Presbytery Review Committee Minutes

April 2022

The Presbytery Review Committee met by web meeting on Thursday, March 4, 2022, with Chairman RE Ron Bengelink, RE Jane Bodden, RE George King, RE Bill Myers, and TE Jason Steele, present and RE Ray Kinat excused. Chairman RE Ron Bengelink oriented the Committee to its task and explained the process for minutes review in 2022. Committee members will read their assigned minutes (two for each set of presbytery minutes) and put in writing their proposed exceptions, notations requiring a response, and notations and place the electronic files in a shared folder. The Committee was also instructed to review the submitted Minutes for the number of churches who had not sent any representative to any of the Stated Meetings held during 2021 as well. All committee members were instructed to use the newly developed PRC Handbook as the primary reference for determining violations of the **Book of Order**, the *Rules for Assembly*, and the *Acts of Assembly* during their review.

The Committee agreed to a schedule of video conference meetings for each set of minutes. During those conferences, the readers will reach consensus on the Exceptions, Notations Requiring a response, and Notations. Only the Exceptions will be reported to the Assembly while Notations requiring response and general notations will be sent to Presbytery Stated Clerks by September 30, 2022. The entire committee will then convene April 26, 2022, via video conference to approve the full report.

The Committee's review also determined that at least 70 EPC churches or Church Plants (over 11%) had <u>no</u> representation at any Stated Meeting of their Presbytery for the entire year 2021. This despite that fact that for most presbyteries two of their three meetings were virtual and therefore attending meant only sitting in front of a computer screen for a few hours. While three presbyteries; Florida, Great Plains, and the Pacific Southwest had no churches in this category, three others; Gulf South, Central South, and Mid America had at least 20% of their churches in this category.

Since this Committee is unique in that; 1) it's annual work is compressed into a six-week period between early March and late April each year, 2) that period always includes the impact of Holy Week events on the schedule of some of its members, and 3) the number of Presbyteries to be reviewed will increase from 14 to 16 for 2022, the Nominations Committee will be requested to increase the number of members of the PRC from 6 to 9 in time for the review of the 2022 Presbytery minutes.

The minutes were approved by the entire committee on a web meeting on April 26, 2022.

Presbytery responses to exceptions from the 41st General Assembly, exceptions to the 2021 Presbytery Minutes, and other recommendations will go to the 42nd General Assembly in the report of the Presbytery Review Committee.

I. Review of Presbytery responses to pending issues and *exceptions* issued by the 41st General Assembly (2021) **BY COMMON CONSENT** the Committee recommends that the Assembly approve the responses of the following Presbyteries:

- A. Alleghenies
- B. Florida and the Caribbean
- C. Great Plains
- D. Gulf South
- E. Midwest
- F. Pacific Northwest
- G. Pacific Southwest
- H. West

The Committee apologizes to the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest that a misreading of their Minutes for 2020 led to the mistaken citation of an Exception. In fact, the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest had no Exceptions in their 2020 Minutes.

II. Minutes Subject to Review by the 41st General Assembly

A. Alleghenies

- 1. The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Alleghenies Presbytery 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 Aug. 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 Aug 14, 2021, did not include approval of the date, time, and Commissions for the two TE's 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, Minute 38-12D p. 690 G. 13-1A, G. 21-1C.2.b
 - 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, Minute 38-12A, p. 689 G.10-8B.2a
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Alleghenies Presbytery.
 - a. The Minutes of the Called Meeting of June 3, 2021, included forms from the Book of Discipline which thereby violated the anonymity of the accused even though the appointed Judicial Commission had not determined its decision regarding the accusation. P. 693-696 *Acts of Assembly* 10-01
 - b. The list of TE's being moved to Associate status included no reason for the action in any of these actions. 37the Meeting, minute 37-10B, P. 676 G. 19-2B.1a
 - c. No summary of the Overture voted on was included in the Minutes. 37th Meeting, Minute 37-09C, p.676 *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.3
 - d. Membership of the Presbytery's Ministerial Committee is not shown in the Minutes of any of the Stated Meetings for 2021. This is required to show that there are an equal number of TE's and RE's on that Committee. 37th, 38th, 39th, and 40th Stated Meetings. **G.** 21-2
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Alleghenies Presbytery.

