

ACTS 1:8 // BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER...

# *RECHARGE*

COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK

*GA* 2022  
EPC 42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WARD CHURCH | NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN



**EPC**

*A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

**42nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK**

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Brothers and Sisters:

Welcome to the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. Our theme this year is “*Recharge*” based on Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

This *Commissioner’s 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/ga2022documents](http://www.epc.org/ga2022documents).

To get a good overview of the work of your denominational leaders over the past year, read the Moderator’s Report, National Leadership Team Report, and my report. These three reports are at the end of the Preliminaries section.

We design GA to be much more than an annual meeting to conduct church business. We have numerous opportunities for equipping, edification, and worship. I hope you’ll join me in praying that the God of grace and peace will send His power on us during our time together at Ward Church!

*Coram deo,*

D. Dean Weaver  
Stated Clerk

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## **OVERVIEW OF ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE**

### **TUESDAY, JUNE 21**

8:00 a.m. (Eastern)	Check-in/Information Open
8:15 a.m.	Chaplains Workshop
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Church Health / Church Planting
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Westminster Society
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Leadership Institute, Plenary Session 1
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Trafficking in Our Backyards
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	World Outreach
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Ticketed Lunch
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Leadership Institute, Plenary Session 2
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	World Outreach Banquet

### **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22**

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Eastern)	Check-in/Information Open
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Leadership Institute Plenary Session 3
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Ticketed Networking Lunches
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Leadership Institute Plenary Session 4
3:15 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Worship</b>
4:00 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.	<b>Business Session 1</b>
5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Ticketed Dinner
	Stated Clerks Dinner – (Invitation Only)
	WO Global Workers Presentations
	Women's TESS Talks Dinner
	Church Planters & Presbytery Church
	Health Coordinators Dinner (Invitation Only)
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Evening Worship
8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Desserts



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## THURSDAY, JUNE 23

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Eastern)	Check-in/Information Open
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Morning Worship
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Business Session 2</b>
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Pastor's Wives Luncheon
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Ticketed Networking Lunches
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Face to Face Networking Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Business Session 3</b>
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Standing Committee Meetings
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Ticketed Dinner 2022 Commissioned Global Workers Dinner Women's Ministry Dinner Moderator's Dinner (Invitation Only)
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Evening Worship</b> with Global Worker Commissioning

## FRIDAY, JUNE 24

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Eastern)	Check-in/Information Open
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Moderator's Communion Service
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Business Session 4</b>
12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Ticketed Networking Lunches
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<b>Business Session 5</b>
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<b>Business Session 6 (if needed)</b>

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY PERMANENT COMMITTEES**

(Through the 42nd General Assembly)

### **BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
RE Michael Busch <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE Will Barnes <i>Midwest</i>	TE Eric Shipton <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
RE Jim Lewien <i>West</i>	TE Erik Ohman <i>West</i>	Michael Moore <i>Central South</i>
RE Sandy Siegfried <i>Great Plains</i>	Randy Shaneyfelt <i>Great Plains</i>	William Reisenweaver <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>

### **CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE**

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
RE Bruce Alexander <i>East</i>	TE Scott Rash <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Ben Brychta <i>Southeast</i>
TE Timothy Foster <i>Central South</i>	TE Marty Carpenter <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Darrell DeHaven <i>Pacific Northwest</i>
TE Glen Holman <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Brad Yorton <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Russ Ragon <i>West</i>

### **FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
RE Jerry Harmon <i>Central South</i>	RE Stan van den Berg <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Carol Culbertson <i>West</i>
TE Alan Trafford <i>Gulf South</i>		TE Don Fortson <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>

### **MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE**

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
TE Fred Lian <i>West</i>	TE Doug Resler <i>West</i>	TE Joe Kim <i>East</i>
RE Frank Rotella <i>East</i>	RE Richard Gash <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Rachel White <i>Pacific Northwest</i>



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### NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
RE Chris Danusiar <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	RE Victor Jones <i>Gulf South</i>	RE Mart Buntz <i>Great Plains</i>
RE Brian Evans <i>Midwest</i>	TE Patrick King <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Linda McDaniels <i>West</i>
RE Frank Carter <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Rosemary Lukens <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Neil Smith <i>East</i>
RE Earla Bethel <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	TE Dave Strunk <i>Southeast</i>	RE John Ivy <i>Central South</i>

### NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
Jen Burkholder <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Michael Davis <i>Central South</i>	Greg Aydt, Co-Chairman <i>West</i>
Martha Daniel <i>Alleghenies</i>	Becky Shultz <i>West</i>	Meg DeHaven, Chairman <i>East</i>
RE Enid Flores <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>		TE Andrew Mills <i>Gulf South</i>
TE Andy Koesters <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>		

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
RE John Adamson <i>Central South</i>	RE Marian Bradshaw <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Joshua Hurd <i>Pacific Northwest</i>
RE Brian Altmeyer <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Alan Conrow <i>Midwest</i>	RE Ann Weston <i>Mid-America</i>
RE Henry Beck <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Wayne Hardy <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Joe McCoy <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
RE Jan Bole <i>West</i>	TE Juan Rivera <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	TE David Ricketts <i>Pacific Southwest</i>
RE Alan Smith <i>East</i>		TE Jeff Chadwick <i>Southeast</i>

**EPC***A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches***PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
TE George Dakin <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	RE Yvonne Chapman <i>Central South</i>	RE Amanda Cowan <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>
TE Neil Ellison <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Ken Roberts <i>West</i>	RE Brian Wyatt <i>Pacific Southwest</i>
RE Donald Harms <i>Midwest</i>	RE Jeff Hollingsworth <i>Southeast</i>	RE Forrest Norman <i>Alleghenies</i>

**PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
RE George King <i>Gulf South</i>	RE Ron Bengelink <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	RE Jane Bodden <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>
RE Ray Kinat <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Jason Steele <i>Midwest</i>	RE Bill Myers <i>Pacific Southwest</i>

**THEOLOGY COMMITTEE**

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
RE Gordon Miller <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Fred Flinn <i>Central South</i>	TE Cameron Shaffer <i>East</i>
	TE Zach Hopkins <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	RE Carol Williams <i>Alleghenies</i>

**WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

Class of 2022:	Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:
RE Phyllis Ellsworth <i>Midwest</i>	TE Whitney Alexander <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Rick Dietzman <i>Pacific Northwest</i>
RE Johnny Long <i>West</i>	TE Waring Porter <i>Central South</i>	RE Susan Lear <i>Great Plains</i>
RE David Van Valkenburg <i>West</i>	RE David Miller <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	RE Wes Peterson <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>

**OTHER COMMITTEES**  
(Through the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly)

**REVELATION 7:9 TASK FORCE**

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 38<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

TE Rufus Smith, Co-Chairman <i>West</i>	TE Andrew Smith, Co-Chairman <i>East</i>	TE Jeff Cook <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
TE Marc de Jeu <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE Enid Flores <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	RE Tom Werner <i>Mid-America</i>
TE Doug Resler <i>West</i>	TE Ben Tzeng <i>Mid-America</i>	TE Steve Burton <i>Central South</i>
TE Michael Davis <i>Central South</i>	RE Brandon Queen <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Eric Shipton <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>
TE Joe Kim <i>East</i>	TE Laurie Johnston <i>Great Plains</i>	TE Greg Ealey <i>Great Plains</i>
TE Cheryl Mendes-Ellis <i>West</i>	TE Mark Potter <i>Mid-America</i>	TE Rodger Woodworth <i>Alleghenies</i>
TE Dean Weaver; ex-officio <i>Alleghenies</i>		



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**2021-2022 EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES**

***MODERATOR'S REPORT***

***NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT***

***STATED CLERK'S REPORT***

**Moderator**  
Executive Summary Report  
to the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly



Brad Strait, Moderator  
*41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly*

As Moderator in 2021-22, adaptation has been the watchword. I don't need to remind you that our world is swirling with transitions, great and small. Viruses, economic pressures, racial tensions, social and political animosity, and wars reflect on a world where much seems in windblown disarray. Honestly, some of our larger churches have struggled, as have some of our smaller churches.

These changes require, it seems to me, three primary things: steadfast faith, deep prayer, and adaptive leadership. You and I—as Christian leaders—have had to learn to be both solid and flexible. The same is true of the EPC. This year, we transitioned to a new Stated Clerk, several new key leaders, and a changing church world.

