

Third Session
Thursday, June 22, 2023

**43-27 MORNING WORSHIP –
MODERATORS COMMUNION SERVICE**

Worship began at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary of Cherry Hills Church, Highlands Ranch, Colorado.
The court continued in worship as noted below:

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Today’s Music led by the Cherry Hill Praise Team:

He Lives

Because He Lives

Scripture

2 Chronicles 20:12

Sermon

Our Eyes Are Upon You

RE Rosemary Lukens

Communion

Jesus Paid It All

O Praise the Name

43-28 CALL TO ORDER

The Moderator, TE Joe Kim (East), called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. TE Weston Blaha, (Gulf South) of the Next Generations Ministry Council and Pastor of Marshall EPC Church in Marshall, Texas, provided the Assembly with an update on what the Lord’s doing in that ministry and offered prayer to open today’s Assembly.

43-29 ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADOPTION OF DOCKET

ON MOTION The docket was adopted as follows:

3.1 Business Convenes – Moderator Joe Kim

3.2 Great Commission Share and Opening Prayer – TE Weston Blaha (Gulf South)

- 3.3 Approval of the Docket and Announcements – TE Dean Weaver
- 3.4 Report of the Administration Committee – RE Greg Daniels
 - a. **Recommendation 43-03** (p.24)
 - b. **Recommendation 43-04** (p.24)
 - c. **Recommendation 43-07** (p.27)
 - d. **Recommendation 43-08** (p.27)
- 3.5 Report of the Church Planting Team - TE Tom Ricks
- 3.6 Report from Fraternal Relations Committee – TE Mark Toone
 - a. Introductions of Fraternal Delegates
 - b. **Recommendation 43-10** (p.28)
 - c. **Recommendation 43-11** (p.28)
- 3.7 Report from Benefits Resource Inc. - Bart Francescone
 - a. **Recommendation 43-12**
- 3.8 Report from Overtures and Resolutions Committee – RE Mark Eshoff
 - a. **Recommendation 43-13** (p.29)
 - b. **Recommendation 43-14** (p.30)
- 3.9 Face to Face - TE Fred Lian
- 3.10 Presentation of 2022-2023 Bart Hess Award - TE Bob Stauffer
Providence Church, Spring Hill, FL (Florida and the Caribbean)
- 3.11 Report from the Church Health Team - TE Bob Stauffer
- 3.12 Report from World Outreach Committee -TE Julie Hawkins
- Break**
- 3.13 Report from the Ministerial Vocation Committee -TE Jerry Iamurri (East)
 - a. **Recommendation 43-15** (p.31)
 - b. **Recommendation 43-17** (p.33)
- 3.14 Nominating Committee – Final Report - TE Wayne Hardy
 - a. **Recommendation 43-18** -2023-2024 Nominating Committee (p.34)
 - b. **Recommendation 43-05** -Permanent Committee Nominees (p.25)
- 3.15 Report from the Presbytery Review Committee - TE Ron Bengelink
 - a. **Recommendation 43-19** (p.35)
 - b. **Recommendation 43-20** (p.41)

3.16 Omnibus Motion - **Recommendation 43-21** (p.42) -TE Dean Weaver

- a. Recommendation 43-09 (p.28)
- b. Fraternal Permanent Committee Minutes
- c. NLT Permanent Committee Minutes
- d. MVC & CWCC Permanent Committee Minutes
- e. Next Gen Permanent Committee Minutes
- f. World Outreach Permanent Committee Minutes

3:45 pm Order of the Day

3.17 Report of Memorials and Appreciations Committee – RE Brandon Queen
(Gulf South)

3.18 Great Commission Share and Closing Prayer – Moderator Joe Kim

43-30 REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

RE Greg Daniels (West) Chair of this year’s Standing Committee on Administration opened with prayer and brought their report.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-03 Approved the creation of an Ad-Interim Committee to revise our Pastoral Letter on Abuse.

TE Braid Strait, Chairman of the National Leadership Team spoke to Recommendation 43-03.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-04 Approved the creation of a Permanent Committee Disaster Relief.

Stated Clerk Dean Weaver spoke to Recommendation 43-04.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-07 Approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Administration Budget.

EPC’s Chief Financial Officer Pat Coelho spoke to Recommendation 43-07.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-08 Approved the Special Projects Budget.

EPC’s Chief Financial Officer Pat Coelho spoke to Recommendation 43-08.

43-31 CHURCH PLANTING TEAM REPORT

The report began with a video highlighting what the Lord is doing through our Strategic Priority of Church Planting. Ben Cunningham (Gulf South) shared about the importance of supporting Churches undergirding new church plants. The Assembly gathered around church planters while TE Tom Ricks (Mid-America) prayed for them, the work of the Church Planting Team, and our EPC Church Planters.

43-32 FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

TE Mark Toone (Pacific Northwest) opened with prayer.

TE Alan Trafford (Gulf South) introduced our Fraternal Guests who brought greetings to the General Assembly.

Dr. Samuel Sesay of the EPC of Sierra Leone and Rev. Guillermo Mac Kenzie of the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Argentina.

TE Alan Trafford led the Assembly in a prayer of blessing for our Fraternal Guests.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-10 Approved that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church withdraw from the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

Stated Clerk Dean Weaver spoke to Recommendation 43-10.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-11 Approved that the EPC enter into a Fraternal Relationship with the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians.

TE Alan Trafford spoke to Recommendation 43-11.

