

COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK

SHARPEN

43RD EPC GENERAL ASSEMBLY / GOSPEL PRIORITIES SUMMIT

JUNE 20-22, 2023

EPHESIANS 4:12



CHERRY HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Highlands Ranch, Colorado



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A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

43rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER HANDBOOK

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Brothers and Sisters:

Welcome to the 43rd General Assembly / Gospel Priorities Summit. Our theme this year is “*Sharpen*” based on Ephesians 4:12, “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

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/ga2023documents.

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 Preliminary 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 Cherry Hills!

Coram deo,

D. Dean Weaver
Stated Clerk



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OVERVIEW OF ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Monday, June 19

1:00-5:00 p.m. Check-in/Information Open

Tuesday, June 20

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Check in/Information Open
9:00 – 9:50 a.m. **Worship**
10:00 – 10:50 a.m. Plenary Session: **Church Planting**
11:00 – 11:50 a.m. Plenary Session: **Church Planting**
12:00 – 12:50 p.m. Networking Lunches
1:00 – 2:50 p.m. Plenary Session: **Global Movement**
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Business Session 1**
5:15 – 6:30 p.m. Ticketed Gospel Priorities Dinner
7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Worship/WO Global Worker Commissioning Service

Wednesday, June 21

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Check in/Information Open
9:00 – 9:50 a.m. **Worship**
10:00 – 10:50 a.m. Plenary Session: **Church Health**
10:00 – 11:50 a.m. Plenary Session: **Church Health**
12:00 – 12:50 p.m. Networking Lunches
1:00 – 2:50 p.m. Plenary Session: **Effective Biblical Leadership**
3:00 – 3:50 p.m. **Business Session 2**
4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Standing Committee Meetings
5:15 – 6:30 p.m. Ticketed Dinner
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Worship/Memorials and Moderator's Prayer
8:30 – 9:00 p.m. Dessert



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OVERVIEW OF ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE *Continued*

Thursday, June 22

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Check in/Information Open

9:00 – 9:50 a.m.

Worship / Moderator Communion Service

10:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Equipping Sessions:

Church Health 1, 2, & 3

Church Planting 1, 2, & 3

Effective Biblical Leadership 1, 2, & 3

Global Movement 1, 2, & 3

11:00 – 11:50 a.m.

Equipping Sessions:

Church Health 1, 2, & 3

Church Planting 1, 2, & 3

Effective Biblical Leadership 1, 2, & 3

Global Movement 1, 2, & 3

12:00 – 12:50 p.m.

Networking Lunches

1:00 – 3:50 p.m.

Business Session 3

4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Equipping Sessions:

Church Health 1, 2, & 3

Church Planting 1, 2, & 3

Effective Biblical Leadership 1, 2, & 3

Global Movement 1, 2, & 3

5:15 – 6:30 p.m.

Ticketed Gospel Priorities Dinner

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Worship



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GENERAL ASSEMBLY PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(Through the 43rd General Assembly)

BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
RE Will Barnes <i>Midwest</i>	TE Eric Shipton <i>New River</i>	RE Stuart Van Kirk <i>Alleghenies</i>
TE Erik Ohman <i>West</i>	Michael Moore <i>Central South</i>	RE Jim Lewien <i>West</i>
RE Randy Shaneyfelt <i>Great Plains</i>	TE William Reisenweaver <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	Sandy Siegfried <i>Great Plains</i>

CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
TE Scott Rash <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Ben Brychta <i>Southeast</i>	TE Glen Holman <i>New River</i>
TE Marty Carpenter <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Darrell DeHaven <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE David Horton <i>Central South</i>
TE Brad Yorton <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Russ Ragon <i>West</i>	TE Claude Douglas Overall <i>Great Plains</i>

FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
RE Gwynn Blair <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	RE Carol Culbertson <i>West</i>	TE Case Thorp <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>
TE David Galbraith <i>Midwest</i>	TE Don Fortson <i>Central Carolinas</i>	TE Alan Trafford <i>Gulf South</i>

MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
TE Doug Resler <i>West</i>	TE Joe Kim <i>East</i>	TE Chris Curtis <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>
RE Richard Gash <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Rachel White <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Fred Lian <i>West</i>



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NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
RE Victor Jones <i>Gulf South</i>	RE George Hertensteiner <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Earla Bethel <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>
TE Patrick King <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Linda McDaniels <i>West</i>	RE Brian Evans <i>Midwest</i>
RE Rosemary Lukens <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Neil Smith <i>East</i>	TE Carolyn Poteet <i>Alleghenies</i>
TE Dave Strunk <i>Southeast</i>	RE John Ivy <i>Central South</i>	TE Michael Flake <i>Central Carolinas</i>

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
Becky Shultz <i>West</i>	TE Greg Aydt <i>West</i>	Herman Armstrong <i>Mid-America</i>
	Meg DeHaven <i>East</i>	TE Megan Bergem <i>Pacific Southwest</i>
	TE Andrew Mills <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Cole Lescher <i>Mid-America</i>
		Faith Reid <i>Central South</i>
		TE Joseph Stroup <i>Alleghenies</i>

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
RE Marian Bradshaw <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Joshua Hurd <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	TE Robert Chambers <i>Central Carolinas</i>
TE Alan Conrow <i>Midwest</i>	RE Ann Weston <i>Mid-America</i>	TE Tom Clymer <i>New River</i>
TE Wayne Hardy <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Stacey Miller <i>Coastal Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Brad Kenney <i>West</i>
TE Juan Rivera <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	TE David Ricketts <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Rob Liddon <i>Central South</i>
RE Bob Vincent <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Jeff Chadwick <i>Southeast</i>	TE Ron Meyer <i>East</i>
		TE Rob Sparr <i>Alleghenies</i>



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PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
RE Yvonne Chapman <i>Central South</i>	RE Amanda Cowan <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	RE Donald Flater <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>
RE Ken Roberts <i>West</i>	RE Brian Wyatt <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Nat Green <i>Pacific Northwest</i>
RE Jeff Hollingsworth <i>Southeast</i>	RE Forrest Norman <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE Gordon Miller <i>New River</i>

PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
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>	TE George King <i>Gulf South</i>
RE Jim Connors <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Keith Hopkins <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Mark Willems <i>Pacific Northwest</i>

THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
RE Fred Flinn <i>Central South</i>	TE Cameron Shaffer <i>East</i>	TE Stephanie Black <i>Coastal Mid-Atlantic</i>
TE Zach Hopkins <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	RE Carol Williams <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE Joe Bingold <i>Pacific Northwest</i>

WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Class of 2023:	Class of 2024:	Class of 2025:
TE Whitney Alexander <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Rick Dietzman <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	RE Doug Dempsey <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>
TE Waring Porter <i>Central South</i>	RE Susan Lear <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Johnny Long <i>Southeast</i>
RE David Miller <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	RE Wes Peterson <i>Coastal Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Marcos Ortega <i>East</i>
		RE David Van Valkenburg <i>West</i>



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OTHER COMMITTEES

(Through the 43rd General Assembly)

REVELATION 7:9 TASK FORCE

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

TE Rufus Smith <i>Central South</i>	TE Andrew Smith <i>East</i>	TE Jeff Cook <i>Central Carolinas</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 Ben Tzeng <i>Mid-America</i>	TE Joe Kim <i>East</i>	TE Rodger Woodworth <i>Alleghenies</i>
Cheryl Mendes-Ellis <i>West</i>	RE Brandon Queen <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Mark Potter <i>Great Plains</i>
TE Doug Resler <i>West</i>	TE Eric Shipton <i>Coastal Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Gabriela Sosa <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>
TE Laurie Johnston <i>Great Plains</i>	TE Bonnie Gatchell <i>East</i>	Rachel Kimrey <i>Southeast</i>
Cara Taylor <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Bob Vincent <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Jason Yum <i>Pacific Southwest</i>



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2022-2023 EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

MODERATOR'S REPORT

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

STATED CLERK'S REPORT



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Moderator

Executive Summary Report to the 43rd General Assembly



Rosemary Lukens, Moderator
42nd General Assembly

2022-2023 has been a terribly exciting and challenging time for all of us. I say “terribly” because much of the past year has been terrible in our towns, cities, states, nation – and around the world. The pandemic has subsided for the present, but the long-term effects remain. The most pronounced may be the ongoing fear; the fear that hangs in the air and pollutes so much of our mental and spiritual environment. Added to that are train crashes that kill people and destroy land. Bank failures that threaten our economy nationally and personally. Politics and racial issues that cause deep division in our population. Churches and pastors failing or fleeing. Terrible.

Also, exciting. We are seeing a new presence and work of the Holy Spirit on college campuses – revival that we pray for and long for in our churches across the nation and the world. We as believers are learning that we cannot face the day without spiritual warfare – Satan is loading his quiver and shooting at us fairly consistently and boldly. We have to armor up and fight back – with the tools God has given us and our faith in Him alone. (Ephesians 6.)

Given our current conditions, we need to Prepare to Stand. (*Video and guide by Andrew Brunson and Brad Strait*). We also stand on our Gospel Priorities: Effective Biblical Leadership, Transformation (church health and evangelism), Multiplication (church planting) and Global Movement (World Outreach). As leaders in the EPC, we are choosing to stand in the gap. As Ezekiel 22:30 says “And I (God) searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it.” It is not convenient, and it may, and probably will, come at a cost. Therefore, we, as the National Leaders of EPC, we pray and work together toward meeting our Gospel Priorities and moving the kingdom of God forward.



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- Effective Biblical Leadership and Ministerial Vocation Committee, led by Michael Davis, are looking at the changing landscape of preparation for ministry. In addition, we are looking for seminary partnerships, assessment partnerships, competencies, behaviors, and motivations.

We are looking at the beginning of ministry, as well as the end of ministry and Pastoral Separation Ethics.

- Church Planting is expanding more rapidly with the addition of Tom Ricks to the EPC OGA staff.
- Church Health and Evangelism, led by Bob Stauffer, are bringing life and health to pastors and churches realizing that a healthy church cannot function without a healthy pastor. Recognizing the issues that cause burnout and providing resources has been an incredible blessing to many of you.

As a reminder: Evangelism is not just some of what we do. Evangelism is our DNA; it is through the Blood of Jesus and should be flowing in our veins as followers of Jesus. We are the EVANGELICAL Presbyterian church. What brings us together and holds us together is a heart and mind to know God, to love God, and to share God with everyone we meet. “And they’ll know we are Christians by our love...” and sometimes we may even use words!

- World Outreach has turned over many of its positions this year, and the result is a new and fully functional team who love the Lord, each other, and love the mission.
- We are continuing to work with Presbyteries to move the needle on POI. We are entering year two and looking for opportunities to talk with individual churches and pastors about participation. We are also examining the financial status of EPC relating to the long-term viability to meet our Gospel Priorities.
- Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament and Hope, under the leadership of Gerrit Dawson and Glenn Meyers, is moving forward at a pace that is astounding. Their thorough study, exchange of ideas and experiences is simply God ordained and amazing.
- We are in conversation with ECO – Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians, to consider how share best practice in our leadership training and events, so that we aren’t duplicating efforts, and can share best practice.

This Call to be your Moderator came as a surprise to me. I thought perhaps I was either too old or a woman. While both are true, this has been an incredible year. I hope that in fulfilling what God called me to do, I have also encouraged women to step into leadership...maybe even jump with both feet! I have been given the gift of mentoring several young women by Zoom as we live across the country. I have also heard from several of you gentlemen,



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thanking me for encouraging the women in your churches to take a look at leadership, and a look at God's Call on their lives. God has a Call – capital C – on every one of us. Choose this day Whom you will serve. There is no in between ground. You are either serving God, or you are not. This is not just part of our lives; this IS our life.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Lukens, Moderator
42nd General Assembly

June 2023

www.epc.org/2023report-moderator



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National Leadership Team

Executive Summary Report to
the 43rd General Assembly



Brad Strait
Chairman

As you probably know, the NLT, though not a “court” of the Church, functions much like the Session of our denomination, seeking to fulfill the wishes and requirements of the General Assembly. In between yearly GA meetings, we seek to accomplish what has been asked of us, to maintain a sense of EPC unity, and to lead in such a way as help our denomination fulfill God’s design for us.

These changes require us to listen well, to be steadfast in our faith, and to be adaptive in our leadership. This year, we continue transitioning in 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, for example working:

- To respond to the toll the last few years have taken on pastors and their families. We continue to look for ways to strengthen and refresh our pastors, using events like Spouse Retreats and EPC Israel Trips to reenergize leaders. We worked on adding Church Health Coordinators for each Presbytery.
- To help address the racial struggles in our churches and world. As asked by the 42nd GA, I appointed, and the National Leadership Team began to interact with a multiethnic group of EPC Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders to work on a Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament and Hope. This will be a two-year process seeking to write an internal letter to guide EPC pastors and congregations scripturally and confessionally through the tensions of racial strife in our world. We all know it is a massive, complex, and divisive issue. The group is prayerfully making progress.
- To review and adjust our organization and resources to align with a renewed focus on evangelism, including emphasizing the training of the EPC’s Three Circles, evangelism training, and renewed focus on resources around Church Health.