At the top level of National EPC Leadership, we met four times virtually and in person, plus in many committee meetings. We have been applying energy prayerfully for positive changes, working:

- To respond to the toll the last few years have taken on pastors and their families. We value every pastor, and so we have held two, one-week, low-cost retreats to support pastors and their wives. About 80 couples attended a recharging retreat.
- To help churches and believers deal with the rising persecution we see in our world. As leadership, we have worked on presenting practical guidance for leading churches in an anti-Christian world. We have done this through the “Prepare to Stand” Video series with TE Andrew Brunson, and in this year’s Leadership Institute seminar on Persecution.
- To help address the racial struggles in our churches and land. The National Leadership Team researched and read broadly for many months, and then met for a whole day—in a room filled with people of color—to listen, discuss, and analyze how best to address the racial strife in America. We all know it is a massive, complex, and divisive issue. Honestly, we have no easy answers, but more positive steps should unfold at GA this year.

- To bring our financial plans and systems into better alignment with our real world. We have examined in detail how best to operate financially as a denomination in the changing church world and have presented our findings and a Percentage of Income (POI) to the presbyteries. The option is now in resolution form at this General Assembly.
- To review and adjust our organization and resources to align with a renewed focus on evangelism. This is significant. Let me talk about this in more detail.

Being involved in “evangelism” is not just a part of our EPC name, but also a part of our DNA. Gospel evangelism is a priority in what we value and how we operate. We resist contemporary arenas which seek to make this word narrowly political (it is a Bible word). We are reminded that our denomination has evangelism coded into our core operating system. Some examples from our Book of Order:

- To the WHOLE CHURCH: “The primary mission of the Church is to share the gospel of salvation with all the nations of the world. This is the mission of every Christian, every local church, and the whole Church.” (Book of Worship 7-2)
- To the LOCAL CHURCH, “It is the primary mission of the local church to evangelize, making disciples by extending the gospel both at home and abroad...” (Book of Government 4-3)
- To every CHURCH SESSION, a priority: “To initiate the ministry of evangelism as the first business of the Church.” (Book of Government 18-3)
- To every PRESBYTERY, a charge: “To encourage evangelism, church planting, and renewal within its bounds as a first priority.” (Book of Government 19-4)
- To the GENERAL ASSEMBLY, “To organize itself as it deems best for the propagation of the gospel...to support the Presbyteries and churches in making evangelism and discipleship their priorities.” (Book of Government 20-4)

At the National Leadership level, we know that rekindling evangelism in many soils is not easy, and takes prayer, wisdom, and patience. Of course, life has been crazy. Certainly, church leadership has been outrageously complex. This is not a new place for the followers of Jesus. Yes, we have all been living through masking and attendance mandates, illnesses and closings, video conferencing and services, and growing external pressures from an antichristian world. But working only inside the church too often blocks the arteries of faith and trust. The heart of passion for Jesus slows and struggles. A gospel focus of faith in Jesus is the cure. We were designed to “Go and make disciples...”

My dear brothers and sisters, we must resist falling into a preservation or maintenance mode. Evangelism is not the only work of the church, but it is the priority of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Some things bear repeating. With both Isaiah and the Apostles, we assert, “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6, Acts 13:47).

With the Holy Spirit in both Habakkuk and Paul we proclaim boldly, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.” (Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:16-17).


We have been working on ways to encourage a local congregation toward evangelism. We are seeking to renew Evangelism in our strategic priorities:

- Church Planting (creating new churches with new Christian believers).
- Church Revitalization (creating healthier churches with more and deeper believers).
- Global Movement (cultivating worldwide churches which reach the lost).
- Effective Biblical Leadership (cultivating church leaders who can effectively share the gospel in today's world).

My sisters and brothers, take heart! In the EPC, we believe strongly that Jesus is still the answer for the problems of today's world. We stand on the truth that the gospel of Christ can still be the Church's priority. We believe the Light shines in the darkness and that the darkness—the very gates of hell—can never overcome it!

It has been a privilege to serve as your Moderator this year, and to work for the gospel at local, national, and international levels. We have a great team. May God receive all the glory for all our faith and work. And may it continue with power!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Strait".

Brad Strait, Moderator  
41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly

June 2022

### National Leadership Team

Executive Summary Report to  
the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly



Glenn Meyers  
*Chairman*

It was an exciting year to conduct business in the Office of the General Assembly. We welcomed Rev. Dr. Dean Weaver into the fullness of his position as Stated Clerk. Along with him came a new dynamic to the office. Included at the table with the NLT were many valued members of the OGA Staff. Information flow and collaboration were the hallmarks of the new working style.

Recognizing that we are in a new ministry era, the NLT began the year with a book study. In our August meeting at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Denver, we discussed Tod Bolsinger's book *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. The study gave us many insights and prepared us well for the challenges of adaptive leadership.

We are very blessed to have so many gifted people working on behalf of the General Assembly.

#### **Strategic Priorities**

The NLT established a Strategic Priorities subcommittee that works alongside our other subcommittees: Personnel Committee and Finance Committee. Also, we now have in place a staff person in the Office of the General Assembly responsible for each of the Strategic Priorities. Structures are being changed and resources are being spent to ensure that these priorities are more than just aspirational.

#### *Global Movement:*

Gabriel de Guia has completed his first year as Executive Director of World Outreach, working diligently alongside Assistant Director Jason Dunn. Effectively gathering information from the World Outreach organization, they have revised the World Outreach Master Plan. In addition to this, the Fraternal Relations Committee is making significant efforts to refresh their work. The NLT monitored their progress over the course of this last year. Thanks to their efforts the EPC is positioned nicely to advance the gospel around the world.

### *Effective Biblical Leadership:*

This year, work was begun by Assistant Clerk Jerry Iamurri and then concluded by Chief Collaborative Officer Michael Davis to bring us this year's Leadership Institute. Thank you to both of these men. Michael Davis, also new to his role, has been busy creating a culture of collaboration. The conversations he is facilitating and the best practices he is gathering should produce much fruit across the denomination. Pipelines and pathways to pastoral leadership are being discussed and decided. Pastor and spouse retreats were sponsored and held, along with other efforts made, to address the keeping and care of our pastors and their families. The NLT recognizes the breadth and importance of this Strategic Priority to the future of the EPC.

### *Transformation:*

Thanks to the passion and persistence of veteran leader Bob Stauffer in his new role as National Director of Church Health, a National Church Health team has been established. Cooperating with most Presbyteries, 14 Church Health Coordinators have been hired and the work of revitalizing our churches is being shared. In many conversations around the NLT table, valuable resources have been presented and reviewed. Among the most promising is the Three Circles tool for evangelism.

### *Multiplication:*

The other example of bringing the right people to the NLT table, Tom Ricks will soon assume his role as the National Director of Church Planting. Over the course of this past year the team has heard numerous updates from Tom. Planting opportunities are outpacing our ability to find planters. Coming out of a difficult time, our current church planters and planting efforts remain strong.

### **Financial Matters**

The October and April meetings of the NLT are primarily focused on business and housekeeping. Strategic planning discussions that have happened in the other two meetings culminate in motions and recommendations. The Personnel Committee and the Finance Committee presented their work. We heard from OGA staff Marti Ratcliff (Human Resources Manager) and Pat Coelho (Chief Financial Officer). The budget was discussed and approved.

We were pleased, through special giving, to be able to help with disaster relief efforts both domestically and around the world. Internally our most pressing challenge is the funding of the future as we pursue our Strategic Priorities. This year, acting on the recommendations from the Giving Culture Study Committee, the NLT took the idea of switching "PMA" (Per Member Asking) to "POB" (Percentage of Budget) to each of our Presbyteries. Responding to information gathered in the fall presentations, it was decided that the "POB" would become "POI" (Percentage of Income). With increased participation over time, we believe that "POI" as a funding model will meet our financial need. Revisiting the "POI" in the spring, we found broad support for this model. Therefore, you see that the NLT is recommending the switch to "POI" (Percentage of Income) as our funding model.

### **Persecution and Race**

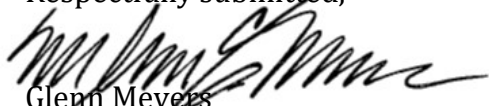
We were pleased to support and encourage the work of our Moderator, Brad Strait, in collaboration with Rev. Dr. Andrew Brunson. They worked over the course of this year to develop a video series and corresponding resources to prepare the American Church for coming persecution. The calling and conviction of these two men was evident as they brought their concern to us. We are pleased to be featuring a portion of their work along with a panel discussion as part of this year's Leadership Institute. We anticipate that the resources that they have created will have long-term value and we appreciate their work.

