

1 Corinthians 3:11

EPC 45th
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Gospel Priorities Summit



FIRM
Foundation

WARD CHURCH
NORTHVILLE, MICH.

45th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

COMMISSIONER HANDBOOK

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Brothers and Sisters:

Welcome to the 45th General Assembly / Gospel Priorities Summit. Our theme this year is “*Firm Foundation*” based on 1 Corinthians 3:11, “For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” We are so glad you are here!

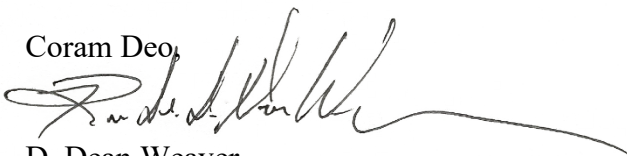
This *Commissioner’s Handbook* includes two sections:

1. “Preliminaries,” which provides important introductory material to help familiarize you with 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 <http://www.epconnect.org/ga2025documents>.

To get a good overview of the work of our beloved family of churches 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. I encourage you to read all the reports and recommendations coming before this Assembly, especially those of the Standing Committee on which you are serving.

With a great amount of love, intention, and hard work, we have designed our General Assembly 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 as we stand together on the Firm Foundation that is Jesus Christ. To be together in such a celebration at our founding congregation, Ward Church, makes this a historic assembly!

Coram Deo,



D. Dean Weaver
Stated Clerk

OVERVIEW OF ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Monday, June 16

1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Check-in/Information Open
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Concert of Prayer

Tuesday, June 17

7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Check in/Information Open
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Nursery/PreK – Infants to 5yrs old
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Kindergarten – 12 th Grade
9:00 a.m.- 9:45 a.m.	Worship
10:00 a.m.-11:40 a.m.	Plenary Session 1: Faith
11:45 a.m.	Box Lunch Pick Up
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Networking Lunches
1:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m.	Equipping Session 1
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Business Session 1
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Ticketed Gospel Priorities World Outreach Dinner
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Worship/WO Global Worker Commissioning Service

Wednesday, June 18

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Check in/Information Open
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Nursery/PreK – Infants to 5yrs old
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Kindergarten – 12 th Grade
9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.	Worship
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Plenary Session 2: Family
11:45 a.m.	Box Lunch Pick Up

OVERVIEW OF ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

Continued

Wednesday, June 18

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Networking Lunches
1:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m.	Equipping Session 2
3:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Business Session 2 Standing Committees
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Ticketed Group Dinner
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Worship
8:15 p.m.-8:45 p.m.	Desserts

Thursday, June 19

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Check in/Information Open
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Nursery/PreK – Infants to 5yrs old
8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Kindergarten – 12 th Grade
9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.	Worship / Moderator Communion Service
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Business Session 3
11:45 a.m.	Box Lunch Pick Up
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Networking Lunches
1:15 p.m.-2:45 p.m.	Business Session 4
3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Business Session 4-Continued
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Plenary Session 3- Future / Ticketed Dinner
7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Worship/Memorial Service

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PERMANENT COMMITTEES

(Through the 45th General Assembly)

BENEFIT RESOURCES, INC., BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
RE Stuart Van Kirk <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE Michael Busch <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Brandon Jolley <i>Midwest</i>
RE Jim Lewien <i>West</i>	RE Bill Overcast <i>Central South</i>	RE Bob Coleman <i>Central South</i>
Sandy Siegfried <i>Great Plains</i>	Cathy Scott <i>East</i>	RE Tom Love <i>Central Carolinas</i>

CHAPLAINS WORK AND CARE COMMITTEE

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
TE Glen Holman <i>New River</i>	RE Kendra Bowers <i>Central South</i>	TE Scott Kennaugh <i>Midwest</i>
TE David Horton <i>Central South</i>	TE Marty Carpenter <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	RE Jim Pleuss <i>Rivers & Lakes</i>
TE Karen Bolte <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE David Snyder <i>Midwest</i>	RE Bruce Alexander <i>New River</i>

DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
TE Cliff Mansley <i>West</i>	TE Whitney Alexander <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Paul Gibson <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>
RE Dave Shanklin <i>Central South</i>	RE Jim Winter <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	Tommy Phelps <i>Great Plains</i>
Nancy Prott <i>Member at Large</i>	Toni Harris <i>Member at Large</i>	Rich Phillips <i>Pacific Northwest</i>

FRATERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
RE Roger Rumer <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE David Galbraith <i>Midwest</i>	TE Brandon Addison <i>West</i>
TE Case Thorp <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	RE Josh Shelley <i>Central South</i>	TE Josh Hammans <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>
TE Alan Trafford <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Stan Van Den Berg <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Holly Lazzaro <i>East</i>

MINISTERIAL VOCATION COMMITTEE

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
TE Fred Lian <i>West</i>	RE Richard Gash <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Chris Curtis <i>Rivers & Lakes</i>
TE Scott Sealy <i>Central South</i>	TE Doug Resler <i>West</i>	TE Rachel White <i>Pacific Northwest</i>

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
RE Earla Bethel <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	TE Greg Aydt <i>Central South</i>	RE George Hertensteiner <i>Great Plains</i>
RE Brian Evans <i>Midwest</i>	RE Chris Danusiar <i>Rivers & Lakes</i>	RE Linda McDaniels <i>Central South</i>
TE Michael Flake <i>Central Carolinas</i>	TE Julie Hawkins <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	RE Neil Smith <i>East</i>
TE Carolyn Poteet <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE Joi Williams <i>Coastal Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE John Ivy <i>Central South</i>

NEXT GENERATION MINISTRIES COUNCIL

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
TE Cole Lescher <i>Mid-America</i>	TE Joseph Stroup <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Sir Gregory Thornton <i>Central South</i>
TE Megan Kroeker <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	Faith Hampton <i>Central South</i>	TE Stephanie Poblentz <i>Midwest</i>
Geraud Bumfield <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	TE Dan Kish <i>Central South</i>	TE Ian Johnston <i>Great Plains</i>

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
TE Robert Chambers <i>Central Carolinas</i>	TE Bob Vincent <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Nick Welch <i>Pacific Northwest</i>
TE Tom Clymer <i>New River</i>	RE Kelli Marks <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	RE Ann Weston <i>Mid-America</i>
TE Brad Kenney <i>West</i>	TE SJ Winter <i>Midwest</i>	RE Stacy Miller <i>Coastal Mid-Atlantic</i>
RE Rob Liddon <i>Central South</i>	TE Mike Goolsby <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Christine Deane <i>Pacific Southwest</i>
TE Ron Meyer <i>East</i>	TE Juan Rivera <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	RE Tommy Jordan <i>Southeast</i>
TE Rob Sparr <i>Alleghenies</i>		

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
RE Donald Flater <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Zach Hopkins <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Ed McCallum <i>West</i>
RE Gordon Miller <i>New River</i>	TE Barton Kimbro <i>Central South</i>	RE Bryan Wyatt <i>Pacific Southwest</i>
TE Tom Werner <i>Mid-America</i>	RE Jeff Hollingsworth <i>Southeast</i>	RE Forrest Norman <i>Alleghenies</i>

PRESBYTERY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
RE Ray Kinat <i>Alleghenies</i>	RE Ron Bengelink <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	RE Frank Brown <i>Southeast</i>
TE George King <i>Gulf South</i>	TE Jason Steele <i>Midwest</i>	TE Keith Hopkins <i>Pacific Northwest</i>
TE Mark Willems <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	RE Jim Conners <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	
	RE Jane Bodden <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	

THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
TE Stephanie Black <i>Coastal Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE David Buschart <i>West</i>	TE David Bowen <i>Central South</i>
RE Joe Bingold <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Luke Johnston <i>Great Plains</i>	RE Carol Williams <i>Alleghenies</i>

WORLD OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Class of 2025:	Class of 2026:	Class of 2027:
RE Johnny Long <i>Southeast</i>	TE Whitney Alexander <i>Gulf South</i>	TE David Pleuss <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>
TE Marcos Ortega <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	TE Waring Porter <i>Central South</i>	TE Jeff Chadwick <i>Southeast</i>
RE David Van Valkenburg <i>West</i>	RE Wes Peterson <i>Coastal Mid-Atlantic</i>	
RE Susan Lear <i>Great Plains</i>		

OTHER COMMITTEES
(Through the 45th General Assembly)

AD-INTERIM ORDINATION STANDARDS

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 43rd General Assembly

TE Julie Hawkins <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	TE Doug Resler <i>West</i>	RE Chris Danusiar <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>
TE Aron Gibson <i>Central Carolinas</i>	TE Zach Hopkins <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Jerry Iamurri <i>East</i>
TE Fred Lian <i>West</i>	TE Rachel Toone <i>Coastal Mid-Atlantic</i>	TE Matt Koehn <i>Southeast</i>
TE Annie Rose <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>	TE Megan Kroeker <i>Pacific Southwest</i>	TE Terence Gray <i>Midwest</i>

AD-INTERIM SAME SEX ATTRACTION AND ORDINATION

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 44th General Assembly

TE Rufus Burton <i>New River</i>	TE John Dorr <i>East</i>	TE Shelley Kral <i>West</i>
TE Cameron Shaffer <i>East</i>	TE Case Thorp <i>Florida and the Caribbean</i>	RE Tom Werner <i>Mid-America</i>
TE Aaron White <i>Midwest</i>	RE Carol Williams <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Sandy Wilson <i>Central South</i>

TASK FORCE TO REVIEW BOOK OF DISCIPLINE

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 43rd General Assembly

RE Rob Liddon <i>Central South</i>	TE Betsy Rumer <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Marc de Jeu <i>Alleghenies</i>
TE Neil Smith <i>East</i>	RE Bob LeSuer <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Ed McCallum <i>West</i>
RE Steve Bretsen <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>		

PASTORAL LETTER ON DISABILITY AND ACCESS

Appointed by the Moderator following the adjournment of the 44th General Assembly

TE Walter Taylor <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Michell Munger <i>Mid-Atlantic</i>	RE Katherin Anderson <i>Rivers and Lakes</i>
NO Beth Golik <i>Alleghenies</i>	TE Bill Hemming <i>Pacific Northwest</i>	NO Josh Cole <i>Gulf South</i>
TE Cameron Smith <i>New River</i>	TE Jeff Jones <i>Alleghenies</i>	NO Daniel Harris <i>Central South</i>
NO Rob Eyman <i>Midwest</i>		

2024-2025 EXECUTIVE SUMMARIES

MODERATOR'S REPORT

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Moderator
Executive Summary Report
to the 45th General Assembly



Victor Jones, Moderator
44th General Assembly

Greetings to you in the Name that is above all names, Our Lord Jesus Christ!

We remember four decades of blessings God has given the EPC as we return to this special place we call Ward Church. Think of the many co-laborers that have gathered here to serve the Lord and share His pleasure as we work together to Glorify Him and Enjoy Him forever. I am sure the best part of being a Moderator is the opportunity to collaborate with the finest servant-leaders from across this denomination.

I would like to recognize four outgoing members from the National Leadership Team who represent the spirit of EPC leadership:

RE Earla Bethel, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean, is like a fresh breeze of the islands. What wonderful encouragement and a fountain of prayer she has been for the NLT these last six years. She is a savvy businessperson who brings confidence to do the right thing for the glory of God.

TE Brian Evans, Presbytery of the Midwest, brings a sense of call to serve our Lord that is needed in all leadership teams. I love his calm, sincere presence as we seek the mind of Christ together. He speaks the truth in love.

TE Michael Flake, Presbytery of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic, is wise beyond his years and a pleasure to work with. It has been my honor to witness the next generation of leaders emerging and flourishing. Our future looks bright.

TE Joe Kim, Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest, is a smart leader who is wise. He has the theological depth that comes across as kindness because he is kind. I watched him lead us through a literal tornado! He is a natural blessing.

God has blessed the EPC with hundreds of servant leaders just like these four I thank today. The church is blessed when we share what we have with the Body of Christ. This year, we are reminded of the Firm Foundation as Christ builds His Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!

The direction of the EPC continues to move toward the Four Gospel Priorities driving our mission. Every NLT meeting this year was focused on the Strategic Priorities of the EPC:

- Church Planting Networks have grown, and I have seen groups of churches come together as partners or patrons to start new EPC church plants. Together, we can do more than we have been able to do by ourselves. The goal is to have every congregation involved either as a Parent, Partner, or Patron to a new church. We can do this.
- This year, we have seen almost every Presbytery establish a Church Health Coordinator. Revitalizing an existing church or providing a Transitional Pastor is good stewardship and a blessing to those congregations. The Transitional Pastor Training is designed to answer the challenges we face today.
- We have learned much from Engage 2025 as a Global Movement. There are still unreached and unengaged people groups. That continues to be our focus as the fields are white for harvest and the workers are few. I am excited for what God calls us to be as part of His worldwide church.
- Thinking about Effective Biblical Leadership from a Ruling Elder's point of view reminds me of how blessed I was to have mentors take me to GA as a young man. My love for the EPC was nurtured by the relationships formed at GA. Our founders saw engaged RE's as vital to the health of the church. Help lay the foundation for the Next Gen leader by bringing them to the Equipping Sessions and Network Lunches. I am grateful for the Elders who brought me years ago and the welcoming spirit of the EPC family.

My prayer for you this year is that you may feel The Lord's pleasure as you serve His church. May we encourage one another toward growth in our relationship with Jesus and each other as we serve Him together. It has been my honor to serve the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as Moderator. May God continue to grow this family. He is faithful and He is so good.

Respectfully Submitted,

Victor Jones

Victor R. Jones JR, Moderator
44th General Assembly

June 2025

www.epconnect.org/2025report-moderator

National Leadership Team
Executive Summary Report to
the 45th General Assembly



Joe Kim
Chairman

Grace and Peace to you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we gather for this year's General Assembly, let's take a moment to look back on the past year of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. It's been a year filled with both tough times and incredible achievements. The Christian landscape in America is undergoing significant transitions, with the lines of demarcation, even those that have endured for decades, being redrawn. In this context, the EPC has emerged as a refuge for churches seeking a commitment to Biblical orthodoxy, the Reformed tradition, and an ethos of generous collegiality. We are encouraged to see numerous congregations from both ends of the spectrum seeking to join our ranks during this anxious age.

The responsibilities outlined in Section 10 of the Rules for Assembly guide our work within the National Leadership Team (NLT). Our focus has been on three pivotal areas: Mission Vision and Strategy, Administrative Oversight of General Assembly Committees, and Denominational Development.

