials and Appreciation - concerning appreciation
 - H. Overtures and Resolutions - concerning communications
 - I. Theology - concerning theological matters under study
 - J. Women's Ministries - concerning ministries for the women of the church
 - K. Student Ministries - concerning ministries for the youth of the church
 - L. College Ministries - concerning ministries related to colleges
- 9-2** 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.
- 9-3** The committees may be scheduled to meet prior to the opening session of the Assembly to handle business referred by the Stated Clerk.
- 9-4** 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.
- 9-5** 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.
- 9-6** Minutes of the corresponding permanent committee shall be submitted to the Assembly committee for review.
- 9-7** 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.
- 9-8** Any recommendation affecting the budget of the Assembly shall be referred to the Committee on Administration for review before presentation to the Assembly.
- 9-9** 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.
- 9-10** No partial report of an Assembly committee shall be presented without consent of the Assembly.
- 9-11**
- 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.
- F. The Presbyteries shall take note in their **Minutes** of exceptions and notations conveyed from the Assembly and of the disposition they have made of such.
- G. **Guidelines for Presbytery Minutes**
 - 1. Date, time, place of meeting, Presbytery must meet at least three (3) times a year. (G.16-17). Presbytery review year shall include those minutes approved by Presbytery up to June 1 of each Assembly year. **Minutes** should reflect the names of Ruling and Teaching Elders present, visitors present, and include excused and unexcused absences. Minutes should reflect the number of the stated meeting.
 - 2. Meeting opened and closed with prayer.
 - 3. Declaration of quorum (G.16-18).
 - 4. Accurate record of motions passed and actions taken (G.16-19).
 - 5. Minutes should be typed with complete sentences, correct spelling and bound in hard cover.
 - 6. Minutes should be signed by Stated Clerk and Moderator.
 - 7. Minutes should reflect an accurate record of candidates received and dismissed.
 - 8. Minutes should reflect an accurate record of ministers received and dismissed including proper examination procedures leading to ordination and/or installation.
 - 9. Record of approved pastoral calls and any changes in calls and the granting of permission to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery (G.16-16A).
 - 10. Minutes must reflect an annual review of sessional records.
 - 11. Minutes must reflect establishing, dissolving, dividing, uniting, receiving, and dismissing of churches (G.16-16E).
 - 12. Minutes must reflect observations of and carrying out of General Assembly injunctions and instructions.
 - 13. Overtures to the General Assembly must be recorded.
 - 14. Minutes will reflect any judicial cases before Presbytery and the disposition thereof in accordance with the **Book of Discipline**.
 - 15. Minutes will include all actions of Presbytery appointed commissions.
 - 16. Minutes should include annual approved Presbytery budget and related financial reports.

9-12 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.

X. Permanent Committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission

10-1 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 the immediate past Moderator.

2. Committee Membership: Moderator, Moderator-elect, Stated Clerk, immediate past Moderator, immediate past Chairman,¹ 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, Student & Young Adult Ministries and College 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, Moderator-elect, 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 is 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.

¹ "Immediate past Chairman" shall be deleted at the adjournment of the 27th General Assembly.

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 is to be elected by committee.
 2. Duties:
 - a. To develop and evaluate curriculum for presbyteries and local churches as needed.
 - b. To cooperate with and encourage church day schools as needed.
 - c. To provide assistance to local churches for the development and operation of Christian Education.
 - d. To develop, evaluate, and support publications of general interest to the church, especially those valuable to the area of Christian Education. This includes supporting and promoting publications handled by other Permanent Committees or General Assembly staff.
 - e. To participate in camp and conference center development, should it be feasible and desired.
 - f. To participate in and support lay leadership development.
 - g. To promote and evaluate prayer, worship and music resources.
 - h. To help communicate the identity, vision, mission, and advantages of the EPC to local churches and to those outside the EPC.
- G. Committee on Student Ministries
1. Membership to be composed of a minimum of two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders in three rotating classes of two each. Two of the remaining positions may be filled with non-ordained EPC youth workers who are active members of EPC churches.
 2. Duties: to be responsible for conferences and mission trips, student ministry resourcing, youth worker equipping, and other youth ministry (middle school and high school) related concerns.
- 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. Committee of Fraternal Relations
1. Membership to consist of six members plus the immediate past Moderator, the Moderator, the Moderator-elect 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. Committee on College Ministries

1. Membership shall be comprised of six people which shall include at least two ruling elders and at least two teaching elders. The remaining two members, if not ordained, shall be persons with particular expertise or experience in ministry to college students.
2. Duties:
 - a. Review, revise and implement an ongoing strategic plan for college ministry in the EPC
 - b. Assess and approve partner churches and staff candidates for new college ministry works
 - c. Help to create and cultivate presbytery and church connections and networks
 - d. Provide oversight of denominational college conferences and mission trips
 - e. Maintain communication with the National Outreach Committee for the purpose of seeking church planting opportunities.

K. Permanent Judicial Commission

"The Permanent Judicial Commission: The General Assembly shall establish a PJC. The Commission shall consist of a minimum of nine persons in three classes of three each, and of which at least two-thirds must be Ruling Elders. The Assembly shall determine their eligibility to succession. Efforts shall be made to give fair representation to the various Presbyteries. During service on this Commission, no member may hold office or employment in the court. Its quorum shall be two-thirds of its membership. It shall elect its own moderator and a clerk from among its members and an accurate record shall be kept of its deliberations and actions, with a permanent record of these Minutes filed with the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly." Duties of the PJC described in the **Book of Government**, §16-27.B

L. Committee on Presbytery Review

1. Membership: Committee to consist of three members, including at least one former stated clerk.
2. Duties: To provide structure, order, and continuity in reviewing the minutes of the Presbyteries.

10-2 The power and authority of the permanent committees shall be those set forth in these **Rules** or by direction of the General Assembly.

10-3 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.

10-4 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.

- 10-5 A majority of a permanent committee shall constitute a quorum.
- 10-6 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.

XI. Committee on Nominations

- 11-1 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**.
- 11-2 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.
- 11-3 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.
- 11-4 Duties:
 - 1. Nominees for Moderator-elect: 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-elect 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-elect. 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. 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 not more than two candidates for Moderator utilizing the same procedures as for Moderator-elect.
 - 3. 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.
 - 4. To name from the Commissioners to the Assembly those who will serve on the various standing committees of the Assembly.
 - 5. The Committee shall meet in May each year to select nominee(s) for Moderator-elect or Moderator of the General Assembly as the case may be and for permanent committees.

XII. The Board of Benefits

- 12-1** The Board of Benefits shall oversee the administration of the denominational Retirement 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 Retirement 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.

XIII. New Business

- 13-1** 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.
- 13-2** 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.

XIV. Parliamentary Procedure

- 14-1** Except as otherwise specifically provided in these **Rules, *Robert's Rules of Order*** shall be the standard in parliamentary procedure.
- 14-2** 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.
- 14-3** Each recommendation in each report must be read, considered, and acted on separately.
1. The chairman moves the adoption.
 2. The Moderator asks, "Is there objection or question?"
 3. Hearing no objection or question, the Moderator states, "It is adopted." (Procedure known as "Short Form of Voting.")
- 14-4** 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.
- 14-5** All motions shall be presented in writing and read before the vote.

XV. Amendment or Suspension of Rules

- 15-1** 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.