It has been placed on the heart of many and brought to our attention by others that the EPC should speak to the issue of race more definitively. For this reason, the NLT took on a moderated book discussion and spent a significant time in conversation and prayer about what we as the church might do to address the topic of race. The resulting recommendation is that a Moderator-appointed Ad Interim Committee be established to write a Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament and Hope. This is not in response to any particular incident, but instead a carefully considered work in the course of perhaps two years to speak the truth of the Bible regarding race. Lament is appropriate, and more importantly the hope of the gospel is powerful. Therefore, The NLT recommends to the Assembly that they approve this Moderator-appointed committee.

### **Personal Remarks**

It has been a blessing and an honor to have met and worked with so many talented people. It has become obvious to me that we are indeed saved for good works prepared ahead of time for us. It is clear that God has gifted each of the people I have worked with and has given them a heart for the work He has called them to. To all of the people I have worked with over the course of this past six years, to all of the staff of the Office of the General Assembly—including Zenaida Bermudez, Bart Francescone, and Brian Smith—I am so thankful for your help, for your gracious hospitality, and for your loving fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Glenn Meyers  
Chairman

[www.epc.org/2022report-nlt](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nlt)

### Stated Clerk

Executive Summary Report  
to the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly



Dean Weaver  
Stated Clerk

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel, from the first day until now."  
—Philippians 1:3-5.*

Reflecting on my first year as your Stated Clerk, my heart is filled with gratitude and overwhelmed by the goodness of the Lord. As Paul would continue to write, "It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart ... with the affection of Christ Jesus."

I encourage you to read both our GA Moderator's Report (Brad Strait) and the report from our National Leadership Team Chairman (Glenn Meyers) to get a fuller picture of the work of both the Office of the General Assembly, the Office of the Stated Clerk, and the larger EPC since our last General Assembly. I will not repeat the good and detailed news they shared, but rather would offer you my highlights of this past year and some leadership reflections.

The beginning of my service as your Stated Clerk overlapped with the conclusion of Jeff Jeremiah's dedicated service to the EPC as our leader. To begin with, the opportunity to celebrate Jeff (and Cindy) well at last year's GA was not only a gift to the Jeremiahs, but to the entire EPC—including me. It has been an honor to honor someone who has so sacrificially given of their time, talent, and love to our EPC family. What a beginning! After the General Assembly, there is some brief "downtime" in the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) in early July to rest and recover. Shortly after that time of restoration, we began together with meetings of our Church Planting Leadership Team, our National Leadership Team retreat, and a full schedule of Fall committee and team meetings to support and carry out the mission of the General Assembly.

It has been a joy and a privilege to serve alongside these teams of dedicated and talented leaders from across our denomination.

Their faith, strategic gifting, and humility has been an inspiring combination that together has created a culture of trust and leadership that is biblically grounded and courageous. Working specifically with our NLT, we oversaw the work of the GA throughout the year, living into and carrying out the vision and mission of our church. What a joy, honor, and privilege.

The other group of leaders with whom I work most closely is the staff in the OGA. Facilitating greater synergy between our staff and NLT has yielded greater communication, collaboration, and gospel fruitfulness over the last year. Our staff is dedicated, hardworking, and faithful to the mission the Lord has given to the EPC. It might surprise you to know that with all the changes during this year of transition at the OGA with departures, arrivals, and numerous re-alignments, the OGA staff remains lean and missional. In fact, we have virtually the same number of staff that we had eighteen years ago when we were merely one-third of our current number of congregations. You can be reassured that we have been very good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

Perhaps the greatest highlight of this past year was the two Pastor and Spouse Retreats sponsored by the EPC's Medical Benevolence Fund. The EPC provided a completely free retreat with deep spiritual content, great fellowship, dynamic worship, and tons of "free time" in two beautiful settings. One seasoned pastor stated that in all his years of ministry it was the best retreat he has ever experienced. To watch hurting pastors and spouses heal right before my eyes was renewing to my soul, and in my opinion, the best money the EPC could have invested this year!

Another encouragement (even a surprise) to me in my first year as Stated Clerk was our response to multiple disasters, both domestic and international. From Hurricane Ida in Louisiana to the wildfires in California and Colorado to the tornados in Tennessee and Kentucky to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, our EPC congregations stepped up and excelled in the "grace of giving." In Louisiana, TEs Bill Crawford (Pastor of yoked congregations First Presbyterian Church of Thibodaux and First Presbyterian Church of Houma) and Whitney Alexander at First Presbyterian Church in Baton Rouge) gave me a deep dive education in the relief, recovery, and rebuilding work of disaster relief. Watch for the video of Margret's home being rebuilt (a widow and Clerk of Session at Thibodaux) when you are at GA. Amazing! The relief work for the Ukrainian people continues and will continue, but know that because you gave, we have donated dozens of bulletproof vests to pastors/chaplains (among other things) who are running into the worst places to help bring relief and the gospel. Your giving has made a difference!

Other items of note for this past year include the departure of my good friend and colleague Jerry Iamurri as our Assistant Stated Clerk; visiting eight of our fourteen Presbyteries to preach, share vision, get to know people, and answer lots of questions. I was privileged to lead the pastors' retreat for the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest, honor TE Bob Garment upon his retirement from serving as the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean after 30 years; preaching at multiple EPC congregations; participating in several pastoral installations; and perhaps most notably, starting the EPC's first podcast, "In All Things." So far, the podcast, in which I interview various EPC leaders and authors, is approaching 3,500 downloads—and growing.

Easily our greatest emphasis during this past year has been a renewed focus on our Strategic Priorities. The return of TE Bob Stauffer (he previously served as our National Outreach Director) as our National Director of Church Health and the addition of TE Michael Davis as our Chief Collaborative Officer, as well as the hiring of RE Gabriel de Guia as the new Executive Director of World Outreach, have enabled us to redouble our efforts to live into the EPC's mission and vision expressed by participating in the Lord's Global Movement, including Church Planting, Church Health, and Biblical Leadership development. The realization that all four Strategic Priorities (embedded in our vision statement) exist to actually enable the EPC to join in the Lord's Great Commission (and it is the opening of our mission statement) was a catalytic realization. As a result, we are beginning to invest deeply in evangelism training using the newly adapted tool "The EPC's Three Circles" from our National Church Health Team.

Looking ahead, you can expect to hear more about evangelism training, cultivating evangelistic cultures in our Presbyteries and congregations, as well as strategic alignment around our renewed focus on the Great Commission. We will continue to grow and implement Next Generation leadership, equip our congregations to reach out with the gospel to our neighbors within our one-, three- and five-mile radius, and begin to address the leadership issues related to both the "pipeline" and mobilization of our future pastors and global workers. Top of the list for the Fall will be a "Small Church Summit" where we gather and listen to the leaders of our smaller congregations to learn how we can best serve them and address their unique needs and concerns.

There is much gospel work to do and much more to say, but for now let me conclude by simply saying, "thank you." I am grateful for the privilege of serving our General Assembly, Presbyteries, congregations, pastors, and leaders (and their families). It is truly the honor of my life. I look forward to visiting the rest of our Presbyteries in the next year, meeting more of our wonderful EPC family, and doing all that the Lord gives me strength to do in equipping the EPC to join in our Savior's Great Commission.

*Coram Deo!*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Weaver", written in a cursive style.

