THE 40TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK

"But thanks be to God, who in Christ Always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere."

2 CORINTHIANS 2:14



40th **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK

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Dear Commissioner.

Welcome to the 40th—and first-ever virtual—General Assembly! Our theme this year is "Always," based on 2 Corinthians 2:14, "But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere."

This handbook is available in our GA app and on the EPC website, but feel free to print it and have it handy while you participate in the virtual meeting. The Handbook includes two sections:

- 1) "Preliminaries" which provides important introductory material to help familiarize you to our time together, and
- 2) "Matters Received and Referred." This is the business the Assembly will address. Other documents, such as the Rules for Assembly, committee reports, audited financial statements, and more are available at www.epc.org/ga2020documents.

Each year at the New Commissioner Orientation, I'm asked, "What should I read to get a good overview?" My response has been to read the Moderator's Report, National Leadership Team Report, and my report. These three reports are gathered together as an "Executive Summary" at the end of the Preliminaries section.

Normally, we hold a New Commissioner Orientation for all of our first-time commissioners on the morning our GA convenes. As we thought about it, we realized that all of us will be "New Commissioners" this year. For that reason, we are hosting two "New Commissioner Orientations" via Zoom the week before we meet. These meetings will cover the same information and be held on Tuesday, September 8, from 4:00-5:30 p.m. (Eastern) and Thursday, September 10, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. (Eastern). The links to these meetings will be emailed to all registered and certified commissioners no later than Monday, September 7.

I hope you'll join me in praying that the God of grace and truth—who always leads us in triumphal procession—will bless our time together!

Yours in Christ,

Juffun Jeremiah

Strain Strain

Stated Clerk

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

www.epc.org



OVERVIEW OF ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

All events are held virtually.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

11:30 a.m. (EDT) Worship

12:15 – 5:00 p.m. **Business Session 1**

Stated Clerk, Jeff Jeremiah Motion to Suspend "Rules for Assembly"

Nominating – Moderator Alan Conrow

Stated Clerk Search Committee Bill Dudley / Dean Weaver

NLT - Presents Budgets Tom Werner
Theology Committee Zach Hopkins

Revelation 7:9 Task Force Rufus Smith / Dean Weaver

Giving Culture Study Committee Jane Cooper

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

11:30 a.m. (EDT) Worship

12:15 – 5:00 p.m. **Business Session 2**

Nominating – Moderator-Elect Alan Conrow
World Outreach Committee Kevin Cauley

Permanent Judicial Commission Yvonne Chapman

Benefit Resources, Inc. Ron Horgan / Randy Shaneyfelt

Fraternal Relations Committee Carol Culbertson
Women's Resource Council Sharon Beekmann

Presbytery Review Committee Helen Franssell

5:00 p.m. (EDT) - Adjourn



GENERAL ASSEMBLY PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(Through the 40th General Assembly)

BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
TE Ronald Horgan, Chairman <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Robert Draughon Central South	RE Michael Busch <i>Alleghenies</i>
TE Erik Ohman	Michael Moore	RE Jim Lewien
<i>Midwest</i>	Central South	<i>West</i>
Randy Shaneyfelt	TE Bill Reisenweaver	RE Sandy Siegfried
<i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	Florida and the Caribbean	Great Plains

CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
TE Karen Bolte Pacific Southwest	TE Jennifer Prechter Florida and the Caribbean	RE Bruce Alexander East
TE Ted Tromble, Chairman Rivers and Lakes	TE David Snyder <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Timothy Foster Central South
TE Brad Yorton Pacific Northwest	RE Richard Swedberg West	TE Glen Holman <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>

FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
RE Gwynn Blair Florida and the Caribbean	RE Carol Culbertson, Chairman West	RE Jerry Harmon Central South
TE Joe Pallikkathayil <i>Mid-America</i>	TE Don Fortson <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Alan Trafford Gulf South

GENEROSITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
RE Bobby Cobbs, Chairman Pacific Southwest	TE Ben Borsay <i>Midwest</i>	RE Kevin Byma Alleghenies
RE Theodore Hailes Central South	RE Mark Eibel Pacific Northwest	TE Jeff Porter <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>



MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
TE Bradley Strait, Chairman	RE Neal McAtee	TE Fred Lian
West	Central South	<i>West</i>
RE Philip Stump	RE Caroline Tromble	RE Frank Rotella
<i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	Rivers and Lakes	<i>East</i>

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
RE Gerry Arnold Gulf South	RE Phil Fanara East	RE Chris Danusiar Rivers and Lakes
TE Nancy Duff Pacific Southwest	TE Brett Garretson West	RE Brian Evans <i>Midwest</i>
RE Rosemary Lukens Pacific Northwest	RE Michael Gibson Great Plains	RE Frank Carter <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
	RE Robert Liddon Central South	TE Luder Whitlock Florida and the Caribbean

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
RE Enid Flores	Greg Aydt	Jen Burkholder, Chairman
Florida and the Caribbean	<i>West</i>	Alleghenies
TE Andrew Koesters	Meg DeHaven	Martha Daniel
Mid-Atlantic	<i>East</i>	<i>Alleghenies</i>
RE Becky Shultz	TE Andrew Mills	Ivan Moore
West	Gulf South	Alleghenies

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
RE Marian Bradshaw Rivers and Lakes	TE Larry Carlson Pacific Northwest	RE John Adamson Central South
TE Jeff Chadwick Southeast	RE Susan Humphreys Mid-America	RE Brian Altmyer Alleghenies
TE Alan Conrow, Chairman Midwest	RE Joe McCoy <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Henry Beck <i>Gulf South</i>



TE Wayne Hardy Great Plains	TE David Ricketts Pacific Southwest	RE Jan Bole <i>West</i>
TE Woody Johnson	TE Bill Dudley	RE Alan Smith
Florida and the Caribbean	Southeast	East

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
RE Yvonne Chapman, Chairman Central South	RE Amanda Cowan Florida and the Caribbean	TE George Dakin Pacific Northwest
RE Ken Roberts West	RE Donald Flater Rivers and Lakes	TE Neil Ellison <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
RE David Tyra Pacific Northwest	TE Dana Opp Alleghenies	RE Donald Harms <i>Midwest</i>

PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
TE Helen Franssell, Chairman East	RE Cecil Matthews <i>West</i>	RE George King Gulf South
RE Diane Manon <i>Midwest</i>	TE Gary O'Keefe <i>Midwest</i>	

THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
RE Fred Flinn Central South	TE Ron DiNunzio East	RE Gordon Miller <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
Zach Hopkins, Chairman Rivers and Lakes	TE Ryan Mowen Alleghenies	RE John Moody Great Plains

WOMEN'S RESOURCE COUNCIL

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
Kathleen Marcy Rivers and Lakes	TE Sharon Beekmann, Chairman West	RE Kathy Clymer - resigned <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
Kim Sinclair <i>Midwest</i>	RE Lynn Burdge Central South	RE Rebecca Duvall Pacific Southwest



WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Class of 2020:	Class of 2021:	Class of 2022:
TE Brad Buescher Great Plains	TE Rick Dietzman Pacific Northwest	RE Phyllis Ellsworth <i>Midwest</i>
TE Kevin Cauley, Chairman <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Susan Lear Great Plains	RE Johnny Long West
RE David Miller Rivers and Lakes	RE Patrick Tucker Central South	RE David Van Valkenburg West

OTHER COMMITTEES

(Through the 40th General Assembly)

REVELATION 7:9 TASK FORCE

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 38th General Assembly

TE Rufus Smith, Co-Chairman West	TE Dean Weaver, Co-Chairman <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Tom Clymer <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
TE Marc de Jeu Alleghenies	RE Enid Flores Florida and the Caribbean	RE Phyllis LePeau Rivers and Lakes
TE Soon Pak Midwest	Beth Paz Pacific Southwest	RE Brandon Queen Gulf South
TE Tim Russell Central South	RE Tom Werner Mid-America	RE Ted Winters <i>Mid-America</i>

GIVING CULTURE STUDY COMMITTEE

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 39th General Assembly

RE Bob Coleman West	Re Jane Cooper, Chairman <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Jamie Cupshalk <i>East</i>
TE Scott McKee Midwest	RE Bruce Novkov Southeast	RE Gina Stewart Pacific Northwest
RE Mike Gibson, Ex-Officio Great Plains	TE Case Thorp, Ex-Officio Florida and the Caribbean	TE Jeff Jeremiah, Ex-Officio Pacific Northwest



2019-2020 EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

MODERATOR'S REPORT NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT STATED CLERK'S REPORT



Moderator's Report 40th General Assembly



Case Thorp Moderator 39th General Assembly

Greetings in Christ, brothers and sisters of the EPC,

Wow. What a year it has been. Did we imagine when we last gathered that our world would be turned upside down by the COVID-19 epidemic?