ACTS OF THE 26TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2006)
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 06-11 The Assembly approves increasing the position of Women's Ministries Director to full-time. (**Minutes** 26-47)

CONFESSIONAL MATTERS

- 06-06 The Assembly instructs the permanent Theology Committee to carry out a comparative study of the Westminster standards and the Three Forms of Unity for the purpose of determining:
1. Whether a person who receives and adopts the Three Forms of Unity as containing that system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures without exception falls within the practice and application of the third officer vow of the EPC;
 2. What is confessed by the Westminster standards which is not confessed by the Three Forms of Unity; and
 3. What is confessed in the Three Forms of Unity which is out of accord with the Westminster standards.
- And to report to the Assembly any other observations, resources or conclusions which might be helpful to the presbyteries in evaluating inquiries and requests for membership from churches which use the Three Forms of Unity as their doctrinal standard. (**Minutes** 26-37)
- 06-07 The Assembly approves the response of the permanent Theology Committee to a request for a review of the theology and practice of *paedocommunion*. (**Minutes** 26-37; **Minutes of the 26th General Assembly**, Documents section)

PRESBYTERIES

- 06-08 The Assembly instructs all presbyteries to:
1. Evaluate their practice of appointing advisors for candidates, to see that the provision of **G.12-2D** is being followed, namely, that a candidate's advisor should ordinarily not be the candidate's pastor.
 2. Remember that their first priority is to encourage evangelism and renewal within their bounds (**G.4-3**, 16-16F) and to reflect in their Minutes how this priority is being realized.
 3. Work toward full compliance with *Acts of Assembly* 81-04, 81-06, and 88-08 regarding mandatory participation of EPC ministers in the denominational Medical Plan.
 4. To exercise caution when a church desires to call a person as pastor before candidacy requirements have been met, especially when installing the person almost immediately as a ruling elder, remembering the Scriptural admonition not to be hasty in the laying on of hands (1 Tim. 5:22). (**Minutes**, 26-40)
- 06-09 The Assembly approves financial reporting guidelines for presbytery minutes. (**Minutes**, 26-40, **Minutes of the 26th General Assembly**, Documents section)
- 06-10 The Assembly amends the boundaries of the Central South and Mid-America Presbyteries so that the entire state of Arkansas is included in the boundaries of the Central South Presbytery. (**Minutes** 26-47)

OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

- 06-05 The Assembly directs the Ministerial Vocation Committee to provide guidance and clarification to presbyteries regarding the calling and status of retired ministers. (**Minutes**, 26-39; **Minutes of the 25th General Assembly**, Overture 05-C, pp. 157-158)

WORLD OUTREACH

- 06-04 The Assembly approves a revised World Outreach Master Plan. (**Minutes**, 26-34; **Minutes of the 26th General Assembly** – Documents section)

PROGRAM MATTERS

- 06-12 The Assembly receives the *EPC Officer Training Manual* (2006 Edition) as a resource and commends it for use in EPC congregations. (**Minutes**, 26-52)

BOARD OF BENEFITS – MEDICAL

- 06-02 The Assembly raises the income eligibility limit for Medical Benevolence assistance to a minimum of \$35,000 total annual household income and a maximum of \$50,000 for singles and couples and \$40,000-\$55,000 for couples or individuals with dependents, assistance to be paid in proportion within these income limits. (**Minutes**, 26-24)
- 06-03 The Assembly authorizes the Board of Benefits to adjust the income limits of Medical Benevolence eligibility based on cost of living increases and funds utilization, reporting such changes to the General Assembly. (**Minutes**, 26-24)

BOARD OF BENEFITS – RETIREMENT

- 06-01 The Assembly authorizes the Committee on Administration to make any substantive changes to the EPC Defined Contribution Retirement Plan upon recommendation of the Board of Benefits and authorized the Board of Benefits to amend the Plan document when necessary to conform to legislative requirements and administrative needs. (**Minutes**, 26-24)

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 call,
 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
 3. Retired ministers of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches.

Income eligibility limit for Medical Benevolence assistance shall be a minimum of \$35,000 total annual household income and a maximum of \$50,000 for singles and couples, and \$40,000-55,000 for couples or individuals with dependents.*** Such beneficiaries shall be eligible 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.

-
-
- 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*

*** *Section revised more fully in June 2006.*

Adopted 6/92

Amended 6/97, 6/01, 6/06

**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.

WORLD OUTREACH MASTER PLAN

Mission Statement

Our global vision is to glorify God through full cycle church planting which firmly establishes the Church of Jesus Christ among the least-reached peoples, with a primary focus on the Muslim world.

Values and Commitments

The foundation of World Outreach is the written Word of God. Building upon that foundation, we commit ourselves to

- Faithful **proclamation** of the Gospel to the nations until the Lord returns,
- Fervent **prayer** for the evangelization of the world, and
- Active **participation** in that glorious task through ministries of Word and deed.

Seeking to be sensitive and responsive to the Holy Spirit's work throughout the world, we pray that God will use us to

- Gather God's people, scattered among the peoples of the earth, into the Church of Jesus Christ.
- Establish and develop indigenous reformed churches which relate to one another in a connectional manner and which relate to their context in a Biblically faithful and culturally compelling way.
- Identify, train, and develop national leadership from and for the indigenous churches.
- Equip and motivate indigenous churches to participate in cross-cultural missions.

Pursuing these goals, we will endeavor to

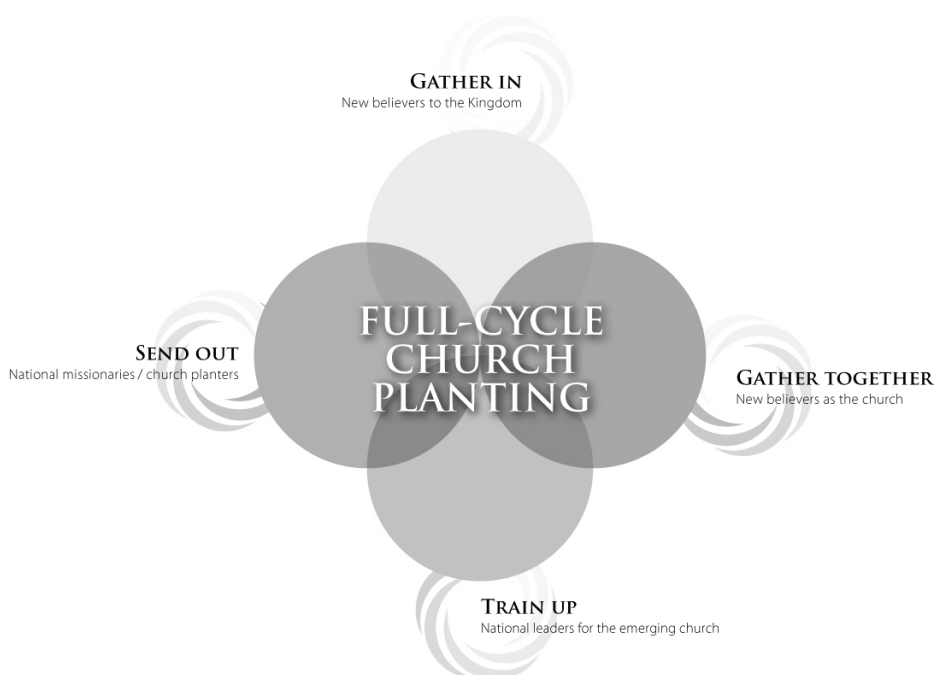
- Engage the participation of every member of the EPC in fulfilling the goals of our mission.
- Partner with other evangelical churches and organizations to demonstrate the unity of the Body of Christ.
- Administer entrusted resources in an efficient and effective manner with full accountability.
- Provide excellent care for our missionaries, caring for them as family, doing all that we can to ensure their spiritual, physical, and emotional well being as individuals, families, and teams.

As the missions arm of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, we are also committed to the constitutional documents of our denomination, which are the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, the EPC *Book of Order*, and "Essentials of Our Faith."

WO Vision Statement

World Outreach is the mission mobilizing and sending arm of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Our principle calling is to the work of **full-cycle church planting** among the least-reached peoples, with a primary focus on the Muslim world.

We will also pursue strategic partnerships which advance the full cycle of church planting where the church has already been established but has not yet grown to maturity, and we will pursue ministries which support and equip our missionary church planters and national church leaders, and which mobilize the people and churches of the EPC with a compelling mission vision.



EPC Mission Priorities

I. Muslim World Church Planting

“Our principle calling is to the work of full-cycle church planting among the least-reached peoples, with a primary focus on the Muslim world.”

A. World Outreach Church Planting Teams/Fields

(These are teams sent directly by, reporting directly to, and cared specifically for by World Outreach.)

- Kazakhstan
- Malaysia
- Azerbaijan
- Lebanon
- New Muslim fields to be identified

B. Partner (Cooperative) Agency Church Planting Teams/Missionaries

(These are teams/missionaries sent jointly by World Outreach and a partner (cooperative) mission agency approved by the General Assembly. As such, the partner agency has the front-line responsibility for strategy, oversight, and missionary care. Those responsibilities, however, are carried out in consultation with World Outreach.)