Dean Weaver, Stated Clerk

May 2022

[Churches Received, Dissolved, Dismissed](#)

## Churches Received, Dissolved, Dismissed May 2021–May 2022

### Presbytery of Mid-America

Church	City	State	Received	From
All Souls Mission	St. Louis	MO	1/27/2022	PCA

### Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic

Church	City	State	Received	From
Storyhill Church	Davidson	NC	12/12/2021	Church Plant
Village Church of St. George	St. George	SC	8/20/2021	Church Plant

### Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed
Brighton Presbyterian Church	Rochester	NY	9/29/2017	7/25/2021

### Presbytery of the Central South

Church	City	State	Received	Dissolved
Mason Presbyterian Church	Mason	TN	9/7/2011	1/31/2022

### Presbytery of the Gulf South

Church	City	State	Received	Dissolved
Pineywoods Presbyterian Church	Nacogdoches	TX	1/28/2012	9/24/2021

### Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

Church	City	State	Received	Dissolved
San Pablo Community Church	Berkeley	CA		5/14/2021

### Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed
Buffalo Prairie Presbyterian Church	Reynolds	IL	10/8/2013	1/29/2022



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### **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

#### **(Communications, Overtures, and Recommendations)**

- 42-01**     **The Nominating Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **ELECT** Rosemary Lukens as the Moderator of the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. [\(p. 22\)](#)
- 42-02**     **The Nominating Committee** **[First Reading]** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **ELECT** the slate of nominees for the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly Permanent Committee and Boards. [\(p. 23\)](#)
- 42-03**     **Cherry Hills Community Church, Highland Ranch, CO**, **INVITES** the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly to hold the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly on its campus. [\(p. 25\)](#)
- 42-04**     **The Stated Clerk** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to *Book of Government* 19-4. C.1 [Overture 21-A](#). (14 Presbyteries voted to approve). [\(p. 25\)](#)
- 42-05**     **The Stated Clerk** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to *Book of Government* 20-4. A.3 [Overture 21-B](#) (14 Presbyteries voted to approve). [\(p. 25\)](#)
- 42-06**     **The Stated Clerk** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to *Book of Worship* 7-5 [Overture 21-C](#) (13 Presbyteries voted to approve). [\(p. 25\)](#)
- 42-07**     **The Stated Clerk** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to the *Book of Government* 9-5E and *Book of Worship* 3-1A [Overture 21-D](#) (14 Presbyteries voted to approve). [\(p. 25\)](#)
- 42-08**     **The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the [FY23 Administrative Budget](#). [\(p. 26\)](#)
- 42-09**     **The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the [FY23 Special Projects](#). [\(p. 26\)](#)
- 42-10**     **The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the establishment of a Moderator appointed Ad Interim Committee to write a Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament and Hope. [\(p. 26\)](#)
- 42-11**     **The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the transition from “PMA” Per Member Asking to “POI” Percentage of Income as the Future Funding Initiative. [\(p. 26\)](#)
- 42-12**     **The World Outreach Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the [World Outreach Master Plan](#). [\(p. 27\)](#)
- 42-13**     **The World Outreach Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** [Equip International](#) as a Cooperative Agency. [\(p. 27\)](#)

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- 42-14**     **The World Outreach Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** [Reflejo](#) as an Approved Mission Agency. [\(p. 27\)](#)
- 42-15**     **The Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **CHARGE** the permanent Fraternal Relations Committee to study and evaluate our relations with the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), and to report to the 43<sup>rd</sup> GA (2023) for action. [\(p. 27\)](#)
- 42-16**     **The Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** entering a formal Fraternal Relationship (84-06, 12-10) with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sierra Leone. [\(p. 27\)](#)
- 42-17**     **The Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the increase of elected members of the permanent Fraternal Relations Committee from six to nine members. [\(p. 28\)](#)
- 42-18**     **The Theology Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** including the full text of the [GA41-31 response](#) of the Theology Committee in the official minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. [\(p. 28\)](#)
- 42-19**     **The Theology Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the distribution of the [GA41-31 response](#) of the Theology Committee to every Presbytery and Session of the Church. [\(p. 28\)](#)
- 42-20**     **The Chaplain Work and Care Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the CWCC Policy Statement on [Chaplain Ministry to Same-Sex Couples and LGBTQ+ individuals](#). [\(p. 28\)](#)
- 42-21**     **The Nominating Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **ELECT** Joe Kim as the Moderator-elect of the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. [\(p. 29\)](#)
- 42-22**     **The Moderator of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2022-2023 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors, a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee, and the Chaplain Endorser. [\(p. 30\)](#)
- 42-23**     **Benefit Resources, Inc., Board of Directors** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> 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. [\(p. 31\)](#)
- 42-24**     **The Ministerial Vocation Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly that [Pastor-In-Residence Ministries](#) be recognized as an Approved Agency of the General Assembly. [\(p. 31\)](#)
- 42-25**     **The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the Exceptions Requiring Responses as found in the 2021 Minutes of all 12 Presbyteries. [\(p. 31\)](#)



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- 42-26     **The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the responses of the Presbyteries to those Exceptions sent to them by the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. [\(p. 36\)](#)
- 42-27     **The Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the increase the members of the Presbytery Review Committee from 6 to 9 to support the review of the 2022 Presbytery minutes. [\(p. 36\)](#)
- 42-28     **The National Leadership Team** recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the [Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly](#). [\(p. 37\)](#)
- 42-29     **Possible Omnibus Motion** [\(p. 37\)](#)

**42-01 (to the Floor)**  
**FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Nominee for Moderator of the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly**  
**RE Rosemary Lukens**

A Ruling Elder for Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church (CHPC) in Gig Harbor, Washington, Rosemary Lukens is an Executive Coach with extensive leadership development experience in health care and nonprofit organizations. Among her areas of professional expertise are coaching and consulting with individual developmental planning; conflict reconciliation; leadership development for teams and individuals; program and curriculum development; and workshop, meeting, and classroom facilitation.

For the past 19 years she has helped a diverse array of physicians, executive leaders, managers, and their staff members with relationships, strategy, and goal setting. She also has assisted such non-profit organizations as hospitals, physician groups, city governments, universities, and churches adopt practices and build cultures that appreciate and embrace change, improve performance, and optimize talent.

Lukens is a Registered Nurse by training and holds a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from the University of Puget Sound and a Master of Arts in Applied Behavioral Science with a specialty in Coaching and Consulting in Organizations from Bastyr University's Leadership Institute of Seattle.

She holds certifications in the Conflict Dynamics Profile from the Center for Dynamics; Crucial Conversations from VitalSmarts, Inc.; The Harrison Assessment (Levels I & II) from Harrison Assessments International; the DISC Index from Innermetrix, Inc.; Benchmarks 360 from the Center for Creative Leadership; Coaching for Development from the Center for Creative Leadership; the Kolb Learning Style Inventory from the Hay Group; and the Mayer, Salovey, Caruso Emotional Intelligence Test (MSCEIT) from Multi-Health Systems, Inc.

In addition to being a Ruling Elder, she serves CHPC as a certified Spiritual Director, Lay Counselor, and Leadership Coach/Consultant. She is a member of the EPC's National Leadership Team (NLT) and was a member of the Stated Clerk Search Committee. She also serves as a volunteer board member with VitalChurch Ministries.

She is married to David Lukens, DO, and they have 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 3 "adopted" grandchildren.



[www.epc.org/2022report-nominating](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nominating)



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[42-02](#) (to the Floor)

**FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Slate of Nominations—Permanent Committees and Boards**

*Some nominees had not confirmed acceptance of their nomination at press time and will be announced at the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.*

Note: ^second term; \*pending Session or Presbytery endorsement

**Benefit Resources Inc. Board of Directors**

Class of 2025	RE Jim Lewien^	West
Class of 2025	Sandy Siegfried^	Great Plains
Class of 2025	RE Stuart Van Kirk	Alleghenies

**Chaplains Work and Care Committee**

Class of 2025	TE Glen Holman^	New River
Class of 2025	TE David Horton	Central South
Class of 2025	TE Claude Douglas Overall	Great Plains

**Fraternal Relations Committee**

Class of 2025	TE David Galbraith	Midwest
Class of 2025	TE Case Thorp	FL & Caribbean
Class of 2025	TE Alan Trafford^	Gulf South

**Ministerial Vocation Committee**

Class of 2025	TE Chris Curtis	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2025	TE Fred Lian^	West
Class of 2025	RE Neil McAtee	Central South

**National Leadership Team**

Class of 2025	RE Earla Bethel^	FL & Caribbean
Class of 2025	RE Brian Evans^	Midwest
Class of 2025	TE Michael Flake	Central Carolinas
Class of 2025	RE George Hertensteiner	Great Plains
Class of 2025	TE Carolyn Poteet	Alleghenies

**Next Generation Ministries Council**

Class of 2025	Herman Armstrong	Mid-America
Class of 2025	TE Megan Bergem	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2025	TE Cole Lescher	Mid-America
Class of 2025	Faith Reid	Central South
Class of 2025	TE Joseph Stroup	Alleghenies



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### **Nominating Committee**