Mission Vision and Strategy

This year, we have made substantial strides in Church Health initiatives. As of April, we have 100 transitional pastors actively serving, with a total of 155 trained, including 40 from other denominations who are now available to EPC churches. In addition, 95 Church Health Coaches have been trained, supported by 15 Coordinators across 16 Presbyteries. These efforts are vital as we strive to enhance the vitality of our congregations.

In the realm of Church Planting, Tom Ricks has been instrumental in conducting seminars and briefings for our presbyteries, fostering a culture of growth and outreach. We are particularly excited about the establishment of our Church Planting assessment program, which held its inaugural session this year at Cherry Creek Presbyterian in Denver, CO.

Annie Rose has continued her exceptional work in Effective Biblical Leadership, organizing workshops, retreats, and counseling opportunities that have collectively garnered over 1,282 views in our webinar series. These initiatives are equipping leaders to navigate the complexities of ministry in today's world.

Administrative Oversight of General Assembly Committees

Our administrative oversight has been robust, with 24 teams, including Ad Interim Committees and task forces, supported by the General Assembly office. Comprising approximately 250 members from local churches nationwide, these teams are diligently working to advance the mission of our denomination.

World Outreach remains a cornerstone of our ministry, with the Engage 2025 initiative now involving 15 participating Presbyteries. Additionally, the International Theology Education Network has successfully launched missionary movements in two foreign countries, expanding our global impact.

We are also grateful for our Disaster Relief Committee, which has provided critical aid, assistance, trauma counseling, and family support to EPC churches affected by natural disasters in Florida, North Carolina, and New Mexico. Their dedication to serving those in need exemplifies our commitment to compassion and support.

Denominational Development

In preparation for this year's General Assembly, we have taken the time to reflect on last year's gathering. Engaging with the leadership of presbyteries that had concerns has proven fruitful, and we are optimistic about the positive trajectory of those discussions.

This year has seen significant contributions through the POI initiative, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their faithful giving. Furthermore, we are pleased to announce that the Presbyterian Church of Ireland will ratify our fraternal relationship this year, with TE Andrew Smith representing us. In Egypt, the Synod of the Nile is exploring a relationship with the EPC, potentially unlocking incredible ministry opportunities in previously closed areas. Additionally, Tom Ricks is exploring a church planting partnership with the Presbyterian Church in France, facilitated by our World Outreach partner, Jeff Kim.

Ad-Interim Committees

We are excited to hear reports from our Ad-Interim Committees, all of which have diligently pursued the betterment of our denomination. Notably, the committee reviewing the EPC Standards for Ordination, co-chaired by TE Doug Resler and TE Julie Hawkins, is nearing completion of the first phase of their work and will present their findings at this General Assembly. The Ad-Interim Committee on Same Sex Attraction and Ordination, co-chaired by TE Cameron Schaffer and RE Carol Williams, has made significant progress




A global movement of
evangelistic presbyterians

and will also report this GA. The Ad-Interim Committee on revising our Pastoral Letter on Domestic Abuse has disbanded for personal and professional reasons and was unable to complete their work. We look forward to revisiting this vital Pastoral Letter in the future. Finally, the newly formed committee on disability and sacraments, co-chaired by RE Michelle Munger and TE Walter Taylor, is in the early stages of their important work.

While we acknowledge the challenges faced over the past year, we are profoundly grateful for the commitment demonstrated by all within our denomination to pursue peace, unity, and the purity of the church. Together, we are moving forward, encouraged by the accomplishments we have achieved and the opportunities that lie ahead. It has been the honor of a lifetime to serve you as Moderator and this past year as the Chair of the National Leadership Team. Thank you for the privilege and for your continued support and dedication to the mission and vision of the EPC.

Respectfully submitted,



Joe Kim
Chairman, NLT

June 2025

www.epconnect.org/2025report-nlt

Stated Clerk
Executive Summary Report
to the 45th General Assembly



Dean Weaver
Stated Clerk

**“I give thanks to my God always for you because of the
grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus”
– I Corinthians 1:4**

As I look back on the first year of my second term serving you as the Stated Clerk of our beloved EPC family, I am filled with gratitude. Coming out of last year’s Assembly and my re-election, I was deeply strengthened by the many cards, emails, texts, phone calls, and conversations that encouraged me. Over the course of this year, through all the challenges and the tremendous strides forward in our shared mission to live out the Great Commission, that encouragement has only grown. Thank you!

In 2016, at our 36th General Assembly, we changed the name of the Committee on Administration to the National Leadership Team. In 2018, at the 38th General Assembly, we amended *The Rules for Assembly* X. 10-1A to further define and clarify the role of the NLT by adding the responsibilities of mission, vision, and strategy to the National Leadership Team.

In 2019, the Stated Clerk Search Committee created a revised position description for the new Stated Clerk to align with the NLT’s responsibilities. In short, the National Leadership Team supervises the Stated Clerk to carry out the wishes of the General Assembly. My report this year reflects how I was called to serve you as your Stated Clerk.

Growing The Kingdom. Some plant, some water, but God causes the growth. In pursuing our common mission to carry out the Great Commission, we together have identified four Gospel Priorities. Elsewhere in your Commissioner’s Handbook, you will find more detailed accounts of how the Lord is working in building effective Bible leaders throughout the EPC that help lead increasingly healthier congregations that, in turn, multiply by

producing other reproducing churches both domestically and globally. The growth is palpable. This year marks an important milestone for our Gospel Priorities, as our Assistant Stated Clerk, Michael Davis, now oversees all four, with his gifted eyes on our ever increasingly working together (we are Presbyterian after all) as our Chief Collaborative Officer. When Jeff Kim and Johnny Long from EPC World Outreach partner with Tom Ricks and our Church Planting Leadership to lay plans to plant a church together in France, that is working together for the advance of the Great Commission. That is fulfilling our mission. That's just one of many examples. Again, more to be found in reading the many compelling reports at this GA.

The EPC as a whole continues to grow modestly against the larger post-COVID decline evident in the American Church. Our membership largely remained flat, with 125,754 members recorded in our Annual Church Reports (ACR) and 626 congregations. In the last year, we grew by almost 16% in first-time professions of faith and by 20% in Adult Baptisms, both encouraging trends of our living our mission through the primary responsibility of all three of the EPC Church Courts – to do evangelism.

Three Year Comparison		2022	2023	2024
Membership		125,870	125,829	125,754
Congregations		627	629	626
Baptized Infants		1,613	1,722	1,621
Professions of Faith (18+)		1,831	1,975	2,246
Professions of Faith (under 18)		1,039	1,124	1,338
Adult Baptisms		675	723	870

There will be more churches joining the EPC by transfer in the coming year, with an estimated 20 in the pipeline across the country as I write this, and numerous more making inquiries. But our growth as a family of churches, while extending biblical hospitality to those who knock on our doors, must continue to be through the exponential growth of church planting. That is what effective biblical leaders in healthy churches do: they share the gospel, plant churches, and as God sees fit, the Kingdom grows.

Future Focused – In the early days of our founding, you would commonly hear our leaders calling the EPC to be “inwardly strong and outwardly focused.” In short, our Presbyterian and Reformed heritage helps us to remain inwardly strong, and our Evangelical and Missional commitments help us to remain outwardly focused. We must be faithful to both our heritage and our mission.

As we look ahead to the years in front of us with hope, there are great challenges before us. While the challenges our National Leadership Team wrestles with are many, perhaps the most pressing is the concern about a leadership pipeline. As a missional denomination, we have no camps, colleges, seminaries, or campus ministries. For many denominations, these

institutions provide a “feeder system” for rising leadership. In the EPC, we have multiple partners leading these kinds of organizations, but we need to do more in working with them to address a shortage of incoming pastors, church planters, chaplains, and global workers (among others). With potentially as many as 50% of our current pastors retiring in the next 3-5 years (Baby Boomers), we have a good temporary measure started with the training of over 200 Transitional Pastors, but we also need a longer-term solution to address pastoral vacancies, especially for our smaller churches. We earnestly desire to support the great work being done by our smaller churches, since 64% of our congregations comprise less than 100 members. As such, under the direction of the National Leadership Team, we are working to develop multiple strategies to help address the expected increasing pastoral openings in our smaller churches. Stay tuned in the next year for more updates on this vital work.

There are other forward-looking initiatives in the works as well. One exciting new work is the comprehensive task of translating all of our materials and resources into Spanish to better serve many of our existing congregations and our growing number of new Spanish speaking church plants. Another new work is building out new and strategic Fraternal Partnerships that will help us to carry out the Great Commission in some of the hardest and most challenging places we have yet to reach with the Gospel. At this Assembly, we will celebrate a long-awaited partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, build on a long-standing relationship with St. Andrews Presbytery in Argentina, and welcome new friends from the Synod of the Nile (Egypt) as we explore a fraternal partnership. By God’s grace, we are increasingly a part of a real global gospel movement.

Promoting the EPC Ethos – Coming out of last year’s General Assembly, I was determined to listen widely and carefully, and to work with the National Leadership Team to promote our long-standing ethos of kindness and grace-filled orthodoxy. Some conversations have been with leaders who serve on various GA committees. We have 24 committees or subcommittees of various types currently doing the work of the General Assembly between meetings, which constitute over 250 commissioners from our local congregations (see G. 20-1) both RE’s and TE’s from all around the country and all our 16 Presbyteries. Other conversations have been at Presbytery meetings with individuals and groups, and some with presbytery leadership teams. Each conversation was good, with some more challenging than others, but each filled with grace and listening. The ethos of the EPC was ever present, and I hope and trust that we are leaning into the EPC’s historic DNA of relational accountability and building trust. It’s hard, and ongoing work, but so important if we are to move forward together to carry out the Great Commission.

Under the authority and accountability of the National Leadership Team, the Stated Clerk is also called to assure that the EPC is financially healthy so that it is able to carry out its mission. As you will see in our financial reports this year, God continues to bless our family of churches financially, and we continue to be good stewards of those resources in carrying out our mission. Our annual financial audit (in the finance report) continues to demonstrate sound accounting and financial practices, and our revenue from POI (Percentage of Income) continues to grow faster than the pace of inflation, something PMA

(Per Member Asking) was increasingly unable to do. Whereas in the past, the NLT authorized appropriate designated or unrestricted funds to support and supplement Church Health and Church Planting, those positions are now fully supported in our proposed operational budget. We invested in our Gospel Priorities, and that work is being sustained by God's grace through the generosity of our churches.

Developing Young Leaders – We continue to make significant strides in gathering, encouraging, and equipping the rising generation of leaders in the EPC. Our Next Gen Summit continues to grow, attracting and empowering young leaders (see their report at this Assembly) from across the country, and we continue to see more and more Presbyteries creating their own Next Gen Councils and promoting Next Gen retreats and ministries. One of the great resources and opportunities for us in the next few years will be pairing rising leaders with established leaders. With the EPC now celebrating our 45th GA, it is imperative that we “pass the baton” well, from one generation to the next. This will be a key focus in the next few years.

The Larger Church – It has long been important that the EPC Stated Clerk be connected to the larger Church. I continue the tradition of the Stated Clerk serving on the Board of the National Association of Evangelicals. I have found the annual meeting of denominational leaders to be helpful. I am also privileged to serve on the board of The World Reformed Fellowship. This year EPC TE Cameron Schaffer led an important theological consultation on the Church hosted by EPC Congregation Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, MD. Senior Pastor Todd Smedley of 4th Pres and Pastor Emeritus Rob Norris are also both on the board of WRF, with Rob serving so well as the National Director.

In December, I attended the State of the Church conference hosted by the Barna Institute and the good people at Gloo. The EPC has contributed to and is benefiting from the depth of data being produced on the State of the Church, specifically in the area of discipleship. This focus on discipleship will be another important point of emphasis as we continue to endeavor to live out our mission of carrying out the Great Commission (make disciples).

Office of the General Assembly Operations – Living in central Florida and working out of the Office of the General Assembly has enabled me to be fully engaged in the day-to-day operations of our Office of the General Assembly. If the EPC's mission is to carry out the Great Commission, then the mission of the OGA is to “serve those who carry out the Great Commission.” To be on mission, the 28 FTE's (full-time equivalent staff) in Orlando, which include our two subsidiary corporations (ESG or World Outreach and BRI – Benefits Resources, Inc.), do not do the work of the General Assembly but serve those who do. While assembling an effective team amid the reality of work post-Covid has been a challenge at times, we now have a fully staffed, highly motivated and dynamic team that exists to serve our 24 committees and subcommittees, our Presbyteries, local congregations as well as our global workers, chaplains, and fraternal partners around the world. It is an honor and privilege to serve alongside them as we serve those who carry out the Great Commission. Whether it is preparing to implement another General Assembly, (an all-year task) or provide funds in disaster relief; answer polity questions, or get the right forms into



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the hands of the right people, sending out social media communications or setting up online giving for some of our under-resourced congregations, the OGA exists to serve you!

Each of the areas I have highlighted in this report follows the framework of my position description as approved by the National Leadership Team. While this is far from everything I do as your Stated Clerk, I do hope it will give you a sense of how I have been called to serve you and our beloved EPC family. It is the most challenging, and yet the greatest honor and privilege of my life. The summary of my position description says this: “The EPC Stated Clerk is a servant leader and a visionary. The primary qualification is to be passionate about the Gospel of Christ. The Stated Clerk will be passionate about the EPC and want to see it thrive. The Stated Clerk will model and communicate the ethos and values of the EPC.” It is my deepest prayer, that by the grace of God, I might fulfill this high calling to the best of my ability. Your love and support have meant the world to me and to Beth. Thank you!

Together on the Firm Foundation that is Jesus Christ,

Coram Deo!