As I had the opportunity to be with many of you at both presbytery meetings and elder retreats, I can with great confidence say: the EPC is alive and well. There are so many local expressions of gospel ministry that encourage me. I heard from many of you who do not feel such momentum, but the desire is strong in you to see the church be all Christ calls her to be. Church planting is expanding, and revitalization is on everyone's heart. This is a great mix for our future.

It is in this vein that I titled my blogs and podcasts for the denomination, "Church Pivot." I wanted to focus on the need and necessity to shift many of our ministry methodologies from the Christendom model of the mid-20th century, or even the attractional model of the last 40 years to a missional model. I remain even further convicted that we must continue to push in this direction at all levels of our denomination: congregations, presbyteries, and the General Assembly.

I began my term lifting before you these cultural concerns in both society and the church:

• Adult conversions have bottomed out for us, and we recognize the wanting discipleship many churches have offered people the past 50 years.



- Post-modernism has redefined the meaning of a man, a woman, a child, even the inutero child, such that a Christian anthropology seems like a foreign, political threat to our neighbors.
- Pentecostal and non-denominational churches give us Presbyterians a run for our money, reaching the masses while perpetuating a false prosperity gospel, starryeyed pastors seeking fame, and "worship-tainment" dislocated from her historic moorings.
- And we are only beginning to taste and see the impact of technology and a connected world on our own politics, economics, and faith.

Acknowledging these challenges, the EPC pushes forward for the gospel.

I see success occurring for the overall church in terms of our local contextualization of ministry, shared national conversations about both problems, solutions, and opportunities, and the deep love many have for the EPC family. We truly have and need to keep nurturing our family feel, one of our greatest strengths.

Along the way, however, two concerns have become very apparent to me that we must change. Many of us share a different definition of what it means to be connectional, and how we embrace connectionalism. These divergent definitions allow us each to proclaim the idea but practice it differently. This leads to poor stewardship of our collective resources, a lack of efficiency in shared mission efforts, and the potential charge of hypocrisy in that we may talk one talk, but each takes our own walk.

A second concern of mine pertains to my own journey into the EPC, and so I feel I have permission to expose a sensitive issue. Many of my fellow former PC(USA)ers carry with them—understandably—pain, wounds, and fear from their former days of so-called connectionalism. This, in turn, leads to suspicion and a lack of trust for the EPC leaders who minister in very responsible, authentic, and passionate ways. Many have begun using the term "PC(USA) PTSD" to describe these phenomena.

As one who has taken a similar journey into the EPC family, I feel I uniquely can call my brothers and sisters with unrestored hearts and legitimate wounds to a process whereby Christ is the great balm of Gilead healing our souls. Such healing, I believe, will allow our family bonds to grow ever more deeply, and enrichen our mission into the future. What will this process look like? I'm not sure, but I hope to use my role to bring attention to this unresolved dynamic that keeps us from moving forward in a healthier manner.

We have much as a fellowship of churches on the agenda in coming years: Church Planting, Revelation 7:9 Task Force, a new Stated Clerk, World Outreach reshaping and leadership, and the Giving Culture Study Committee. I was with the Church Planters for their fall retreat.



Wow! What a dynamic group. The work of the Revelation 7:9 Task Force is a prophetic, hard, and much needed work; I pray we give their recommendations our fullest consideration, contribution, and support.

Finally, the leadership transition coming in the next 18 months with our Stated Clerk and Director of World Outreach gives us a great opportunity to celebrate faithful work and ignite new excitement for the next chapter of leadership.

Thank you for calling me to serve; it has been one of the greatest honors of my life. The Lord has done a deep work in me during this time, and I pray through me as well.

In Him who is our Strength,

Case Thorp, Moderator, 39th General Assembly

September 2020



National Leadership Team

Executive Summary Report to the 40th General Assembly



Tom Werner *Chairman*

Summary of Work, 2019-2020:

- 1. The National Leadership Team (NLT) received regular reports from the Revelation 7:9 Task Force and engaged with Co-chairmen Rufus Smith and Dean Weaver in its work.
- 2. The NLT continued to implement the Executive Transition Plan first formulated in 2018.
- 3. The NLT continued its oversight of the strategic priorities, implementing the new matching fund approach to transformation (church revitalization).
- 4. The NLT expanded to sixteen members and welcomed five new members to the 2019-2020 NLT.

Recommendations to the 2020 General Assembly:

- 1. That the 40^{th} General Assembly approve the <u>terms of call</u> for Stated Clerk-elect Dean Weaver.
- 2. That the 40th General Assembly approve the FY2021 Administration budget.
- 3. That the 40th General Assembly approve the consideration of increasing the funding of the line items within the budget (with a focus on strategic ministry opportunities) should FY21 revenue exceed the budget.
- 4. That the 40th General Assembly approve the FY 2021 Special Projects budget.
- 5. That the 40th General Assembly receive the Minutes of the 39th General Assembly.



Work of the Committee in 2019-2020:

Revelation 7:9 Task Force

The formation of the Revelation 7:9 Task Force was approved by the 38th General Assembly in 2018. Appointed by 38th GA Moderator Tom Werner, it is comprised of 13 individuals of diverse ethnic backgrounds (though majority Caucasian), male and female. The Task Force spent its first year primarily listening within the denomination and provided an interim report of its findings to the 39th General Assembly.

The second year of the committee's work has been focused on developing recommendations to the 40th General Assembly. The committee's goal is the presentation of S.M.A.R.T. *(Smart, Measurable, Achievable, Reasonable, Time-sensitive)* recommendations, accompanied by resources and templates for churches in the EPC to become more ethnically, age, and economically Revelation 7:9 mosaic communities. The Task Force plans to make two sets of recommendations: one set for individual congregations and a second set for the EPC as a denomination. Through Co-chairmen TE Rufus Smith and TE Dean Weaver, as well as 2019-2020 NLT chairman Tom Werner, the Task Force has been in regular contact with the NLT. Their full report is found in another section of the Commissioner's Handbook.

Executive Transition

Since 2018, the National Leadership Team has been conscious of—and planning for—the departures of the Stated Clerk, Director of World Outreach (both scheduled to leave in June 2021) and the Chief Operating Officer, who departed in June 2019.

World Outreach Evaluation Team

Anticipating the departure of the Director of World Outreach in June 2021, the NLT decided an evaluation of EPC World Outreach was in order in 2019-2020. An evaluation team representing EPC leadership in global missions was appointed. Members were TE Betsy Rumer, RE Brad Gill, TE Johnny Long, RE Alan Johnson, TE Brian Tweedie, TE Kevin Cauley, and NLT member RE Rob Liddon, who served as chairman. Its initial meeting was August 26-28 at the Office of the General Assembly in Orlando. The Evaluation Team filed its final report to the NLT, which approved it on April 8, 2020. This report is being further discussed with NLT and World Outreach leadership. It will be extremely useful to the Director of World Outreach Search Committee, to be appointed soon.