Class of 2023	RE Bob Vincent	Gulf South
Class of 2024	Re Stacey Miller	Coastal Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2025	TE Robert Chambers	Central Carolinas
Class of 2025	TE Tom Clymer	New River
Class of 2025	TE Brad Kenney	West
Class of 2025	RE Rob Liddon	Central South
Class of 2025	TE Ron Meyer	East
Class of 2025	TE Rob Sparr	Alleghenies

### **Permanent Judicial Commission**

Class of 2025	RE Donald Flater	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2025	RE Nat Green	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2025	RE Gordon Miller	Mid-Atlantic

### **Presbytery Review Committee**

Class of 2023	RE Jim Connors	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2024	RE Keith Hopkins	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2025	RE Ray Kinat^	Alleghenies
Class of 2025	TE George King^	Gulf South
Class of 2025	TE Mark Willems	Pacific Northwest

### **Theology Committee**

Class of 2025	TE Stephanie Black	Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2025	TE Luke Johnston	Great Plains

### **World Outreach Committee**

Class of 2025	RE Doug Dempsey	FL & Caribbean
Class of 2025	RE Johnny Long^	Southeast
Class of 2025	TE Marcos Ortega	East
Class of 2025	RE David Van Valkenburg^	West

[www.epc.org/2022report-nominating](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nominating)



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**42-03 (to the Floor)**  
**COMMUNICATION**

Cherry Hills Community Church, Highland Ranch, CO, **INVITES** the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly to hold the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly on its campus.

[Invitation Letter from Cherry Hills](#)

**42-04 (to the Floor)**  
**FROM THE STATED CLERK**

The Stated Clerk recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to the *Book of Government* 19-4. C. 1. Overture 21-A (14 Presbyteries voted to approve) [\(p. 39\)](#)

[Descending Overture 21-A](#)

**42-05 (to the Floor)**  
**FROM THE STATED CLERK**

The Stated Clerk recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to the *Book of Government* 20-4. A.3 Overture 21-B (14 Presbyteries voted to approve) [\(p. 40\)](#)

[Descending Overture 21-B](#)

**42-06 (to the Floor)**  
**FROM THE STATED CLERK**

The Stated Clerk recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to the *Book of Worship* 7-5 Overture 21-C (13 Presbyteries voted to approve) [\(p. 41\)](#)

[Descending Overture 21-C](#)

**42-07 (to the Floor)**  
**FROM THE STATED CLERK**

The Stated Clerk recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to the *Book of Government* 9-5E and *Book of Worship* 3-1A Overture 21-D (14 Presbyteries voted to approve). [\(p. 42\)](#)

[Descending Overture 21-D](#)



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

**42-08** *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*  
**FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the [FY23 Administrative Budget](#).

[www.epc.org/2022report-nlt](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nlt)

**42-09** *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*  
**FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the [FY23 Special Projects](#).

[www.epc.org/2022report-nlt](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nlt)

**42-10** *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*  
**FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the establishment of a Moderator appointed Ad Interim Committee to write a Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament and Hope.

[www.epc.org/2022report-nlt](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nlt)

**42-11** *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*  
**FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the transition from “PMA” Per Member Asking to “POI” Percentage of Income as the Future Funding Initiative.

[www.epc.org/2022report-nlt](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nlt)

**42-12** *(to the World Outreach Standing Committee)*  
**FROM THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The World Outreach Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the World Outreach Master Plan. ([p. 44](#))

[www.epc.org/2022report-wo](http://www.epc.org/2022report-wo)  
[World Outreach Master Plan](#)

**42-13** *(to the World Outreach Standing Committee)*  
**FROM THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The World Outreach Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the Equip International as a Cooperative Agency.

[www.epc.org/2022report-wo](http://www.epc.org/2022report-wo)  
[Equip International](#)

**42-14** *(to the World Outreach Standing Committee)*  
**FROM THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

The World Outreach Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the Reflejo as an Approved Mission Agency.

[www.epc.org/2022report-wo](http://www.epc.org/2022report-wo)  
[Reflejo](#)

**42-15** *(to the Fraternal Standing Committee)*  
**FROM THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **CHARGE** the permanent Fraternal Relations Committee to study and evaluate our relations with the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC), and to report to the 43<sup>rd</sup> GA (2023) for action.

[www.epc.org/2022report-fraternalrelations](http://www.epc.org/2022report-fraternalrelations)

**42-16** *(to the Fraternal Standing Committee)*  
**FROM THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** entering a formal Fraternal Relationship (*Acts of Assembly* 84-06, 12-10) with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Sierra Leone.

[www.epc.org/2022report-fraternalrelations](http://www.epc.org/2022report-fraternalrelations)

***42-17 (to the Fraternal Standing Committee)***  
***FROM THE FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE***

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the increase of elected members of the permanent Fraternal Relations Committee from six to nine members.

[www.epc.org/2022report-fraternalrelations](http://www.epc.org/2022report-fraternalrelations)

***42-18 (to the Theology Standing Committee)***  
***FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE***

The Theology Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** including the full text of the GA 41-31 response of the Theology Committee in the official minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

[www.epc.org/2022report-theology](http://www.epc.org/2022report-theology)  
[GA41-31 Response](#)

***42-19 (to the Theology Standing Committee)***  
***FROM THE THEOLOGY COMMITTEE***

The Theology Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the distribution of the GA41-31 response of the Theology Committee to every Presbytery and Session of the Church.

[www.epc.org/2022report-theology](http://www.epc.org/2022report-theology)  
[GA41-31 Response](#)

***42-20 (to the Theology Standing Committee)***  
***FROM THE CHAPLAIN WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE***

The Chaplains Work and Care Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the EPC CWCC Policy Statement on Chaplain Ministry to [Same-Sex Couples and LGBTQ+ individuals.](#)

[www.epc.org/2022report-cwcc](http://www.epc.org/2022report-cwcc)

**42-21 (to the Floor)**  
**FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Nominee for Moderator-elect of the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly**  
**TE Joe Kim**

Joe Felix Kim is a church planter of Hope Philly, which as of now consists of 2 micro-churches in the Philadelphia area with a third launching soon. Joe was ordained as a Teaching Elder in the EPC in 2015. Prior to planting Hope Philly, he served as the English Ministry pastor of Korean churches in New Jersey and New York.

Hoping to make it as an actor on Broadway, Joe studied Music at Temple University and later finished his degree at Toccoa Falls College in GA. But our Lord had different ideas, sending him in 2005 to get his MDiv at Westminster Theological Seminary in Glenside, PA.



Joe came to faith in 1995, and quickly got involved in ministry. He has served at various times in his life as a children's director (his first love), choir director and youth group director in places like Philadelphia, Atlanta, South Jersey and Queens, New York.

He is a regular contributor to Reformed Margins, a blogsite that provides a platform for Reformed Christian thinkers from various ethnic minority backgrounds to join in the broader Reformed and Evangelical conversations.

Joe is married to Emii and has 2 beautiful daughters, Norah (7) and Naomi (1). Emii is an advocate of special needs ministry as Norah is on the autism spectrum. It was Emii who taught Joe that Norah isn't someone to apologize for getting in the way of ministry. Norah, and his family IS ministry; a ministry from which all other ministries can flow.

Joe has served on various committees in the EPC. In 2017, Joe joined the Ministerial Committee in the Presbytery of the East. In 2018, he was named the Chairman of Candidate's Care. In 2021, he was placed on the General Assembly's Ministerial Vocation Committee (MVC) and serves on the EPC's Revelation 7:9 Task Force.

Joe enjoys reading, guitars, theology, all Philadelphia sports teams, and spending time with his family.

[www.epc.org/2022report-nominating](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nominating)



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**42-22 (to the Floor)**

**COMMUNICATION**

The Moderator of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2022-2023 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors, a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee, and the Chaplain Endorser.

June 2022

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

Dear Dean,

The *Rules for Assembly* 11-3 stated 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. Appointment: 2022-2023 Chairman, Nominating Committee  
TE Wayne Hardy (Presbytery of the Great Plains)
2. Nominations: Nominating Committee

<i>Name</i>	<i>Presbytery</i>	<i>Class</i>
RE Bob Vincent	Gulf South	2023
RE Stacey Miller	Coastal Mid-Atlantic	2024
TE Robert Chambers	Central Carolinas	2025
TE Tom Clymer	New River	2025
TE Brad Kenney	West	2025
RE Rob Liddon	Central South	2025
TE Ron Meyer	East	2025
TE Rob Sparr	Alleghenies	2025
3. Nominations: 2022-2023 Chairman, BRI Board of Directors  
Randy Shaneyfelt (Presbytery of the Great Plains)
4. Nominations: Chaplain Endorser (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025)  
TE Mark Ingles (West)

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.