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- To continue the momentum as a church planting movement. With Tom Ricks moving from a stipend-based resource to our full-time National Director of Church Planting, and emerging Regional Directors, we are well positioned to continue to carry out the Great Commission on the home front.
- To adapt in leadership as a part of the Lord's Global Movement. A very successful Family Gathering for our Global Workers and their families as well as renewed energy with the addition of new staff leadership.
- To gather and equip Next Generation, Revelation 7:9, and Presbytery Leaders as Effective Biblical Leaders. We are working hard to meet and address the new and emerging realities while maintaining our high Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical and Missional standards.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Strait
Chairman

June 2023

www.epc.org/2023report-ntl

Stated Clerk

Executive Summary Report
to the 43rd General Assembly



Dean Weaver
Stated Clerk

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him **all things** were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities –**all things** were created through Him and for Him. He is before **all things**, and in Him **all things** hold together. He is the head of the body, the church.” - Colossians 1:15-18*

I love the doctrine of God’s Sovereignty! This is not simply a devotion to a matter of intellectual ascent, but a deep, deep affection for the Sovereign Himself, who holds “all things” together, including you, me, and all of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. He created the EPC; the EPC is for Him and He is the Head of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Well beyond that, as Abraham Kuyper is noted for saying, “*There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign overall, does not cry, Mine!*” Knowing that the Lord God is sovereign over all things in the EPC not only gives me great comfort, it gives me both confidence and hope. And from my vantage point, serving you as your Stated Clerk, the Sovereign is not only ruling and reigning, but advancing His Kingdom through the EPC.

A little over one year into our modest effort at an all-EPC podcast, *In All Things* – we have over 13,000 downloads including 42 different countries. We have hosted small church pastors, church planters, EPC authors and EPC leaders. Our conversations have been covering all aspects of the EPC including introducing the amazing servants in the Office of the General Assembly and how they love to serve our presbyteries and the local church; timely conversations with chaplains at times of great suffering; and now a series on each of our denomination’s Gospel Priorities. Each conversation has been rich, and I have loved getting to know so many gifted and dedicated leaders within our family of churches. If you haven’t joined the conversation yet, please check out our website www.epc.org/inallthings and check out how our sovereign God is at work in and through *All Things* EPC.

Much of the work of our national leadership is covered committee reports from our National Leadership Team Chair, Moderator, and others – so I will focus on a few things that may be unique to what I am seeing from my office as your Stated Clerk. First, I witnessed the Sovereign



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at work in our presbyteries. This year we have doubled the number of presbytery visits. This year Michael Davis, Tom Ricks, Bob Stauffer, Gabriel de Guia, Moderator Rosemary Lukens, CFO Pat Coelho and I have visited most of our 16 presbyteries (*which has become increasingly challenging to do, as we have grown in number and many of our presbyteries meet on the same weekends*). What I have seen firsthand is a renewed enthusiasm and engagement in each of our Gospel Priorities. Teams and leaders getting after Church Planting, evangelism training, sending, and supporting global workers to the places with the least access to the Gospel and a fresh determination to cultivate and develop effective Biblical leaders. At the end of the day, on each of the visits, our message is simple; we are here to serve you and help you live into the mission of the EPC.

If you have heard me speak at one of our presbytery meetings, you will have heard me preach on the mission of the EPC. *“The EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.”* When we talk about our mission, we have often focused on the four identity markers at the end, but this year I have been reclaiming the first part of our mission, which is that we are a Great Commission Denomination! My “stump” speech has been that we are “putting the “*E*” back in EPC!” We have rediscovered that our Book of Order, providing the governance for the mission the Lord has entrusted to us, actually anchors us in what is the primary responsibility of the local church. Sections such as G.4-3; 18-3.C; 19-4; and 20-4.B.1. let alone *Book of Discipline* 2-1 and *Book of Worship* 7-2 all point to the primary place of evangelism in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Downstream of this renewed emphasis, we are hearing dozens and dozens of stories of people coming to faith in Jesus Christ through the EPC’s Three Circles evangelism tool. Presbyteries and local congregations are training children, adults, and leadership to share the Gospel with people in their spheres of influence. The evangelistic culture of our presbyteries and congregations are growing and people are coming to Christ. That is our mission!

As we move forward in carrying out the Great Commission, living into the EPC’s mission, you will continue to hear calls to share the Gospel and a renewed emphasis to live out the Gospel. As a Great Commission family of churches, we are called to GO and make DISCIPLES of all nations! God is calling the EPC to be a Disciple making movement – disciples who make disciples who make disciples. It begins with evangelism, but being a disciple of Jesus is a whole life commitment that has built into our very DNA being sent with this good news to help others become disciples of the Savior. Sometimes we are sent to our family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers in our own “Jerusalem” and sometimes we are sent out to larger areas beyond our home (think presbyteries) to share the gospel with others collaboratively; and sometimes the Lord calls and sends us to the very ends of the earth to the places with the least access to the gospel.

A disciple is called to be with Jesus and is sent out to be like Jesus. To be an effective Biblical Leader is to be a whole-life disciple of Jesus Christ who is sent to live and speak the Gospel.



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Finally, there were many beautiful and important other gatherings throughout this year that are helping to form and shape the EPC for our common mission. Among those committees, teams, leadership, and strategic meetings/retreats, the one that stands out for me this past year was our first ever Small Church Summit. This was a profound meeting of smaller church leaders who shared the struggles, challenges, and joys of serving smaller congregations. What we are learning is hard, but as a denomination with a majority of congregations under 200 members, we need to dig down deep on this and work together to address these crucial needs and come along side these dedicated servants of the Kingdom. To that end, we will be partnering with the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO) to focus on resourcing these vital missional outposts and their leaders including a first ever joint *Small Church Summit* November 7-9, 2023, in San Antonio, TX. In addition to another GA sponsored Pastor/Spouse Retreat and our Church Planter's Retreat, we will continue to serve our pastors, their families, and the congregations they are called to serve.

There is much Kingdom work to be done, and I know that we are better together. The work of the Great Commission is our mission. While that task itself can be overwhelming, I take great comfort and gain great confidence that the Sovereign One reminded us on the mountain top that He would always be with us, as He sends us out to make disciples...to the end of the age! It is a great joy and privilege to serve you as we together live into the EPC's mission!