Stated Clerk Search Committee

This committee convened its first meeting August 27-29, 2019, at the Office of the General Assembly in Orlando. Its full report is in another part of the Commissioner's Handbook.



Chief Operating Officer

Phil VanValkenburg, who served as Chief Operating Officer since 2014, departed in June 2019. Instead of immediately filling this position, the NLT agreed to a six-month trial period for OGA staff with the position left vacant. COO responsibilities were assigned to various staff members. At its January 21, 2020, meeting, the NLT satisfied itself that staff was able to work effectively without the COO and left the position vacant.

Assistant Stated Clerk Jerry Iamurri

At its April 30, 2020, meeting, the National Leadership Team received and approved the recommendation from the NLT Personnel Committee that Jerry Iamurri be reappointed to a new three-year term as Assistant Stated Clerk.

Strategic Priorities

Embedded in the EPC vision statement, "To the glory of God, the EPC aspires to be a global movement of congregations embodying Jesus' love to our neighbors near and far, engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership" are the strategic priorities of global movement, multiplication (church planting), transformation (church revitalization), and effective biblical leadership. These priorities are reviewed by the NLT at their August and January meetings.

<u>Global Movement</u> encompasses the ministry of EPC World Outreach and the Fraternal Relations Committee. The transition in EPC WO is provided previously in this report. The report of the Fraternal Relations Committee is found in another section of the Commissioner's Handbook.

The <u>Multiplication</u> effort continues to enjoy strong leadership under Tom Ricks, leader of the EPC Church Planting Team. Members of the Team for 2019-2020 are RE Jack Cathey, TE Shawn Robinson, TE Michael Davis, and TE Richard Rieves. Ad hoc advisors serving this year are TE Aaron Carr, who leads the Detroit-area church planting network, and Kirk Adkisson, an active church planter in Nashville, Tennessee.

With more than 43 active church plants, we now have at least one active church plant in every presbytery in the EPC! New church plants were launched in 2020 in Kansas City (both the Kansas and Missouri sides); Jacksonville, Florida; and in the western area of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On schedule to launch in early 2021 is Woke Bridge Community Church in Ferguson, Missouri.

In lieu of the annual fall church planters retreat (a COVID-19 casualty), three learning webinars will be held in September, October, and November 2020. Zack Eswine, Thabiti Anyabwile, and Greg Thompson will each lead one of our sessions. Information about dates



and times will be available on the EPC website by the first week in September. We are learning how to care for our church planters during these interesting moments! The good news is church planters, by nature, are flexible and love a good challenge. The tough news is none of us have ever been down this road and changes can come daily. The tough circumstances existing and healthy churches face are compounded in a small local church plant. Find out how to contact the church planter(s) in your presbytery and send them a note of encouragement!

Also, a very practical way to support our church planting efforts is through participation in the 2020 Thanksgiving offering. Many of our church plants are in their first two years of their launch and their financial challenges are compounded on several levels. The Thanksgiving offering will be directed at helping our youngest church plants sustain the challenges and be positioned to grow and thrive as they move into the future. Our goal is that in the EPC, every church is a Parent, Partner, or Patron of church planting!

A key change in <u>Transformation</u> this year is the inauguration of matching funds. Local churches and/or the presbytery committed funds as a part of the revitalization of the church. Eight churches applied for and received more than \$53,000 from the EPC's Church Revitalization Matching Fund. Total EPC, presbytery, and local church funding for revitalization exceeded \$125,000.

Effective biblical leadership is led by Assistant Stated Clerk Jerry Iamurri. The crowning piece of the EPC's commitment to this priority is the Leadership Institute. Hundreds of TEs and REs arrange their schedules to attend the Institute, normally held Tuesday-Wednesday of General Assembly week. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Leadership Institute had to be cancelled. A full slate of offerings for the 41st GA in 2021 is being developed. In addition, online seminars and workshops are being planned for late 2020. Another component of this priority is the gathering of EPC committees, networks, and leadership groups. Meetings of presbytery Stated Clerks, Moderators, and Ministerial and Candidates Committee chairs encourage and equip these leaders in their service. The Ministerial Vocation Committee, Chaplains Work and Care Committee, and the Next Generation Ministries Council all focus on increasing the effectiveness of those they resource and support.

In addition to reviewing these priorities, at its January 2020 meeting the NLT discussed the state of evangelism in the EPC. NLT members presented reports from the books, *The Myth of the Dying Church, I Once Was Lost,* and *You Found Me.* Michelle Sanchez, Executive Minister of Make and Deepen Disciples for the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) engaged the NLT via video conference call to share how the ECC has implemented an evangelism strategy.



Expansion of the National Leadership Team

The 39th General Assembly approved the expansion of the NLT from 13 to 16 members. Combined with members concluding six-year terms, five new members were present at the August 2020 NLT meeting. An onboarding event hosted by RE Rosemary Lukens in advance of that meeting was very helpful to incoming members.

Other

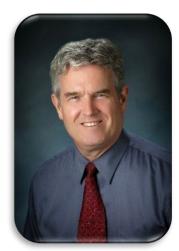
"The State of EPC Pastors" is the title of TE Josh Hanson's Doctor of Ministry project. Hanson is the Lead Pastor at Gateway Church in Findlay, Ohio. Following the template of a 2016 Barna report, "The State of Pastors," Hanson's project underscored the strengths of the EPC and also highlighted four concerns: 1) impending Boomer retirements and leadership development, 2) concern for the small church, 3) mental health of pastors, and 4) the lack of evangelism. The NLT appreciates this work, which has been referred to repeatedly in discussions in the last year.

Respectfully submitted,

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nlt



Stated Clerk Report to the 40th General Assembly



Jeff Jeremiah Stated Clerk

There's a real sense that coming out of our annual General Assembly we have our "marching orders" for the coming year. In the time following our 39th General Assembly at Cherry Creek last June, we were committed to moving forward as a mission- and vision-driven denomination of churches under our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In our statement of mission, we've declared that our Lord Jesus as called us to be Presbyterian, Reformed, evangelical, and missional churches. Led by National Leadership Team chairman Tom Werner, the NLT did a "deep dive" into the state of evangelism last summer and concluded this was a key area that defines *who we are* that needs attention and strengthening. In conjunction with the work of the Revelation 7:9 Task Force, the plan going forward was to broaden and augment our efforts to declare the glory of the gospel to all the people in our communities.

At the same time, at the national level we were continuing a time of transition in executive leadership. Chief Operating Officer Phil Van Valkenburg had retired in June 2019. Instead of replacing him, a re-allocation of responsibilities took place in which existing staff stepped up and shouldered additional duties. This reduction in headcount enabled us to devote more funding to our strategic priorities of church planting, church revitalization, effective biblical leadership, and global movement. In anticipation of the June 2021 departure of World Outreach Director Phil Linton and me, the World Outreach Evaluation Team and Stated Clerk Search Committee held their initial meetings in August.

In my December "Jeremiah Journal" video, I spoke to the health and well-being of our pastors. In my list of "stressors" pastors face was "uncertainty about your church's future."

In God's providence, all this was happening as preparation for the transition none of us



were prepared for or planned for: COVID-19 and the almost immediate shutdown of our country, communities, and churches. Any change imposed on us inevitably sparks our resistance. The scale and suddenness of the COVID-19 shutdown was historic. As a leader in the EPC, you demonstrated resilience, creativity, and even enthusiasm as you persevered, endured, and even prospered as you've adjusted "on the fly." One example: a church with a worshiping congregation of 45 moved to virtual worship. It now has 140-150 attendees a week!

With our Lord's leadership and provision, we will get thought this. We will be different on the other side, but also stronger and more vibrant in our testimony and ministry for Christ and His gospel!