C. Ministry Among Muslims in the United States

II. Strategic Church Planting Ministries/Partnerships

“We will also pursue strategic ministries and partnerships which will advance the full cycle of church planting where the church has already been established but has not yet grown to maturity...”

World Outreach has identified the following nations/geographic areas as providing opportunities for strategic ministries and partnerships in which we have an opportunity to advance the full cycle of church planting:

- Argentina
- East Asia
- Tyumen, Siberia
- Europe (40/70 Window – with a particular focus on church planting among postmoderns/emergent generations)

In addition, World Outreach has identified the following ministries as those that are strategic areas of emphasis for World Outreach across geographic boundaries:

- Overseas International Churches
- North American Ethnic Ministry
- Theological Education for National Church Leaders

III. Missions Mobilization and Personnel Development

“...and we will pursue ministries to support and equip missionary church planters and national church leaders, and to mobilize the people and churches of the EPC with a compelling mission vision.”

A. Mission Personnel Development

(This area of emphasis focuses on training and equipping our missionaries and the national church leaders with whom we partner.)

B. Missions Vision Development

(This area of emphasis focuses on promoting a missions vision within the denomination, and nurturing missions consciousness and excellence in EPC churches and presbyteries, enabling the EPC to truly be a missions church.)

C. Missionary Care

(This area of emphasis focuses on caring excellently for our missionaries, doing all that we can to ensure their spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being as individuals, families and teams.)

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 2009

TE Tom Ryan
13300 Kenneth Road
Leawood, KS 66209
913-663-3095

RE Hadley De Puy
10750 Wynkoop Dr.
Great Falls, VA 22066
703/759-4656

RE Ed Wedin
5643 Grape St.
Houston, TX 77096
713-776-2449

Class of 2008

TE Jerry Brundle
100 Engelwood Dr., Ste. A
Orion, MI 48359-2411
248-340-1900

RE Cecil Matthews
4677 Springmeadow Lane
Castle Rock, CO 80109
720-629-5950

RE Alan Smith
5408 Galley Court
Fairfax, VA 22032
703-352-8990

Class of 2007

RE John Adamson
6365 Old Orchard Cove
Memphis TN 38110
901-767-6408

TE Doug Graham
25700 Crocker Blvd.
Harrison Twnshp., MI 48045
586-469-8500

RE Allen Roes
14907 Stonegreen Ln.
Huntersville NC 28078
704-948-9508

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN

TE Bill Meyer
2020 Shangrila #205
Clearwater, FL 33763
757-329-6882

STATED CLERK

TE Jeffrey Jeremiah
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr. #567
Livonia, MI 48152
734-742-2020

MODERATOR

RE Paul Heidebrecht
435 Kammes Court
West Chicago, IL 60185-3464
630-562-1640

IMMED. PAST CHMN.

RE Orin Littlejohn
100 Azalea Way
Marshall, TX 75672
903-935-7101

MODERATOR-ELECT

TE Bill Vogler
3312 Calvin Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049
785-843-2005

ADVISORY MEMBERS

TE David Baer
Chairman, Christian Education & Publications
5791 S. Yampa St.
Centennial, CO 80015
720-851-5381

RE Jerry Kidd
Chairman, Ministerial Vocation
624 Reasor Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
804-420-9213

TE George Boomer
Chairman, Student Ministries
25700 Crocker Blvd.
Harrison Township, MI 48045
586-469-8500

RE Jim Thomason
Chairman, World Outreach
3470 Wrights Valley Road
Bluefield, VA 24605
276/322-4002

TE Rodger Woodworth
Chmn., National Outreach
2710 Shadeland Ave..
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
901-755-7721

TE Rick Stauffer
Chairman, College Ministries
2432 S. Raccoon Rd.
Youngstown, OH 44515
330-792-3897

Jeane Mobley
Chairman, Women's Ministries
100 Turtle Cay Dr., Unit 6
Wilmington, NC 28412
843-292-8494

COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & PUBLICATIONS

Class of 2009

TE Tommy Overton
101 E. Third Ave.
Rome, GA 30161
706-291-6033

Cindy Ziemba
40000 Six Mile Road
Northville, MI 48168
248-374-5977

Class of 2008

RE Laney Burt
PO Box 333
Elkton, VA 22827
540-435-8563

TE David Baer, Chairman
PO Box 3288
Parker, CO 80134
720-851-5381

Class of 2007

RE Alton Bennett
21427 Birchwood
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
248-477-1992

TE Brad Strait
6560 S. Broadway
Littleton, CO 80121
303-797-1500 ext. 280

COMMITTEE ON COLLEGE MINISTRIES

Class of 2009

RE Jeffrey Sich
701 S. Skinker Blvd. #204
St. Louis, MO 63105
314-863-8865

TE Pedro Govantes
133 Shrewsbury Court
Pennington, NJ 08534
609-737-4330

Class of 2008

RE James Paternoster
253 Crest Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734-761-6069

TE Rick Stauffer, Chairman
2432 S. Raccoon Road
Youngstown, OH 44515
330-792-3897

Class of 2007

TE Pete Bowell
1791 Cambridge Drive, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23238
804-740-6551

RE Jim McBryde
2130 Flagstone Court
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-773-1831

COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS

Class of 2009

RE Al Herweyer
4711 Overlook Drive
Hixson, TN 37343
423-877-5895

TE Jimmy McGuire
48028 Andover
Novi, MI 48374
248-449-3329

Class of 2008

TE Don Fortson
400 Leighton Court
Matthews, NC 28105
704-847-3595

TE George Wood
1658 N. Cheryl Place
Wichita, KS 67212
316-487-4090

Class of 2007

TE Craig Vanbiber, Chairman
4700 Victory Drive
Marshall, TX 75670
903-935-7898

RE Frank Johnson
36 Srape Avenue
Salem, NJ 08079
856-935-0135

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL VOCATION

Class of 2009

TE Ken Jones
PO Box 1033
Franklin, NC 28744
828-369-6800

RE Anne Litzenberger
1403 Live Oak Ct.
Plant City, FL 33563
813-754-2344

Class of 2008

TE Eugene Scott
PO Box 3124, 19 Vail Road.
Vail, CO 81658
970-477-0383

RE Jerry Kidd, Chairman
624 Reasor Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757-420-9213

Class of 2007

RE Bill Meeks
712 E. Monroe
St. Louis, MO 63122
314-965-2420

TE George Yates
1911 Harlansburg Rd.
New Castle, PA 16101
724-652-8062

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL OUTREACH

Class of 2009

TE Eli Morris
8500 Walnut Grove Rd.
Cordova, TN 38018
901-755-7721

RE Carolyn Nystrom
38W566 Sunset
St. Charles, IL 60175
630-377-1777

TE Shawn Robinson
6055 Main St.
Clayton, CA 94517
925-673-9060

Class of 2008

TE Ben Borsay
10111 US 224 West
Findlay, OH 45840
419-423-5947

RE Glenn Parker
114 Apple Lane
Anna, IL 62906
618-734-4400 ext. 170

RE Wes Mabin
9521 NW 18 Manor
Plantation, FL 33322
954-382-2511

Class of 2007

TE Rodger Woodworth,
Chairman
2710 Shadeland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-766-2728

RE David Satterthwaite
543 Maple
Plymouth, MI 48171
734-455-9389

RE Ted Brandsma
7598 S. Webster Ct.
Littleton, CO 80128
303-972-9344

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Class of 2009

RE Steve Wilkinson
PO Box 1243
Woodinville, WA 98072

RE Jim Slyman
411 S. Gay Street
Knoxville, TN 37902

TE Neil Ellison
805 Kempsville Rd
Virginia Beach, VA 23464

Class of 2008

TE John Crimmins
8300 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77024
713-526-1188