- a. Called Meetings should not be numbered in sequence with the Stated Meetings, but rather identified by the date of meeting. p. 693 & p. 697
- b. Hybrid Meetings included in each case a reference to "using a written ballot without any explanation as to how that was accomplished for those participating by Zoom. Called Meeting of Aug 14, 2021, 37th Stated Meeting, 38th Stated Meeting
- 4. General advice to the presbytery.

The Committee has noted that at between ten and twenty percent of the organized churches or church plants in your Presbytery were reported to have no representation at any of the three Stated Meetings you held last year. For a denomination that is committed to being connectional between all of its courts this is a significant concern. Please discuss this situation and potential changes to your expectations for these churches.

5. Commendations.

None

B. Central South

- 1. The committee recommends that the minutes of the central south presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.
 - 2 TE's removed from Roll and moved another to the Associate roll all without explanation. 112/?/112.10 3c **G.** 14.3 or 14.4
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Central South Presbytery.
 - a. No page numbers 112 meeting, Acts of Assembly 16-25
 - b. No mention of audited/reviewed financial report for previous fiscal year. 112/?/112.10.4.c.1. *Rules of Assembly* 9-12 16
 - c. Page 923 is missing between Stated meeting 113 and 114. Acts of Assembly 16-25
 - d. No record of parity correction. Stated meeting 112, 113, and 114 **G.** 19-2A.4b *Acts of Assembly* 05-08 3
 - 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Central South Presbytery.

Typo: "state clerk" should be stated clerk, email address missing, one half of parenthesis, 2020 instead of 2021, October 32nd. 112/?/13, 113/916/5.d ,113/08-2, 114.22

4. General advice to the presbytery.

The Committee has noted that at between ten and twenty percent of the organized churches or church plants in your Presbytery were reported to have no representation at any of the three Stated Meetings you held last year. Please discuss this situation and potential changes to your expectations for these churches.

5. Commendations.

Minutes are clear, concise, and easy to understand

C. East

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

Judicial Commission - no mention that they were "dismissed". 121.19 p.001201 **G.** 21-1C

- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the East Presbytery.
 - a. No mention of yearly Financial Audit or Review. 121.22 p. 001202 *Rules of Assembly* 9-12 16
 - b. Only TE's present listed; absent and excused not recorded. July 16, 2021, Called Meeting: p. 001223-24 *Acts of Assembly* 00-11
 - c. Anonymity of accused party not protected. Note: Accused party subsequently renounced jurisdiction. 121.19, p. 001201, 121.20B, p. 001202 *Acts of Assembly* 10-01
 - d. Duplicate page numbers for two different Stated Meetings. 121 p. 001190-001215 and 122 p. 001190-001222 Acts of Assembly 16-25
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the East Presbytery.

Typo: November 2021 should be November 2020, Ron instead of Rob, and 2010 instead of 2020. 121.13 p. 001198, 3rd line, 121.18C p. 001201, 3rd line, 121.26 p. 001207

4. General advice to the presbytery.

None

5. Commendations.

Well done, it was extremely detailed.

D. Florida and the Caribbean

- 1. The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the FL & Caribbean Presbytery 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 a specific term of Call. 93rd Meeting, Minute 93.04, p. 4 **G.** 10-8B 2a
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the FL & Caribbean Presbytery.
 - a. Exceptions to the Westminster Confession are to be approved at the time of a TE's examination, but their content should not be recorded in the Minutes. TE Barret Hendrickson, TE Josh Hammans, and TE Brady Haynes. 92nd Meeting, Minute 92.07, p.784 93rd Meeting, Minute 93.04, 94th meeting, minute 94.08, p.12 *Acts of Assembly* 03-09
 - b. Pages are not numbered consecutively from previous minutes. 93rd and 94th meeting *Acts of Assembly* 16-25
 - c. Associate Members are not listed. A list of "additional TE's" are shown but none identified as Associate Members. 94th meeting p.2,3 *Acts of Assembly* 16-25
 - 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the FL & Caribbean Presbytery.
 - a. Ministerial Committee took several actions that are normally the responsibility of Presbytery, unless specifically assigned to the committee. There was no record of the Ministerial Committee being authorized to do this work. If this authorization was given in a prior meeting, that should be noted in future minutes. 92nd Meeting, Minute 92.07, p. 781
 - b. Complete minutes of Commissions should not be copied in Presbytery minutes. Only the Actions of the Commission should be summarized in Presbytery

minutes.93rd Meeting, p. 6,7 G. 21-1A.2

- c. Spelling error: He Chairman needs to be The Chairman. 94 p. 13 94.08
- 4. General advice to the presbytery.