Respectfully submitted,

D. Dean Weaver

June 2025

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Churches Received, Dissolved, Dismissed

May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025

Received:

Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Church	City	State	Received	From
Bridge City Church	Cleveland	OH	09/21/2024	Church Plant

Presbytery of the East

Church	City	State	Received	From
Rosebrook PC	Rockville	MD	01/26/2025	Church Plant

Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean

Church	City	State	Received	From
New Creation Family Church	St. Petersburg	FL	06/11/2024	PCUSA

Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes

Church	City	State	Received	From
Leota Community Church	Leota	MN	04/25/2025	RCA

Presbytery of the Southeast

Church	City	State	Received	From
First PC	Bainbridge	GA	01/31/2025	PCUSA

Presbytery of the West

Church	City	State	Received	From
Grace Lakin	Lakin	KS	05/03/2024	Church Plant

Dismissed and Dissolved:

Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed
Beverly Heights PC	Pittsburgh	PA	10/15/2007	2/25/2025
Mansfield First PC	Mansfield	OH	04/28/2012	11/10/2024
Slickville EPC	Slickville	PA	05/23/2025	03/30/2025

Presbytery of the East

Church	City	State	Received	Dissolved
Hope PC	Philadelphia	PA	Unknown	9/28/2024

Presbytery of the Gulf South

Church	City	State	Received	Dissolved
Quest Church of Braunfels	New Braunfels	TX	4/22/2016	4/27/2025

Presbytery of the Midwest

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed
First PC	Trenton	MI	11/17/1981	6/11/2024
Stonebridge Evangelical PC	Perrysburg	OH	06/06/1999	10/06/2024

Presbytery of the Midwest

Church	City	State	Received	Dissolved
Abundant Mercy Church	Detroit	MI	Unknown	10/31/2024

Presbytery of the Rivers and Lakes

Church	City	State	Received	Dismissed
Princeville PC	Princeville	IL	03/06/2012	01/24/2025

Presbytery of the West

Church	City	State	Received	Dissolved
Saint Patrick PC	Denver	Co	02/06/2015	02/13/2025

Summary of Action Items

(Communications, Overtures, and Resolutions)

- 45-01 The **Nominating Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **ELECT** TE Dave Strunk as Moderator of the 45th General Assembly.
- 45-02 The **Nominating Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **ELECT** RE Jack Cathey as Moderator-elect of the 45th General Assembly.
- 45-03 The **Nominating Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **ELECT** the slate of nominees for the 45th EPC General Assembly permanent committees, standing committees, and boards.
- 45-04 The **Moderator of the 44th General Assembly** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2025-2026 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors, the slate of nominees to fill vacancies of the Permanent Nominating Committee, the chair of the Nominating Committee, and the Chaplain Endorser.
- 45-05 **Cherry Creek, Englewood, CO, INVITES** the 45th General Assembly to hold the 46th General Assembly on its campus June 16-18, 2026.
- 45-06 The Stated Clerk recommends that the 45th General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to the *Book of Government* 10-7 and 9.5C.3. Overture 44-A (16 Presbyteries voted to approve).
- 45-07 The **Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the revised Articles of Agreement with the St. Andrew's Presbytery of Argentina through 2030.
- 45-08 The **Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** entering into a formal Fraternal relationship with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (as described in *Acts of Assembly* 12-10.1a).

- 45-09 The **Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Affirmation of fraternal and confessional relations between the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the EPC(USA), upon which a more detailed Memorandum of Understanding will be developed. (as described in *Act of Assembly* 12-10.1.a.7)
- 45-10 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** revisions to **G. 11-2**.
- 45-11 The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** revisions to **G. 11-2**.
- 45-12 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** a new section titled **G. 18-3.E.**, defining Session's authority in the Session Endorsement process and renumbering the current **G. 18-3.E** to **G. 18-3.F**.
- 45-13 The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** a new section titled **G. 18-3.E.**, defining Session's authority in the Session Endorsement process and renumbering the current **G. 18-3.E** to **G. 18-3.F**.
- 45-14 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** revisions to **G. 19-4 B**.
- 45-15 The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** revisions to **G. 19-4 B**.
- 45-16 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** revisions to **G. 21-2 D.1**
- 45-17 The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** revisions to **G. 21-2 D.1**

- 45-18 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **AMEND** *Rules for Assembly X.C.5* to eliminate “extraordinary” language and replace with CEEP. Additionally, add X.C.7 to clarify MVC’s authority over all standardized forms in the ordination process.
- 45-19 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** a new *Act of the Assembly* that supersedes *Act of Assembly 82-07* to clarify all written exams are governed by the MVC and eliminate language of “extraordinary circumstances”.
- 45-20 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** a new *Act of Assembly* that supersedes *Act of Assembly 12-12*, eliminating the requirement for a Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college/university.
- 45-21 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** a criminal background check with a three-year expiration date to be submitted by the Session prior to endorsing an individual for Candidacy.
- 45-22 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** all candidates to undergo a standardized National Background Check conducted through the Office of the General Assembly and paid for by the Candidate’s Presbytery prior to being approved for ordination.
- 45-23 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** individuals seeking to be taken under care as Candidates to submit the forms “Application for Candidacy” and “Preliminary Questionnaire” available on the EPC website.

- 45-24 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** all candidates under care to have a current physical exam and a psychological exam (which includes the most current version of the MMPI), including a personal assessment with the psychologist administering the exam.
- 45-25 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** all candidates, prior to final examination by the Presbytery, to submit a completed and current PIF.
- 45-26 The **Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** a “third year” for this committee to review and recommend any changes to our ordination standards.
- 45-27 The **Midwest Presbytery** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 45th General Assembly to direct the Permanent Committee on Theology to review the current position paper on Divorce and Remarriage.
- 45-28 The **Benefit Resources Inc., Board of Directors** recommends that the 45th 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.
- 45-29 The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Rivers and Lakes overture recommendation 45-30 as edited by the PJC.

- 45-30 The **Rivers and Lakes Presbytery** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 45th General Assembly to edit the *Rules for Assembly VII* section 7-3 *as addressed through recommendation 45-29 from the PJC*.
- 45-31 The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Rivers and Lakes overture to edit *Rules for Assembly VII* section 7-5; recommendation 45-32 as edited by the PJC.
- 45-32 The **Rivers and Lakes Presbytery** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 45th General Assembly to edit *Rules for Assembly VII* section 7-5 *as addressed through recommendation 45-31 from the PJC*
- 45-33 The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** edits to the *Rules for Assembly XIII* 13.
- 45-34 The **New River Presbytery** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 45th General Assembly to **DIRECT** the Stated Clerk and/or the National Leadership Team to communicate with the Presbyterian Church (USA) requesting the release of foreign mission endowments and bequests to Presbyterian mission agencies actually engaged in foreign mission.
- 45-35 The **Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **DIRECT** the Office of the General Assembly to upload digital copies of General Assembly Minutes from meetings 1 through 26.
- 45-36 The **Rivers and Lakes Presbytery** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 45th General Assembly to direct the National Leadership Team to investigate and report on the potential use of in-person electronic voting devices for use at the annual General Assembly meeting.

- 45-37 The **National Leadership Team** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the FY26 Administrative Budget.
- 45-38 The **National Leadership Team** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the FY26 Special Projects
- 45-39 The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends to the 45th General Assembly that recommendation 45-40 **be ANSWERED** by the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards revisions to **G. 11-2** as addressed in recommendation 45-10.
- 45-40 The **Midwest Presbytery** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 45th General Assembly to **AMEND** the *Book of Government* 11-2.E.
- 45-41 The **Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **ADOPT** a change to the current policy regarding the approval and recording of ministers' Terms of Call.
- The Permanent Judicial Commission has acknowledged there is no constitutional conflict with recommendation 45-41*
- 45-42 The **Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Exceptions requiring a response as found in the 2024 minutes of 12 of our 16 Presbyteries.
- 45-43 The **Presbytery Review Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly recognize the **APPROVAL** of the responses from the Presbyteries to those exceptions sent to them by the 44th General Assembly.
- 45-44 The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **SUSTAIN** the PJC's rulings related to Beverly Heights Church.

- 45-45 The **World Outreach Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** Crossworld as a Cooperative Agency.
- 45-46 The **Fraternal Relations Committee** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **WITHDRAW** its formal fraternal relationship with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar and that future relationship be through the World Reformed Fellowship.
- 45-47 The **National Leadership Team** recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the 44th General Assembly Minutes.
- 45-48 **Omnibus items from the Standing Committees**

45-01 *(to the Floor)*
From the Nominating Committee

Nominee for Moderator of the 45th General Assembly
TE Dave Strunk



Dave grew up in a Christian home with two wonderful parents, and the middle child between two sisters. He became a Christian at 9 years old, when his dad prayed with him on the living room couch. At the age of 17, Dave sensed a palpable and unrelenting call to pastoral ministry while on a church mission trip. Being from Knoxville, TN, Dave went to the University of Tennessee, and immediately upon graduating in 2006 got married to his wife Laura and moved to Denver to attend Denver Seminary, where he graduated three years later (in 2009). Throughout seminary and for ten years following, he was involved at the volunteer, staff, and ordained level at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church. All three of the Strunk children were born in Colorado and baptized at CCPC. In 2016, the Strunks moved back to their home in Tennessee in order to plant an evangelistic church out of their mother church, Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church. Church of the Redeemer was launched in 2017 in Alcoa, TN, and Dave has been the lead pastor ever since.

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45-02 *(to the Floor)*
From the Nominating Committee

Nominee for Moderator-elect of the 45th General Assembly
RE Jack Cathey



Jack Cathey is a Ruling Elder at Lake Forest Church in Huntersville, NC, where he and his wife Anne have been involved as founding members. Jack and Anne have two adult married children who reside in the greater Charlotte area. Jack is a graduate of Wake Forest University, where he completed his undergraduate degree in accounting. He also graduated from Virginia Tech, where he earned both a Master's and a Doctoral degree in accounting. After graduate school, Jack joined the faculty of the Turner School of Accountancy at the University of North Carolina, where he has been a member of the faculty for the past 36 years.

Jack grew up in a Christian home and committed his life to Christ at Windy Gap (a Young Life Camp) in 1975. Jack was first called and elected to serve as a Ruling Elder at Forest Hill Church in Charlotte, NC. During a time of significant growth, the Forest Hill Session voted to begin church planting. Jack voted in favor of this motion, and, much to his surprise, he found himself in a skating rink in Huntersville, NC, stacking chairs two years later. Being a part of starting and establishing Lake Forest has been a very fulfilling experience. He has served on the active session many times and has been a part of many search committees that hired staff as the church grew.

When the Lake Forest Session felt the time was right to begin their own church planting work, Jack was appointed as a co-leader of the Church Multiplication Commission along with Teaching Elder Mike Moses. To date, Lake Forest has planted five new churches, including Storyhill Church, Lake Forest Westlake, Lake Forest El Buen Samaritano (a Spanish-speaking plant), Lake Forest UCity (a multi-ethnic plant), and Lake Forest Cabarrus.

For the past 11 years Jack has served as a member of the EPC's National Church Planting Team. He has focused on helping the team organize its work and develop a national approach for church planting including the work of the National Director and the Regional Directors. He has also been a part of planning and attending the annual EPC Church Planter's Retreat.

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45-03 (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 45th General Assembly*

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

Benefit Resources, Inc., Board of Directors

Class of 2027	RE Greg Sipos*	Alleghenies
Class of 2028	RE Jeff Anderson	Great Plains
Class of 2028	Michael Moore*	Central South
Class of 2028	RE Ken Searce*	Florida & The Caribbean

Chaplains Work and Care Committee

Class of 2027	TE Daniel Kim	Coastal Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2028	TE Karen Bolte^	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2028	TE Richard Evans	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2028	RE Larry Williams	Alleghenies

Disaster Relief Committee

Class of 2026	Paul Gorny	Florida and the Caribbean
Class of 2028	TE Steve Burton	Central South
Class of 2028	Bubba Harrell	Central South
Class of 2028	TE Cliff Mansley^	West

Fraternal Relations Committee

Class of 2028	TE Doug Kortyna	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2028	RE Patti Francis	Pacific Southwest

Ministerial Vocation Committee

Class of 2027	RE Joseph Slesinski	East
Class of 2028	TE Scott Sealy^	Central South
Class of 2028	RE Charles Youther	Midwest

National Leadership Team

Class of 2028	TE Josh Hanson	Midwest
Class of 2028	TE Carolyn Poteet^	Alleghenies
Class of 2028	TE Eric Shipton	New River
Class of 2028	TE Rachel Toone	Central Carolinas



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Next Generation Ministries Council

Class of 2026	TE Chrishon Ducker	Coastal Mid-Atlantic
Class of 2028	TE Meagan Kroeker^	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2028	Geraud Brumfield^	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2028	TE Cole Lescher^	Mid-America

Nominating Committee

Class of 2028	RE James Bandstra	Alleghenies
Class of 2028	TE Robert Howard	Central Carolinas
Class of 2028	RE Rob Liddon^	Central South
Class of 2028	TE Ron Meyer^	East
Class of 2028	Richard Swedberg	West
Class of 2028	TE Shane Whelan	New River

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2028	RE Donald Flater^	Rivers and Lakes
Class of 2028	RE Gordon Miller^	New River
Class of 2028	RE Tom Werner^	Mid-America

Presbytery Review Committee

Class of 2027	RE Janet Goodman	Pacific Southwest
Class of 2028	RE Cheryl Followell	Central South
Class of 2028	RE Christopher Rhodes	Pacific Southwest

Theology Committee

Class of 2028	RE Joe Bingold^	Pacific Northwest
Class of 2028	TE Stephanie Black^	Coastal Mid-Atlantic

World Outreach Committee

Class of 2028	TE Josh Cole	Gulf South
Class of 2028	RE Jane Cooper	Gulf South
Class of 2028	RE Randall Leonard	Great Plains
Class of 2028	RE Robert Longfield	Central South

<https://epconnect.org/2025report-nominating>

45-04 *(to the floor)*
Communication

The Moderator of the 44th General Assembly recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the 2025-2026 Chairman for the BRI Board of Directors and the slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Permanent Nominating Committee.

June 2025

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: 2025-2026 Chairman Nominating Committee
TE Mike Goolsby (Presbytery of the Great Plains)
2. Nominations: Nominating Committee

Name	Presbytery	Class
RE Rob Liddon	Central South	2028
RE James Bandstra	Alleghenies	2028
RE Richard Swedberg	West	2028
TE Ron Meyer	East	2028
TE Shane Whelan	New River	2028
3. Nominations: 2025-2026 Chairman, BRI Board of Directors
RE Michael Busch Alleghenies 2026
4. Nominations: Chaplain Endorser (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028)
TE Mark Ingles (West)

It is my blessing and privilege to place these names before the Assembly and in so doing to commend these fine people for service to our denomination and to our Lord.

Victor Jones
Victor Jones

Moderator, 44th General Assembly

45-05 (to the floor)
Communication

Cherry Creek, Englewood, CO, INVITES the 45th General Assembly to hold the 46th General Assembly on its campus June 16-18, 2026.

[Invitation Letter from Cherry Creek](#)



cherry creek pres

May 5, 2025

Dean Weaver, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
5850 R.G Lee Blvd., Suite 510
Orlando, Florida 32822

Dear Dean, my Brother,

Please know that Cherry Creek is excited to host GA in June of 2026 in beautiful Colorado, as approved by the Elders on February 9th, 2025. While we might be a bit more tightly squeezed, this feels like God's way of bringing us together as His family more. We are planning on GA during 15-18 June, 2026.