Coram Deo!

-dean

Rev. Dr. D. Dean Weaver,
Stated Clerk/President

June 2023

www.epc.org/2023report-statedclerk



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

Churches Received, Dissolved, Dismissed

May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023

Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Church	City	State	Received	From
Hillside PC	Greenville	PA	5/7/2022	PCUSA
Hope for Renewal	Youngstown	OH	9/17/2022	Church Plant

Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic

Church	City	State	Received	From
Church on Boulevard	Henrico	VA	9/23/2023	Unknown

Presbytery of the East

Church	City	State	Received	From
The Elm Church	Elmhurst	NY	9/23/2022	Unknown
Garwood EPC	Garwood	NJ	9/23/2022	ECO

Presbytery of the Gulf South

Church	City	State	Received	From
Church of the Resurrection	New Orleans	LA	9/25/2022	Unknown
First PC of Magnolia	Magnolia	AR	4/28/2023	PCUSA
Vernal PC	Lucedale	MS	1/27/2023	PCUSA

Presbytery of the Midwest

Church	City	State	Received	From
Christ's Community	Fort Wayne	IN	2/10/2023	RCA
Clifton PC	Clifton	OH	02/10/2023	PCUSA

Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest

Church	City	State	Received	From
Christ Community Church	Carmichael	CA	6/15/2022	RCA

Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes

Church	City	State	Received	From
Roseland Reformed Church	Blomkest	MN	4/27/2023	RCA

Presbytery of the West

Church	City	State	Received	From
Christ Community	Great Falls	MT	10/8/2022	RCA



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Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed
Fairview United PC	Petrolia	PA	7/24/2014	2/5/2023

Presbytery of Central South

Church	City	State	Received	Dissolved
The Table	Little Rock	AR	1/28/2017	2/28/2023

Presbytery of the East

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed
Circleville PC	Circleville	NY	6/27/2002	9/1/2022
Resurrection Park Slope	Brooklyn	NY	2/1/2013	9/23/2022
Resurrection Williamsburg	Brooklyn	NY	11/1/2020	12/31/2022
Sion Iglesia Presbiteriana	Brooklyn	NY	11/5/2015	11/16/2022

Presbytery of the Gulf South

Church	City	State	Received	Dissolved
First PC of Waskom	Waskom	TX	2/16/1997	4/28/2023
Haven Church	Katy	TX	1/15/2018	4/28/2023

Presbytery of the Gulf South

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed
Tiki Island Chapel	Galveston	TX	1/28/2022	9/23/2022



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Summary of Action Items

(Communications, Overtures, and Resolutions)

- [43-01](#) **The Nominating Committee** recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **ELECT** TE Joe Kim as Moderator of the 43rd General Assembly.
- [43-02](#) **The Nominating Committee** recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **ELECT** RE Victor Jones as Moderator-elect of the 43rd General Assembly.
- [43-03](#) **The NLT** recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** a Moderator appointed Ad-interim committee to revise the Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse.
- [43-04](#) **The NLT** recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the formation of a Permanent Committee on Disaster Relief.
- The PJC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly APPROVE the recommendation of the National Leadership Team to amend the Rules of Assembly X-10 to form a Permanent Committee on Disaster Relief.*
- [43-05](#) **The Nominating Committee** recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **ELECT** the slate of Nominees for the 43rd EPC General Assembly permanent committees, standing committees, and boards.
- [43-06](#) **Hope Church, Memphis, TN** **INVITES** the 43rd General Assembly to hold the 44th General Assembly on its campus.
- [43-07](#) **The NLT** recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the FY24 [Administrative Budget](#).
- [43-08](#) **The NLT** recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the FY24 [Special Projects](#).
- [43-09](#) **The NLT** recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the [minutes](#) of the 42nd General Assembly.
- [43-10](#) **The Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church withdraw from the World Communion of Reformed Churches effective upon approval of this recommendation.



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[43-11](#)

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** entering into a fraternal relationship with the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO).

[43-12](#)

The Benefits Resources, Inc., Board of Directors recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** ordained minister drawing retirement income from the EPC 403(b)(9) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income from housing allowance as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

[43-13](#)

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the *Book of Government* 17-5 be deleted, with the following sections renumbered, and the *Book of Government* 6-8D and 18-3H be amended.

The PJC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly APPROVE the amendments to G.17-5, G.6-8D, and G.18-3H.

[43-14](#)

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** that the *Book of Discipline* 1-1 be amended.

The PJC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly APPROVE the proposal of the National Leadership Team, as modified by the PJC, to amend Book of Discipline 1-1 Definition of Church Discipline.

[43-15](#)

The MVC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** a Moderator-appointed task force to consult with outside experts and complete a thorough review of our *Book of Discipline* and associated Forms to present recommendations to the 44th General Assembly.

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly APPROVE a Moderator appointed task force to consult with outside experts and complete a thorough review of our Book of Discipline and associated Forms to present recommendations to the 44th General Assembly.

[43-16](#)

The CWCC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** amending the *Book of Government* sections 9-5E and 9-11 to include the requirement for Chaplain endorsements.

The MVC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly APPROVE the “Denominational Requirements for Endorsement to Serve as a Chaplain.”



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The PJC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly APPROVE the proposed amendments to G.9-5E and G.9-11B from the Committee on Chaplains Work and Care Committee, as edited by the PJC.

[43-17](#)

The MVC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the creation of a Moderator-appointed, Ad-interim committee for the purpose of reviewing our ordination standards and process and recommending any potential changes to the 45th General Assembly.

[43-18](#)

The Moderator of 42nd General Assembly recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2023-2024 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors, a slate of nominees to fill vacancies of the Permanent Nominating Committee.

[43-19](#)

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the Exceptions requiring responses and found in the 2022 minutes of 14 of our 16 Presbyteries.

[43-20](#)

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the responses of the Presbyteries to those Exceptions sent to them by the 42nd General Assembly.

[43-21](#)

Possible Omnibus Motion

43-01 (to the Floor)
From the Nominating Committee

Nominee for Moderator of the 43rd 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.

43-02 (to the Floor)
From the Nominating Committee
Nominee for Moderator-elect of the 43rd General Assembly
RE Victor Jones

Victor Jones is a Ruling Elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Laurel, Mississippi, where he and his wife, Rachel, raised their seven daughters. Being blessed with seven children in seven years was a life-changing experience only to be matched by the overwhelming support and encouragement of the Body of Christ at Westminster over the last three decades. Victor and Rachel are graduates of Mississippi State University, as are all of their daughters and son-in-law. They are enjoying a new phase in their marriage—being grandparents to two baby boys.