None

5. Commendations.

The special recognition of TE Bob Garment for his 31 years of service as the only Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Florida.

E. Great Plains

- 1. The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Great Plains Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.
 - a. No record of the Disparity Correction to meet the required ratio of TE's to RE's for this Presbytery is recorded in the Minutes of any of the 2021Stated Meetings. 22nd Meeting, 23rd Meeting, 24th Meeting **G.** 19-2A.4b, *Acts of Assembly* 05-08
 - b. TE's 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 a term of the Call for: TE Claude Douglas Overall, TE Abiud Lope, Com Pastor Alma Lope, TE Nathan Edwards. 22nd Meeting, Minute 06E5, p. 526, 24th Meeting, Minute 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 of Assembly* IX 9-12G.16, *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.1
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Great Plains Presbytery.
 - a. Time of the start of each Stated Meeting. 22nd Meeting, 23rd Meeting, 24th Meeting. *Rules of Assembly* IX 9-12G.1
 - b. Membership of the Ministerial Committee not reported in 2021 to show equal TE to RE ratio. 22nd Meeting, 23rd Meeting, 24th Meeting. **G.** 21-2A
 - c. The vote on Overture 20 did not include a summary of the content of that Overture. 23rd Meeting, Minute 23:06, p. 547
 - d. There was no mention of an audit or financial review of the Presbyteries finances at any time during 2021. 22 meeting, 23 meeting, 24 meeting. *Rules of Assembly* IX 9-12 **G.**16
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Great Plains Presbytery.

None

4. General advice to the presbytery.

None

5. Commendations.

The Committee has noted with appreciation that all of the churches or church plants in your presbytery had representation at least one of the three Stated Meetings you held last year! While this may seem to be a minimal expectation, it puts you ahead of the other twelve EPC presbyteries for 2022. Please continue to encourage each church to continue to strive to improve this aspect of the EPC as a connectional body of churches.

F. Gulf South

- 1. The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Gulf South Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.
 - a. No notation of approval of that Candidates Travis' and Cowsert's position with respect to the Westminster Standards- No stated exception or acceptance of any exceptions. 20.24.2.2-5 **G.**12-4, *Acts of Assembly* 03-04.
 - b. Candidate Sonny Walker's position on Westminster standards not recorded 22.19.11 **G.**12-4, *Acts of Assembly* 03-04.1
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Gulf South Presbytery.

 None
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Gulf South Presbytery.
 - a. Elect Chip Cowsert missing the designation of TE. 21st, 21.14
 - b. Typographical errors, misspellings, improper punctuation, non-prejudicial statements of facts, and other variations in form may be reported here. Also, Failure to provide proper information or identification, misstatement of facts, etc., may be included here. 20th
 - c. The reference to "TE Tom Bullock" is either meant to be to another TE on the Commission or to RE Tom Bullock. 20-07
- 4. General advice to the presbytery.

The Committee has noted that at least twenty percent of the organized churches or church plants in your Presbytery were reported to have no representation at any of the three Stated Meetings you held last year. For a denomination that is committed to being connectional between all of its courts this is a significant concern. Please discuss this situation and potential changes to your expectations for these churches.

5. Commendations.

Well organized and very clear minutes from one meeting to the next, easy to follow and pick out actions taken.