God has blessed us as a church in so many ways, and we are thankful to share Jesus' work in serving our denomination. Let us know how we can best honor our small role in this.

Serving a Living Jesus with you,

Dr. Brad Strait
Senior Pastor

Robin Myers
Clerk of Session

45-06 *(to the Floor)*
From the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk recommends that the 45th General Assembly **RATIFY** an amendment to the *Book of Government* 10-7 and 9.5C.3. Overture 44-A (16 Presbyteries voted to approve).

[Descending Overture 44-A](#)

RECOMMENDATION 45-06

Descending Overture from the 44th General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

DESCENDING OVERTURE 44-A

To amend the *Book of Government* 10-7 and 9.5C.3. Overture 44-A (16 Presbyteries voted to approve).

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 10-7 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</p> <p>A. Temporary Pastoral Relationships may be established with lawfully ordained Ministers or Commissioned Pastors when a church is without a pastor.</p> <p>1. Transitional Pastor</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. A Transitional Pastor is called by the Session to serve during the period a congregation is seeking a Pastor. The Transitional Pastor intentionally leads the congregation toward greater health and readiness for their next pastor and will ordinarily be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Due to the temporary nature of the call, Transitional Pastors called from another Presbytery in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will ordinarily maintain membership in their home presbytery.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Upon approval of the Ministerial Committee, Transitional Pastors are introduced to the receiving presbytery and enrolled as corresponding members (voice but not vote).</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">d. If a Transitional Pastor is called from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the presbytery shall examine and transfer the pastor according to</p>	<p>10-7 Temporary Pastoral Relationships</p> <p>A. Temporary Pastoral Relationships may be established with lawfully ordained Ministers or Commissioned Pastors when a church is without a pastor.</p> <p>1. Transitional Pastor</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">a. A Transitional Pastor is called by the Session to serve during the period a congregation is seeking a Pastor. The Transitional Pastor intentionally leads the congregation toward greater health and readiness for their next pastor and will ordinarily be appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session during the time of service.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">b. Due to the temporary nature of the call, Transitional Pastors called from another Presbytery in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church will ordinarily maintain membership in their home presbytery.</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">c. Upon approval of the Ministerial Committee, Transitional Pastors are introduced to the receiving presbytery and enrolled as corresponding members (voice but not vote).</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">d. If a Transitional Pastor is called from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church <i>and seeks to transfer</i></p>

applicable provisions of this <i>Book of Government</i> .	<p>ordination, the presbytery shall examine and transfer the pastor according to applicable provisions of this Book of Government.</p> <p><i>e. If a Transitional Pastor from outside the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is not seeking to transfer ordination, the Session may extend an invitation in the same manner as a Stated Supply Pastor except that the invitation will remain in effect during the period the congregation is seeking a Pastor.</i></p>
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Current <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5 <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p>9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</p> <p>A. Pastor</p> <p>1. Titles</p> <p>A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.⁵⁴ The office of the “co-pastor” is not a constitutionally recognized calling in a local church. Except as otherwise provided in the Book of Government, the Pastor of the church shall be the Moderator of Session.</p>	<p>9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</p> <p>B. Pastor</p> <p>1. Titles</p> <p>A Teaching Elder may be called by a congregation to be a Pastor or Associate Pastor. Sessions may call a Teaching Elder as Assistant Pastor, Transitional Pastor, or invite a Teaching Elder as <i>Transitional Pastor</i>, Stated Supply Pastor, or Occasional Supply Pastor. Presbytery must approve all such positions. These are the only recognized callings for Teaching Elders in a congregational setting.⁵⁴ The office of the “co-pastor” is not a constitutionally recognized calling in a local church. Except as otherwise provided in the Book of Government, the Pastor of the church shall be the Moderator of Session.</p>

2024-25 Ballot Information for Descending Overtures

Presbytery	Overture 44-A - YES	Overture 44-A - NO
Alleghenies	78	1
Central Carolinas	74	1
Central South	50	0
Coastal Mid-Atlantic	55	0
East	43	0
Florida & Caribbean	52	0
Great Plains	74	0
Gulf South	50	0
Mid-America	34	0
Midwest	65	0
New River	27	8
Pacific NW	62	6
Pacific SW	62	0
Rivers & Lakes	46	0
Southeast	69	0
West	52	0
TOTAL		
	893	16

45-07 *(to the Fraternal Relations Standing Committee)*
From the Fraternal Relations Committee

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the revised Articles of Agreement with the St. Andrew's Presbytery of Argentina through 2030.

Rationale:

Acts of the Assembly 09-03 defines the agreement with longtime, highly valued Fraternal Partner, the St. Andrew's Presbytery of Argentina. The existing Articles of Agreement expire in 2025. Representatives of both bodies have been working to update this Agreement, which is now presented for approval. (The document is appended).

www.epconnect.org/2025report-fraternalrelations

45-08 *(to the Fraternal Relations Standing Committee)*
From the Fraternal Relations Committee

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** entering into a formal Fraternal relationship with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland (as described in *Acts of Assembly* 12-10.1a).

Rationale:

Concurrent with *Acts of the Assembly* 84-06, the Permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations proposes to act upon an instruction from the General Assembly (*Acts of the Assembly* 94-03) concerning our relationship with the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. We believe that a formal relationship would be profitable for both denominations in carrying out the Great Commission, commensurate with *Acts of the Assembly* 12-10.1a.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-fraternalrelations

45-09 (to the Fraternal Relations Standing Committee)
From the Fraternal Relations Committee

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Affirmation of Fraternal and Confessional Relations between the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the EPC(USA) upon which a more detailed Memorandum of Understanding will be developed. (as described in *Act of Assembly* 12-10.1.a.7)

Rationale:

The Permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations recommends the following document as a letter of intent, upon which a more detailed Memorandum of Understanding will be developed.

Affirmation of Fraternal and Confessional Relations between the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (USA)

Compelled by the clear teaching of Scripture that the body of Christ acts for his glory in its mutual support and cooperation, and acknowledging our common confessional heritage within the Reformed tradition, the following is affirmed by the General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, meeting in Belfast, Northern Ireland from 10-12 June 2025, and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (USA) meeting in Detroit, Michigan, from 17-19 June 2025.

We each, through our various agencies and courts, will seek tangible ways to express our commonality of purpose in witnessing to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

These expressions may include:

- Invitations for appointed representatives of each denomination from time to time, to attend and exchange fraternal greetings at meetings of their General Assemblies.
- Opportunities for ministers in training to benefit from exchange visits and other means of educational cooperation, for the enrichment of their preparation for ordination and service.
- Consultation between office-holders, and practical cooperation where appropriate, on matters of mutual concern in mission and ministry, including (but not limited to) local mission, overseas partnerships, public policy, and the wider mission of the Church of Christ.
- The mutual sharing of published resources and research, sharing models of best practice, and other insights for the enhancement of the life and witness of our churches.
- Possibilities for short-term mission-team visits and other similar ventures to be mutually supported, as appropriate.
- Encouragement of bi-lateral bonds of fellowship between congregations of both denominations, including prayerful and relational support, pulpit exchanges, and visits.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-fraternalrelations

45-10 (to the floor)
From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards
Proposed Amendments to *The Book of Government* 11-2

Current Language: G.11-2	Proposed Language: <u>additions</u>, deletions
<p>11-2 Preparation for ordained ministry as a Teaching Elder</p> <p>Since the office of Teaching Elder is seen as the first office in the Church both for dignity and usefulness, special preparation is required.</p> <p>A. A person desiring to become a Teaching Elder shall first become a Candidate under the care of the Presbytery of which that person's church is a member. That person begins this process by seeking the endorsement of the Session of the local church where the person's membership has been held for at least six months. When the Session has approved the Candidate, application shall be made to the appropriate Committee of Presbytery.</p> <p>B. The Presbytery Committee charged with the oversight of Candidates shall make whatever tests of gifts and abilities, as well as of sincerity of purpose, it deems necessary. If the Candidate is approved, the Committee shall recommend to Presbytery the approval of candidacy.</p> <p>C. The Presbytery shall make public examination of the Candidate as to Christian experience and growth, the motive for seeking ordination by a Presbytery of the EPC, and a statement regarding the person's call to the Ministry. If approved, the Presbytery shall proceed as follows.</p> <p>The Candidate shall respond affirmatively to the following questions to be put by the Moderator of the Presbytery:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As you understand God's working in your heart and life, do you continue to believe yourself called to the office of Teaching Elder? 2. Do you now submit yourself to the care and supervision of this Presbytery as you prepare yourself for this office? 	<p>11-2 Preparation for ordained ministry as a Teaching Elder</p> <p>Since the office of Teaching Elder is seen as the first office in the Church both for dignity and usefulness, special preparation is required.</p> <p>A. A person desiring to become a Teaching Elder shall first <u>seek the endorsement of the Session of the local church where the person's membership has been held, ordinarily for at least six months. After receiving the endorsement of the Session, the Applicant shall submit their name and record of endorsement to the appropriate Committee of the Presbytery. The Session shall assign an active Ruling Elder to serve as a Liaison between the Applicant and the Session throughout the Applicant's preparation for office once the Applicant is approved for candidacy.</u></p> <p>B. The Presbytery Committee charged with the oversight of Candidates shall make whatever tests of gifts and abilities, as well as of sincerity of purpose, it deems necessary. If the <u>Applicant</u> is approved, the Committee shall recommend to Presbytery the approval of candidacy.</p> <p>C. The Presbytery shall make public examination of the <u>Applicant</u> as to Christian experience and growth, the motive for seeking ordination by a Presbytery of the EPC, and a statement regarding the person's call to the Ministry. If approved, the Presbytery shall proceed as follows.</p> <p>The <u>Applicant</u> shall respond affirmatively to the following questions to be put by the Moderator of the Presbytery:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As you understand God's working in your heart and life, do you continue to believe yourself called to the office of Teaching Elder? 2. Do you now submit yourself to the care and supervision of this Presbytery as you prepare yourself for this office?

<p>3. Do you renew your commitment as a Christian, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to live as becomes a follower of Jesus?</p> <p>The Moderator, or someone appointed by the Moderator, shall offer a prayer of thanksgiving and a blessing for the Candidate.</p> <p>A charge shall be given to the Candidate by someone appointed by the Moderator. The Moderator shall then declare the person received as a Candidate; the person's name shall be placed on the Candidate roll of the Presbytery and welcomed in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>D. The Candidate continues to be a member of the local church and subject to the Session. But with regard to the Candidate's training for the ministry, the Candidate is under the oversight of the Presbytery. It is appropriate for the home church of the Candidate to have a service of recognition.</p> <p>E. The Presbytery shall assign a Teaching Elder in the Presbytery, ordinarily not the Candidate's Pastor, to serve as advisor to the Candidate. The advisor and the Candidate's Pastor shall submit regular reports to the appropriate committee on the progress of the Candidate.</p> <p>E. The Presbytery shall have some Committee to which the oversight of Candidates is assigned. This Committee shall oversee the training of the Candidate, giving encouragement and pastoral attention, and making an annual report to the Presbytery of the progress of the Candidate.</p> <p>G. A Candidate shall pursue a course of study that leads to a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary approved by the Presbytery, and such other standards as may be determined by Acts of the General Assembly. Academic work that is equivalent to a Master of Divinity degree may be completed by those means designed for Candidates under extraordinary status (G.11-2I).</p>	<p>3. Do you renew your commitment as a Christian, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, to live as becomes a follower of Jesus?</p> <p>The Moderator, or someone appointed by the Moderator, shall offer a prayer of thanksgiving and a blessing for the <u>new Applicant</u>.</p> <p>A charge shall be given to the <u>Applicant</u> by someone appointed by the Moderator. The Moderator shall then declare the person received as a Candidate; the person's name shall be placed on the Candidate roll of the Presbytery and welcomed in an appropriate manner.</p> <p>D. The Candidate continues to be a member of the local church and subject to the Session <u>which shall continue to follow the preparation of the Candidate by means of the Ruling Elder Liaison</u>. But With regard to the Candidate's training for the ministry, the Candidate is under the oversight of the Presbytery. It is appropriate for the home church of the Candidate to have a service of recognition.</p> <p>E. The Presbytery shall assign a Teaching Elder in the Presbytery, ordinarily not the Candidate's Pastor, to serve as <u>Advisor</u> to the Candidate. The <u>Advisor</u> and the Candidate's Pastor <u>Session</u> shall submit regular reports to the appropriate committee on the progress of the Candidate.</p> <p>F. The Presbytery shall have some Committee to which the oversight of Candidates is assigned. This Committee shall oversee the training of the Candidate, giving encouragement and pastoral attention, and making an annual report to the Presbytery of the progress of the Candidate <u>and, if the Candidate fails to make appropriate progress, recommend termination of candidacy</u>.</p> <p>G. A Candidate shall pursue a course of study that leads to a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary approved by the Presbytery, and such other standards as may be determined by Acts of the General Assembly. Academic work that is equivalent to a Master of Divinity degree may be completed by those means designed for Candidates under extraordinary status (G.11-2I). <u>For reasons it deems appropriate, the Presbytery may authorize a Candidate's completion of academic work that it deems equivalent to such a Master of Divinity.</u></p>
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<p>H. Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care for a minimum of one year prior to ordination. A Candidate, for reasons acceptable to the Presbytery, may request transfer to another Presbytery. The Candidate's membership must also be transferred to an EPC congregation within that Presbytery.</p> <p>I. A Presbytery, for reasons it judges adequate, may receive a Candidate under extraordinary circumstances for whom it may waive part or all of the total educational requirements for ordination. This action requires a two-thirds vote by the Presbytery. When such a Candidate is received, it is appropriate to assign courses of independent study or study under some appropriate person.</p> <p>J. A Candidate from another Reformed denomination who has been under care for at least one year in that denomination, has met EPC educational requirements for ordination, and is pursuing a call from an EPC congregation shall be examined in the manner prescribed in G.12-2. Any Candidates from outside the Reformed Tradition follow the procedures of G.11-2.</p>	<p>H. Ordinarily, a Candidate must be under care for a minimum of one year prior to ordination. A Candidate, for reasons acceptable to the Presbytery, may request transfer to another Presbytery. The Candidate's membership must also be transferred to an EPC congregation within that Presbytery.</p> <p>I. A Presbytery, for reasons it judges adequate, may receive a Candidate under extraordinary circumstances for whom it may waive part or all of the total educational requirements for ordination. This action requires a two-thirds vote by the Presbytery. When such a Candidate is received, it is appropriate to assign courses of independent study or study under some appropriate person.</p> <p>✚ I. A Candidate from another Reformed denomination who has been under care for at least one year in that denomination, has met EPC educational requirements for ordination, and is pursuing a call from an EPC congregation shall be examined in the manner prescribed in G.12-2. Any Candidates from outside the Reformed Tradition follow the procedures of G.11-2.</p>
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Rationale:

- **G.11-2.A**
 - Applicant refers to the one petitioning to become a Candidate.
 - Since church members are subject to the jurisdiction of the Session, the process of seeking the Session's endorsement is described prior to the Applicant submitting their name to the Presbytery.
- **G.11-2.C** – The Applicant becomes a Candidate under care upon declaration of the Moderator.
- **G.11-2.D** – Since Candidates remain members of the local church during their preparation for ordination, a Liaison between the Candidate and the Session provides fuller care for the Candidate.
- **G.11-2.E** – This provision would give the Presbytery freedom to assign a Candidate's Pastor as the Advisor when deemed appropriate. It also clarifies that the spiritual nurture and oversight of a Candidate lies with the Session and not solely with the Pastor.
- **G.11-2.F** – The supervision of a Candidate may determine that the Candidate has ceased preparation for ordination or is in some other manner failing in the needed preparation for

office. The details for this evaluation are included in the *Procedural Manual for Ministerial Committees* (p. 43).