Victor operated the family business until 2016 when it became part of a 16-location, multi-state John Deere dealership. He is currently a John Deere tractor salesman for AG UP Equipment. He is passionate about his involvement with Laurel Christian School and served the Board for many years as it expanded to a full K through 12 school. For the last decade he has served as a Trustee for South Central Regional Medical Center and is currently Vice Chairman of the largest employer in the community. Victor serves on the Advisory Board of Trustmark National Bank.

Victor enjoyed his time as Moderator of the Presbytery of the Central South, which was followed by being the first Moderator of the Presbytery of the Gulf South as we grew into an additional Presbytery. That was followed by participation on the EPC National Leadership Team for the last four years.

The first General Assembly he attended was in 1979 in Kansas City during a tumultuous time for Presbyterians. A truth that has become more evident to him is when our Teaching Elders are accompanied by two Ruling Elders to do the “work of ministry,” God often blesses the unity, shared vision, and encouragement that “build up the body of Christ.” It is encouraging that the EPC is focused on the four Gospel Priorities as we share in this work of ministry together.



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43-03 *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*

From the National Leadership Team

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** a Moderator-appointed Ad-interim committee to revise the Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse.

www.epc.org/2023report-ntl

43-04 *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*

From the National Leadership Team

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the formation of a Permanent Committee on Disaster Relief.

The PJC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the recommendations of the National Leadership Team to amend the *Rules of Assembly* X-10 to form a Permanent Committee on Disaster Relief.

www.epc.org/2023report-ntl



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43-05 (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 43rd General Assembly

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

Benefit Resources Inc. Board of Directors

Class of 2026	RE Michael Busch	Alleghenies
Class of 2026	RE Bill Overcast	Central South
Class of 2026	Cathy Scott*	East

Chaplains Work and Care Committee

Class of 2026	RE Kendra Bowers	Central South
Class of 2026	TE Marty Carpenter^	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2026	TE David Snyder	Midwest
Class of 2024	TE Scott Kennaugh	Midwest
Class of 2024	RE Bruce Alexander	New River

Disaster Relief Committee

Class of 2026	TE Whitney Alexander	Gulf South
Class of 2026	RE Jim Winter	Florida and the Caribbean
Class of 2026	Toni Harris	Member at Large
Class of 2025	TE Cliff Mansley	West
Class of 2025	RE Dave Shanklin	Central South
Class of 2025	Nancy Prott	Member at Large
Class of 2024	TE Bill Crawford	Gulf South
Class of 2024	RE Hans Othmer	Gulf South
Class of 2024	Paul Gorny	Member at Large

Fraternal Relations Committee

Class of 2026	TE Stan Van Den Berg^	Great Plains
Class of 2026	David Galbraith^	Midwest
Class of 2026	RE Josh Shelley	Central South
Class of 2025	Roger Rumer	Alleghenies
Class of 2024	RE Holly Lazzero	East

Ministerial Vocation Committee

Class of 2026	TE Doug Resler^	West
Class of 2026	RE Richard Gash^	Alleghenies
Class of 2025	TE Scott Sealy	Central South



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National Leadership Team

Class of 2026	RE Chris Danusiar	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2026	TE Greg Ayt	West
Class of 2026	RE Joi Williams	Coastal Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2026	TE Julie Hawkins	Pacific Northwest

Next Generation Ministries Council

Class of 2026	TE Joseph Stoup^	Alleghenies
Class of 2026	Faith Reid^	Central South
Class of 2026	TE Dan Kish	Central South
Class of 2025	Geraud Bumfield	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2024	TE Sir Gregory Thornton	Central South

Nominating Committee

Class of 2026	TE Bob Vincent^	Gulf South
Class of 2026	RE Kelli Marks	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2026	TE SJ Winter	Midwest
Class of 2026	RE Mike Goolsby	Great Plains
Class of 2026	TE Juan Rivera^	Florida and the Caribbean

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2026	TE Zach Hopkins	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2026	TE Barton Kimbro	Central South
Class of 2026	RE Jeff Hollingsworth^	Southeast
Class of 2025	RE Tom Werner	Mid-America
Class of 2024	TE Ed McCallum	West

Presbytery Review Committee

Class of 2026	RE Ron Bengelink^	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2026	TE Jason Steele^	Midwest
Class of 2026	RE Jim Connors^	Pacific Southwest

Theology Committee

Class of 2026	RE David Bouschart	West
Class of 2026	TE Luke Johnston	Great Plains

World Outreach

Class of 2026	TE Whitney Alexander^	Gulf South
Class of 2026	TE Waring Porter^	Central South

www.epc.org/2023report-nominating



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43-06 *(to the floor)*
Communication

Hope Church, Memphis, TN **INVITES** the 43rd General Assembly to hold the 44th General Assembly on its campus.

[Invitation Letter from Hope Church](#)

43-07 *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*
From the National Leadership Team

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the [FY24 Administrative Budget.](#)

www.epc.org/2023report-ntl

43-08 *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*
From the National Leadership Team

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the [FY24 Special Projects.](#)

www.epc.org/2023report-ntl



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43-09 *(to the floor)*

From the National Leadership Team

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the [minutes of the 42nd General Assembly](#).

www.epc.org/2023report-nlt

43-10 *(to the Fraternal Standing Committee)*

From the Fraternal Relations Committee

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church withdraw from the World Communion of Reformed Churches effective upon approval of this recommendation.

www.epc.org/2023report-fraternalrelations

43-11 *(to the Fraternal Standing Committee)*

From the Fraternal Relations Committee

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** entering into a fraternal relationship with the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO).

www.epc.org/2023report-fraternalrelations

43-12 *(to the floor)*

From the Benefits Resources, Inc., Board of Directors

The BRI Board of Directors recommends that the 43rd 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 from housing allowance as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

www.epc.org/2023report-bri

43-13 (to the Overtures/Resolutions Standing Committee)
From the National Leadership Team

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the *Book of Government* 17-5 be deleted, with the following sections renumbered, and the *Book of Government* 6-8D and 18-3H be amended.