G. Mid-America

- 1. The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Mid America Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.
 - a. Out of Bounds calls for TE Daryl Madi as Director of Admin 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
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Mid America Presbytery. While a motion was made to approve Mr. Justin Derks to become a Candidate under Care of the Presbytery, the result of the vote on that motion was not stated. 89th Meeting, p.1301, minute 89.04 **G.** 11-2C
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Mid America Presbytery.
 - "Ministers Without a Call". These should be listed as "Active Ministers without call". All Meetings **G.** 19-2, *Acts of Assembly* 05-08

4. General advice to the presbytery.

The Committee has noted that at least twenty percent of the organized churches or church plants in your Presbytery were reported to have no representation at any of the three Stated Meetings you held last year. For a denomination that is committed to being connectional between all its courts this is a significant concern. Please discuss this situation and potential changes to your expectations for these churches.

5. Commendations.

All the submitted minutes had a notation for how many TE's and how many RE's each church should send to Presbytery (at the church's name in the attendance list). All set of Minutes

H. Mid-Atlantic

- 1. The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Mid Atlantic Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.
 - a. No stated period for Out-of-Bounds Calls to: TE Michael Kruger, Andy Koesters, TE Daniel Sonnenberg, TE Wes Vander, and TE Brian Martin 97th Meeting, Minute 97.20, p.574 and 575 98th Meeting, Minute 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, Minute 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 TE's and RE's 97th Meeting, **G.** 21-2,
 - d. No start time was recorded for 99th Meeting. 99th Meeting G. 19-5A
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Mid Atlantic Presbytery.
 - a. TE's who are members of the Presbytery and are absent without excuse must all be identified in the Minutes as well. 97th, 98th, and 99th Meetings *Rules of Assembly* 9-12G.1, *Acts of Assembly* 00-11
 - b. No audit or financial review of the Presbytery funds once a year Usually, the first meeting of the year. *Rules of Assembly* IX 9-12G.16
 - c. No summary statement was given for Overture 20-A 98th Meeting, Minute 98-12, p.586
 - d. Approval to Change TE Mike Lawrie from Associate Pastor to Paster did not indicate that the Congregation had voted to do so. 99th Meeting, p. 604
 - e. No term of approval for Assistant Pastor Chrishon Ducker
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Mid Atlantic Presbytery.

None

4. General advice to the presbytery.

The Committee has noted that at least twenty percent of the organized churches or church plants in your Presbytery were reported to have no representation at any of the three Stated Meetings you held last year. For a denomination that is committed to being connectional between all its courts this is a significant concern. Please discuss this situation and potential changes to your expectations for these churches.

5. Commendations.

None

I. Midwest

- 1. 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. BOO 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 and called/6/1-05
 - c. BOO 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 asked or answered, no charges were noted. 172/7/07, 173/7/07, and 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 period and is renewable. Called meeting 07-13-21. **G.** 10-6
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Midwest Presbytery.
 - a. Ordination candidate David Menzel was listed on 172 p. 7 section 7 as a RE not TE.
 - b. The 2020 Financial Statement is presented with no statement that it has been audited or reviewed. 172/10/15 Rules of Assembly IX 9-12 16
 - c. Descending Overture Does merely stating the title of the Descending Overture satisfy the "Minutes should include a summary of that Overture" 172/10/14 *Acts of Assembly* 07-08
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Midwest Presbytery.
 - a. BOO & Acts requires terms of call for assistant pastor to show the term of service, Church Ward EPC used the EPC form for an Assistant Pastor, but the form does not have a space to report the term of service. Same condition appears in Called Meeting on July 13, 2021. 173/8/06 and attachment 3. Called/6/1-05 and attachment 1. **G.** 10-5, 10-6 *Acts of Assembly* 02-04
 - b. The First PC of Trenton, MI had a similar circumstance, but included the Term of Service in a narrative to the Terms of Call. 172/7/07 and attachment 172-B
- 4. General advice to the presbytery.
 - a. It is important that you follow the format that the previous stated clerk used.
 - b. The Committee has noted that at between ten and twenty percent of the organized churches or church plants in your Presbytery were reported to have no representation at any of the three Stated Meetings you held last year. For a denomination that is committed to being connectional between all its courts this is

a significant concern. Please discuss this situation and potential changes to your expectations for these churches.