Brad Strait  
Moderator, 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly

**42-23** *(to the Floor)*

**FROM THE BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Benefit Resources, Inc., Board of Directors recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> 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/2022report-bri](http://www.epc.org/2022report-bri)

**42-24** *(to the Theology Standing Committee)*

**FROM THE MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE**

The Ministerial Vocation Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** that [Pastor-In-Residence Ministries](#) be recognized as an Approved Agency of the General Assembly.

[www.epc.org/2022report-mvc](http://www.epc.org/2022report-mvc)

**42-25** *(to the Floor)*

**FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the Exceptions Requiring Responses (by December 31, 2022) as found in the 2021 Minutes of twelve presbyteries.

**Alleghenies**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies be approved with the following exceptions.

**A.** Called Meeting of June 3, 2021, was a separate meeting and therefore needs a full list of attendees, no quorum was declared, and the Statement of the reason for the Call in the Minutes. (p.693-696, G.19-5B, G.19-5.)

**B.** Called Meeting of August 14, 2021, was a separate meeting and therefore needs the Statement of Call in the Minutes. (p.697-706, G.19-5B).

**C.** Called Meeting of August 14, 2021, did not include approval of the date, time, and Commissions for the two TEs received at that meeting. (p.697-706, G.13-1A, G.21-1C.2.b).

**D.** TE Joseph Yerger's date for installation as Pastor of the Mansfield First EPC and the Commission to do so is not recorded. (38th Meeting Minutes 38-12D, p.690, G.13-1A, G.21-1C.2.b).



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E. TE Robert Cummings was approved as Transitional Pastor in Washington State as an Out of-bounds call and TE Dean Weaver was approved to an out of-bounds call as the EPC Stated Clerk, yet neither term for those calls were stated. (38th Meeting Minutes, 38-12A, p.689, G.10-8B.2a).

### **Central South**

The committee recommends that the minutes of the Presbytery of the Central South be approved with the following exceptions.

A. Two TEs removed from Roll and moved another to the Associate roll, all without explanation. (12/?/112.10-3c, G.14.3 or 14.4).

### **East**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the East be approved with the following exceptions.

A. Judicial Commission: no mention that they were “dismissed.” (121.19, p.001, 201, G.21-1C).

### **Florida and the Caribbean**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean be approved with the following exceptions.

A. There was no annual review of sessional records of each church by name. (92nd, 93rd, 94th meetings. G.19-4A7, Acts of Assembly 07-8).

B. The Out-of-Bounds Call for TE Hammans did not include specific Terms of Call. (93rd Meeting Minutes 93.04, p.4, G.10-8B2a).

### **Great Plains**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Great Plains be approved with the following exceptions.

A. No record of the Disparity Correction to meet the required ratio of TEs to REs for this Presbytery is recorded in the Minutes of any of the 2021 Stated Meetings. (22nd Meeting, 23rd Meeting, 24th Meeting, G.19-2A.4b, Acts of Assembly 05-08).

B. TEs approved for Assistant Pastors: at the 22nd Meeting, Shano Raranje, Ben Marquez, Ryan Randolph was not assigned an area of responsibility nor a length of term.

C. Out-of-Bounds Calls did not specify Terms of Call for: TE Claude Douglas Overall, TE Abiud Lope, Commissioned Pastor Alma Lope, TE Nathan Edwards. (22nd Meeting Minutes 06E5, p.526, 24th Meeting Minutes 24.05, p.562, G.10-8B.2a).

D. No list of churches who submitted their Session Minutes for review by the Presbytery. 22nd Meeting, 23rd Meeting, 24th Meeting. (Rules for Assembly IX 9-12G.16, Acts of Assembly 07-08.1).



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### **Mid-America**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of Mid-America be approved with the following exceptions.

**A.** Out-of-Bounds calls for TE Daryl Madi as Director of Administration and Pastor to Concord Solutions and later as Chaplain at the Aberdeen Heights Retirement Community, in neither case declared a length of term specified for the Calls. (90th Meeting, p.1315, Minute 90.07, 91st Meeting, p.1330, Minute 91.03, G.10-8B.2.a).

**B.** No record of the election and/or installation of the Moderator and Stated Clerk. 89th, 90th, and 91st Meetings. (G.19-3A.1).

### **Mid-Atlantic**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic be approved with the following exceptions.

**A.** No stated time period for Out-of-Bounds Calls to: TE Michael Kruger, Andy Koesters, TE Daniel Sonnenberg, TE Wes Vander, and TE Brian Martin (97th Meeting Minutes 97.20, p.574 and 575, 98th Meeting Minutes 98.27, p.588, 99th Meeting, p.604 and p.605, G.10-8B.2a).

**B.** Exam of EPC Transfer TE Daniel Sonnenberg and Exam of Reformed Transfer TE Jennifer Cooper did not state if they had any Exceptions to the Westminster Standards (98th Meeting Minutes 98.27, p.588, G.12-4, Acts of Assembly 03-04).

**C.** Membership of the Ministerial Committee was not reported to the Presbytery to verify that there were equal number of TEs and REs. (97th Meeting, G.21-2).

**D.** No start time was recorded for 99th Meeting. (99th Meeting, G.19-5A).

### **Midwest**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Midwest Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions.

**A.** Requires Presbytery to prepare a list of Churches with the number of eligible RE commissioners plus any additional commissioners to bring them into parity with the 2:1 TE/RE ratio. The minutes do not reflect that such a parity list was posted in the minutes and approved by the presbytery each year. (172/10/14 – 172/11/17, G.19-2A.4b – 04.4, Acts of Assembly 05-08).

**B.** The Book of Order calls for the following criteria to be considered during the examination for ordination: candidates' degree and the duration the candidate was under care. The candidate is to present a sermon and take written exams, none of these actions were noted in the minutes for and of the ordination candidates. (172/7/07, 173/8/07, 174/8/07, called/6/1-05).

**C.** The Book of Order calls for the following criteria to be considered during the examination for bringing candidates under care: Did not include church membership duration, no indication in minutes that exam question was actually asked or answered, no charges were noted. (172/7/07, 173/7/07, 174/8/07, G.11-2C).

- D.** The Minutes must report the membership of the Presbytery's Ministerial Committee at the first meeting of the year. Such notation was not noted in the Minutes. (172, G.21-2).
- E.** There is no mention that the Call of the Assistant Pastor is for a definite time period and is renewable. (Called meeting 07-13-21, G.10-6).

### **Pacific Northwest**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest be approved with the following exceptions.

- A.** Requires Presbytery to prepare a list of Churches with the number of eligible RE commissioners plus any additional commissioners to bring them into parity with the 2:1 TE/RE ratio. The Minutes do not reflect that such a parity list was posted in the Minutes and approved by the Presbytery each year. (10/6/20-05, G.19-2A.4b-04.4).

### **Rivers and Lakes**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes be approved with the following exceptions.

- A.** A candidate for TE must seek Session endorsement at the local church where candidate had membership for at least 6 months. Minutes did not note length of membership. (31/528/31.09C, G.11-2A).
- B.** Call as an Associate Pastor needs a statement of primary tasks. (33/545/33.04#5, G.10-5-6).
- C.** Must present the full Ministerial Committee to validate the requirement for the TE/RE ratio to be 1:1. (33rd meeting, p.557, G.21-2).

### **Southeast**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Presbytery of the Southeast be approved with the following exceptions.

- A.** No assigned Advisor for Candidate Hannah Sikes Andresdes or for Candidate Alan Hawkins. (12/6/112-10, 113/103/113-11, G.11-2E).
- B.** No duration of Call or primary duties for Assistant Pastor Ken Chivers, Assistant Pastor James Latham, or Assistant Pastor Paul Manuel. (112/7/112-2 #1, 114/131 & 134/114-26 #2 & #3, G.10-5-6).
- C.** No Duration of Call shown for TE John Marcere as Out-of-Bounds. (114th meeting, 114-26 #2, G.10-8B.2a).
- D.** Minutes shall report that the meeting was opened and closed with prayer. Opening prayer was not noted in Minutes 112, 113, 114; closing prayer was not noted in Minutes 113, 114. (112/1/112-01, 113/97/113-01, 114/113/114-01, G.16-1A).