43-33 BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC REPORT

Benefit Resources Executive Director, Bart Francescone opened with prayer and presented the BRI report to the Assembly.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-12 Approved that the 42nd General Assembly approve ordained ministers drawing retirement income from the EPC 403(b)(9) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan be allowed to designate up to 100% of their retirement income for housing allowance as permitted by applicable regulations adopted pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code.

43-34 REPORT FROM OVERTURES AND RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

RE Mark Eshoff (Pacific Southwest) opened and brought the report to the Assembly.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-13 Approved that the Book of Government 17-5 be deleted, with the following sections renumbered and the Book of Government 6-8 and 18-3 be amended accordingly. This recommendation comes from the National Leadership Team with the recommendation for approval by the General Assembly's Permanent Judicial Commission.

Chief Parliamentarian, TE Bob Garment (Florida & Caribbean) spoke to Recommendation 43-13.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-14 Approved that the Book of Discipline 1.1 be amended by adding the words: "Church discipline does not supersede or negate the legal responsibility to report cases of suspected abuse to civil authorities according to local and state requirements" as recommended by the National Leadership Team and the General Assembly's Permanent Judicial Commission.

TE Annie Rose (Rivers and Lakes), EPC's Director of Ministerial Development and Support, spoke to Recommendation 43-14.

43-35 "FACE TO FACE"

TE Fred Lian (West), Chair of the Minister Vocation Committee explained the function and process of the Face to Face opportunity and invited eight church representatives to share TE openings they have.

(Insert Face to Face opportunities here)

43-36 THE BART HESS AWARD FOR 2022

TE Bob Stauffer (Alleghenies) National Church Health Director, opened with prayer and introduced Providence Church, Spring Hill, FL (Florida and the Caribbean) as the winner of the 2022-2023 Bart Hess Award. A video highlighting Spring Hill Church's ministry was shown. RE Jeremy Barker, a member of Spring Hill, spoke about the journey of Spring Hill and accepted the award on behalf of the church.

43-37 CHURCH HEALTH TEAM REPORT

TE Bob Stauffer (Alleghenies) opened with prayer and shared the report of the Church Health Team.

TE Bob Stauffer acknowledged the Church Health Coordinators and team members names.

43-38 REPORT OF THE WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

TE Julie Hawkins (Pacific Northwest) opened with prayer and invited RE Gabriel de Guia Executive Director of World Outreach to present the committee's report. There were no recommendations to present but Gabriel shared the Work of World Outreach.

43-39 SUSPENSION OF RULES FOR ASSEMBLY

ON MOTION *Rules for Assembly §9-13* were suspend for the 43rd General Assembly.

43-40 RECESS DUE TO TORNADO WARNING

ON MOTION The Assembly recessed at approximately 3:30 p.m. and all commissioners moved to a safe location. Once the storm passed and the Commissioners gathered back in the sanctuary, Stated Clerk Dean Weaver led in a time of prayer and worship giving thanks for God's protection in the midst of the storm.

The Moderator reconvened the 43rd General Assembly at 4:36 p.m.

43-41 REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

TE Jerry Iamurri (East) opened with prayer and presented the report.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-15 Approved that the General Assembly approve a Moderator appointed Task Force to consult with experts inside and outside of the EPC as needed, and complete a thorough review of our Book of Discipline and associated forms, and to present recommendations to the 44th General Assembly.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-17 Approved 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.

TE Jerry Iamurri (East) spoke to Recommendation 43-17.

43-42 REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominating Committee Chairman, TE Wayne Hardy (Great Plains) opened the report with prayer.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-18 Approved TE Michael Busch of Memorial Park Church, Presbytery of the Alleghenies as the new Chair of the BRI Board of Directors and also approved the slate of nominees to fill vacancies of the GA's Permanent Nominating Committee.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-05 Approved the slate of nominees for the 43rd General Assembly permanent committees and boards.

Insert the slate of nominees

43-43 PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

Presbytery Review Committee Chairman, RE Ron Bengelink, (Pacific Northwest) opened the report with prayer and moved the following recommendations:

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-19 Approved exceptions to presbytery minutes for.

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-20 Approved the responses of the Presbyteries to those exceptions sent to them by the 42nd General Assembly.

43-44 OMNIBUS MOTION

ON MOTION Recommendation 43-21 Approved the omnibus motion as noted below:

- a. Recommendation 43-09 The NLT recommends that the 43rd General Assembly approve the minutes of the 42nd General Assembly.
- b. Approve the Fraternal Relations Permanent Committee Minutes.
- c. Approve the NLT Permanent Committee Minutes.
- d. Approve the Ministerial Vocational Committee and Chaplains Work and Care Committee Minutes.
- e. Approve the NextGen Permanent Committee Minutes.
- f. Approve the World Outreach Permanent Committee Minutes.

43-45 ORDER OF THE DAY

Report of Memorials and Appreciations Committee

RE Brandon Queen (Gulf South) opened his report with prayer and led the Assembly in a time of appreciation. The names of Teaching and Ruling Elders who have joined the Church Triumphant this past year were shared during worship on Wednesday evening.

(Insert Names of appreciation)

43-46 ADJOURNMENT

Stated Clerk, TE Dean Weaver offered closing remarks.

ON MOTION The 43rd General Assembly was adjourned.

Moderator TE Joe Kim closed with prayer, noting we will conclude our time together with worship this evening.

43-47 WORSHIP

Worship began at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of Cherry Hills Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Tonight's Music was led by the Cherry Hills Praise Team

I Thank God
Firm Foundation (He Won't)
Same God
I speak Jesus

Scripture

Ephesians 4:12

Sermon

Bystander Effect

Rev. Curt Taylor

Designated Offering for the Moderator's Scholarship Fund

Worship ended with the singing of the Doxology