www.epc.org/2023report-nlt

Current wording of <i>Book of Government</i> 17-5	Proposed wording of <i>Book of Government</i> 17-5. <i>Amendments Removed.</i>
<p>Treasurer</p> <p>A. Where the responsibility for the finances of the local church falls to the Board, it shall appoint a Treasurer to handle the financial matters of the congregation. This person may or may not be a Deacon.</p> <p>B. Where the Session retains responsibility for financial matters, it shall follow this stipulation: the Treasurer shall report to the appointing body at each stated meeting, keeping a careful record of financial matters. The appointing body shall be responsible for an annual audit of the finances of the church.</p>	<p><i>That section G.17-5 be deleted, with following sections renumbered.</i></p>
Current wording of <i>Book of Government</i> 6-8D	Proposed wording of <i>Book of Government</i> 6-8D <i>Amendments Removed</i>
If a local church does not elect Trustees (or if Deacons have not been given the responsibility of property), the Session, or a designated portion of the court, shall serve as the Trustees of the local church.	If a local church does not elect Trustees the Session or a designated portion of the court, shall serve as the Trustees of the local church.
Current Wording of <i>Book of Government</i> 18-3H	Proposed Wording of <i>Book of Government</i> 18-3H. <i>Amendments in bold italics.</i>
To determine the budget of the church and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.	To determine <i>and oversee the finances</i> of the <i>local</i> church <i>including the budget</i> and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.

The PJC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the amendments to **G.17-5**, **G.6-8D**, and **18-3H**.

www.epc.org/2023report-pjc



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[43-15](#) (to the MVC Standing Committee)
From the Ministerial Vocation Committee

The MVC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** a Moderator-appointed task force to consult with outside experts and complete a thorough review of our *Book of Discipline* and associated Forms to present recommendations to the 44th General Assembly.

www.epc.org/2023report-mvc

The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** a Moderator appointed task force to consult with outside experts and complete a thorough review of our *Book of Discipline* and associated Forms to present recommendations to the 44th General Assembly.

www.epc.org/2023report-nlt

43-16 (to the MVC Standing Committee)

From the Chaplains Work and Care Committee

Pulled by the Chaplains Work and Care Committee

The CWCC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** amending the *Book of Government* sections 9-5E and 9-11 to include the requirement for Chaplain endorsements.

www.epc.org/2023report-cwcc

Current Wording <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5E	Proposed Wording <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5E <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p>G.9-5E</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>G.9-5E</p> <p>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. <i>All Teaching Elders serving as Chaplains must obtain endorsement from the Committee on Chaplains Work and Care. (See Rules for Assembly X.10-1.1)</i></p>
<p>G.9-11</p> <p>The Ruling Elder as a Commissioned Pastor</p> <p>A Ruling Elder may be temporarily authorized by Presbytery as a Commissioned Pastor for a congregation without a Pastor to preach the Word, evangelize, moderate a Session, administer the sacraments, perform marriages (if civil law allows), preside at funerals, and provide pastoral care. Presbyteries may also approve and give appropriate powers to a Ruling Elder to serve as a Commissioned Pastor in mission churches, church planting and church revitalization works, or in chaplaincy positions in hospitals, hospices, prisons, or other institutions.</p> <p>A. Authorization shall be for a term up to three years and may be renewed. Such authorization shall specify those powers granted and shall stipulate in which church(es) or ministry contexts those</p>	<p>G.9-11</p> <p>The Ruling Elder as a Commissioned Pastor</p> <p>A Ruling Elder may be temporarily authorized by Presbytery as a Commissioned Pastor for a congregation without a Pastor to preach the Word, evangelize, moderate a Session, administer the sacraments, perform marriages (if civil law allows), preside at funerals, and provide pastoral care. Presbyteries may also approve and give appropriate powers to a Ruling Elder to serve as a Commissioned Pastor in mission churches, church planting and church revitalization works, or in chaplaincy positions in hospitals, hospices, prisons, or other institutions.</p> <p>A. Authorization shall be for a term up to three years and may be renewed. Such authorization shall specify those powers granted and shall stipulate in which church(es) or ministry contexts those powers are authorized. Such powers</p>

<p>powers are authorized. Such powers shall be exercised only in those contexts.</p> <p>B. Potential Commissioned Pastors shall be examined by Presbytery and found to have sufficient knowledge in the areas in which they will be serving.</p>	<p>shall be exercised only in those contexts.</p> <p>B. Potential Commissioned Pastors shall be examined by Presbytery and found to have sufficient knowledge in the areas in which they will be serving.</p> <p>C. <i>Commissioned Pastors approved by their Presbytery to serve as a Chaplain must obtain endorsement from the Committee on Chaplains Work and Care. (see Rules for Assembly X.10-1.I)</i></p> <p>[subsequent paragraphs are to be renumbered accordingly]</p>
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The MVC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly APPROVE the “Denominational Requirements for Endorsement to Serve as a Chaplain.”

www.epc.org/2023report-mvc

The PJC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly APPROVE the proposed amendments to G.9-5E and G.9-11B from the Committee on Chaplains Work and Care Committee, as edited by the PJC.

www.epc.org/2023report-pjc

43-17 (to the MVC Standing Committee)
From the Ministerial Vocation Committee

The MVC recommends that the 43rd General Assembly APPROVE the creation of a Moderator-appointed, Ad-interim committee for the purpose of reviewing our ordination standards and process and recommending any potential changes to the 45th General Assembly.

www.epc.org/2023report-mvc



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43-18 (to the floor)

Communication

The Moderator of the 42nd General Assembly recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2023-2024 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors and the slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee.

June 2023

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. Appointments: 2023-2024 Chairman Nominating Committee
TE Rob Sparr (Presbytery of the Alleghenies)

2. Nominations: Nominating Committee
Name Presbytery Class
TE Bob Vincent Gulf South 2026
RE Kelli Marks Rivers and Lakes 2026
TE SJ Winter Midwest 2026
RE Mike Goolsby Great Plains 2026
TE Juan Rivera Florida and the Caribbean 2026

3. Nominations: 2023-2024 Chairman, BRI Board of Directors
RE Michael Busch Alleghenies 2026

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.

Rosemary Lukens
Moderator, 42nd General Assembly



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43-18 (to the floor)

Communication

The Moderator of the 42nd General Assembly recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2023-2024 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors and the slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee.

June 2023

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. Appointments: 2023-2024 Chairman Nominating Committee
TE Rob Sparr (Presbytery of the Alleghenies)

2. Nominations: Nominating Committee
Name Presbytery Class
TE Bob Vincent Gulf South 2026
RE Kelli Marks Rivers and Lakes 2026
TE SJ Winter Midwest 2026
RE Mike Goolsby Great Plains 2026
TE Juan Rivera Florida and the Caribbean 2026

3. Nominations: 2023-2024 Chairman, BRI Board of Directors
RE Michael Busch Alleghenies 2026

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.