## **West**

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the West Presbytery be approved with the following exceptions.

**A.** Votes taken on Descending Overtures must include a summary of the Overture and the votes taken. Such information was not included in the Minutes. (122/?/122-6, G.19-4C2, Acts of Assembly 07-08).

**B.** Minutes on examination of called Pastor of Advent Presbyterian Church do not indicate: if candidate met education or exam requirements, if candidate had been under care, or if candidate preached a sermon. It is unknown if the candidate is coming from another denomination, another EPC Presbytery, from the Presbytery of the West, or from Advent Presbyterian Church. (122/?/122-8, G.11-2C).

**C.** Three candidates were examined to be received under care. Minutes did not reflect that the candidates were given a charge or assigned an advisor. (122/?/122-12, G.11-2E).

**D.** Minutes shall report that meetings are opened and closed in prayer. Minutes reflect the meeting was began with worship and no mention was made of a closing prayer. (122/?/122.2-122.13, G.16-1A).

**E.** Minutes on examination of a called minister at Aspen Grove Church Planting Network do not indicate if candidate met education or exam requirements, or if the candidate is coming from another denomination. (123/3/123-11, G.12-2B, G.12-2C, G.12-3, G.12-3C).

**F.** Candidate was examined to be received under care. Minutes did not reflect that the candidate was endorsed by Session, given a charge, or assigned an advisor. (123/2/123-10, G.11-2E).

**G.** Minutes shall report that meetings are opened and closed in prayer. No mention was made of an opening or closing prayer. (123/1, 123/4, 123:1-123-15, 124/7/124.15, G.16-1A).

**H.** Motion for TE Hoffelmeyer's examination did not include reference of change from an EPC Presbytery to another, and no reference to exceptions with Westminster standards. (124/3/124-11A, G.12-2B, G.12-2C, G.12-3, G.12-3C).

**I.** Motions for the examination of three candidates from other denominations did not reference the transfer from another denomination. (124/4-6/124:11B, 124:12B, 124:12C, G.12-3).

**J.** Candidate was examined to be received under care. Minutes did not reflect that he was given a charge or assigned an advisor. (124/6/124:13, G.11-2E).

**K.** Specific duties for Assistant and Associate Pastors are not stated for their Call. (122nd Meeting, 123rd Meeting, G.10-07, 06).

**L.** Specific duration of Call for Assistant Pastors or Out-of-Bounds Calls are not stated. (122nd Meeting, 123rd Meeting, G.10-8B.2a).

**M.** Inadequate examination description for TE Marc Ragusin and for TE Stager. (124th Meeting Minutes 124.13, Minutes 124.14A, G.12-3).

**N.** Out-of-Bounds duration of call not defined. (124th Meeting Minutes 124.2A, G.10-8B.2a).

**O.** No duration of call or specific tasks were stated for Associate Pastor Yount. (124th Meeting Minutes 124:12B, G.10-07, 06, G.10-8B.2a).

**P.** No record of a position regarding the Westminster Standards for TE Rick Shaeffer. (124th Meeting Minutes 124:12C, G.12-4, Acts of Assembly 03-04).

**Q.** No record of approval of the examinee's position on the Westminster Standards. (124th Meeting Minutes 11A, G.12-4, Acts of Assembly 03-04).

**R.** Parity List for 2021 not shown in the Minutes. (122nd Meeting, 123rd Meeting, 124th Meeting, G.19-2A.4b).

**S.** Responses to the Minutes review for the 40th General Assembly are not shown as reviewed by the Presbytery. (123rd Meeting, 124th Meeting).

**T.** Membership of the Ministerial Committee is not shown to verify the TE/RE ratio for that Committee is 1:1. (122nd Meeting, G.12-21).

[www.epc.org/2022report-prc](http://www.epc.org/2022report-prc)

[Minutes of the Presbytery Review Committee](#)

**42-26** *(to the Floor)*

**FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the responses of the Presbyteries to those Exceptions sent to them by the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.

- **Alleghenies**
- **Florida and the Caribbean**
- **Great Plains**
- **Gulf South**
- **Midwest**
- **Pacific Northwest**
- **West**

[www.epc.org/2022report-prc](http://www.epc.org/2022report-prc)

[Minutes of the Presbytery Review Committee](#)

**42-27** *(to the Floor)*

**FROM THE PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the increase of members of the Presbytery Review Committee from 6 to 9 to support the review of the 2022 Presbytery Minutes.

[www.epc.org/2022report-prc](http://www.epc.org/2022report-prc)



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**42-28** *(to the Floor)*

**FROM THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** the [Minutes of the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly](#).

[www.epc.org/2022report-nlt](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nlt)

**42-29** *(to the Floor)*

**POSSIBLE OMNIBUS MOTION**

Business items coming from Standing Committees that are of a routine nature, such as Committee Minutes, are often put into an Omnibus Consent Motion. This single Motion is then brought to the floor of the Assembly for vote.



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**The following Committees have no recommendations**

***NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL***

[www.epc.org/2022report-nextgen](http://www.epc.org/2022report-nextgen)

***PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION***

[www.epc.org/2022report-pjc](http://www.epc.org/2022report-pjc)

**REVELATION 7:9**

***<https://epc.org/2022report-revelation79/>***

[www.epc.org/2022report-revelation79](http://www.epc.org/2022report-revelation79)

## RECOMMENDATION 42-04

### Descending Overture from the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

#### Descending Overture 21-A

To amend the *Book of Government* 19-4.C.1

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 19-4.C.1	Proposed Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 19-4.C.1 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
1. To work with other Presbyteries and the General Assembly to create agencies for education, the orphaned, the aged, and other suitable activities.	1. To work with other Presbyteries and the General Assembly to <del>create agencies for education,</del> <b><i>identify resources for ministry to and inclusion of</i></b> the orphaned, the aged, and <b><i>the disabled.</i></b> <del>other suitable activities.</del>

#### 2021-22 Ballot Information for Descending Overtures

Presbytery	Overture 21-A - YES	Overture 21-A - NO
<b>Alleghenies</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Central South</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Florida and the Caribbean</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Great Plains</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gulf South</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Mid-America</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Mid-Atlantic</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Midwest</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pacific Northwest</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Pacific Southwest</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rivers and Lakes</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>West</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>6</b>

## RECOMMENDATION 42-05

### Descending Overture from the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

#### Descending Overture 21-B

To amend the *Book of Government* 20-4.A.3

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 20-4.A.3	Proposed Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 20-4.A.3 <i>Amendment in bold italics</i>
3. To create separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes that would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.	3. To <del>create</del> <b><i>identify</i></b> separately or in conjunction with the Presbyteries those agencies or institutions needed for education or other purposes that would enhance the life and ministry of the whole church.

#### 2021-22 Ballot Information for Descending Overtures

Presbytery	Overture 21-B - YES	Overture 21-B - NO
<b>Alleghenies</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Central South</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Florida and the Caribbean</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Great Plains</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gulf South</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Mid-America</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Mid-Atlantic</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Midwest</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Pacific Northwest</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Pacific Southwest</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Rivers and Lakes</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>West</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>966</b>	<b>17</b>

## RECOMMENDATION 42-06

### Descending Overture from the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

#### Descending Overture 21-C

To amend the *Book of Worship* 7-5

Current <i>Book of Worship</i> 7-5	Proposed <i>Book of Worship</i> 7-5 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
The New Testament describes the concern and compassion of Christ for the conditions of people. The Church shall emulate its Head by showing special concern for the sick, the sorrowing, the hungry, and the poor. The Session shall be responsible for establishing these ministries within the congregation, and into the community. The service of compassion to those in adversity shall include such places as hospitals, retirement homes, convalescent homes, children's homes, prisons, and other public institutions. The higher courts of the Church shall seek to show compassion in these areas, including the establishment of institutions, both at home and abroad, for the care of various needs.	The New Testament describes the concern and compassion of Christ for the conditions of people. The Church shall emulate its Head by showing special concern for the sick, the sorrowing, the hungry, and the poor. <b><i>The Session shall be responsible for establishing these ministries within the congregation, and into the community. The service of compassion to those in adversity shall include such places as hospitals, retirement homes, convalescent homes, children's homes, prisons, and other public institutions. The higher courts of the Church shall seek to show compassion in these areas, including the establishment of institutions, both at home and abroad, for the care of various needs.</i></b>

#### 2021-22 Ballot Information for Descending Overtures

Presbytery	Overture 21-C - YES	Overture 21-C - NO
<b>Alleghenies</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Central South</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Florida and the Caribbean</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Great Plains</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gulf South</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Mid-America</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Mid-Atlantic</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Midwest</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pacific Northwest</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Pacific Southwest</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Rivers and Lakes</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>West</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>35</b>

## RECOMMENDATION 42-07

### Descending Overture from the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

#### Descending Overture 21-D

To amend the *Book of Government* 9-5E and *Book of Worship* 3-1.A, by deletion of the final sentence and insertion of a footnote to *Book of Worship* 3-1A in the first sentence as follows, “‘*Lawfully ordained Minister*’ includes EPC Chaplains who are called to serve in a military or civilian organization, have been approved by their Presbytery, and have been endorsed by the General Assembly (see G.9-5E and *Rules for Assembly* X.10-1I).”