A. Responding to COVID-19

Like all of you, the staff in the Office of the General Assembly had to respond quickly to the shutdown and be available to respond effectively as opportunities and needs arose. The office was responsible for the following activities in response to COVID-19:

- 1. <u>Good Friday Day of Fasting and Prayer (April 10)</u>. The EPC joined the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA) in promoting this ecumenical prayer event in response to COVID-19. Churches that joined us on April 10 included the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO), the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (ARP), the Christian Reformed Church (CRC), and the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA). The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) promoted this event to all of its member churches.
- 2. <u>May 1 Called General Assembly meeting</u>. This was the third called meeting of the GA in our 40-year history, as commissioners to the 39th General Assembly (2019) gathered virtually to postpone the 40th GA from June 23-26 to September 17-18, 2020.
- 3. <u>Day of Fasting, Lament and Prayer (June 8)</u>. In response to the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd and the ensuing civil unrest and violence, the EPC set aside Monday, June 8, as a day of fasting, lament, and prayer.
- 4. <u>Presbytery meetings</u>. Led by Director of Communications Brian Smith, the office gave guidance and technical support to our presbyteries as they were forced to convene virtual meetings this spring. Presbyteries are urged to revise their bylaws to provide for virtual meetings.
- 5. <u>Local churches.</u> My office provided guidance to churches about virtual worship, including a provisional opinion for administering the Lord's Supper. A provisional opinion also was provided on the ordination and installation of Ruling Elders and Deacons. Led by Chief Financial Officer Pat Coelho, the finance department of the office provided online giving services for 31 churches to help them through the shutdown.



B. Special funds

The EPC has special funds that serve churches and individuals in a "diaconal capacity." Generous giving to these funds across the years have ensured that urgent needs are being met as they arise. This is a concrete application of the spiritual connection we enjoy in the EPC.

- 1. <u>Gratitude Gift</u>. This special fund was established by the General Assembly in 1985. The Gratitude Gift is an offering EPC churches may participate in during the Christmas season. Its purpose is to help retired ministers and missionaries in need of financial help to cover out-of-pocket medical and extraordinary costs. In 2019-2020, ten retired colleagues in ministry received support from this fund.
- 2. <u>Medical Benevolence</u>. This fund was approved by the General Assembly in 1990. Its purpose is to help pay the monthly medical premiums of ministers who are between calls. The minister's presbytery contributes half of the premium; the EPC fund pays half. The use of this fund was expanded in 2020 to help ministers who incur costs of care related to health conditions *not* covered by the pastor's medical plan. Two ministers with special needs children received support from this fund in 2020.
- 3. Emergency Relief. When a natural disaster strikes, EPC church and member giving to the Emergency Relief fund is disbursed to help our churches and their communities in the affected area. In 2019-2020 funds were disbursed to our three churches in the Bahamas—Kirk of the Pines (Marsh Harbor); Lucaya Presbyterian Church (Freeport); and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk (Nassau)—in response to Hurricane Dorian. All Souls Church (Nashville, TN) and Westminster Presbyterian Church (Laurel, MS) received emergency help this spring in the aftermath of the tornadoes that swept through the Southeast U.S. Due to the past generosity of the EPC there is currently no need to solicit gifts to this fund. There is a healthy balance to address needs as they arise in the near future.

C. Per Member Asking appreciation

More than 200 EPC churches distinguished themselves in 2019 for their outstanding support for Per Member Asking. The following churches contributed 100% (or more) of their PMA to support the mission and vision of the EPC. PMA is the active membership multiplied by \$23 per member.

Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Bergen EPC (Bergen, NY). Bethany Presbyterian Church (Mercer, PA). Bethel EPC (Enon Valley, PA). Bethel Presbyterian Church (Prosperity, PA). Beverly Heights Presbyterian Church (Pittsburgh, PA). Colonial Village Presbyterian Church (Niagara Falls, NY). Connellsville Presbyterian Church (Connellsville, PA). Covenant Presbyterian Church



(Sharon, PA). Cup EPC (Beaver Falls, PA). Evangelical Presbyterian Stone Church (Caledonia, NY). Hanover Presbyterian Church (Clinton, PA). Harmony EPC (Harrisville, PA). Hickory United EPC (Hickory, PA). Leicester EPC (Leicester, NY). Mansfield First Presbyterian Church (Mansfield, OH). Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church (Aliquippa, PA). Mt. Pleasant Church (Aliquippa, PA). Pierpont Presbyterian Church (Pierpont, OH). Pine Run Presbyterian Church (Apollo, PA). Redeemer Presbyterian Church (Erie, PA). St. Paul's Presbyterian Church (Somerset, PA). Unionville Presbyterian Church (Butler, PA). Venice Presbyterian Church (McDonald, PA). Windy Gap Presbyterian Church (West Finley, PA).

Presbytery of the Central South

Atoka Presbyterian Church (Atoka, TN). Downtown Church (Memphis, TN). First EPC (Anna, IL). First Presbyterian Church, EPC (West Point, MS). First Presbyterian Church (Tallassee, AL). First Presbyterian Church (Trenton, TN). First Presbyterian Church (West Memphis, AR). Highland Heights Presbyterian Church (Cordova, TN). Hope Church Carbondale (Carbondale, IL). Restoration Church (Munford, TN). Second Presbyterian Church (Memphis, TN. Sylvania Presbyterian Church (Ward, AR). Tunica Presbyterian Church (Tunica, MS).

Presbytery of the East

Ashland EPC (Voorhees, NJ). Bethlehem Steltz Reformed Church (Glen Rock, PA). Circleville Presbyterian Church (Circleville, NY). Faith EPC (Kingstown, VA). Forks of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church (Glenmore, PA). Grace Covenant (Exton, PA). Guinston Presbyterian Church (Airville, PA). Little Britain Presbyterian Church (Peach Bottom, PA). Living Hope EPC (Haymarket, VA). Manoa Community Church (Havertown, PA). Oreland EPC (Oreland, PA). Princetown EPC (Duanesburg, NY). Twin Tiers EPC (Big Flats, NY). Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church (Parkesburg, PA).

Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean

Covenant Presbyterian Church (Tallahassee, FL). River City Church (DeBary, FL)

Presbytery of the Great Plains

Avery Presbyterian Church (Bellevue, NE). Colonial Presbyterian Church (Kansas City, MO). Eastminster Presbyterian Church (Wichita, KS). First Presbyterian Church (Clay Center, KS). New Hope EPC (Blue Rapids, KS). St. Luke Joy Church (Kansas City, MO). Turner County EPC (Davis, SD).

Presbytery of the Gulf South

City of Refuge Church (Houston, TX). Cornerstone EPC (Katy, TX). Covenant EPC (Lake Jackson, TX). Covenant Presbyterian Church (Monroe, LA). Covenant Presbyterian Church (Mobile, AL). Edna Presbyterian Church (Edna, TX). EPC of Marshall (Marshall, TX). First Presbyterian Church (Vicksburg, MS). First Presbyterian Church (Mexia, TX). First Presbyterian Church (Ocean Springs, MS). First Presbyterian Church of Port Gibson (Port Gibson, MS). Grace Presbyterian Church (Alexandria, LA). Hope Church (San



Antonio, TX). Memorial Presbyterian Church (San Augustine, TX). Pineywoods Presbyterian Church (Nacogdoches, TX). Westminster Presbyterian Church (Laurel, MS). Woodland Presbyterian Church (New Orleans, LA). Yokena Presbyterian Church (Vicksburg, MS).

Presbytery of Mid-America

Big Creek Presbyterian Church (Hannibal, MO). Faith Presbyterian Church (Perryville, MO). Gashland EPC (Kansas City, MO). Greentree Community Church (Kirkwood, MO). Sutter Presbyterian Church (Brighton, MO).

Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

Asbury EPC (Westfield, NC). Bethlehem Presbyterian Church (Monroe, NC). Bouldin Memorial Presbyterian Church (Stuart, VA). Buffalo Presbyterian Church (Greensboro, NC). Christ Community Church (Montreat, NC). Christ Fellowship Church (Southern Pines, NC). Cornerstone Church of Goldsboro (Goldsboro, NC). Crossroads Community Church (Burgaw, NC). Darlington Presbyterian Church (Darlington, SC). Elon Presbyterian Church (Madison Heights, VA). Englewood Presbyterian Church (Rocky Mount, NC). EPC of Elkton (Elkton, VA). Forest Hills Presbyterian Church EPC (Wilson, NC). Galatia EPC (Eagle Rock, NC). Galatia Presbyterian Church (Fayetteville, NC). Garden Memorial Presbyterian Church (Charlotte, NC). Kershaw EPC (Kershaw, SC). Lighthouse EPC (Mooresville, NC). McBee Presbyterian Church (McBee, SC). Mebane Presbyterian Church (Mebane, NC). Memorial Presbyterian Church (Greensboro, NC). Midway EPC (New Zion, SC). New Cut Presbyterian Church (Lancaster, NC). Perrow Presbyterian Church (Cross Lanes, WV). Princeton Presbyterian Church (Princeton, WV). Riceville Valley Community Church (Asheville, NC). Ridgecrest Presbyterian Church (Locust, NC). Roseann EPC (Hurley, VA). Rourk Presbyterian Church (Rockingham, NC). Siler Presbyterian Church (Wesley Chapel, NC). St. Giles EPC (Charlotte, NC). Thompson Valley Presbyterian Church (Tazewell, VA). Trinity EPC (Florence, SC). Valley Hope Church (Black Mountain, NC). Walker's Creek Presbyterian Church (Marion, VA). Warrenton Presbyterian Church (Abbeville, SC).

Presbytery of the Midwest

Calvary Presbyterian Church (Flint, MI). Cedarville United Presbyterian Church (Cedarville, OH). College Corner Presbyterian Church (College Corner, OH). Community EPC (Owosso, MI). Cornerstone EPC (Brighton, MI). Covenant Church (West Lafayette, IN). Covenant EPC (Tecumseh, MI). Faith EPC (Rochester Hills, MI). Faith Presbyterian Church (West Lafayette, IN). Fellowship EPC (South Lyon, MI). First EPC (Battle Creek, MI). First EPC (Kokomo, IN). First EPC (Frankfort, IN). First Presbyterian Church (Paulding, OH). First Presbyterian Church (Bucyrus, OH). First Presbyterian Church (Hillsdale. MI). Grace Point EPC (Nappanee, IN). Kirkmont Presbyterian Church (Beavercreek, OH). Knox Presbyterian Church (Ann Arbor, MI). Lake City EPC (Lake City, MI). Living Hope Evangelical Church (Grosse Pointe, MI). North Oaks Community Church (Clarkston, MI). Oakhill Presbyterian Church ((Grand Rapids, MI). Peace Church (Flint, MI). Russellville Presbyterian Church (Russellville, OH). St. Andrew EPC (Auburn, IN). Stonebridge Church (Perrysburg, OH). Trinity Presbyterian Church (Columbia City, IN).



Ward EPC (Northville, MI). Westminster Church (Port Huron, MI). Wheat Ridge EPC (West Union, OH).

Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest

Alder Presbyterian Church (Eatonville, WA). Bickleton Evangelical Community Church (Bickleton, WA). Christ Community Church (Caldwell, ID). Calvin Presbyterian Church (Corvallis, OR). Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church (Gig Harbor, WA). Christ Presbyterian Church (Boise, ID). Community Church of Ephrata (Ephrata, WA). Evangelical Valley Presbyterian Church (Hazelton, ID). First EPC (Oregon City, OR). First Presbyterian Church (Fairbanks, AK). Grace EPC (Gig Harbor, WA). Hope Presbyterian Church (Rogue River, OR). Living Waters EPC (Wendell, ID). Merrill Presbyterian Church (Merrill, OR). New Hope EPC (Burney, CA). New Hope Presbyterian Church (Kent, WA). Okanogan EPC (Okanogan, WA). Parkdale Community Church (Parkdale, WA). Parkway Presbyterian Church (Tacoma, WA). Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church (Klamath Falls, OR). Saddlerock EPC (Wenatchee, WA). Sequim Community Church (Sequim, WA). Sterry Memorial Presbyterian Church (Parma, ID). Wabash Church (Auburn, WA).

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

Centerville Presbyterian Church (Fremont, CA). Clayton Community Church (Clayton, CA). Community Presbyterian Church (Danville, CA). Covenant Community Church (Vacaville, CA). Covenant Presbyterian Church (Orange, CA). First Armenian Presbyterian Church (Fresno, CA). First Presbyterian Church (Hanford, CA). First Presbyterian Church (Bakersfield, CA). Sierra Presbyterian Church (Nevada City, CA). Woodlake Presbyterian Church (Woodlake, CA).

Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes

Aplington EPC (Aplington, IA). Bethel Presbyterian Church (Reading, MN). Christ Alone Church (Green Bay, WI). Faith EPC (Crivitz, WI). Faith Presbyterian Church (Quincy, IL). First EPC (Cedar Grove, WI). First Presbyterian Church (Waukegan, IL). First Presbyterian Church (Mora, MN). First Presbyterian Evangelical Church (Montezuma, IA). First United Presbyterian Church (Moline, IL). Hogarty Community Church (Aniwa, WI). Immanuel Presbyterian Church (Warrenville, IL). Kishwaukee Community EPC (Stillman Valley, IL). Riverside Evangelical Church (Sartell, MN). Trinity Presbyterian Church (Sparta, IL). United Presbyterian Church (Amberg, WI). Wabash Presbyterian Church at Orio (Allendale, IL).

Presbytery of the Southeast

Central Presbyterian Church (Hyden, KY). Christ Church Presbyterian (Dalton, GA). Covenant Presbyterian Church (Rome, GA). First Presbyterian Church (Rome, GA). Hope Fellowship EPC (Chickamauga, GA). Murphy Presbyterian Church (Murphy, NC). New Beginning Church (Spring City, TN). New Hope EPC (Kingsport, TN). Trinity Grace EPC (Loganville, GA). Trion EPC (Trion, GA).



Presbytery of the West

Christ Reformed Presbyterian Church (Torrington, WY). Community Protestant Church (West Yellowstone, MT). Cornerstone Church (Stapleton, NE). Cornerstone Community Church (Aurora, CO). Cornerstone Community Church (Greeley, CO). Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Hazelton, ND). Faith Evangelical Church (Loveland, CO). First EPC (Artesia, NM). Good Shepherd EPC (Ajo, AZ). Grace Reformed Church (Casper, WY). Greenwood Community Church (Greenwood Village, CO). Mountain Road Church (Fruit Heights, UT).

Respectfully submitted,.