- **G.11-2.G** – This clarifies that there are two educational pathways toward ordination: a Master of Divinity degree, and education equivalent to a Master of Divinity degree. For a description of “equivalent” see: *Acts of Assembly* 82-07; 12-12; and 14-08.
- Deletion of present **G.11-2.I** – This would eliminate the ambiguous and often confusing third “extraordinary” pathway toward ordination.

www.epconnect.org/2025Report-AIC-Ordination

45-11 (to the floor)
From the Permanent Judicial Commission

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 45th General Assembly
APPROVE revisions to **G. 11-2**

Rationale:

The PJC finds the proposed amendment meets the standards of clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-pjc

45-12 (to the floor)
From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards
Proposed Amendments to *The Book of Government* 18-3

Current Language: G.18-3	Proposed Language: <u>additions</u> , noted in <u>bold italics</u> , deletions
<p>18-3 Authority and Responsibilities of the Session</p> <p>In maintaining the spiritual supervision of the local church, the Session has the following authority and responsibilities:</p> <p>A. To oversee the worship of the congregation in accordance with the Book of Worship, including the time and place of worship, special services, the music program, and the celebration of the sacraments. This shall not infringe on the responsibility of the Pastor in the selection of hymns, Scriptures, sermon, administration of the sacraments, or other duties that are incumbent on the office of Pastor.</p> <p>B. To organize itself within the bounds of this Constitution and lawful acts of the higher Church courts for the advancement of the gospel and the mission of that congregation.</p> <p>C. To initiate the ministry of evangelism as the first business of the Church, and to seek to lead persons to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.</p> <p>D. To oversee the discipleship ministries of the church, leading members to maturity in Christ.</p> <p>E. To monitor the spiritual conduct of the members, and to take action when appropriate according to procedures set forth in <i>The Book of Discipline</i>.</p> <p>F. To remind parents of the responsibility of presenting their children for baptism and to provide</p>	<p>18-3 Authority and Responsibilities of the Session</p> <p>In maintaining the spiritual supervision of the local church, the Session has the following authority and responsibilities:</p> <p>A. To oversee the worship of the congregation in accordance with the Book of Worship, including the time and place of worship, special services, the music program, and the celebration of the sacraments. This shall not infringe on the responsibility of the Pastor in the selection of hymns, Scriptures, sermon, administration of the sacraments, or other duties that are incumbent on the office of Pastor.</p> <p>B. To organize itself within the bounds of this Constitution and lawful acts of the higher Church courts for the advancement of the gospel and the mission of that congregation.</p> <p>C. To initiate the ministry of evangelism as the first business of the Church, and to seek to lead persons to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.</p> <p>D. To oversee the discipleship ministries of the church, leading members to maturity in Christ.</p> <p>E. <u>To oversee church members seeking ordination as Teaching Elders.</u></p> <p>1. <u>By examining Applicants prior to endorsing them.</u></p> <p>2. <u>By assigning an active Ruling Elder as Session Liaison to guide and nurture the Applicant throughout Candidacy until ordained as a Teaching Elder or until removed from candidacy.</u></p> <p>3. <u>By submitting a request to the Presbytery to consider the Applicant to come under care as a Candidate.</u></p> <p>F. To monitor the spiritual conduct of the members, and to take action when appropriate according to procedures set forth in <i>The Book of Discipline</i>.</p> <p>G. To remind parents of the responsibility of presenting their children for baptism and to provide</p>

<p>instruction as indicated in <i>The Book of Worship</i>, Section 3-2.G. To this end, Sessions should establish and conduct under their authority Sunday schools and Bible classes and adopt such other methods as may be found helpful. The Session shall encourage the parents of the Church to guide their children in the catechizing and disciplining of them in the Christian religion.</p> <p>G. To receive, dismiss, restore, grant affiliation, remove members, and keep rolls in accordance with G.8-1, 8-2, and 8-3. The Session may establish a minimum age for the active roll and to vote in congregational meetings.</p> <p>H. To determine and oversee the finances of the local church including the budget and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.</p> <p>I. To oversee the educational program of the congregation and to approve its literature.</p> <p>J. To oversee the work of the Board of Deacons and to review its minutes at least semi- annually unless otherwise provided for by the Session. It is also desirable for the Session to call a joint meeting at least semi-annually to discuss matters of common interest, although each body must act separately on matters under its charge.</p> <p>K. To fulfill its obligations to train and examine those elected to the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon as set forth in Sections 12-3 and 13-8, 9, and 10.</p> <p>L. To determine policies regarding the use of the property and facilities of the congregation.</p> <p>M. When there is no Pastor, to convene the people for worship on the Lord's Day, offering prayers, praise, reading the Scriptures and teaching thereof. It is also appropriate for a Ruling Elder to preach or to read a sermon by some Minister of the Word of the Church.</p> <p>N. To overture Presbytery on matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church and to observe and carry out the injunctions and instructions of the higher courts. The Session shall elect commissioners to Presbytery and shall hear a subsequent report on that court.</p> <p>O. To order special offerings, special days of prayer and fasting, special days of worship, and other matters that benefit the spiritual life of the people.</p> <p>P. To do whatever else may be necessary for the spread of the gospel, the edification of the members, the wellbeing of the Church, the</p>	<p>instruction as indicated in <i>The Book of Worship</i>, Section 3-2.G. To this end, Sessions should establish and conduct under their authority Sunday schools and Bible classes and adopt such other methods as may be found helpful. The Session shall encourage the parents of the Church to guide their children in the catechizing and disciplining of them in the Christian religion.</p> <p>H. To receive, dismiss, restore, grant affiliation, remove members, and keep rolls in accordance with G.8-1, 8-2, and 8-3. The Session may establish a minimum age for the active roll and to vote in congregational meetings.</p> <p>I. To determine and oversee the finances of the local church including the budget and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.</p> <p>J. To oversee the educational program of the congregation and to approve its literature.</p> <p>K. To oversee the work of the Board of Deacons and to review its minutes at least semi- annually unless otherwise provided for by the Session. It is also desirable for the Session to call a joint meeting at least semi-annually to discuss matters of common interest, although each body must act separately on matters under its charge.</p> <p>L. To fulfill its obligations to train and examine those elected to the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon as set forth in Sections 12-3 and 13-8, 9, and 10.</p> <p>M. To determine policies regarding the use of the property and facilities of the congregation.</p> <p>N. When there is no Pastor, to convene the people for worship on the Lord's Day, offering prayers, praise, reading the Scriptures and teaching thereof. It is also appropriate for a Ruling Elder to preach or to read a sermon by some Minister of the Word of the Church.</p> <p>O. To overture Presbytery on matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church and to observe and carry out the injunctions and instructions of the higher courts. The Session shall elect commissioners to Presbytery and shall hear a subsequent report on that court.</p> <p>P. To order special offerings, special days of prayer and fasting, special days of worship, and other matters that benefit the spiritual life of the people.</p> <p>Q. To do whatever else may be necessary for the spread of the gospel, the edification of the members, the wellbeing of the Church, the</p>
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advancement of the Kingdom, and the growth in grace of all.	advancement of the Kingdom, and the growth in grace of all.
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Rationale:

G.18-3.E - The Session retains immediate jurisdiction over both the Applicant and the Candidate during the ordination process. These three responsibilities expand upon the Session's role in the preparation of Applicant/Candidate for ordination.

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-13 *(to the floor)*
From the Permanent Judicial Commission

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** a new section titled **G. 18-3. E.** defining Session's authority in the Session Endorsement process and renumbering the current **G. 18-3.E.** to **G. 18-3 F.**

Rationale:

The PJC finds the proposed amendment meets the standards of clarity and consistency of language and compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-pjc

45-14 (to the floor)
From The Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards
Proposed Amendments to *The Book of Government* 19-4.B

Current Language: G.19-4.B	Proposed Language: <u>additions, in bold italics,</u> <u>deletions</u>
<p>19-4.B With respect to Teaching Elders</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To establish the required Ministerial Committee. To examine Ministers and Candidates, to receive and dismiss Ministers and Candidates. To ordain and install, to dissolve pastoral relationships, to approve calls, and to grant permission to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery. To establish a Ministerial Obligation record to which all Ministers must subscribe before being received into membership. This obligation shall consist of the ordination vows for Ministers to which shall be added a subscription as follows: “I do receive and adopt the above vows as a true statement of my faith, commitment, and obligation, and I do resolve and promise to exercise my calling to the gospel ministry in obedience to those vows.” To retire and to place on Inactive Status member Ministers. To take disciplinary action according to <i>The Book of Discipline</i>. To decide judicial cases brought before it in accordance with <i>The Book of Discipline</i>. 	<p>19-4.B With respect to Teaching Elders</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To establish the required Ministerial Committee. To examine <u>Applicants, Candidates, and Teaching Elders</u>, and to receive and dismiss <u>Applicants, Candidates, and Teaching Elders</u>. To ordain and install, to dissolve pastoral relationships, to approve calls, and to grant permission to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery. To establish a Ministerial Obligation record to which all <u>Teaching Elders</u> must subscribe before being received into membership. This obligation shall consist of the ordination vows for <u>Teaching Elders</u> to which shall be added a subscription as follows: “I do receive and adopt the above vows as a true statement of my faith, commitment, and obligation, and I do resolve and promise to exercise my calling to the gospel ministry in obedience to those vows.” To retire and to place on Inactive Status member <u>Teaching Elders</u>. To take disciplinary action according to <i>The Book of Discipline</i>. To decide judicial cases brought before it in accordance with <i>The Book of Discipline</i>.

Rationale:

These proposed amendments, which emerge from previously proposed amendments to G.11-2 (See: Recommendation 45-10), are offered for the sake of clarity and consistency.

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-15 (to the floor)
From the Permanent Judicial Commission

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 45th General Assembly
APPROVE revisions to **G. 19-4 B.**

Rationale:

The PJC finds the proposed amendment meets the standards of clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-pjc

45-16 (to the floor)
From The Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards
Proposed Amendments to The Book of Government 21-2.D.1

Current Language: G.21-2.D.1	Proposed Language: <u>additions, in bold italics</u> deletions
<p>21-2 The Ministerial Committee</p> <p>D.1 Authority and Responsibilities</p> <p>1. With regard to Teaching Elders and Candidates</p> <p>a. It shall have the oversight of Candidates for the gospel ministry of the Presbytery, although the Presbytery may assign this function to some other committee.</p> <p>b. It shall confer with each Teaching Elder desiring to become a member of the Presbytery or Candidate desiring ordination.</p> <p>c. It shall conduct any examination and assessment it deems necessary in order to make a decision for its recommendation to the Presbytery concerning the application.</p> <p>d. It shall conduct the examination by the Presbytery of the applicant according to the Book of Government.</p> <p>e. It shall report annually on the work of the Teaching Elders to the Presbytery, along with any recommendations it might have. This includes an annual report from those Teaching Elders approved for labor outside the bounds of Presbytery.</p> <p>f. The Committee shall be responsible for an annual review of the remuneration of Teaching Elders, shall consult with Sessions if deemed necessary concerning such remuneration, and may recommend to the Presbytery minimum terms for the call of Teaching Elders. Requests to the Presbytery for a change in the terms of call shall come through this committee.</p> <p>g. It shall review each request for dissolution of a pastoral relationship and make a recommendation to Presbytery.</p>	<p>21-2 The Ministerial Committee</p> <p>D.1 Authority and Responsibilities</p> <p><i>1. With regard to <u>Applicants, Candidates, and Teaching Elders</u></i></p> <p>a. It shall have the oversight of Candidates for the gospel ministry of the Presbytery, although the Presbytery may assign this function to some other committee.</p> <p>b. It shall confer with each Teaching Elder desiring to become a member of the Presbytery <i>as well as <u>Applicants</u></i> or Candidates desiring ordination.</p> <p>c. It shall conduct any examination and assessment it deems necessary in order to make a decision for its recommendation to the Presbytery concerning the application.</p> <p>d. It shall conduct the examination by the Presbytery of the applicant according to the Book of Government.</p> <p>e. It shall report annually on the work of the Teaching Elders to the Presbytery, along with any recommendations it might have. This includes an annual report from those Teaching Elders approved for labor outside the bounds of Presbytery.</p> <p>f. The Committee shall be responsible for an annual review of the remuneration of Teaching Elders, shall consult with Sessions if deemed necessary concerning such remuneration, and may recommend to the Presbytery minimum terms for the call of Teaching Elders. Requests to the Presbytery for a change in the terms of call shall come through this committee.</p> <p>g. It shall review each request for dissolution of a pastoral relationship and make a recommendation to Presbytery.</p>

Rationale: The Ministerial Committee or other designated Committee of the Presbytery has the responsibility for Applicants seeking to come under Care of the Presbytery. This proposed amendment, which emerges from previously proposed amendments to G.11-2 (See: Recommendation #45-10), is offered for the sake of clarity and consistency.