RE Jerry Alpert
2 Chapel Hill Est. Drive
Town & Country, MO 63131
314-469-0073

RE Barbara Mansfield
14342 Blue Skies
Livonia, MI 48154
734-464-0450

Class of 2007

TE Dan Weidman
PO Box 802
Castle Rock, CO 80104
303-663-5751

RE Robert Lloyd
25340 Plum Street
Brooksville, FL 34601
352-544-0596

RE Zelda Artz, Chairman
1220 S. Buchanan St.
Arlington, VA 22204
703-671-1760

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2009

TE Steve Riser
3830 Narrows Road.
Erlanger, KY 41018
859-342-4455

RE John Graham, Moderator
Box 29
Rome, GA 30162
706-291-6223

TE Don E. Galardi
114 N. Ball Street
Owosso, MI 48867
989-725-6930

Class of 2008

RE Reese Baker
10906 Roaring Brook
Houston, TX 77024
713-869-9200

RE Tony Register
5022 Pine St.
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-251-0103

RE Jim Rimmel
270 Jefferson Place
Canfield, OH 44406
330-533-1990

Class of 2007

RE Sam Searcy
6272 S Blackhawk Ct
Englewood, CO 80111
303-858-1650

TE Percy Burns
3755 Brushy Lane
Charlotte, NC 28270
704-321-1997

RE Dale Shaefer
1544 Yarmouth Point Dr.
Chesterfield, MO 63017
636-530-1025

PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Class of 2009

TE Edward Davis
38646 Silken Glen
Northville, MI 48168
248-474-5588

Class of 2008

TE Ken Van Kampen
PO Box 68
Atoka, TN 38004
901-837-3500

Class of 2007

RE Jay Curtis, Chairman
3018 Forrest Club Dr.
Plant City, FL 33567
813-927-3988

COMMITTEE ON STUDENT MINISTRIES

Class of 2009

TE Corey Gray
5500 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20816
301-320-3600

Mike Bonser
11373 E. Alameda Ave.
Aurora, CO 80012
303-364-7271

Class of 2008

RE Sonny Flowers
2286 Winterberry Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
336-766-4670

RE Tom Ghena
19996 Weyher
Livonia MI 48152
248-661-6136

Class of 2007

TE George Boomer, Chairman
25700 Crocker Blvd.
Harrison Township, MI 48045
586-469-8500

TE Brandon Bates
PO Box 5007
Brandon, MS 39047
601-992-2835

COMMITTEE ON THEOLOGY

Class of 2009

RE Tom Werner
409 Fairway Lane
St. Louis, MO 63122
314-822-3441

TE Paul Husband, Chairman
PO Box 1095
Tunica, MS 38676
662-363-2100

Class of 2008

TE Mateen Ellass
29W260 Batavia Road
Warrenville, IL 60555
630-393-4400

RE Gordon Miller
1550 Ethel Drive
Winston-Salem, NC 27127
336-784-9419

Class of 2007

RE Bill Painter
3844 Quail Run
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-747-8757

(Vacant)

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Class of 2009

Jeane Mobley, Chairman
1741 Stratford Circle
Florence, SC 29505

Annette Phillips
1914 Grassy Ridge Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122
314-965-4720

Class of 2008

Sammie McWhirter
13600 W. Robertson Dr.
Sun City West, AZ 85275
623-546-1936

Marge Davis
6531 Harborview Dr.
Hixson, TN 37343
423-842-0341

Class of 2007

Libby Cooper
2030 Ralston Court
Florence, SC 29505
843-667-8811

Deborah Smith
5408 Galley Court
Fairfax, VA 22032
703-978-0835

COMMITTEE ON WORLD OUTREACH

Class of 2009

RE Jim Thomason, Chairman
3470 Wrights Valley Road
Bluefield, VA 24605
276-322-4002

TE Thom Burbridge
8452 New Haven Way
Canton, MI 48187
734-612-0892

RE Bob Sluka
16791 Fitzgerald.
Livonia, MI 48154
734-464-7382

Class of 2008

RE Bob Kuseski
2408 Agate Drive
Loveland, CO 80538
970-229-2504

TE Bruce Anderson
805 Kempsville Dr.
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757-495-1913

RE Mike Aoun
2356 Delaware Dr.
St. Charles, MO 63303
636-926-2369

TE Gene Huntzinger
PO Box 4
Elysian Fields, TX 75642
903-633-2567

Class of 2007
RE Bern Draper
8103 Saguaro Ridge Rd.
Parker, CO 80138
303-840-2340

RE Ted Galyon
1387 Hayne Road
Memphis, TN 38119
901-682-5642

TE Jeff Jeremiah, Stated Clerk
Office of the General Assembly
17197 N. Laurel Park Dr. #567
Livonia, MI 48152
734-742-2020

Ex-Officio
RE Paul Heidebrecht,
Moderator
435 Kammes Court
West Chicago, IL 60185
630-562-1640

TE Bill Vogler
Moderator-elect
3312 Calvin Drive
Lawrence, KS 66049
785-843-2005

BOARD OF BENEFITS

RE John Baird
22051 Cumberland.
Northville, MI 48167
706-234-1919

Class of 2009

TE Ron Horgan, Chairman
210 South High Street
Warsaw, IN 46580
574-267-7044

RE Bill Maher
943 Lafite
Chesterfield, MO 63017
314-968-1150

Class of 2008

RE Jerry Hulick
4852 Slatestone Ct.
Fairfax, VA 22030
703-385-8389

RE Milton Knowlton
561 Claycreek Road
Memphis, TN 38120
901-746-6305

Class of 2007

TE Roy Zinn
9132 Kingston Pike SW
Knoxville, TN 37923
865-693-9331

FOUNDATION BOARD

RE Dick Oestreicher
257 Edington Circle
Canton, MI 48187
734-844-8303

Class of 2009

RE Nate Kilton
2811 Spring Meadow Dr.
Plant City, FL 33566
813-752-4197

TE Stephen Ruckel
805 Kempsville Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
757-495-1913

Class of 2008

RE David Jonckheere
3894 Highcrest Dr.
Brighton, MI 48116
810-229-9017

RE Bill Johns
103 Brentwood Dr.
Rome, GA 30165
706-234-1919

Class of 2007

RE Howard Kast
15730 W. Greystone Dr.
Sun City West, AZ 85375
623-584-8979

STATED CLERK SEARCH COMMITTEE

RE John Adamson, Chairman
6365 Old Orchard Cove
Memphis, TN 38119
901-767-6408

RE Zelda Artz
1220 S. Buchanan Street
Arlington, VA 22204
703-671-1760

RE Dexter Kuhlman
1926 Prospector Ridge
Ballwin, MO 63011
636-458-1015

TE Richard Alberta
9455 Hilton Road
Brighton, MI 48114
810-227-9411

TE John Crimmins
8300 Katy Freeway
Houston, TX 77024
713-526-1188

RE Wes Mabin
9521 NW 18 Manor
Plantation, FL 33322
754-322-8825

TE Bryan Slater
PO Box 3865
Florence, SC 29502
843-665-8022

RE John Graham
PO Box 29
Rome, GA 30162
706-291-6223

TE Jeff Jeremiah (*resigned when approached for nomination to the position*)
19800 108th Avenue SE
Renton, VA 98055
253-859-4730