Juffun Junual eff deremial Stated Clerk

September 2020

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-statedclerk

Click here for the 2019 Annual Church Report

Click here for the 2019-2020 Churches Received, Dissolved, and Dismissed



SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

(Communications, Overtures, and Recommendations)

40-01	The Stated Clerk recommends that the 40 th General Assembly suspend "Rules for Assembly" for the duration of the 40 th General Assembly. (p.28)
40-02	The Nominating Committee recommends that the 40 th General Assembly ELECT Glenn Meyers as Moderator of the 40 th General Assembly. (p.29)
40-03	[First Reading] The Nominating Committee recommends that the 40 th General Assembly ELECT the slate of nominees for the 40 th General Assembly Permanent Committees. (p.31)
40-04	The Stated Clerk Search Committee recommends that the 40 th General Assembly ELECT TE Dean Weaver as the Fourth Stated Clerk of the EPC to be installed at the 41 st General Assembly. (p.33)
40-05	The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40 th General Assembly approve the terms of call for Stated Clerk-elect Dean Weaver, beginning January 1, 2021. (p.33)
40-06	The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40 th General Assembly APPROVE the FY 2021 Administration budget. (p.33)
40-07	The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40 th General Assembly APPROVE the consideration of increasing the funding of the line items within the budget, with a focus on strategic ministry opportunities should FY21 revenue exceed the budget. (p.33)
40-08	The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40 th General Assembly APPROVE the FY 2021 Special Projects budget. (p.34)
40-09	The Theology Committee recommends that the 40 th General Assembly APPROVE the revision to the EPC endorsement Policy. (p.34)
40-10	This item intentionally left blank.
40-11	The Revelation 7:9 Task Force recommends that the 40 th General Assembly APPROVE the continuance of the Task Force until the 2022 General Assembly. (p.34)

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Revelation 7:9 Task Force continue its work as an ad-interim



committee of the General Assembly for two (2) additional years for the purpose of resourcing interested EPC presbyteries and local churches in growing toward reflecting the God-given variety within our 1-3-5-mile neighboring communities, via the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- **40-12 The Revelation 7:9 Task Force** recommends that the 40th General Assembly receive and distribute its report to all EPC presbyteries, churches, and pastors. (p.35)
- 40-13 The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly DIRECT the Generosity Resources Committee to develop resources by the 41st General Assembly (2021) to aid congregations in enriching their financial collection practices to include the latest methods of giving and stewardship education. (p.35)
- **40-14 The Giving Culture Study Committee** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **DIRECT** the Office of the General Assembly to develop a plan to educate Presbyteries and Sessions as to the purpose and role of the Office of the General Assembly. (p.35)
- 40-15 The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly DIRECT the Ministerial Vocation Committee (in conjunction with the National Leadership Team) to develop strategies to aid those church leaders acutely suffering from the after-effects of their prior denominational affiliations and practices. (p.35)
- 40-16 The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly DIRECT the Theology Committee with assistance from the Ministerial Vocation Committee the task of defining the terms "connectional" and "connectionalism" as understood by the EPC and report to the 41st General Assembly (2021). (p.36)
- **40-17 The Giving Culture Study Committee** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the continuance of the Committee until the 41st General Assembly (2021). (p.36)
- **40-18** The Nominating Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly ELECT TE Brad Strait as Moderator-Elect. (p.37)
- **40-19 The World Outreach Committee** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** Outreach Foundation as an approved agency. (p.38)
- **40-20 The World Outreach Committee** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** Pak 7 as an approved agency. (p.38)



- **40-21 The World Outreach Committee** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** Frontier Fellowship as an approved agency. (p.38)
- **40-22 The World Outreach Committee** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** Avant Ministries as an approved agency. (p.38)
- 40-23 The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 40th General Assembly RATIFY the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission dismissing the Complaint dated June 17, 2019, filed by member of Sunset Presbyterian Church against the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, as the Complaint did not allege proper grounds for the General Assembly to take the actions requested. (p.39)
- **The Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RATIFY** the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission dismissing the Complaint dated June 30, 2019, filed by former REs of Sunset Presbyterian Church against the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, as the Complaint did not allege proper groundsfor the General Assembly to take the actions requested. (p.39)
- Assembly **DECLINE** the Ascending Overture from the Presbytery fo the Gulf South to amend *Book of Government* G.13-2 as the Overture does not provide sufficient clarity to resolve any confusion distinguishing the roles of Ruling Elders and Deacons from Teaching Elder. Rather, the Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the General Assembly **ACCEPT** its amended version of the proposed constitutional change. (p.39)
- **40-26 The Presbytery of the Gulf South OVERTURES** the 40th General Assembly to amend *Book of Government* G-13 regarding the ordination and/or installation of Officers. (p.40)
- **40-27 The Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **SUSTAIN** the Provisional Opinion issued by the Office of the Stated Clerk on March 11, 2020, due to the exigent pandemic health crisis. **G.**21-3D.1.b. (p.40)
- 40-28 The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 40th General Assembly RATIFY the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission of May 4, 2020, dismissing the appeal of "I.Z." (full name redacted for privacy) on grounds that the appeal is not in order under *Book of Discipline* 13-4 and 13-6 for failure to state adequate factual or consitutuional grounds for appealing the decision of the Presbytery of the East, and summarily dismissing I.Z.'s appeal pertaining to his complaint against members of the pastoral staff at Fourth Presbyterian Church for lack of standing. See D.14-2. (p.40)



- **40-29 The Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **SUSTAIN** the Provisional Opinion issued by the Office of the Stated Clerk on April 2, 2020, due to the exigent pandemic health crisis. **G.**21-3D.1.b. (p.41)
- **40-30 The Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **SUSTAIN** the Provisional Opinion issued by the Office of the Stated Clerk on June 22, 2020, due to the exigent pandemic health crisis. **G.** 21-3D.1.b. (p.41)
- **40-31 Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, INVITES** the 40th General Assembly of the EPC to hold the 41st General Assembly on its campus. (p.41)
- 40-32 The Benefit Resources, Inc., Board of Directors recommends that the 40th General Assembly APPROVE ordained ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC 403(b)(9) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan 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. (p.42)
- **40-33 The Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** a fraternal agreement between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of Brazil. (p.42)
- **40-34 The Women's Resource Council** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the closure of the WRC and delete all relevant sections of *Rules for Assembly;* having presbyteries facilitate women's ministry for local churches. (p.42)
- **40-35 The Moderator of the 39th General Assembly** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2020-2021 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors, and a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee.

 (p.42)
- **40-36** The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40th General Assembly RECEIVE the Minutes of the 39th General Assembly. (p.44)
- **40-37 The Stated Clerk** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to *Book of Government* 11-2C. *Overture* 19-A. (Eleven presbyteries voted to approve, three voted not to approve.) [p.44]
- **40-38 The Stated Clerk** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to *Book of Government* 9-5A.1. *Overture* **19-B** (Twelve presbyteries voted to approve, two voted not to approve.) (p.44)



- **40-39 The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Minutes of Presbyteries with Exceptions Requiring Responses by December 31, 2020. (p.45)
- **40-40 The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Responses of the Presbyteries to Exceptions approved at the 39th General Assembly. (p.46)



<u>GA40-01</u> <u>FROM THE STATED CLERK</u>

The Stated Clerk recommends that the 40^{th} General Assembly **SUSPEND** "Rules for Assembly" for the duration of the 40^{th} General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-statedclerk



GA40-02 MODERATOR

Moderator Nominee - RE Glenn Meyers



Glenn E. Meyers serves as Commissioned Pastor of Ardara Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ardara, Pennsylvania. An ordained Ruling Elder, Glenn has been honored to oversee the revitalization of the vibrant, 120-member congregation in which he grew up.

"From nearly closing to a now-vital gospel ministry, God has done a great work among us," Glenn says. "I am grateful to the pastors, elders, deacons, and church family members who have held the church in trust for future generations while seeking the will of God in the present. We intend to do the same."

A graduate of Norwin Senior High School in North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, Glenn went on to study Organizational Behavior at Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. More recently, he attended Reformed Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (RPTS) before being called to his current position. Prior to becoming a Commissioned Pastor, Glenn spent more than 20 years as a Habilitation Therapist and the owner/operator of Habilis Learning Consultants.

"My work with and for adults and children with developmental delays and mental health challenges has been a blessing of profound preparation," he notes.

Raised by his mother and grandmother in a loving home, Glenn says he was "blessed by the many men of the church who cared for, encouraged, and mentored me along the way."

An inseparable ministry team, Glenn and his wife, Heather (the part-time church secretary and full-time mother and grandmother) have six children and seven—and counting—grandchildren. All of their children, who range in age from 13 to 31, have professed faith in Christ and are currently working out their salvation and their individual callings.