45-17 (to the floor)
From the Permanent Judicial Commission

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 45th General Assembly
APPROVE revisions to **G. 21-2 D.1**

Rationale:

The PJC finds the proposed amendment meets the standards of clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-pjc

45-18 (to the floor)
Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

(These are not constitutional changes and will become effective upon GA approval)

1. Amendment to the *Rules for Assembly*

Current Text	Propose Changes
<p>X. Permanent Committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission</p> <p>C. Committee on Ministerial Vocation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Membership to be six members; chairman elected by committee. 2.Monitors and aids ministerial committees of local presbyteries. 3.Assists in placement of pastors and helps churches to find pastors. 4.Provides information on colleges and seminaries. 5.Examines extraordinary candidates. 6.Oversees theological testing. 	<p>X. Permanent Committees and the Permanent Judicial Commission</p> <p>C. Committee on Ministerial Vocation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Membership to be six members; chairman elected by committee. 2.Monitors and aids ministerial committees of local presbyteries. 3.Assists in placement of pastors and helps churches to find pastors. 4.Provides information on colleges and seminaries. <u>5. Examines extraordinary candidates, <i>Interviews Candidates for seminary equivalent educational programs.</i></u> 6. Oversees theological testing. <u><i>Oversees the four national written examinations.</i></u> <u>7. <i>Exercises authority over all standardized national forms for the Ordination Process.</i></u>

Rationale:

We eliminated the “extraordinary” language and replaced it with “educational equivalency” or the CEEP process. We also clarified the Ministerial Vocation Committee’s authority over all the national standardized forms for the ordination process.

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-19 (to the floor)

From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

(These are not constitutional changes and will become effective upon GA approval)

Amend *Acts of Assembly* 82-07 Section 1 as noted below

Current Wording	Proposed Changes
<p><i>Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination</i></p> <p>1. Requirements for ordination shall be:</p> <p>a. Seminary degree – Master of Divinity or equivalent that shall include Old and New Testament Survey, Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Exegesis, Church History (with an emphasis on the Reformation), Apologetics, Leadership, Preaching, Evangelism, Missiology, Discipleship/Disciple-making, Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Ethics.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>1) Three courses in systematic theology (equivalent nine semester-hours). Competency in Reformed theology as expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms shall be demonstrated through a standardized ordination exam governed by the Ministerial Vocation Committee.</p> <p>2) Original languages. The standard for ordination in the EPC is the ability to exegete competently the Scriptures in the original languages. This competency shall be demonstrated by a standardized open-book exegesis exam in either Greek or Hebrew, including a sermon manuscript based upon that exegesis, to be submitted within a one-week period. This exam shall be governed by the Ministerial Vocation Committee.</p> <p>3) “EPC specific” courses:</p> <p>(a) EPC Polity</p> <p>b. Care of the presbytery in accord with G.11-2</p> <p>c. Examinations – four written and one oral examination must be sustained;</p>	<p><i>Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination</i></p> <p>1. Requirements for ordination shall be:</p> <p>a. Seminary degree – Master of Divinity or equivalent that shall include Old and New Testament Survey, Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Exegesis, Church History (with an emphasis on the Reformation), Apologetics, Leadership, Preaching, Evangelism, Missiology, Discipleship/Disciple-making, Pastoral Care and Counseling, and Ethics.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>1) Three courses in systematic theology (equivalent nine semester-hours). Competency in Reformed theology as expressed in the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms shall be demonstrated through a standardized ordination exam governed by the Ministerial Vocation Committee.</p> <p>2) Original languages. The standard for ordination in the EPC is the ability to exegete competently the Scriptures in the original languages. This competency shall be demonstrated by a standardized open-book exegesis exam in either Greek or Hebrew, including a sermon manuscript based upon that exegesis, to be submitted within a one-week period. This exam shall be governed by the Ministerial Vocation Committee.</p> <p>3) “EPC specific” courses:</p> <p>(a) EPC Polity</p> <p>b. Care of the presbytery in accord with G.11-2</p> <p>c. Examinations – four written and one oral examination must be sustained;</p>

<p>d. Valid call;</p> <p>e. Other evidence – Assurance those spiritual gifts needed for effective ministry are present and being developed.</p>	<p><u>1. The written exams shall be under the authority of the Ministerial Vocation Committee.</u></p> <p>d. Valid call;</p> <p>e. Other evidence – Assurance those spiritual gifts needed for effective ministry are present and being developed.</p>
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Amend *Acts of Assembly* 82-07 Section 2 as noted below

Current Wording	Proposed Changes
<p>2. All exceptions to fulfilling standards for ordination (extraordinary circumstances) will be referred to the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation for a recommended course of action, including continuing education and reading requirements. The presbytery of jurisdiction shall, in conjunction with the Committee on Ministerial Vocation:</p>	<p>2. All exceptions to fulfilling standards for ordination (extraordinary circumstances) will be referred to the permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation for a recommended course of action, including continuing education and reading requirements. The presbytery of jurisdiction shall, in conjunction with the Committee on Ministerial Vocation:</p>

Rationale:

We revised *Acts of Assembly* 82-07 in order to clarify the authority of the Ministerial Vocation Committee over all national written exams in the ordination process, as well as eliminated the language of “extraordinary circumstances.”

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-20 (to the floor)

From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

(These are not constitutional changes and will become effective upon GA approval)

1. New Act of the Assembly superseding *Act of Assembly* 12-12

Current Text	Proposed Language: for new <i>Act of Assembly</i> <i>additions</i> , noted in <i>bold italics</i> , <i>deletions</i>
<p>12-12 The Assembly modifies section 1(c) of the <i>Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination</i>, adopted by the 2nd General Assembly (<i>see Act of Assembly</i> 82-07, p. 193), to read:</p> <p>1. Requirements for ordination shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; b. Seminary degree: M.Div. or equivalent including Koine Greek and Hebrew; c. Care of the presbytery in accord with G.11-2; d. Examinations: four written and one oral examination must be sustained; e. Valid call; f. Other evidence: Assurance those spiritual gifts needed for effective ministry are present and being developed. (Minutes 32-56) 	<p>45-XX The Assembly modifies section 1(c) of the <i>Uniform Procedures on Candidacy and Ordination</i>, adopted by the 2nd General Assembly (<i>see Act of Assembly</i> 82-07, p. 193), to read:</p> <p>2. Requirements for ordination shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; <i>a.</i> Seminary degree: M.Div. or equivalent including Koine Greek and Hebrew; <i>b.</i> Care of the presbytery in accord with G.11-2; <i>c.</i> Examinations: four written and one oral examination must be sustained; <i>d.</i> Valid call; <i>e.</i> Other evidence: Assurance those spiritual gifts needed for effective ministry are present and being developed. (Minutes 32-56)

Rationale:

While some seminaries require a bachelor's degree, other educational institutions and the CEEP process do not. We believe making this change creates greater access and opportunity for those who may be able to fulfill our educational requirements without a bachelor's degree.

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-21 (to the floor)
From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

The Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** all candidates to undergo a criminal background check with a three-year expiration date to be submitted by the Session prior to endorsing an individual for Candidacy.

Rationale:

We believe this is the best practice for the church and it is best done at the beginning of the process to identify any potential issues before the ordination process begins. We believe this is best overseen by the local church Session and should be updated every three years.

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-22 (to the floor)
From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

The Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** all candidates to undergo a standardized National Background Check conducted through the Office of the General Assembly and paid for by the Candidate's Presbytery prior to being approved for ordination.

Rationale:

We believe the Candidate should undergo a National Background Check administered through the Office of General Assembly in order to demonstrate due diligence and provide a standard for the background check process. This national standard provides a uniform process that all Candidates for ordination in the EPC undergo in order to reduce potential liability and, more importantly, give local churches confidence in the character quality of the people they may be calling to serve as Teaching Elders.

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-23 *(to the floor)*
From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

The Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** individuals seeking to be taken under care as Candidates submit the forms “Application for Candidacy” and “Preliminary Questionnaire” available on the EPC website.

Rationale:

While in wide use, the “Application for Candidacy” form and “Preliminary Questionnaire” are not currently required. We believe all national standardized forms in the ordination process should be constitutionally required.

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-24 (to the floor)
From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

The Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** all candidates under care to have a current physical exam and a psychological exam (which includes the most current version of the MMPI), including a personal assessment with the psychologist administering the exam.

Rationale:

We believe all Candidates should undergo a thorough physical and psychological exam to make sure they are prepared to handle the rigors of ordained ministry. Current data suggests that pastors across the United States are suffering from significant mental and physical distress that is directly impacting their ability to minister effectively. We believe that by requiring physical and psychological exams, we can better equip our Candidates to serve in the ordained ministry.

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-25 (to the floor)
From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

The Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards recommends that the 45th General Assembly **REQUIRE** all candidates, prior to final examination by the Presbytery, to submit a completed and current PIF.

Rationale:

As stated above, we believe all national standardized forms in the ordination process should be constitutionally required, and this includes the Personal Information Form (PIF).

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-26 (to the floor)
From the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards

The Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** a “third year” for this committee to review and recommend any changes to our ordination standards.

Rationale:

The committee is requesting a third year in order to review the ordination standards themselves and present any recommendations to next year’s General Assembly. This is necessary to complete the final part of the charge we were given when we were initially established.

www.epconnect.org/2025AIC-Ordination

45-27 *(to the Theology Standing Committee)*
Overture from the Presbytery of the Midwest

The **Midwest Presbytery** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 45th General Assembly to direct the Permanent Committee on Theology to review the current position paper on Divorce and Remarriage.

Rationale:

The intent of this overture is to update the EPC position paper on Divorce and Remarriage to clarify the distinctions between civil marriage and biblical marriage, and to offer specific guidance for addressing the challenges of marital conflict and divorce common to our contemporary society.

[Midwest Presbytery Overture](#)



Overture of the Presbytery of the Midwest (EPC)
to
the 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
on the matter of
A Revision of the EPC Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage

Whereas, The EPC Position Paper on Human Sexuality rightly begins by acknowledging “In a time when views of human sexuality and marriage are rapidly changing, we believe it is necessary and helpful to state clearly and compassionately to the church and the world our beliefs about God’s design for human sexuality” and

Whereas, the 37th General Assembly provided helpful guidance to the Church and the world that was both clearly stated and compassionate in its adoption of the Position Paper on Human Sexuality as to God’s design and purposes for sexual unions and

Whereas, the same position paper offers only limited commentary on the institution of marriage and none on the challenge of divorce and

Whereas, the extant EPC Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage does not achieve the level of clarity and compassion of the EPC Position Paper on Human Sexuality and

Whereas, the extant EPC Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage fails to address many questions the contemporary reader has regarding a biblical theology of divorce and remarriage therefore

Be it resolved that the 45th General Assembly of the EPC direct the Permanent Committee on Theology to review the current position paper on Divorce and Remarriage; to study the scriptures, the Westminster Confession, the EPC Position Paper on Human Sexuality and other relevant theological works and to revise the EPC Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage to the end that it clearly and compassionately communicates what we believe the Bible teaches about the matter to a contemporary audience.

Be it further resolved that the committee is directed to address such questions including but not limited to the following:

- What constitutes a true marriage in the eyes of God? (The State identifies some unions as “marriages” that the Church would not accept as such. It is therefore incumbent upon the Church to clarify its teaching as to precisely when a relationship becomes a marriage).
- What biblical guidance is given to the wife or husband who suffers abuse at the hands of their spouse?
- What biblical guidance is given to the wife or husband whose children suffer abuse at the hands of the other spouse?



- What is the definition of abuse, and specifically the form(s) of abuse that may prove to be sufficient grounds for a biblical divorce?
- What is the counsel of the Church in the case where both partners are penitent yet remain unwilling or unable to manifest God's design and purpose for their marriage? (In this question the assembly critiques the assumption in section V of the existing position paper that there exists in all or most cases of marital duress an "offending" and an "offended" party. In reality this dichotomy often proves false).
- What counsel does the Assembly give couples who have experienced the trauma of adultery? The extant position paper directs only that forgiveness be offered. How is the Church to seek to protect, in the case of adultery, the offended party if and when he/she offers forgiveness and reconciliation and how does the Assembly counsel such couples to move toward reconciliation?
- What is the counsel of the Church to persons who are, in the eyes of the state, married in a same-sex union and, potentially, with children?
- What resources does the Assembly recommend for further study, premarital counseling and marriage counseling?

Be it further resolved that the committee shall report its preliminary findings/draft revision to the 46th General Assembly and submit its final draft for consideration by the 47th General Assembly.

45-28 (to the floor)
From Benefits Resources, Inc. Board of Directors

The Benefit Resources, Inc. Board of Directors recommends that the 45th 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.

Rationale:

To do so permits retired, ordained ministers to take advantage of this significant tax benefit in retirement, thereby making more of their retirement income available for living expenses. Adopting this recommendation on an annual basis provides retired ministers with a readily available reference if asked by tax authorities.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-bri

45-29 (to the Overtures and Resolutions Standing Committee)
From the Permanent Judicial Commission

Rules for Assembly VII Section 7-3

Original Text	RLP Proposed Amendments: <i>additions, deletions</i>	PJC Additional Proposed Amendments: <i>additions, deletions</i>
<p>VII. Communications and Overtures</p> <p>....</p> <p>7-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific matter.</p> <p>7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the Book of Order shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be</p>	<p>VII. Communications and Overtures</p> <p>....</p> <p>7-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific matter. <u><i>Since overtures to the General Assembly are the communication of the lower court, the higher court is responsible for the public dissemination of all overtures properly filed. The Stated Clerk shall provide for the public posting of any properly filed overture so that the overture is made accessible to the whole Church ordinarily within five (5) days of original receipt.</i></u></p> <p>7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the Book of Order shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of the General</p>	<p>VII. Communications; <u>Overtures; and Proposed Amendments</u></p> <p>....</p> <p>7-3 An overture is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific matter. Since overtures to the General Assembly are the communication of the lower court, the higher court is responsible for the public dissemination of all overtures properly filed. The Stated Clerk shall provide for the public posting of any properly filed overture so that the overture is made accessible to the whole <u>church</u> ordinarily within five (5) days of original receipt.</p> <p>7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the <i>Book of Order</i> <u>or these Rules for Assembly</u> shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21-3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of <u>the</u> General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates <u>the applicable filing date</u> shall be considered by the Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of the General Assembly prior to the deadline</p>

considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of the General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.	Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.	for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.
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Rationale:

- The caption change reflects the fact that certain committees may propose amendments to the *Book of Order* or these *Rules for Assembly*.
- 7-4: This clarifies the previous language. The two-thirds requirement for reception of new business is moved to proposed new Rule 13-3.

www.epcoect.org/2025report-pjc

45-30 (to the Overtures and Resolutions Standing Committee)
Overture from the Presbytery of Rivers and Lakes

To amend *Rules for Assembly VII* section 7-3

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>7-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific matter.</p>	<p>7-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific manner. <u><i>Since overtures to the General Assembly are the communication of the lower court, the higher court is responsible for the public dissemination of all overtures properly filed. The Stated Clerk shall provide for the public posting of any properly filed overture so that the overture is made accessible to the whole church ordinarily within five (5) days of original receipt.</i></u></p>

Rationale:

This amendment requires timely distribution of overtures so the EPC as a whole will have ample time to consider the merits of all overtures.