5. Commendations.

None

J. Pacific Northwest

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

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

- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Pacific Northwest Presbytery.
 - a. Page numbering inconsistent 10th Stated Meeting 1-15; 11th Stated Meeting 218-232; 12th Stated Meeting 233 249. 10,11,12 *Acts of Assembly* 16-25
 - b. 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. **G.21-2**
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Pacific Northwest Presbytery.
 - a. When recording a Presbytery vote on a Descending Overture the Minutes should include a summary of that Overture as described on the official ballot received from the General Assembly. 10-15 reads only as the title of the Descending Overture, not summary. 10/10/10-15 *Acts of Assembly* 07-08
 - b. Typo Moderator Teaching Elder Aaron Beaty called the Eleventh Stated Meeting. This is the 12th Stated Meeting. 12/233/12-1
 - c. Typo "Vote on Descending Overture 21B typo "Conjunction is capitalized and should not be. 12/239/12-11
 - d. No time stated when meeting was adjourned. 12/249/12-31
- 4. General advice to the presbytery.

None

5. Commendations.

Minutes are easy to read and concise.

K. Pacific Southwest

- 1. The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Pacific Southwest Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.
 - a. No mention is made of the Presbytery's action to commend members to another congregation when dissolving a church 11-26 **G.** 5-9
 - b. No reference of the Disparity Ratio G. 19-2A.4b; Acts of Assembly 05-08
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Pacific Southwest Presbytery.
 - a. No indication of previous position, presbytery or denomination, or dismissal from same., Therefore no ability to determine level of examination required. 11-7 for Andrew Ong, 11-12 Greg Flagg, and 12-18 Ryan Teramoto **G.** 12-3
 - b. 2022 Budget not shown 12-15. Rules for Assembly 9-12G.16
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General

Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Pacific Southwest Presbytery.

- a. "...voting for the Virtual meeting". It appears this meeting is in person and not virtual. If it is virtual, the Meeting Title needs to be edited to contain the same language as the 11th and 10th Stated Meetings of the POPS. If not, then the sentence "Stated Clerk Eshoff reviewed the protocol for participation and voting for the virtual meeting" needs to be edited. 12-3.
- b. Typo "May 202" should read May 2021. 12-20
- 4. General advice to the presbytery.

None

5. Commendations.

The Committee has noted with appreciation that all of the churches or church plants in your presbytery had representation at least one of the three Stated Meetings you held last year! While this may seem to be a minimal expectation, it puts you ahead of the other twelve EPC presbyteries for 2022. Please continue to encourage each church to continue to strive to improve this aspect of the EPC as a connectional body of churches.

L. Rivers and Lakes

- 1. The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Rivers and Lakes Presbytery 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 one to one. 33 meeting, p. 557 **G.** 21-2
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Rivers and Lakes Presbytery.
 - a. Churches whose Session Minutes were reviewed and approved must be listed. 33/546-33.05 **G.** 19-4A.7. *Acts of Assembly* 07-08
 - b. No time of Convening the meeting is stated. 33rd meeting. *Rules of Assembly* 9-12G.1
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Rivers and Lakes Presbytery.

TE's are to be "received" by a presbytery or "dismissed" to another body. (Transferred is the process not the action) 31/529/31.09SD, 33/545-33.04, 33/551/33.15

4. General advice to the presbytery.

None

5. Commendations.

Rivers and Lakes is the only presbytery to have met the 2:1 ratio for RE's to TE's attending at every Stated Meeting! 31st, 32nd, 33rd meeting

M. Southeast

- 1. The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Southeast Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.
 - a. No assigned Advisor for Candidate Hannah Sikes Andresdes or for Candidate Alan Hawkins. 112/6/112-10, 113/103/113-11 **G.** 11-2E