PART V
ANNUAL FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS

2005 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE CENTRAL SOUTH

CENTRAL SOUTH		RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS		PER MEMBER		EPC		NON-EPC		TOTAL		TOTAL		ENDING	
CHURCHES		BEGINNING BALANCE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	GIVING	BENEVOLENCE	MISSIONS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE		BALANCE		BALANCE	
1	All Saints Presbyterian Church	34146	107030	11328	116897	704	1012	11879	2860	118358	133182	19322					
2	Atoka Presbyterian, TN						0	0									
3	Christ EPC, TX	25627	320975	100076	388121	2112	3036	32092	5000	421051	410361	36317					
4	Cornestone Presbyterian, TX	7224	145863	7953	84705	720	1035	1370	2845	153838	90675	70385					
5	Covenant Presbyterian, MS	150250	309600	77000	391883	960	1380	1778	11680	382600	407680	125170					
6	CrossPointe Community, TX	112768	290509	1202	157993	2340	3360	40135	6800	291711	210728	193751					
7	EPC of Marshall, TX	76776	307184	7500	220457	1818	2459	1682	38562	314684	264958	126502					
8	Faith Presbyterian, LA	167041	352441	26502	372867	4140	5290	3426	0	378943	385523	160461					
9	First EPC, IL	41185	109251	31895	132520	5775	0	500	9858	141147	148653	33679					
10	First Presbyterian of Laredo, TX	25659	197838	16830	114668	945	1430	2457	60093	214668	179593	60734					
11	First Presbyterian, LA	450784	854839	31235	487797	5296	7613	11508	37883	886074	546897	766961					
12	First Presbyterian, Meridian MS																
13	First Presbyterian, Wacom, TX																
14	First Presbyterian, West Pt. MS	96605	222741	0	232816	2600	3795	2950	16477	222741	258638	60708					
15	Golden Rule, TX	26581	78114	2200	54308	0	851	5000	8138	80314	68297	38598					
16	Grace at Bell Road, AL	154440	291086	24549	253700	2540	1690	4268	20632	315615	282830	187225					
17	Grace Presbyterian, LA	106430	359046	9294	364991	3392	4876	800	16033	368340	390092	84678					
18	Hope Church, IL	5951	146875	78529	137170	0	0	0	0	225404	137170	94185					
19	Hope Church, TX	158424	401515	488290	352304	1824	2224	10337	1000	889805	367689	680540					
20	Hope Church, TN	1060713	16733701	7873	14782416	10888	22228	22625	452539	16741574	15290696	2511591					
21	Iglesia Cristo el Rev, MS (dis)	0	0	0	0	0	280	0	0	0	280						
22	Lakeside Presbyterian, MS	681797	1052747	204547	1505608	10755	12452	29695	79338	1257284	1637848	301243					
23	Louisville Presbyterian, MS	20811	44976	27933	55093	524	696	3034	1254	72909	69601	33119					
24	New Covenant, MS	510438	183688	104	86046	736	1081	1250	62586	183792	151689	542531					
25	Second Presbyterian, TN	200322	10802865	2086204	7816714	58032	84191	298988	4303890	12889189	12562594	526917					
26	St. Patrick Presbyterian, TN	108370	513792	89427	576081	1800	4094	609	0	603219	610225	101364					
27	Sylvania Presbyterian, AR	56229	78975	123356	225843	1123	1725	202331	0	228300	29260	29260					
28	The City of Refuge, TX	47077	481341	79659	526951	1000	3000	0	0	561300	530951	77426					
29	Tunica Presbyterian, MS	44035	200367	2616	141629	2000	2806	6435	54500	202893	207370	39646					
30	Westminster Presbyterian, MS	1985200	635822	33090	407180	3542	5658	31750	31606	668912	479736	2174376					
TOTAL			37192396	3736390	35196609	133568	190488	574952	5489379	40928786	41584327						

2004 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of the Central South

	2003 Members	2004 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	2004 Gains	2004 Losses	2003 Worship	2004 Worship	2003 Sun. School	2004 Sun. School	2003 Bapt. Fixed Roll	2004 Bapt. Fixed Roll	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
1 All Saints Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN **	30	30												
2 Abita Presbyterian Church, Abita, TN	39	44			3	1	1	1	0	1	53	49	9	0
3 Christ EPC, Houston, TX	388	502	27	23	34	36	0	0	288	345	263	295	87	110
4 Christ Presbyterian Church, Cape Girardeau, MO (dismissed)	46								46					
5 Cornerstone EPC, Katy, TX	132	132	3	3	0	6	1	4	0	9	153	148	116	58
6 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Columbus, MS	45	47	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	30	32	18	19	45
7 CrossPointe Community Church, Carrollton, TX	94	120	2	3	5	20	0	4	0	0	100	100	42	7
8 EPC of Marshall, Marshall, TX	146	143	0	2	2	6	4	0	0	11	6	160	145	100
9 Faith Presbyterian Church Covington, LA	110	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97	118	0	51	14
10 First EPC, Anna, IL	224	230	1	1	1	8	0	1	3	0	1	199	189	239
11 First Presbyterian Church, Houma, LA	54	51	0	2	3	1	1	3	0	53	49	29	32	0
12 First Presbyterian Church, Meridian, MS	404	331	7	3	3	16	0	8	4	91	0	215	201	129
13 First Presbyterian Church, Waskom, TX	29	30	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0
14 First Presbyterian Church, West Point, MS	146	165	1	2	8	10	1	2	1	0	130	130	112	126
15 Golden Rule Presbyterian Church, Elysian Fields, TX	34	37	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	45	40	22	14	0
16 Grace at Bell Road, Montgomery, AL	53	65	9	0	2	11	0	0	0	53	50	29	45	17
17 Grace Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, LA	244	212	3	3	9	3	1	14	1	22	14	175	200	100
18 Hope Church, San Antonio, TX	114	95	0	0	0	17	0	0	2	34	150	175	100	108
19 Hope Presbyterian Church, Cordova, TN	4,730	5,072	14	59	247	387	9	13	4	357	0	5,981	3,128	4001
20 Iglesia Hispana Cristo el Rey, Brandon, MS**	20	35	0	11	0	7	0	0	3	0	30	45	0	0
21 Lakeside Presbyterian Church, Brandon, MS	566	513	3	2	25	5	1	9	2	78	0	300	310	100
22 Louisville Presbyterian Church, Louisville, MS	23	29	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	25	30	11	11
23 New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Natchez, MS	46	45	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	2	58	40	38	35
24 Second Presbyterian Church, Memphis, TN	3,724	3,638	27	9	122	45	0	97	53	139	0	1,705	1,757	1,715
25 St. Patrick Presbyterian Church, Collerville, TN	204	222	12	0	19	17	0	1	0	29	0	225	235	120
26 Sylva Presbyterian Church, Ward, AR	78	75	0	0	2	1	1	0	5	2	0	60	53	40
27 The City of Refuge (EPC), Houston, TX	126	173	3	2	38	13	0	8	0	1	0	160	200	90
28 Tunica Presbyterian Church, Tunica, MS	119	122	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	100	100	90	102
29 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Laurel, MS	243	246	1	1	7	1	0	4	3	0	150	140	130	107
TOTALS	12,231	12,533	115	131	535	614	27	162	83	753	57	10,475	10,994	6,810
Churches of Record - End of Calendar Year	29													
Report not received, numbers estimated **Mission Church or Daughter Church														

2005 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE EAST

[illegible]

2004 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of the East

Church	2003 Members	2004 Youth Profession	2004 Gains			2004 Losses			2003 Worship	2004 Worship	2003 Sun School	2004 Sun School	2003 Bap- tismal Roll	2004 Bap- tismal Roll	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms	
			Adult Profession	Transfer	Reaffir- mation	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive									Other
1 Asland EPC, Voorhees, NJ	253	250	0	0	0	0	0	0	177	191	70	69	135	135	1	0	
2 Christ Community Church, EPC, Highland Lakes, NJ	50	54	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	55	no report	21	no report	0	1	0	
3 Christ the King EPC, Westfield, MA	50	58	1	9	0	0	0	0	2	80	no report	52	no report	0	3	1	
4 Crocielle Presbyterian Church, Cicleville, NY	100	72	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	70	no report	0	9	0	
5 Dundalk Presbyterian Church, Dundalk, MD	214	215	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	150	150	146	136	27	28	1	
6 Faith Presbyterian Church, Kingsdown VA	300	320	0	0	20	7	0	4	1	299	321	125	140	52	58	6	
7 Fourth Presbyterian Church, Belhessa, MD	2,738	2,769	13	59	0	0	0	25	9	0	1,400	1,400	1,450	no report	0	28	
8 Goodwill Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, NY	289	378	0	107	0	0	1	1	17	0	562	668	145	185	0	7	
9 New Covenant EPC, New Castle, PA	255	244	0	0	0	12	0	2	5	12	5	213	231	103	0	2	
10 New Hope EPC, Pittsburgh, PA	51	63	0	7	7	1	1	0	2	0	90	105	32	3	10	2	
11 North Park EPC, Wexford, PA	508	557	0	8	2	50	4	3	2	10	0	553	572	135	310	0	
12 Princeton EPC, Duaneburg, NY	358	302	11	13	0	0	0	0	0	283	308	204	223	12	12	0	
13 Reston Presbyterian Church, Reston, VA	85	103	6	2	2	13	23	0	4	0	132	103	148	0	0	2	
TOTALS	5,252	5,385	31	214	33	86	29	41	35	69	16	4,017	2,915	236	245	74	23
Churches of Record - End of Calendar Year	13	13															
Report not received, numbers estimated. **Mission Church or Daughter Church																	