Rivers and Lakes Overture
www.epconnect.org/2025report-pjc



Rivers & Lakes Presbytery hereby respectfully overtures the 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church with consideration to a proposed amendment to the *Rules for Assembly*:

Whereas the *Book of Government* grants the authority and responsibility of Presbyteries “to overture the General Assembly on those matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church,” (BOG 19-4.C.2); and

Whereas the Elders of Christ’s Church, gathered in the General Assembly, consent to be ordered by the *Rules for Assembly*; and

Whereas the *Rules for Assembly* are contained within volume one of the Constitution but are not of the essence of the Book of Order or any of its parts (*The Book of Government*, *The Book of Discipline*, and *the Book of Worship*); and

Whereas the *Rules for Assembly* are therefore not subject to the method prescribed for amendment in Book of Government chapter 23, but only section XV of the *Rules for Assembly: Amendment of Suspension of Rules*, which states, “The *Rules* of the General Assembly may be amended or suspended only by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the Commissioners present and voting.”;

Therefore, be it resolved that Rivers & Lakes Presbytery overtures the 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to amend the *Rules for Assembly* in the following manner:

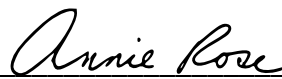
that *Rules for Assembly VII: Communications and Overtures 7-3* be amended as follows (underlining for additions, ~~striketrough~~ for deletions):

7-3 An overture ~~ordinarily~~ is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific manner. Since overtures to the General Assembly are the communication of the lower court, the higher court is responsible for the public dissemination of all overtures properly filed. The Stated Clerk shall provide for the public posting of any properly filed overture so that the overture is made accessible to the whole Church ordinarily within five (5) days of original receipt.

Approved by Rivers & Lakes Presbytery at its 44th Stated Meeting, April 25, 2025.



RE George Kalemkarian, Moderator



TE Annie Rose, Stated Clerk

45-31 (to the Overtures and Resolutions Standing Committee)
From the Permanent Judicial Commission

Rules for Assembly VII Section 7-5, 7-6, 7-7

Original Text	RLP Proposed Amendments: <i>additions, deletions</i>	PJC Additional Proposed Amendments: <i>additions, deletions</i>
VII. Communications and Overtures 	VII. Communications and Overtures 7-5 <u>No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which presbytery rejected the overture. Such an overture must be the same overture as that presented to and rejected by the presbytery.</u>	VII. Communications; <u>Overtures; and Proposed Amendments</u> 7-5 No <u>Except to the extent otherwise authorized by Rules for Assembly 7-6 and 7-7, no amendment to the Book of Order or these Rules for Assembly will be considered by the General Assembly unless it has first been presented to a presbytery in the form of an overture.</u> overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If <u>When approved by the a-presbytery, it an overture (i.e., whether or not containing a proposed amendment)</u> will come be presented before to the Assembly as the overture of that court. <u>An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to a presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the that presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the rejected overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which that presbytery rejected the overture. Such an overture must be the same as the proposed overture as that presented to and rejected by the that presbytery. No such rejected overture may be received for consideration absent a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly.</u>

		<p>7-6 <u>Permanent committees and ad-interim committees established by the General Assembly may propose amendments to the Book of Order or these Rules for Assembly; provided, however, that each such proposed amendment must be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21-3D.2a). No such proposed amendment received after the applicable filing date shall be considered by the Assembly convening in that year.</u></p> <p>7-7. <u>Nothing in this Rule VII will be deemed to prohibit a standing committee of the Assembly from taking action to approve, modify, or not approve any proposed amendment to the Book of Order or these Rules for Assembly that was referred to it (Rule for Assembly 9-5) or to prevent the Assembly from acting upon the report of a standing committee.</u></p>
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Rationale:

- The caption change reflects the fact that certain committees may propose amendments to the *Book of Order* or these *Rules for Assembly*.
- 7-5: Unless an amendment comes from a presbytery or a committee (see the new Rule 7-6) it should not be considered by the Assembly. The word “overture” in this context refers to communications from presbyteries (see Rule 7-3). A proposed amendment from a presbytery is always an overture, but not all overtures contain proposed amendments. Rejected overtures validly presented should require two-thirds (2/3) vote for reception.
- 7-6: EPC polity already allows certain General Assembly committees, including the PJC, to propose amendments. This new Rule 7-6 requires those amendments to be presented in a timely manner.
- 7-7: This proposed new Rule 7-7 affirms the right of the standing committees to act on amendments, including the right to modify proposed amendments. It also affirms the right of the Assembly to act on amendments contained in standing committee reports.

45-32 (to the Overtures and Resolutions Standing Committee)
Overture from the Presbytery of Rivers and Lakes

To amend *Rules for Assembly VII* by adding a section 7-5

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the <i>Book of Order</i> shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.</p> <p><i>There is currently no section 7-5</i></p>	<p>7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the <i>Book of Order</i> shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.</p> <p>7-5 <u><i>No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which presbytery rejected the overture. Such an overture must be the same overture as that presented to and rejected by the presbytery.</i></u></p>

Rationale:

The *Book of Government* grants the authority and responsibility of Presbyteries “to overture the General Assembly on those matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church,” (BOG 19-4. C.2). This addition would qualify the following statement from Rules 7-4: 'Overtures from the floor of the General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners,' ensuring that all overtures coming to the floor of the Assembly have first been reviewed by the appropriate presbytery."



Rivers & Lakes Presbytery hereby respectfully overtures the 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church with consideration to a proposed amendment to the *Rules for Assembly*:

Whereas the *Book of Government* grants the authority and responsibility of Presbyteries “to overture the General Assembly on those matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church,” (BOG 19-4.C.2); and

Whereas the Elders of Christ’s Church, gathered in the General Assembly, consent to be ordered by the *Rules for Assembly*; and

Whereas the *Rules for Assembly* are contained within volume one of the Constitution but are not of the essence of the Book of Order or any of its parts (*The Book of Government*, *The Book of Discipline*, and *the Book of Worship*); and

Whereas the *Rules for Assembly* are therefore not subject to the method prescribed for amendment in Book of Government chapter 23, but only section XV of the *Rules for Assembly: Amendment of Suspension of Rules*, which states, “The *Rules* of the General Assembly may be amended or suspended only by a three-quarter (3/4) vote of the Commissioners present and voting.”;

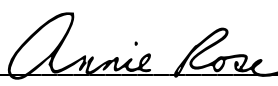
Therefore, be it resolved that Rivers & Lakes Presbytery overtures the 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to amend the *Rules for Assembly* in the following manner:

that *Rules for Assembly VII: Communications and Overtures* be amended as follows (underlining for additions, ~~striketrough~~ for deletions):

7-5 No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which presbytery rejected the overture. Such an overture must be the same overture as that presented to and rejected by the presbytery.

Approved by Rivers & Lakes Presbytery at its 44th Stated Meeting, April 25, 2025.


RE George Kalemkarian, Moderator


TE Annie Rose, Stated Clerk

45-33 (to the Overtures and Resolutions Standing Committee)
From the Permanent Judicial Commission

Rules for Assembly XIII

Original Text	PJC Additional Proposed Amendments: <i>additions, deletions</i>
<p>XIII. New Business</p> <p>13-1 Any matter presented in any form that has not been received by the Stated Clerk prior to the opening of the General Assembly shall be treated as new business.</p> <p>13-2 New business must be presented to the Assembly by noon of the second day of business. The National Leadership Team may assist the Stated Clerk in referring all new business coming to the Assembly.</p>	<p>XIII. New Business</p> <p>13-1 Any matter presented in any form that has not been received by the Stated Clerk prior to the opening of the General Assembly shall be treated as new business.</p> <p>13-2 New business must be presented to the Assembly by noon of the second day of business, <u>and each proposed item of new business that was not previously presented as an overture to a presbytery must include an explanation of why it was not so presented.</u> The National Leadership Team may assist the Stated Clerk in referring all new business coming to the Assembly.</p> <p><u>13-3 If an item of new business is received by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly, the Stated Clerk shall refer the item to an appropriate standing committee and, in the case of any new business with a potential budget impact, to the National Leadership Team. Parties to whom an item is referred (e.g., standing committees and the National Leadership Team) shall receive and consider such reference, deliberate, and report to the Assembly as these Rules require. The National Leadership Team may assist the Stated Clerk in referring new business.</u></p> <p><u>13-4 Amendments to the Book of Order or to these Rules for Assembly shall not be received as new business under any circumstance.</u></p>

Rationale:

- Proposed amended Rule 13-2 states that new business not previously presented to a presbytery should contain an explanation for why it was not so presented.
- Proposed new Rule 13-3 clarifies that all new business must be received by the Assembly by a two-third (2/3) vote. New business so received must be referred. As stated in the prior version of Rule 13-2, the National Leadership Team may assist with referrals.
- Proposed new Rule 13-4 clarifies that amendments must come from presbyteries as overtures or from committees authorized in the *Book of Order* to present them. They must be proposed thoughtfully in our Presbyterian system and not offered last minute as new business.

45-34 *(to the World Outreach Standing Committee)*
Overture from the Presbytery of New River

The **New River Presbytery** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 45th General Assembly to **DIRECT** the Stated Clerk and/or the National Leadership Team to communicate with the Presbyterian Church (USA) requesting the release of foreign mission endowments and bequests to Presbyterian mission agencies actually engaged in foreign mission.

[New River Overture](#)

NRP Overture to 45th General Assembly:

Whereas, previous generations of faithful Presbyterians committed to the inerrancy of the Scriptures and the *Westminster Standards* sacrificially gave for the conversion of the nations; and

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America was at the forefront of global mission for more than 150 years; and

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) received and holds significant endowments for the work of foreign mission; and

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ended its global mission work and fired its global mission co-workers on 31 March 2025;

Therefore be it resolved that: the 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church direct the Stated Clerk and/or the National Leadership Team to communicate with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) requesting the release of foreign mission endowments and bequests to Presbyterian mission agencies actually engaged in foreign mission.

/s/ Rufus T Burton, Clerk

/s/Glen Holman, Moderator

2 May 2025

45-35 *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*
From the Presbytery Review Committee

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 45th General Assembly **DIRECT** the Office of the General Assembly to upload digital copies of General Assembly Minutes from meetings 1 through 26.

Rationale:

The Presbytery Review Committee observes that the *Acts of Assembly* for Assemblies 1 – 26 are not available in either printed or downloadable digital form and haven't been for several years. The continued availability of the history of our denomination is of value both historically and legally, the committee encourages the Office of the General Assembly to treat the completed digital preservation of those documents as a high priority in 2025/2026.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-prc

45-36 *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*
Overture from the Presbytery of Rivers and Lakes

In-person Electronic Voting

That the Moderator directs the National Leadership Team to investigate and report on the potential use of in-person electronic voting devices for use at the annual General Assembly meeting. Such a report shall include but not be limited to the potential strengths or weaknesses associated with such devices, the mode of obtainment (i.e. rent, lease, purchase, etc.) and financial considerations associated with each mode of obtainment, the logistic or facility conditions expected by potential host locations, and what amendment(s) may be required for the *Rules for Assembly* if such devices were employed. This report from the National Leadership Team shall include recommendations to either:

- 1) pursue electronic voting at General Assembly, or
- 2) not pursue electronic voting at General Assembly, or
- 3) propose an amended solution to address the practical matters raised in this overture. This report shall be provided no later than the 46th General Assembly.

Rivers and Lakes Overture



Rivers & Lakes Presbytery hereby respectfully overtures the 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church with consideration to a proposed amendment to the *Rules for Assembly*:

Whereas the *Book of Government* grants the authority and responsibility of Presbyteries “to overture the General Assembly on those matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church,” (BOG 19-4.C.2); and

Whereas the Elders of Christ’s Church, gathered in the General Assembly, consent to be ordered by the *Rules for Assembly*; and

Whereas the *Rules for Assembly* states, “Except as otherwise specifically provided in these *Rules*, ‘Robert’s Rules of Order’ shall be the standard in parliamentary procedure” and only specifies one instance of special provision (“Short Form of Voting” *Rules for Assembly* XIV.14-3.); and

Whereas Robert’s Rules of Order in the 12th edition added consideration for Electronic or Machine Voting (45:42-43) by stating the following: “In many organizations - especially in those comprising hundreds of voters - the process of verifying and counting votes is greatly simplified by the use of electronic or mechanical voting devices, such as handheld keypads or standalone voting machines. The use of such devices to conduct voting may be directed by a special rule of order or convention standing rule or, for a particular vote, by a motion relating to methods of voting and the polls. Their use to fulfill a ballot requirement in the bylaws may be directed in the same manner, provided that the devices meet the criteria for a ballot vote as stated in [RRoO 12th ed.] 45:18. Members must be able to indicate their choices without revealing how they have voted. If the devices are to be used for an election, provision must be made to allow voters to cast write-in votes. If the devices are to be used to conduct voting on several questions or several independent offices simultaneously, then they must be programmed to allow the number of votes cast for purposes of computing the majority to be tallied independently for each question or office (see [RRoO 12th ed.] 45:36). Where such devices are to be used, the following considerations are important:

- Preparations for the meeting should be made in consultation with the person in charge of installing the devices and overseeing their use, so that all adjustments required by the particular conditions of the meeting can be provided for.
- Persons who are to tend the devices during voting must be carefully instructed in their duties, and must be able to explain the use of the devices to voters.
- If there are likely to be many voters who have never used the devices, it may be advisable to have a device available for voters' inspection on a day previous to the meeting or to conduct a practice vote at the start of the meeting.”; and

40 **Whereas** the 44th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church experienced significant delay in the
41 expedient execution of business due to repeated inconsistent voting procedures, whether at the
42 direction of the Moderator, or upon appeal of the Moderator's ruling(s) by divisions of the house as
43 properly called for by commissioner(s) to the Assembly; and
44

45 **Whereas** the *Rules for Assembly* assigns matters of administrative oversight and denominational development
46 to the National Leadership Team (Rules for Assembly X.10-1.A); and
47

48 **Whereas** the *Book of Government* rightly identifies the responsibility of the General Assembly to the high calling
49 of organizing "itself as it deems best for the propagation of the gospel, the advancement of the Kingdom,
50 and the edification of the whole Church" (G. 20-4.A.1); and since meetings of the General Assembly ought
51 to be as effective as possible in execution of Christ's government upon the earth through His Visible
52 Kingdom, the Church;
53


54 **Therefore, be it resolved** that Rivers & Lakes Presbytery overtures the 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical
55 Presbyterian Church to submit the following motion:
56

57 MOTION: That the Moderator direct the National Leadership Team to investigate and
58 report on the potential use of in-person electronic voting devices for use at the annual
59 General Assembly meeting. Such a report shall include but not be limited to the potential
60 strengths or weaknesses associated with such devices, the mode of obtainment (i.e. rent,
61 lease, purchase, etc.) and financial considerations associated with each mode of
62 obtainment, the logistic or facility conditions expected by potential host locations, and
63 what amendment(s) may be required for the *Rules for Assembly* if such devices were
64 employed. This report from the National Leadership Team shall include recommendations
65 to either: 1) pursue electronic voting at General Assembly, or 2) not pursue electronic
66 voting at General Assembly, or 3) propose an amended solution to address the practical
67 matters raised in this overture. This report shall be provided no later than the 46th General
68 Assembly.
69

70 Approved by Rivers & Lakes Presbytery at its 44th Stated Meeting, April 25, 2025.
71

72 
73

74 RE George Kalemkarian, Moderator



TE Annie Rose, Stated Clerk

45-37 *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*
From the National Leadership Team

The NLT recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the [FY26 Administrative Budget](#).