- b. No duration of Call or primary duties for Assistant Pastor Ken Chivers or for Assistant Pastor James Latham, or for 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 and closing prayer was not noted in minutes 113 & 114. 112/1/112-01, 113/97/113-01, 114/113/114-01 G. 16-1A
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the Southeast Presbytery.
 - a. Churches whose Session Minutes were reviewed are not listed in the Minutes. 112th, 113th, 114th meeting. **G.** 19-4A.7 *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.1
 - b. TE Christopher Manley's Exceptions, or lack of same were not noted or approved. 112/7/112-10 #2 **G.** 12-4
 - c. Descriptive sentence was not included with Overture 20-A 112th meeting. *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.3
 - d. There were churches that did not have a TE listed in attendance. Assumption is that the pulpit is vacant. If so, this should be noted. 112/1-4/112-04, 113/97-100/113-03, 114/113-116/114-04 *Acts of Assembly* 00-11
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the Southeast Presbytery.
 - a. "Transfer" is not the correct term for the actions regarding TE's Adams, Minter or Murrey. All were Dismissed to their respective churches. Also, TE's Randolph and Camenisch were received from their former churches. 114/120-122/114-11 *Acts of Assembly* 05-08
 - b. TE'S were noted as "absent" in attendance reports. In compliance with the 2020 review, the 114 minutes correctly us the term "unexcused". 112/1-4/112-04, 113/97-100/113/03 Acts of Assembly 00-11
 - c. RE's attendance list of RE's includes candidates and observers. the separate listing of candidates and observers is sufficient. 112/1-4/112-04, 113/97-100/113-03 *Acts of Assembly* 00-11
- 4. General advice to the presbytery.

None

5. Commendations.

None

N. West

- 1. 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 PC 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 PC. 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, 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&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 no exceptions with Westminister 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 form another denomination.124/4,5 & 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 and 123rd Meeting G. 10-07, 06
- 1. Specific duration of Call for Assistant pastors or Out-of- Bounds Calls are not stated. 122nd Meeting and 123rd Meeting **G.** 10-8B.2a
- m. Inadequate examination description for TE Marc Ragusin and for TE Stager. 124th Meeting, Minute 124.13, and Minute 124.14A **G**. 12-3
- n. Out of Bounds duration of call not defined. 124th Meeting, Minute 124.2A **G.** 10-8B.2a
- o. No duration of call or specific tasks were stated for Associate Pastor Yount 124th Meeting, Minute 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, Minute 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, Minute 11A **G.** 12-4, *Acts of Assembly* 03-04
- r. Parity List for 2021 not shown in the Minutes. 122nd Meeting, 123rd Meeting, and 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 or 124th Meeting
- t. Membership of the Ministerial Committee is not shown to verify the TE/RE ratio for that Committee is 50/50. 122nd Meeting, **G**. 12-21
- 2. The Committee will forward the following *notations requiring responses* to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the minutes of the West Presbytery.
 - a. Presbytery minutes pages shall be consecutively numbered in their permanent record. The 122 meeting did not have any page numbers. The pages in meetings 123 & 124 were numbered starting at 1 in each meeting. 122nd, 123rd, 124th meeting. *Acts of Assembly* 16 25
 - b. Attendance is not shown by churches and TE absences are not shown as excused

- or unexcused. 122nd, 123rd, 124th meeting. Acts of Assembly 00-11, Acts of Assembly 03-04.4
- c. Although elected in the 121st meeting as Stated Clerk, Greg Daniels was not installed to that office. 122nd meeting, **G.** 19-3
- d. No review of Session Minutes is shown by Church. 122nd, 123rd, 124th meeting. **G.** 19-4A.7 *Acts of Assembly* 07-08
- e. No adjournment time recorded. No starting time recorded. 123rd and 124th meeting **G.** 19-5A
- 3. The Committee will forward the following *notations* Stated Clerk of the General Assembly regarding the Minutes of the West Presbytery.

Motion to receive during TE Taylor's examination identified Rev. Hoffelmeyer instead. 124th meeting.

4. General advice to the presbytery.

Stated Clerk Daniels is urged to review the Presbytery Minutes submitted by former Stated Clerk Marc Huebl in 2019 and 2020 and to follow his form and content. The current Stated Clerk also needs to acquire and follow the Handbook for EPC Stated Clerks and the Handbook for the Presbytery Review Committee, both of which are available from the General Assembly Office.

5. Commendations.

None

Committee Members for this Presbytery Review Committee for 2022 include:

RE Ron Bengelink Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest RE Jane Bodden Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean

RE Ray Kinat Presbytery of the Alleghenies
RE George King Presbytery of the Gulf South
TE Jason Steele Presbytery of the Midwest

RE Bill Myers Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

Ron Bengelink

Committee Chair