2004 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of Florida

[illegible]

2004 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of Mid-America

Church	2003		2004 Gains					2004 Losses					2004			2003 Sun.			2003 Sun.			2003 Bar-			2004 Bar-			2004			
	Members	Members	Youth	Profession	Adult	Transfer	Reaffirmation	Restored	Transfer	Death	Inactive	Other	Worship	Worship	Worship	School	School	School	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	fixed Roll	
1 Baldwin Community Presby. Church, Baldwin, IL	6	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
2 Central Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, MO	1,707	1,736	12	17	31	27	18	25	15	36	0	879	1,055	891	602	0	0	21	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3 Covenant Chapel, Leawood, KS	379	401	17	5	20	9	0	17	0	12	0	509	516	260	283	0	0	2	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
4 Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Wildwood, MO	60	51	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	17	0	90	70	36	17	18	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5 Grace EPC, Lawrence, KS	429	456	15	0	11	37	4	2	1	37	0	888	887	417	412	0	0	21	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6 Greentree Community Church, Kirkwood, MO	355	395	0	2	37	23	0	0	0	16	6	800	800	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
7 Greentree Community Church at Webster, Kirkwood, MO**	93	135	0	12	24	10	0	0	0	4	0	175	250	0	0	0	0	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8 Highview Evangelical Presbyterian, Dousman, WI	123	126	0	1	7	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	150	160	69	68	37	38	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9 Hope EPC of Lake County, Libertyville, IL	212	189	2	1	5	4	0	5	1	22	7	130	117	25	14	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10 Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Warrenville, IL	320	342	6	0	2	24	0	0	1	0	9	320	330	295	300	39	38	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
11 Lakeland Community Church, Lee's Summit, MO	111	149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	416	286	167	184	0	0	25	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12 Sutter Presbyterian Church, Bridgton, MO	127	114	0	4	0	0	0	0	7	1	2	99	101	0	111	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13 The Crossing, Columbia, MO (+)	317	413 (gains not categorized)							3	0	0	500	1,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
14 Trinity Fellowship Church, Brighton, IL (dismissed)	16	40										40																			
TOTALS	4,255	4,513	52	43	131	141	22	52	29	145	26	5,011	5,687	2,163	1,994	94	103	96	33												
Churches of Record - End of Calendar Year	14	13																													
**Mission Church or Daughter Church (+) 2003 numbers adjusted																															

2005 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

	MID-ATLANTIC	RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS			PER MEMBER		EPC	BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC	TOTAL	TOTAL	ENDING
		BEGINNING	OFFERINGS	OTHER	LOCAL	CAUSES	PRESBYTERY	GIVING						
	CHURCHES	BALANCE									MISSIONS	RECEIPTS	DISBURSEMENTS	BALANCE
1	Abundant Life, VA (dismissed)							300		400				
2	Castanea EPC, NC	371791	109056	54	94728		0	0	1000	0	1000	109110	95728	385173
3	Christ Church EPC, SC	72080	593972	11992	591036		4000	4600	10200	42561	42561	605964	652397	25647
4	Christ Fellowship, NC							294	1425					
5	Cleveland Presbyterian, VA	52230	62035	4891	58440		2500	1794	1528	5830	5830	66926	70092	49064
6	Clover EPC, SC							0	0	0	0			
7	EPC, Elkton, VA	12509	227676	741	219765		5500	3000	4500	8100	8100	228417	240865	61
8	Faith Liberation Church, NC							0	279					
9	Fellowship of Christ, NC	53546	604030	69470	549461		3264	3600	7118	100289		673500	663732	63314
10	Forest Hill, NC (dismissed)						NA	40357	113885					
11	Forest Hills Presbyterian, NC	33257	95130	5612	78151		1400	2000	3450	14184	14184	100742	99185	34814
12	Hope Church, VA	369795	964850	125341	850428		0	1250	7500	100910	100910	1090191	960088	489898
13	Kempsville Presbyterian, VA	414136	2944825	43485	2485614		22404	33350	10110	278834	278834	2888310	2830312	572134
14	Lake Forest, NC	447097	3621639	2633	3515405		9284	9706	6300	78450	78450	3624272	3619145	452224
15	Lebanon Presbyterian, VA	32136	157954	21856	120839		2000	2093	5575	179810		179810	161882	50064
16	Linwood Presbyterian, NC	479	71604	0	67960		890	1265	1623	300	300	71604	72038	45
17	Myrtle Grove Presbyterian, NC	428433	1571490	186686	1528567		24772	25898	21975	248487		1758176	1849699	336910
18	New Covenant, NC							680	4253					
19	North Grove EPC, NC	42088	333950	12116	335903		2250	0	6027	15122		346066	356302	28852
20	Northampton Presbyterian, VA						NA	1866	11674					
21	Overbrook Community, SC	117060	155162	0	134780		0	1334	1900	7766		155162	145780	126442
22	Peace Presbyterian, NC	64965	81573	16510	79720		1104	0	320	5080	5080	98083	86224	76824
23	Perron Presbyterian, WV	5053	713521	476	435116		5220	5220	5011	196054	196054	713967	695021	24029
24	Perrynolds Presbyterian, NC	164792	1425871	291030	1340710		15730	16445	4050	250851	1716901	1627186	254507	
25	River Oaks, NC	1064810	1754328	42582	1625747		6600	6600	13843	111444	111444	1796911	1764234	1097487
26	Rivemont EPC, VA	(533654)	1465097	12308	1084072		12320	12800	20047	300156	300156	1477405	1423935	(485644)
27	St. Giles, NC	514552	742534	2162	529400		6747	5658	5964	243264		744696	791033	468215
28	Threshold, NC							1750	1000					
29	Trinity Presbyterian, SC	1668618	1659036	0	2595150		16000	6534	73419	175003		1659036	2866106	461548
30	Warehouse 242, NC	222686	709836	5828	697534		2163	4278	6220	9000		715684	719195	219155
31	Westminster Presbyterian, WV	136270	748675	136964	853342		5230	11339	50700	46500		885639	967111	54798
32	Woodside Presbyterian, VA							1250	100					
	TOTAL		20813844	992738	19919668		149378	205261	401397	2269560		21806582	22765750	