Rosemary Lukens
Moderator, 42nd General Assembly

43-19 (to the floor)

From the Presbytery Review Committee

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the Exceptions requiring responses and found in the 2022 minutes of 14 of our 16 Presbyteries.

Alleghenies

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

- a. No record of annual session records review (G.194-A7. *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.)
- b. No record of date & time of ordination/installation of: TEs Cepek & Eatough. TEs Shefelton & Hall. TE White & TE Harris (Meetings 41, 42, & 43; 10-10D, p. 736, 41-17D, p. 739, 42-10D & 10J, pp. 759 & 761, 43-19D, p. 797, 44-15D, p. 841). (G.13-1A, G.21-1C.2. b.)
- c. TE David Shrader, an Out of Bounds Chaplain in US Air Force, period of time not recorded. (Meeting 41-10B, p. 735). (G.10-8B2.a.)

Central Carolinas

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Central Carolinas Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.

- a. Call of TE Charles Reed as Assistant Pastor included in Omnibus Motion with no record of exam, duration (term) of call, primary area of responsibility or position on Westminster Standards. (Meeting 01-18.2) (G.12-2-5, G.13-1-7.)
- b. Candidate Howard Quach, Westminster position not recorded (Meeting 01-18.1) (G.12-4.)
- c. Minutes not signed by the moderator. (Meeting 01). (G.19-5D.)

Central South

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Central South Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.

- a. No mention of the membership of the dissolved church being transferred to another church or being held by the Presbytery. (Meeting 115, p. 956, section 115.16) G.5-9
- b. No definite period listed for TE serving Out of Bounds. (Mtg 115, p. 958, section 115.24) G.10-8B.2. a.



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Coastal Mid-Atlantic

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

- a. Called Presbytery meeting minutes of June 14 were approved. No minutes of June 14 called meeting were submitted for review. (Meeting 1, p. 1, section 1.06). (G.19-5D, *Rules for Assembly* 9-12G.1.)
- b. “Parity” report simply listed the count of TEs, REs attending the current meeting. No list of churches invited to send additional REs. (Meeting 1, p. 3, section 1.15). (G.19-2A.4b *Acts of Assembly* 05-08.)
- c. The report stated that a list of churches who had submitted Session Minutes was presented but the list was not included in the minutes. (Meetings 100, p. 638, Stated Clerk Report). (G.19-4A7 requires reviewed. G.19-4A7, *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.)
- d. Date and time were not given for the installation of the Pastor of the Newly established Restoration Community Church (Meeting 100, p. 639, first paragraph) (G.13-1A, G.21-1C.2. b.)
- e. Change of call to Out of Bounds, no term was listed (Meeting 101, p. 665, section 101.59.3C, G.10-8B.2, *Acts of Assembly* 05-08.)
- f. The calling of an Assistant Pastor did not list the duration of the call (Meeting 101, p. 666, section 101.60) Assistant Pastor Josh Schatzle, no duration of call recorded (Meeting 101.58, p. 665); Assistant Pastor Matt Hartman, no duration of call recorded (Meeting 001.28, p. 7). (G.10-6A.)
- g. No record of candidates’ position on Westminster Confession (Meeting 001.28, p. 7). (G.12-4.)
- h. Candidate Drew Daniels was ordained by the Presbytery at the meeting. No record of installation plans for others. (Meeting 001.29, p. 7). (G.13-1A.)
- i. TE Mark Hunt, laboring Out of Bounds: No duration of call recorded 1. (Meeting 01.59-3C, p. 665). (G.10-8B.2 a.)
- j. Candidates Katie Macturk and Noah Austin, no mention of Session endorsement (Meeting 101.57, p. 664). (G.11-2A.)

www.epc.org/2023report-prc



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East

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

- a. Minutes must report the membership of the Presbytery's Ministerial Committee at its first meeting each year to define for that year that its ratio of Teaching Elders to Ruling Elders meets the requirements of G.21-2 for that Committee. (Meeting 124-17, 001274). (G.21-2.)
- b. No mention of Circleville commission being dismissed (Meeting 126, p. 1401, section 26.17). G.21-1 Judicial Committee comments from last year.
- c. No statement of primary responsibilities for renewing an Assistant Pastor. (Meeting 136, p. 1423, section 126-36L). (G.10-6.)
- d. No statement of primary responsibilities for Associate Pastor that was previously an Assistant Pastor (Meeting 126, p. 1423, section 126-36N). (G.10-6A.)

Florida and the Caribbean

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

- a. No Quorum declared, even though it is in the Section heading. (Meeting 96 & 97, p. 96/1, section 96.01, p.97/1, section 97.01). (G.19-5C.)
- b. No mention of additional RE assigned to churches to maintain a 1:2 TE to RE ratio. (Meeting 95, 96, & 97). (G.19-2A.4 *Acts of Assembly* 05-08 3.)
- c. No list of specific areas of responsibility for Associate Pastor (Carlos Sierra) (Meeting 96, p. 10, section 96-10). (G.10-5.)
- d. No record of Session minutes being reviewed for each church by name. (Meeting 95, 96, & 97). (G.19-4A.7. *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.)

Great Plains

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

- a. TE Ken Ferguson: Assistant Pastor position requires call to be for a definite period of time, none shown (Meeting 25.07-2, p. 575, 576). (G.10-6A.)
- b. TE Josh Weeks: Call as Associate Pastor approved but does not stipulate areas of responsibility as required. (Meeting 26.03-B.4, p. 582). (G.10-5.)
- c. TE Timothy Janiszewski: No duration (term) of call specified as required for an Out of Bounds call (Meeting 25.07-1, p. 575). (G.10-8. B2a.)
- d. TE Christopher Lemmon: No duration (term) of call specified as required for an Out of Bounds call (Meeting 27.04-1, p. 601). (G.10-8.B2a.)



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Gulf South

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the Gulf South Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.

- a. No mention that Congregation of Faith Vietnamese Mission Church voted to dissolve (Meeting 23, p. 93, section 23.22 1). (G.5-9.)
- b. No mention of how the property of Faith Vietnamese Mission Church was disposed of (Meeting 23, p. 93, section 23.22 1). (G.5-9.)

Mid-America

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

- a. Terms of call must state length of term for an Assistant Pastor (Meeting 94.11, p. 1392, section 94.1). (G.10-5, 10-6.)