Glenn's many diverse opportunities include serving as manager of the Pittsburgh Children's Museum, performing as an actor, and working as a children's librarian. He is an Eagle Scout and has toured with a choir through Europe. He enjoys travel, new food experiences, music, the theater, and art.

"God wastes no experiences," he says. "I am blessed to be part of a church and family in which my very faithful God has begun a good work. With every new opportunity presented by the hand of God, my deepest desire is to honor Him. I am very blessed to be asked to serve Christ's Church to the Glory of my Father."

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nominatingcommittee



GA40-03

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE OF NOMINATIONS – PERMANENT COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Recommendation

That the 40th General Assembly **ELECT** the slate of nominees for the 40th General Assembly Permanent Committees.

(Note: ^means second term; *means pending Session or Presbytery endorsement)

Benefit Resources, Inc., Board of Directors

Class of 2023	RE Barnes, Will	Midwest
Class of 2023	TE Ohman, Eric^	West
Class of 2023	Shaneyfelt, Randy^	Great Plains

Chaplains Work and Care Committee

Class of 2023	TE Carpenter, Marty	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2023	TE Yorton, Brad^	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2023	TE Scott Rash	Great Plains

Generosity Resources Committee

Class of 2023	RE Cobbs, Bobby^	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2023	RE Hailes, Ted^	Central South

Ministerial Vocation Committee

Class of 2023	RE Gash, Richard	Alleghenies
Class of 2023	TE Resler, Doug	West

National Leadership Team

Class of 2022	RE Bethel, Earla	Florida and the Caribbean
Class of 2022	RE Carter, Frank [^]	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2023	RE Jones, Victor	Gulf South
Class of 2023	TE King, Patrick	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2023	RE Lukens, Rosemary^	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2023	TE Strunk, Dave [^]	Southeast



SLATE OF NOMINATIONS – PERMANENT COMMITTEES AND BOARDS Continued

Next Generation Ministries Council

Class of 2022	TE Davis, Michael	Central South
Class of 2023	RE Flores, Enid^	Florida and the Caribbean
Class of 2023	TE Koesters, Andrew^	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2023	RE Shultz, Becky^	West

Nominating Committee

Class of 2023	RE Bradshaw, Marian^	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2023	TE Conrow, Alan^	Midwest
Class of 2023	TE Hardy, Wayne^	Great Plains
Class of 2023	TE Rivera, Juan	Florida and the Caribbean

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2023	RE Chapman, Yvonne^	Central South
Class of 2023	RE Hollingsworth, Jeff	Southeast
Class of 2023	RE Roberts, Ken^	West

Presbytery Review Committee

Class of 2021	RE Jane Bodden	Florida and the Caribbean
Class of 2022	RE Kinat, Ray	Alleghenies
Class of 2023	RE Bengelink, Ron	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2023	TE Steele, Jason	Midwest

Theology Committee

Class of 2021	TE Shafer, Cameron	Midwest
Class of 2023	RE Flinn, Fred^	Central South
Class of 2023	TE Hopkins, Zach^	Rivers and Lakes

World Outreach Committee

Class of 2021	RE Peterson, Wes	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2023	TE Alexander, Whitney	Gulf South
Class of 2023	RE Miller, David^	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2023	TE Porter, Waring	Central South



FROM THE STATED CLERK SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Stated Clerk Search Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **ELECT** TE Dean Weaver as the fourth Stated Clerk of the EPC, to be installed at the 41st General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-statedclerksearchcommittee

Our Nominee

Stated Clerk Search Committee to nominate Dean Weaver

Getting to know you: Dean Weaver Getting to know you: Beth Weaver

<u>GA40-05</u> FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the terms of call for Stated Clerk-elect Dean Weaver, beginning January 1, 2021.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nlt

<u>GA40-06</u> FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the FY 2021 Administration budget.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nlt

GA40-07 FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the consideration of increasing the funding of the line items within the budget, with a focus on strategic ministry opportunities should FY21 revenue exceed the budget.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nlt



GA40-08 FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the FY 2021 Special Projects budget.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nlt

GA40-09 FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

The Theology Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the revision to the EPC Endorsement Policy.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-theologycommittee

GA40-10 THIS ITEM INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

<u>GA40-11</u> FROM THE REVELATION 7:9 TASK FORCE

The Revelation 7:9 Task Force recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the continuance of the Task Force until the 2022 General Assembly.

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Revelation 7:9 Task Force continue its work as an ad-interim committee of the General Assembly for two (2) additional years for the purpose of resourcing interested EPC presbyteries and local churches in growing toward reflecting the God-given variety within our 1-3-5-mile neighboring communities, via the gospel of Jesus Christ.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-revelation79taskforce www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nlt



<u>GA40-12</u> FROM THE REVELATION 7:9 TASK FORCE

The Revelation 7:9 Task Force recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RECEIVE AND DISTRIBUTE** its report to all EPC presbyteries, churches, and pastors.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-revelation79taskforce

GA40-13 FROM THE GIVING CULTURE STUDY COMMITTEE

The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **DIRECT** the Generosity Resources Committee to develop resources by the 41st General Assembly (2021) to aid congregations in enriching their financial collection practices to include the latest methods of giving and stewardship education.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-givingculturestudycommittee

GA40-14 FROM THE GIVING CULTURE STUDY COMMITTEE

The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **DIRECT** the Office of General Assembly to develop a plan to educate Presbyteries and Sessions as to the purpose and role of the Office of the General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-givingculturestudycommittee

GA40-15 FROM THE GIVING CULTURE STUDY COMMITTEE

The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **DIRECT** the Ministerial Vocation Committee (in conjunction with the National Leadership Team) to develop strategies to aid those church leaders acutely suffering from the after-effects of their prior denominational affiliations and practices.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-givingculturestudycommittee



GA40-16 FROM THE GIVING CULTURE STUDY COMMITTEE

The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **DIRECT** the Theology Committee with assistance from the Ministerial Vocation Committee the task of defining the terms "connectional" and "connectionalism" as understood by the EPC and report to the 41st General Assembly (2021).

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-givingculturestudycommittee

GA40-17 FROM THE GIVING CULTURE STUDY COMMITTEE

The Giving Culture Study Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the continuance of the Committee until the 41st General Assembly (2021).

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-givingculturestudycommittee



GA40-18 FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **ELECT** TE Brad Strait as Moderator-Elect.

Moderator-Elect Nominee TE Brad Strait

Dr. Brad Strait is Lead Pastor at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Englewood, Colorado. He has more than 30 years of pastoral experience and also teaches at Denver Theological Seminary in both Leadership and Spiritual Formation. His passion is to exhort people toward a deeper relationship with the living, incarnational Jesus—especially as it applies to prayer, missional living, and world Christianity. His doctoral work was in developing *Spiritual Intimacy with God and Others*.



TE Brad Strait Nominee for Moderator-Elect 41st General Assembly

Brad's energetic faith pushes through the cracks of real life: he was a grief counselor on scene after the Columbine High School shooting in 1999, the Aurora Theater tragedy in 2012, and the 2004 tsunami in south India. He has taught the Bible around the world and worked with the poor in refugee camps of Central America, South America, Africa, and Asia. He also has served as Chaplain for the Colorado House of Representatives, the Denver Rescue Mission, and several police and fire departments. He has chaired the EPC's permanent Ministerial Vocation Committee and was part of the team that produced the EPC Leadership Training Guide: A Resource for Pastors, Elders, and Churches.