2004 Annual Statistical Report - Mid-Atlantic Presbytery

Church	2003 Members	2004 Gains			2004 Losses					2003 Sun. Worship	2004 Sun. Worship	2003 Sun. School	2004 Bap- tized Rol.	2003 Bap- tized Rol.	2004 Bap- tized Rol.	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
		Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Reaffir- mation	Transfer Restored	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive	Other Loss								
1 Abundant Life Church, Chesapeake, VA	72	37	0	0	0	2	0	0	37	75	25	0	0	0	0	2	1
2 Bridgeway EPC, Chesapeake, VA (dissolved)	42																
3 Calanena EPC, Stanley, NC	43	50	0	3	5	2	0	0	1	35	59	30	40	43	50	1	3
4 Christ Church EPC, Anderson, SC	163	181	0	4	0	15	0	1	0	225	240	100	100	38	41	3	4
5 Christ Fellowship, Southern Pines, NC	51	50	0	0	6	5	0	0	6	85	65	49	38	0	0	0	0
6 Cleveland Presbyterian Church, Abingdon, VA	73	78	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	60	52	38	0	0	0	0	0
7 Clover EPC, Clover, SC	52	54	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	32	32	0	7	7	7	0	0
8 EPC of Elkton, Elkton, VA	150	154	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	100	120	87	95	2	2	0	0
9 Faith Liberation Community Christian, Charlotte, NC	189	185	15	75	0	2	0	5	0	100	82	0	35	0	0	5	9
10 Fellowship of Christ, Cary, NC	143	152	0	3	0	5	1	0	2	280	275	108	109	0	0	2	1
11 First EPC of Monroe, NC, Monroe, NC (dismissed)	79									60							
12 Forest Hill Church, Charlotte, NC	1,974	1,922	14	32	105	128	0	16	77	2,178	2,483	989	1,025	1,190	1,302	22	20
13 Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, Wilson, NC	82	84	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	67	72	42	44	13	13	0	0
14 Hope Church EPC, Richmond, VA	242	219	0	1	9	11	0	0	34	10	380	351	400	400	0	9	0
15 Kemphill Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach, VA	1,442	1,378	9	0	6	97	7	28	5	1,300	1,559	656	674	63	50	17	0
16 Lake Forest Community Church, Cornelius, NC	389	422	1	2	25	0	0	4	1	540	617	218	236	14	33	19	5
17 Lebanon Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, VA	89	91	0	0	0	5	0	3	0	71	75	54	70	0	0	0	0
18 LifeSong Christian Fellowship, Garner, NC (dissolved)	51									65							
19 Linwood Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, NC	57	55	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	45	40	43	17	0	0	0
20 Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, NC	1,125	1,113	11	4	36	20	2	10	8	1,156	757	773	425	395	0	25	4
21 New Covenant Church, Burgaw, NC	115	111	2	0	1	6	0	2	0	4	5	100	100	65	2	4	3
22 North Grove EPC, Wilmington, NC	158	138	0	0	6	13	0	17	2	136	125	82	35	22	28	1	0
23 Northampton Presbyterian Church, Hampton, VA*	82	82	1	1						58	59	26	16	16			
24 Overbrook Community Church, Galley, SC	48	58	8	1	2	0	0	2	3	0	0	50	60	47	48	48	0
25 Peace Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC	61	48	0	0	0	2	0	9	1	5	2	45	48	34	20	16	20
26 Perrow Presbyterian Church, Cross Lanes, WV	257	218	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	38	3	257	257	161	138	52	60
27 Reynolds Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, NC	638	715	10	4	47	35	0	8	5	2	4	456	484	248	295	42	47
28 River Oaks Community Church, Lewisville, NC	359	427	13	5	55	31	0	3	0	618	671	0	0	0	0	16	54
29 Rivemont EPC, Lynchburg, VA	879	892	1	1	28	27	0	24	13	0	7	703	668	0	460	0	5
30 St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC	268	246	0	0	3	0	0	3	2	20	0	221	222	85	97	10	10
31 Threshold, Charlotte, NC	72	109	15	5	6	13	0	0	0	3	0	254	273	0	98	0	15
32 Trinity Presbyterian Church, Florence, SC	397	413	10	3	14	5	4	0	2	18	0	250	275	280	0	0	2
33 Warehouse 242, Charlotte, NC	140	166	0	4	24	30	7	1	18	0	350	450	125	145	0	6	8
34 Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bluefield, WV	481	493	0	5	10	2	1	2	4	0	285	302	129	130	19	17	4
35 Woodside Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA (*)	34	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	24	28	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	10,308	10,394	111	165	392	457		57	525	10,437	10,537	4,508	5,137	1,597	1,748	161	149
Churches of Record - End of Calendar Year	34	32															

*Report not received, numbers estimated. (numbers in italics are estimates) **Mission Church or Daughter Church (*) 2003 numbers adjusted

2005 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE MIDWEST

MIDWEST	CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS TITHES & OFFERINGS	OTHER INCOME	DISBURSEMENTS			PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEFOLICE	NON-EPC MISSIONS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE	
					LOCAL	CAUSAL	PRESBYTERY							
1	Calvary Presbyterian, MI	172795	611180	38725	543739	1883	12926	7800	11400	648885	577748	244832		
2	Community EPC, MI	114416	231682	0	152392	950	2050	6350	42344	231682	204086	142022		
3	Cornerstone Presbyterian, MI	1065428	3625972	109155	2801478	18045	443389	107323	677078	3735127	3648323	1152323		
4	Evangelical Presbyterian, AA MI	35463	359271	27260	239370	174	2507	3300	126676	396531	374027	47967		
5	Evangelical Community, OH	262863	854006	14089	641529	1989	4646	0	15500	688105	663864	267294		
6	Faith EPC, MI	145027	915066	13313	765026	2100	4807	14202	57358	929379	843493	229913		
7	Faith EPC, OH	4472	141980	3640	135470	1000	1685	4500	6100	145620	148755	1337		
8	Faith Fellowship, OH	49516	101611	1824	68436	847	1978	2483	5856	103435	79800	73351		
9	Fellowship EPC, MI	196641	337589	115680	275487	2250	4485	34264	33332	453279	349818	300102		
10	First EPC, BC MI	68021	45293	32412	83187	483	1127	2595	6195	77695	93587	52130		
11	First Presbyterian, Trenton MI	110766	978010	226728	813314	8208	14400	22280	291851	1204738	1150053	185451		
12	Gateway EPC, OH	196500	1160585	0	789718	1502	10511	12000	63592	1160585	880323	476762		
13	Grace Chapel, MI	306347	538939	62952	647893	1615	3772	18491	39068	601891	709639	198399		
14	Grace Community, MI	10111	90845	81	81958	0	960	3075	2333	90926	86326	12711		
15	Knox Presbyterian, AA MI	1031044	1404130	20509	1170918	5382	11868	43808	194406	1424639	1426082	1029601		
16	Knox Presbyterian, MI	271937	1078033	194829	943241	1390	9546	56721	232687	1272662	1243595	301214		
17	Lake City EPC, MI	14774	108421	3846	76039	660	1541	2131	22113	113267	102484	25557		
18	Military Avenue EPC, MI	86390	54500	108000	148880	900	2000	800	4180	162500	156760	82130		
19	Mt. Pleasant Community, MI	(1107916)	1108816	89140	990398	0	10650	1167	34330	1197956	1036545	(848505)		
20	New Heart, MI	12081	85503	2720	370012	400	0	2720	0	300	86223	(270408)		
21	New Hope Church, MI (diss)						0	1549						
22	North Oaks Community, MI	99369	316909	175	269018	857	2001	3045	15500	317084	290421	126032		
23	Oakland Avenue EPC, MI	69554	176135	0	200276	500	1500	1884	11322	176135	215462	30227		
24	Peace Presbyterian, MI	117344	113547	23011	155844	600	575	3138	7717	173558	167874	87029		
25	St. Andrew EPC, IN	83346	212284	58925	208912	1212	2829	9620	30500	271209	253073	101482		
26	Stonebridge Church, OH	102657	159916	344	138308	640	1495	11600	16750	160280	168793	94124		
27	Tabernacle EPC, OH	137811	655431	0	649174	3663	9993	16942	0	655431	678772	114471		
28	Trinity Presbyterian, IN	88446	240819	12712	197439	1548	3473	800	29780	252091	233040	108497		
29	Trinity Presbyterian, MI	645060	133618	218120	1296903	6436	15210	61833	186785	1557738	1570147	632651		
30	Ward Presbyterian, MI	2790731	7259580	835014	6844846	27987	82251	244117	792113	8094595	7991315	2894011		
31	Warsaw EPC, IN	252691	931088	218969	1086454	5780	13501	10825	179400	1150057	1277960	124768		
TOTAL														26994665

2004 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of the Southeast

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2005 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT - PRESBYTERY OF THE WEST