Midwest

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

- a. Item 6 – Although “All members of Grace Chapel who wish to do so will have their membership transferred to Ward Church.” The minutes did not include the statement that all others membership would be held by the presbytery until they requested transfer. (Meeting 175, p. 12, 13, section 175-18). (G.5-9.)
- b. The report on an Executive Session included the fact that Motions were made and passed and are available in the Stated Clerk’s Office. There is no provision in the EPC Constitution for maintaining a second (“secret”) set of Minutes. While discussions may be had in Executive Session, motions must be made in the open session. A person’s identity may be protected, if need be, by referring to him/her as TE “X” or RE “B” (Meeting 177, p. 14, section 09). (G.2-4A.)

New River

The Committee recommends that the Minutes of the New River Presbytery be approved with the following *exceptions*.

None

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Pacific Northwest

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

- a. Listed 14 churches whose Session minutes were due to be reviewed and recorded that 8 had been reviewed but didn't say which 8. (Meeting 14, p. 274, section 14-8)
- b. There was a vermal (?) report of "Session Minutes reviewed to date" and a list of churches scheduled to reviewed in October, but no list of churches that had been reviewed. Minutes must list the churches, by name, that have had their Session minutes reviewed. (Meeting 15, p. 8, section 15-1). (G.19-4A7. *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.)

Pacific Southwest

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

Lacking the list of commissioners and date for installation for Candidate Wright (Meeting 13, p. 158, section 13-10). (G.13-1A, G.21-1C.2. b.)

Rivers and Lakes

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

None

Southeast

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

- a. 6. TOC for assistant did not specify period of time. (Meeting 117, pp. 189-190, section 117-18.9; pp. 191-192, section 117-18.10). (G.10-5, 10-6.)
- b. No advisor for Candidate Long is named. (Meeting 115, p. 124). (G.11-2E.)
- c. Length and boundaries of call for CPs Hawkins and Hodges are not given. Meeting 116, pp. 152-153, pp. 153-154). (G.9-11A.)

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West

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

- a. No list of TEs attending, excused or unexcused. (Meeting 125, p. 1). Minutes shall list the names of each Teaching Elder member of the Presbytery and note that person's attendance as present, excused, or unexcused. (*Acts of Assembly* 00-11.)
- b. No list of RE commissioners attending (Meeting 125, p. 1, section 125.4). Minutes shall list the names of all Ruling Elders serving as Commissioners for each Church. Minutes shall also list all visiting Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders who have been enrolled as corresponding members with the privilege of the floor. (*Acts of Assembly* 03-04.4.)
- c. No record of Associate Members and their attendance at the meeting. (Meeting 125, p. 1, section 125.4). Presbytery Minutes shall record the roll of Associate Members and their attendance at meetings. (*Acts of Assembly* 16-25.)
- d. No notation of advisors appointed for candidates Chad Johnson and John MacCarthy noted (Meeting 125, p. 3, section 125.11.II); Advisor assigned to candidate (G.11-2E); Presbyteries must follow the provision of G.11-2E, namely that the advisor of a candidate coming under care should not ordinarily be the candidate's pastor. (*Acts of Assembly* 06-08.)
- e. Notation of TEs, REs and the rest present, however no notation of excused or unexcused absences for TEs not present (Meeting 126 p. 4, section 126.20). Minutes shall list the names of each Teaching Elder member of the Presbytery and note that person's attendance as present, excused, or unexcused. (*Acts of Assembly* 00-11.)
- f. No notation of exceptions or no exceptions to WCF noted or approved for Mr. Hubbard. (Meeting 126, p. 6, section 126.7). Minutes must report that the examination of all Teaching Elders for ordination and/or installation shall include an approval of that person's position with respect to the Westminster Standards - either with no stated exceptions or an acceptance of any stated exception(s). These exception(s) are not recorded in the Minutes. (G.12-4.) When a minister or candidate takes no exceptions to the Westminster standards, presbytery minutes must state that fact. (G.12-4. *Acts of Assembly* 03-04.)
- g. Membership of the Ministerial Committee is not shown to verify the TE/RE ratio for that Committee is 50/50. (Meeting 125, February 2022). (G.12-21.)
- h. Summary of each Descending Overture is not included. (Meeting 125.8, February 2022 p. 2). (G.19-4C2, *Acts of Assembly* 07-08.)
- i. 2022 budget was approved, but not included in the minutes. (Meeting 125.15, p. 5). (*Rules for Assembly* IX 9-12 G.15.)



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- j. A list of TEs absent either excused or unexcused is not included (Meeting 126.6.B), May 2022 p. 5). (*Acts of Assembly* 00-11.)
- k. Inadequate examination description for TE Rohrbach (Meeting 126.10, May 2022 p. 7). (**G.12-3.**)
- l. The content of the examination of Candidate Pent was not included in the minutes. (Meeting 127.9A, October 2022, p. 6). (**G.12-2B.**)
- m. The content of the examination of TE Smith was not included in the minutes. (Meeting 127.11A, October 2022, p. 8). (**G.12-2B.**)
- n. The content of the examination of TE Smith was not included in the minutes. (Meeting 127.11A, October 2022, p. 8). (**G.12-2B.**)
- o. The content of the examination of RE Pettus was not included in the minutes. (Meeting 127.11B, October 2022, pp. 8-9). (**G.11-A.**)
- p. No review of Session Minutes is shown by Church (Meeting 125, 126, 127). (**G.19-4A.7; Acts of Assembly** 07-08.)
- q. Parity List for 2022 not shown in the Minutes. (Meeting 125, 126, 127). (**G.19-2A.4b.**)
- r. No starting time recorded. (Meeting 125, 127). (**G.19-5A.**)
- s. No starting time recorded. (Meeting 125, 127). (**G.19-5A.**)

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[Minutes of the Presbytery Review Committee](#)

43-20 (to the floor)

From the Presbytery Review Committee

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 43rd General Assembly **APPROVE** the Exceptions responses of the Presbyteries to those Exceptions sent to them by the 42nd General Assembly.

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43-21 *(to the floor)*

Possible Omnibus Motion

Business items coming from Standing Committee 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.

The following Committees have no recommendations:

Church Health Leadership Team

www.epc.org/2023report-churchhealth

Church Planting Leadership Team

www.epc.org/2023report-churchplanting

Next Generation Ministries Council

www.epc.org/2023report-nextgen

Pastoral Letter of Racial Lament and Hope

www.epc.org/2023report-plrlh

Revelation 7:9 Task Force

www.epc.org/2023report-revelation79

Theology Committee

www.epc.org/2023report-theology

World Outreach Committee

www.epc.org/2023report-wo