He has been married to his wife, Cathy, for 39 years. His three daughters and three granddaughters are his treasure and cheering section. His stories of spiritual life can be found at bradstrait.com.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nominatingcommittee



GA40-19 FROM THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The World Outreach Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** Outreach Foundation as an approved agency.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-worldoutreachcommittee

GA40-20 FROM THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The World Outreach Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** Pak7 as an approved agency.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-worldoutreachcommittee

GA40-21 FROM THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The World Outreach Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** Frontier Fellowship as an approved agency.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-worldoutreachcommittee

GA40-22 FROM THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The World Outreach Committee recommends that the 40^{th} General Assembly **APPROVE** Avant Ministries as an approved agency.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-worldoutreachcommittee



GA40-23 FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RATIFY** the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission dismissing the Complaint dated June 17, 2019 filed by member of Sunset Presbyterian Church against the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, as the Complaint did not allege proper grounds for the General Assembly to take the actions requested.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-pic

GA40-24 FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RATIFY** the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission dismissing the Complaint dated June 30, 2019, filed by former REs of Sunset Presbyterian Church against the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, as the Complaint did not allege proper grounds for the General Assembly to take the actions requested.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-pic

GA40-25 FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 40th General Assembly **DECLINE** the Ascending Overture from Gulf South Presbytery to amend *Book of Government* **G.**13-2 as the Overture does not provide sufficient clarity to resolve any confusion distinguishing the roles of Ruling Elders and Deacon from Teaching Elder. Rather, the Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the General Assembly **ACCEPT** its amended version of the proposed constitutional change.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-pjc
Gulf South Overture



GA40-26 OVERTURE FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF THE GULF SOUTH

The Presbytery of the Gulf South OVERTURES the 40th General Assembly to amend *Book of Government* G-13 regarding the ordination and/or installation of Officers.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-pjc Gulf South Overture

<u>GA40-27</u> FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 40th General Assembly **SUSTAIN** the Provisional Opinion issued by the Office of the Stated Clerk on March 11, 2020, due to the exigent pandemic health crisis. **G.**21-3D.1.b.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-pjc

GA40-28 FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RATIFY** the decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission of May 4, 2020, dismissing the appeal of "I.Z." (full name redacted for privacy) on grounds that the appeal is not in order under *Book of Discipline* 13-4 and 13-6 for failure to state adequate factual or consitutuional grounds for appealing the decision of the Presbytery of the East, and summarily dismissing I.Z.'s appeal pertaining to his complaint against members of the pastoral staff at Fourth Presbyterian Church for lack of standing. See **D.**14-2.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-pjc



<u>GA40-29</u> FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 40th General Assembly **SUSTAIN** the Provisional Opinion issued by the Office of the Stated Clerk on April 2, 2020, due to the exigent pandemic health crisis. **G.**21-3D.1.b.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-pic

GA40-30 FROM THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 40th General Assembly **SUSTAIN** the Provisional Opinion issued by the Office of the Stated Clerk on June 22, 2020, due to the exigent pandemic health crisis. **G.**21-3D.1.b.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-pjc

GA40-31 COMMUNICATION

Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee, INVITES the 40^{th} General Assembly of the EPC to hold the 41^{st} General Assembly on its campus.

Invitation Letter



<u>GA40-32</u> FROM THE BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Benefit Resources, Inc. Board of Directors recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** ordained ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC 403(b)(9) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan 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.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-briboardofdirectors

GA40-33 FROM THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** a fraternal agreement between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of Brazil.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-fraternalrelationscommittee

GA40-34 FROM THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE COUNCIL

The Women's Resource Council recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the closure of the WRC and delete all relevant sections of *Rules for Assembly;* having presbyteries facilitate women's ministry for local churches.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-womensresourcecouncil



<u>GA40-35</u> COMMUNICATION

The Moderator of the 39th General Assembly recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2020-2021 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors, and a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee.

September 2020

Dr. Jeffrey Jeremiah, Stated Clerk Evangelical Presbyterian Church 5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Suite 510 Orlando, FL 32822

Dear Jeff,

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 BRI Board of Directors for the forthcoming Assembly. I am pleased to offer the following individuals:

1. <u>Appointment</u>: 2020-2021 Chairman, Nominating Committee

RE Susan Humphreys (Presbytery of Mid-America)

2. Nominations: Nominating Committee

NamePresbyteryClassRE Marian BradshawRivers and Lakes2023TE Alan ConrowMidwest2023TE Wayne HardyGreat Plains2023TE Juan RiveraFlorida and the Caribbean2023

3. Nomination: 2020-2021 Chairman, BRI Board of Directors

Randy Shaneyfelt (Presbytery of the Great Plains)

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.

Case Thorp, Moderator 39th General Assembly



<u>GA40-36</u> FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RECEIVE** the Minutes of the 39th General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nlt www.epc.org/files/ga2019minutes

GA40-37 FROM THE STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to *Book of Government* 11-2C. *Overture* 19-A. (Eleven presbyteries voted to approve, three voted not to approve.)

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-statedclerk

GA40-38 FROM THE STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk recommends that the 40th General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to *Book of Government* 9-5A.1. *Overture* 19-B (Twelve presbyteries voted to approve, two voted not to approve.)

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-statedclerk



<u>GA40-39</u> <u>FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE</u>

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Minutes of Presbyteries with Exceptions Requiring Responses by December 31, 2020.

A. Central South

Exception(s):

There is no listing of the primary responsibilities for Assistant Pastors being approved for Ordination: Josh Yates, Brandon Terry, and Brett Wynne. 106th p.823, 106,23. **G.**10-6 p.23.

B. Florida and the Caribbean

Exception(s):

- a. The 9th Called Meeting, p.799-807:
 - i. The purpose of the meeting was not explicitly stated, and various items of business were addressed. Per **G.**19-5, no business other than that for which the meeting was called may be addressed.
 - ii. It is not recorded whether the proper procedures of **G.**19-5B, p.50 were followed, such as the meeting having been called by at least 2 TEs and 4 REs of 2 or more congregations, with at least 10 days' notice having been given.
 - iii. Detailed description of discussion in Executive Session should not be included in the minutes of presbytery; only actions should be reported.
- b. No reference is made to Session minutes being reviewed as required by **G.**2-4 A.B.

C. Mid-Atlantic

Exception(s):

There is no reference in the minutes to Session Records having been reviewed annually per **G.**18-4C.

D. Midwest

Exception(s):

Ministerial Committee report seemed to indicate that the committee dismissed a church to independence. **G.**5-10 says the Presbytery must dismiss a church. 166th; 166-9, p.76. **G.**5-10.



E. Pacific Northwest

Exception(s):

Examination of Joshua Hurd. 5th p.124 5-15 Fails to indicate any response about the Westminster Confession. If he had no exceptions, it should be stated in the Minutes. **G**.12-4.

F. Southeast

Exception(s):

Associate Roll should be separated out from the Retired Active TEs. 106th p.5 106-02, 107th p.5 107-0303, 108th p.5 108-02. **G.**19-2B.

G. West

Exception(s):

Re: the authorization of the Ministerial Committee to serve as an Administrative Commission to dismiss churches to dissolution or independence, the Book of Order reference in the minutes – **G.**21-2D.2.f – doesn't exist in the 2019–2020 issue of Book of Order. There is no provision to dissolve or dismiss churches under 21-2.D.2.e, which discusses authorization of the Ministerial Committee as an ongoing Administrative Commission. 116th, p.12-224, item **G.**5-9, **G.**5-10, **G.**21-2.D.2.e.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-presbyteryreviewcommittee
Click here for Minutes of the Presbytery Review Committee

GA40-40 FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 40th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Responses of the Presbyteries to Exceptions approved at the 39th General Assembly.

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-presbyteryreviewcommittee
Click here for Minutes of the Presbytery Review Committee



The following Committees have no recommendations.

FROM THE CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-chaplainsworkandcarecommittee

FROM THE GENEROSITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-generosityresourcescommittee

FROM THE MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-ministerialvocationcommittee

FROM THE NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL

www.epc.org/files/ga2020report-nextgenerationministriescouncil