WEST	CHURCHES	BEGINNING BALANCE	RECEIPTS TITHES & OFFERINGS	DISBURSEMENTS			PER MEMBER GIVING	EPC BENEVOLENCE	NON-EPC MISSIONS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
				OTHER INCOME	LOCAL CAUSES	PRESBYTERY						
1	Anada Community, CO	46671	54114	373	55893	0	667	0	0	54487	56560	47597
2	Bear Creek, CO	10982	823166	18668	708949	2600	2600	4200	120800	841834	840049	111667
3	Celebration Community, CO	25010	411127	0	283462	0	0	0	24000	411127	307482	128655
4	Cherry Creek Presbyterian, CO	3560970	4401253	371333	2207862	12961	22000	38776	568892	4772580	2870511	5463045
5	Cherry Hills Community, CO	5349519	22523817	1618638	22901333	30000	40000	38068	792298	24142455	23794431	5697543
6	Christ Covenant Church, KS	11620	179540	4817	158895	1400	1800	1000	10080	184357	181965	14013
7	Christ Fellowship, CO	12901	107857	638463	674719	1496	667	250	33877	746120	711009	48012
8	Christ the King, Castle Rock CO	156727	518696	3229	118153	435	435	80	0	521925	119103	565649
9	Clayton Community, CA						0	1800				
10	Community Church of Ephrata, WA	11450	198613	5704	155886	0	1000	3433	2665	204317	162984	52783
11	Cornerstone Community, CO	479694	87312	48010	139231	0	0	2409	23819	133222	165456	447557
12	Covenant Community, CO	48793	119917	357	110503	900	828	0	9600	117274	121831	44236
13	Covenant Presby/Vail Valley, CO						1403	0				
14	Covenant Presbyterian, CA						2200	420				
15	Faith Evangelical, Loveland CO	26937	821710	1163	646826	0	6000	12109	157938	822873	822873	26937
16	Faith Presbyterian, Aurora CO	127157	1173633	227973	1218672	4650	7235	4550	132281	1401606	1367566	161715
17	First EPC, WA	142296	1482031	7012	1314432	3200	11000	11000	131849	1489043	1467930	163409
18	Grace Community, AZ	78022	258607	2472	195060	0	2372	13280	14651	261079	225363	113738
19	Grace Presbyterian, WA	20840	69472	11580	65930	0	966	4363	10016	81052	81275	20617
20	GracePoint, CO	45668	409634	85864	365400	2580	3220	5474	68668	495468	446522	94672
21	Greenwood Community, CO											
22	Hillgate Community, CO	(3750347)	2775107	49506	2695124	10603	17592	6000	148568	2624613	2877687	(3903621)
23	Ken Cary Community, CO (dissolved)						0	500				
24	Lookout Mountain Community, CO	581392	3289435	762190	3459686	12000	12000	31111	546980	4051625	4061676	571341
25	Morningside Presbyterian, AZ	79661	114149	14160	93024	1200	554	983	31334	126308	1270965	9174
26	New Community Christian, CO	536607	578851	64630	767799	0	0	4500	0	643481	772299	407249
27	Northwest EPC, WA						1219			2981		
28	Parker Presbyterian, CO	1422900	1489734	256183	1224887	NA	10515	62800	78514	1755917	1376716	1802101
29	San Ramon Presbyterian, CA						7723	23047				
30	Sanger Community Church, CA						0	2440				
31	Santa Maria Community, CA	254706	156241	32675	142362	1520	1750	8245	6415	188916	160292	283330
32	Thai EPC, CA						0	0				
33	Valley Community, CA	84436	138408	104348	89734	1126	1364	2767	9476	242756	104467	222725
TOTAL		42189224	4327348	39794953	86651	156910	275767	2952820	46516571		43223368	

2004 Annual Statistical Report - Presbytery of the West

Church	2003 Members	2004 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	2004 Gains	2004 Losses	2003 Worship	2004 Worship	2003 Sun. School	2004 Sun. School	2003 Bap- tized Total	2004 Bap- tized Total	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
1 Anadale Community Church, Avada, CO	26	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 Bear Creek EPC, Lakewood, CO	420	416	5	1	9	18	0	366	340	185	0	0	0	0
3 Canyon Creek Community Church, Chandler, AZ (dissolved)	111		0	0	15	0	0	166	205	75	0	0	0	0
4 Celebration Community Church, Denver, CO	81	98	0	0	0	0	0	1219	779	948	0	0	5	10
5 Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church, Englewood, CO	1,229	1,241	20	2	0	72	4	4,100	4,000	2,400	0	0	0	37
6 Cherry Hills Community Church, Highlands Ranch, CO	4,670	4,829	11	226	68	0	12	21	113	0	0	0	0	165
7 Christ Covenant Church, Leoti, KS	83	71	0	0	2	0	0	85	83	51	0	0	0	0
8 Christ Fellowship Church, Ft. Collins, CO	29	29	0	0	0	0	0	40	48	11	22	0	0	1
9 Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Castle Rock, CO**														
10 Christ's Family Church, Tempe, AZ (dissolved)	41													
11 Clayton Community Church, Clayton, CA*	394													
12 Cornerstone Community Church, Denver, CO	44	56	0	0	2	1	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
13 Covenant Community Church, Aurora, CO (*)	34	36	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Covenant Presbyterian Church, Valley, Vail, CO	60	61	0	0	5	0	0	45	55	6	16	0	1	1
15 Covenant Presbyterian Church, North Platte, NE	193	196	0	0	0	11	0	205	197	57	0	2	4	0
16 Faith Presbyterian Church, Loveland, CO	442	442	0	0	23	15	0	4	15	0	0	0	6	9
17 Faith Presbyterian Church, Aurora, CO	675	651	2	5	8	14	1	7	19	57	5	23	1	7
18 First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Renton, WA	149	136	0	0	12	10	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0
19 Grace Community Church, Surprise, AZ	45	38	0	1	0	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
20 Grace Presbyterian Church, Gig Harbor, WA	45	38	0	0	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21 GracePoint Community Church, Littleton, CO	178	190	4	0	73	0	0	170	171	96	3	188	3	0
22 Greenwood Community Church, Greenwood Village, CO	630	703	0	0	0	0	0	1,150	1,150	0	0	0	0	0
23 Highline Community Church, Centennial, CO (*)	168	174	8	8	0	0	0	250	240	123	130	0	0	5
24 Ken Caryl Community Church, Sedalia, CO*	12	12												
25 Lookout Mtn. Community Church, Golden, CO (*)	637	637 (not tracked)												
26 Morningstar Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, AZ	90	89	0	1	1	4	0	70	72	18	29	6	10	4
27 New Community Christian Church, Englewood, CO*	120	120	0	2	0	8	0	103	98	44	55	0	0	4
28 Northwest EPC, Woodville, WA	48	53	0	0	6	19	26	1	12	0	0	0	24	18
29 Parker Presbyterian Church, Parker, CO*	478	515	0	0	0	0	0	336	338	427	443	0	0	0
30 San Ramon Presbyterian Church, San Ramon, CA	357	357												
31 Sanger Community Church, Sanger, CA*	135	135												
32 Santa Maria Community Church, Santa Maria, CA (*)	76	72	0	0	0	0	0	135	135	22	0	0	0	0
33 Thia EPC, Morrova, CA	24	24												
34 Valley Community Church, San Jacinto, CA	61	62	1	17	0	0	0	70	73	22	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	12,355	12,552	54	278	265	190	18	13,692	13,414	5,933	54	255	280	128
Churches of Record - End of Calendar Year														
**Mission or daughter church (*) 2003 numbers adjusted														

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2004 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT -- SUMMARY

					2004 Gains					2004 Losses											
Presbytery	2003 Churches	2004 Churches	2003 Members	2004 Members	Youth Profession	Adult Profession	Transfer	Reaffi- cation	Restored	Transfer Loss	Death	Inactive	Other Loss	2003 Worship	2004 Worship	2003 Sun School	2004 Sun School	2003 Bapt- ized Roll	2004 Bapt- ized Roll	Infant Baptisms	Adult Baptisms
Central South	29	28	12,231	12,533	115	131	535	614	27	182	83	753	57	10,475	10,904	6,810	7,535	1,498	1,558	286	125
East	13	13	5,252	5,385	31	214	33	86	29	41	35	69	16	4,017	4,353	2,513	2,915	236	245	74	23
Florida	8	10	1,655	1,733	11	28	118	58	3	21	5	48	76	1,572	1,704	601	648	75	119	21	15
Mid-America	14	13	4,255	4,513	52	43	131	141	22	52	29	145	26	5,011	5,687	2,163	1,994	94	103	96	33
Mid-Atlantic	34	34	10,308	10,394	111	165	392	457	26	152	67	525	302	10,342	10,637	4,506	5,137	1,597	1,748	161	149
Midwest	30	31	12,442	12,976	72	243	242	403	57	101	83	781	204	11,372	12,108	6,441	6,487	1,155	1,322	199	94
St. Andrews (dismissed)	12		878											880							
Southeast	17	17	6,543	6,407	66	54	145	144	2	152	51	212	142	5,086	5,055	2,821	2,914	2,137	2,118	145	29
West	33	32	12,355	12,532	54	278	255	190	18	50	79	348	42	13,692	13,414	5,993	6,029	54	255	290	128
TOTALS	190	178	65,919	66,473	512	1,156	1,851	2,093	184	751	432	2,881	665	63,557	63,862	31,248	33,659	6,846	7,468	1,252	596