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5.E	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5E <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p>E. Chaplain</p> <p>A court of the church, a hospital, the military, institutions, universities, or other appropriate fields of service may call a Teaching Elder as Chaplain if the Presbytery deems it appropriate. In such cases, the Chaplain shall always have as a primary responsibility the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. The Presbytery may authorize the Chaplain to administer the sacraments in that role.</p>	<p>E. Chaplain</p> <p>A court of the church, a hospital, the military, institutions, universities, or other appropriate fields of service may call a Teaching Elder as Chaplain if the Presbytery deems it appropriate. In such cases, the Chaplain shall always have as a primary responsibility the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. <b><i>The Presbytery may authorize the Chaplain to administer the sacraments in that role.</i></b></p>

Current <i>Book of Worship</i> 3-1A	Proposed <i>Book of Worship</i> 3-1A <i>Amendment in bold italics</i>
<p>3-1 A</p> <p>A. Administration of sacraments Ordinarily, only lawfully ordained Minister<sup>282</sup> may administer the sacraments...</p>	<p>3-1 A</p> <p>A. Administration of sacraments Ordinarily, only a lawfully ordained Minister<sup>282</sup> may administer the sacraments...</p>

<sup>282</sup> A ‘*lawfully ordained minister*’ includes EPC Chaplains who are called to serve in a military or civilian organization, have been approved by their Presbytery, and have been endorsed by the General Assembly. Also, a lawfully ordained minister in good standing of a non-EPC church may be authorized to serve communion in an EPC Church, with the concurrence of the Presbytery (*Acts of Assembly* 94-22 and 14-06) See also **Westminster Confession of Faith** 27-4.

### 2021-22 Ballot Information for Descending Overtures

<b>Presbytery</b>	<b>Overture 21-D - YES</b>	<b>Overture 21-D - NO</b>
<b>Alleghenies</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Central South</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>East</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Florida and the Caribbean</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Great Plains</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Gulf South</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Mid-America</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Mid-Atlantic</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Midwest</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pacific Northwest</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Pacific Southwest</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Rivers and Lakes</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>West</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>24</b>

## RECOMMENDATION 42-12

### Proposed Master Plan

#### MISSION

**EPC World Outreach serves the Church by empowering Spirit-filled witnesses to make disciples and plant reproducing churches among those with least access to the gospel.**

#### VISION

**For the Glory of God, seeing all peoples worshipping and following Jesus.**

#### RATIONALE

For the earth will be filled  
With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD  
As the waters cover the sea.  
Habakkuk 2:14

For God, so loved the world, that he gave his  
only Son, that whoever believes in him should  
not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:16

Three billion people woke up today in spiritual darkness, blind to the glory and love of Jesus, cut off from worshipping the one true God. Only 3% of all Christian workers, and only 1% of missions dollars, are going to these unreached peoples.<sup>1</sup> The EPC's mission is "to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus," and World Outreach serves that mission by focusing on those with least access. Christ followers proclaiming the gospel together in authentic relationship give lost individuals and families the opportunity to encounter Jesus and eternal life. The planting of reproducing churches glorifies Christ for whole communities and cities for generations. We look with yearning hearts toward the day where we see representatives of every tongue, tribe and nation following Jesus and worshipping before God's throne.

#### VALUES



**LOVE:** to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourself.  
*Matt. 22:37-40*



**EVANGELISM:** to communicate and receive the Good News of the Kingdom.  
*Matt. 28:18-20*



**PERSEVERANCE:** to count the cost and be faithful to the end.  
*Luke 9:23*



**PRAYER:** to depend on the Lord at every stage of the work. Reflects our humility & obedience and aligns our heart with his, abiding in him which precedes the fruit to come. *John 15:5*



**PARTNERSHIP:** to take on the role God has for us in relationship with others called to the same mission, whatever their nationality or church membership.  
*1 Cor. 3:6*



**ACCESS:** to preach the gospel of Christ to those with least access to it.  
*Romans 15:20*

<sup>1</sup> Johnson, Todd M. and Gina A. Zurlo. *World Christian Encyclopedia*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Brill 2019, pp.296-297

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR FULL-CYCLE CHURCH PLANTING

- **Prayer** – We join in God's mission of reconciling the world to himself first and foremost by prayer.
- **Least Access Peoples** – We prioritize those with least access to the gospel. This is our heart and our guide.
- **Partnership and Sending** – We cultivate active partnerships with national churches and other agencies, embracing the current reality of missions – “from everywhere to everywhere.” And we directly send EPC workers and teams to partner with others in making disciples among least-reached peoples.
- **Word and Deed** – We believe the Church, whether established or in its new beginnings, should be about the whole work of bringing the Kingdom of God to earth as it is in heaven. The gospel must be proclaimed by our words, but also demonstrated by our actions. Church planting is not separate from a corporate lifestyle of love, mercy, and justice for the flourishing of communities.
- **Church Engagement** – We want to see 100% engagement by our EPC Churches in the Great Commission for all nations. We long to discover new pathways for this engagement while maintaining our focus on the least reached.

## PROCESS AND PROGRAM

### FULL-CYCLE CHURCH PLANTING AMONG THE LEAST REACHED



For World Outreach, Full-Cycle Church Planting is the process model we use to illustrate the way our programs, sending opportunities, and partnerships tie together in the mission of planting reproducing churches among those with least access to the gospel. Some within the process model are engaged in direct church planting, while others are involved in the mobilizing, training up, and caring for those we send and partner with – each according to the unique giftings and callings God has given them. Regardless of the process, aligned with the EPC’s mission we endeavor toward this calling.

God gives the growth. For His glory.



PLANTING



WATERING



TOGETHER

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 1 Corinthians 3:6



### **Motion for Master Plan**

**Recommendation:** The World Outreach Committee recommends that the General Assembly adopt the proposed World Outreach Master Plan

**Rationale:** The proposed Master Plan would replace the plan adopted by the 36<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2016). The proposal represents a wide range of prayerful input from the National Leadership Team, World Outreach staff, and World Outreach Workers and other key stake holders. Once adopted it will guide the work of World Outreach for the coming years and inform World Outreach's communication with presbyteries and churches. Approving this recommendation means that the Assembly is affirming the content of the document as the direction for the global ministries of the EPC through World Outreach.



## **WO Master Plan**

### **Mission Statement**

EPC World Outreach exists to send Evangelical Presbyterians to start reproducing churches among people with least access to the gospel.

### **Strategic Priorities**

I. Muslims – *half of the least-reached people in the world.*

- From the earliest years of the EPC, responding to the tragedy that most Muslims have never met a Christian has been our particular emphasis.

II. Reproducing Churches – *the most powerful force in the world for community transformation.*

- WO assists national partners to develop leaders who will send their own pioneer church-planters to people with least access to the gospel (ITEN).
- And WO sends EPC pioneer church planters to adapt to the culture of a people without gospel access, live the gospel “out loud” among them, intentionally invite them to discover God in the Scriptures, and become followers of Jesus (Engage 2025 and Co-Op).

III. Going Ourselves – *where nationals can't go.*

Every church has the responsibility to reach out to its own neighbors, and where a national church exists, it is the very best agent for outreach. But in many cases we must go ourselves because:

- In many ethnic groups the number of Christians is nearly zero (there is not yet any national church to assist).
- National Christians from nearby ethnic groups sometimes face the greatest obstacles in witness.

The cost-savings of out-sourcing the Great Commission is attractive, but nothing more powerfully communicates Jesus’ worth than sending our own sons and daughters as missionaries.



**EPC**

*A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches*

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## NOTES