<http://www.epconnect.org/2025report-nlt>



FY26 Budget Request

	FY25 Actual through March	Annualized/ Projected FY25 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY26 Request	Comments
Revenue					
Total POI	\$2,028,521	\$2,645,211	\$2,561,284	\$2,724,567	Projected based on actual + budget for Apr-Jun; Budget = projected +3%
Service Provider Income (SPA)	\$487,250	\$649,667	\$533,265	\$561,262	
Other Revenue and Support					
Pledge			\$40,000	\$40,000	
Great Commission Fund			\$44,000	\$0	
Unrealized Gains	\$59,822	\$89,733			Investment appreciation
Interest and Dividends	\$83,410	\$111,213	\$95,000	\$105,653	
EPC Total Support and Revenue	\$2,659,003	\$3,495,824	\$3,273,550	\$3,431,482	
Expenses					
Administration					
Staff Costs					
Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$1,543,999	\$2,058,665	\$1,793,171	\$2,032,097	
Staff Events/Celebrations	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Professional Expense Allowance	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	
Continuing Education/Training	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0	
Total Staff Costs	\$1,557,999	\$2,072,665	\$1,809,171	\$2,034,097	
Staff Travel - OGA staff					
Airfare	\$3,057	\$4,076	\$4,500	\$0	
Lodging	\$408	\$544	\$6,500	\$0	
Car Rental	\$424	\$565	\$2,500	\$0	
Meals	\$257	\$343	\$700	\$0	
Taxi/Tolls/Parking	\$392	\$523	\$1,150	\$0	
Travel Mileage/Fuel	\$89	\$119	\$1,000	\$0	
Total Staff Travel	\$4,627	\$6,169	\$16,350	\$0	
Executive Travel - Stated Clerk and Moderator					
Airfare	\$21,002	\$28,003	\$22,000	\$14,000	
Lodging	\$3,360	\$4,480	\$6,500	\$6,500	
Car Rental	\$1,232	\$1,643	\$4,800	\$4,800	
Meals	\$956	\$1,275	\$1,400	\$1,400	
Taxi/Tolls/Parking	\$1,352	\$1,803	\$1,900	\$1,900	
Travel Mileage/Fuel	\$120	\$160	\$1,400	\$1,400	
Total Travel	\$28,022	\$37,363	\$38,000	\$30,000	
Executive Travel - Assistant Stated Clerk					
Airfare	\$843	\$1,124	\$19,000	\$14,000	
Lodging	\$3,295	\$4,393	\$7,000	\$7,000	
Car Rental	\$1,424	\$1,899	\$2,500	\$2,500	
Meals	\$720	\$960	\$2,200	\$2,200	
Taxi/Tolls/Parking	\$2,350	\$3,133	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Travel Mileage/Fuel	\$423	\$564	\$2,300	\$2,300	
Total Travel	\$9,055	\$12,073	\$35,000	\$30,000	
Stated Clerk Professional Expense Allowance	\$3,420	\$4,560	\$4,000	\$4,000	
Commercial Insurance	\$61,711	\$61,711	\$63,680	\$67,882	Alliant estimated a 10% increase for the various line items
Tech Services					
Software Subscriptions	\$86,392	\$115,189	\$96,311	\$136,150	
Equipment	\$8,771	\$11,695	\$30,000	\$18,535	
Total Tech Services	\$95,163	\$126,884	\$126,311	\$154,685	
General Office					
Rent	\$188,946	\$251,928	\$273,845	\$281,483	3% annual increase according to the contract
Telephone and Internet	\$10,317	\$13,756	\$36,049	\$14,700	
Printing	\$8,719	\$11,625	\$2,200	\$8,900	
Postage and Shipping	\$7,305	\$9,740	\$2,500	\$8,100	
Office Supplies	\$12,440	\$16,587	\$16,000	\$16,200	
Bank Fees	\$21,923	\$29,231	\$26,000	\$29,200	Primarily Truist investment management fees
CC Processing Fees	\$2,433	\$3,244	\$9,000	\$3,200	Online e-giving fees
Memberships and Subscriptions	\$2,444	\$3,259	\$5,000	\$3,600	
Business Meals	\$5,278	\$7,037	\$9,000	\$5,000	In town or in-office; business purposes
Miscellaneous	\$252	\$336	\$2,000	\$1,000	
Van Expense	\$581	\$775	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Misc. Mtg. Expenses	\$63	\$84	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Total General Office	\$260,701	\$347,601	\$383,594	\$373,383	
Professional Services					
Audit Fees	\$28,175	\$37,600	\$37,600	\$40,700	
Legal Fees	\$4,024	\$6,898	\$5,000	\$7,000	
Professional Fees	\$3,015	\$5,169	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Total Professional Services	\$35,214	\$49,667	\$45,600	\$50,700	

	FY25 Actual through March	Annualized/ Projected FY25 Actual	FY25 Budget	FY26 Request	Comments
Church Planting					
Staffing/Leadership	\$49,452	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Church Health					
Mtgs/Training/Misc.	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Effective Biblical Leadership					
Leadership Institute at GA	\$0	\$0	\$4,600	\$0	
EBL - General	\$4,837	\$6,449	\$4,896	\$9,180	
Chaplain Endorser Travel	\$13,944	\$18,592	\$15,000	\$10,000	
Chaplains Work & Care Committee	\$6,106	\$8,141	\$9,400	\$10,200	
Disaster Relief Committee	\$11,221	\$14,961	\$9,400	\$8,000	
Ministerial Vocation Committee	\$20,575	\$27,433	\$17,600	\$18,720	
Next Gen Committee	\$1,636	\$2,181	\$7,200	\$7,830	
XP/Admin peer network	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	
7:9 Team	\$6,536	\$8,715	\$28,520	\$15,000	
Pastoral Letter Committee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,180	
Presbytery Min. Chairs	\$568	\$757	\$15,040	\$16,320	
Presbytery Moderators	\$9,554	\$12,739	\$0	\$14,390	
National Leadership Team Mtg.	\$20,645	\$27,527	\$44,800	\$25,000	
Presbytery Stated Clerks Mtg.	\$14,735	\$19,647	\$17,600	\$15,000	
Nominating Committee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Permanent Judicial Committee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Presbytery Review Committee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Theology Committee	\$390	\$520	\$11,280	\$6,120	
Book of Discipline Task Force	\$0	\$0	\$9,400	\$0	
AIC - SSA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,000	
AIC - Domestic Abuse	\$0	\$0	\$13,160	\$0	
AIC - Ordination	\$10,533	\$14,044	\$16,920	\$12,000	
Total Effective Biblical Leadership	\$127,280	\$169,707	\$232,816	\$196,940	
Global Movement					
ESG POI	\$344,849	\$449,686	\$435,418	\$408,685	
Fraternal Relations Committee	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	
Fraternal Relations Association dues	\$18,273	\$24,364	\$23,610	\$17,110	
Other Global Movement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Total Global Movement	\$363,122	\$474,050	\$459,028	\$429,795	
Total Operating Expenses	\$2,605,766	\$3,422,450	\$3,273,550	\$3,431,482	
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	\$53,237	\$73,374	\$0	\$0	

45-38 *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*
From the National Leadership Team

The NLT recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the [FY26 Special Projects](#).

www.epconnect.org/2025report-nlt



FY26 Special Projects

Account	FY25 Request	Contributions as of Feb 2025	Feb 2025 Balance	FY26 Request
Ministerial Vocation				
Care of Pastors and Spouses	\$5,000	\$20,847	\$54,717	\$5,000
Care of Chaplains	\$10,000	\$10,397	\$33,123	\$10,000
Small Church Network	\$5,000	\$469	\$18,341	\$5,000
7:9 Team	\$25,000	\$0	\$4,135	\$25,000
	\$45,000	\$31,713	\$110,316	\$45,000
Student and College Ministries				
Next Gen Ministry	\$4,000	\$0	\$5,798	\$4,000
	\$4,000	\$0	\$5,798	\$4,000
National Outreach				
Church Planting Initiatives	\$250,000	\$38,699	\$316,158	\$250,000



Account	FY25 Request	Contributions as of Feb 2025	Feb 2025 Balance	FY26 Request
World Outreach				
Bangladeshi Project	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000
Indonesia Sea Cucumber Project	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Lebanon Philemon Preschool Project	\$280,000	\$161,818	\$383,633	\$280,000
Food Vouchers for Syrian Refugees	\$20,000	\$120	\$521	\$20,000
The Crochet Project	\$20,000	\$6,539	\$1,100	\$20,000
	\$370,000	\$168,477	\$385,254	\$470,000

45-39 *(to the Ministerial Vocation Standing Committee)*
From the Permanent Judicial Commission

The **Permanent Judicial Commission** recommends to the 45th General Assembly that recommendation 45-40 **be ANSWERED** by the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards revisions to **G. 11-2** as addressed in recommendation 45-10.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-pjc

[Midwest Presbytery Overture](#)



February 13, 2025

To: TE Dean Weaver, Stated Clerk, and the Office of the General Assembly

Subj: Two Overtures from the Presbytery of the Midwest

Please find two overtures attached from the Presbytery of the Midwest.

The first is a request for the Permanent Committee on Theology to review the Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage. This overture was approved at our 183rd Stated Meeting on September 13-14, 2024 and then amended at our 184th Stated Meeting on February 7-8, 2025.

The second is an overture to amend the Book of Government to allow ruling elders to serve as advisors to candidates under care. This was approved at our 184th Stated Meeting on February 7-8, 2025.

We are grateful for the General Assembly's consideration of these two matters.

To God be the glory,

[Pete Scribner \(Feb 12, 2025 16:06 EST\)](#)

TE Pete Scribner

Stated Clerk

Presbytery of the Midwest



Overture of the Presbytery of the Midwest (EPC)
to
the 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
on the matter of
A Revision of the EPC Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage

Whereas, The EPC Position Paper on Human Sexuality rightly begins by acknowledging “In a time when views of human sexuality and marriage are rapidly changing, we believe it is necessary and helpful to state clearly and compassionately to the church and the world our beliefs about God’s design for human sexuality” and

Whereas, the 37th General Assembly provided helpful guidance to the Church and the world that was both clearly stated and compassionate in its adoption of the Position Paper on Human Sexuality as to God’s design and purposes for sexual unions and

Whereas, the same position paper offers only limited commentary on the institution of marriage and none on the challenge of divorce and

Whereas, the extant EPC Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage does not achieve the level of clarity and compassion of the EPC Position Paper on Human Sexuality and

Whereas, the extant EPC Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage fails to address many questions the contemporary reader has regarding a biblical theology of divorce and remarriage therefore

Be it resolved that the 45th General Assembly of the EPC direct the Permanent Committee on Theology to review the current position paper on Divorce and Remarriage; to study the scriptures, the Westminster Confession, the EPC Position Paper on Human Sexuality and other relevant theological works and to revise the EPC Position Paper on Divorce and Remarriage to the end that it clearly and compassionately communicates what we believe the Bible teaches about the matter to a contemporary audience.

Be it further resolved that the committee is directed to address such questions including but not limited to the following:

- What constitutes a true marriage in the eyes of God? (The State identifies some unions as “marriages” that the Church would not accept as such. It is therefore incumbent upon the Church to clarify its teaching as to precisely when a relationship becomes a marriage).
- What biblical guidance is given to the wife or husband who suffers abuse at the hands of their spouse?
- What biblical guidance is given to the wife or husband whose children suffer abuse at the hands of the other spouse?



- What is the definition of abuse, and specifically the form(s) of abuse that may prove to be sufficient grounds for a biblical divorce?
- What is the counsel of the Church in the case where both partners are penitent yet remain unwilling or unable to manifest God's design and purpose for their marriage? (In this question the assembly critiques the assumption in section V of the existing position paper that there exists in all or most cases of marital duress an "offending" and an "offended" party. In reality this dichotomy often proves false).
- What counsel does the Assembly give couples who have experienced the trauma of adultery? The extant position paper directs only that forgiveness be offered. How is the Church to seek to protect, in the case of adultery, the offended party if and when he/she offers forgiveness and reconciliation and how does the Assembly counsel such couples to move toward reconciliation?
- What is the counsel of the Church to persons who are, in the eyes of the state, married in a same-sex union and, potentially, with children?
- What resources does the Assembly recommend for further study, premarital counseling and marriage counseling?

Be it further resolved that the committee shall report its preliminary findings/draft revision to the 46th General Assembly and submit its final draft for consideration by the 47th General Assembly.



Overture Concerning Ruling Elders as Candidate Advisors

Summary

The Presbytery of the Midwest overtures the General Assembly to edit the Book of Government 11-2.E. to allow for ruling elders to serve as advisors to candidates under care.

Proposed Change

Current Reading: The Presbytery shall assign **a Teaching Elder** in the Presbytery, ordinarily not the Candidate's Pastor, to serve as advisor to the Candidate. The advisor and the Candidate's Pastor shall submit regular reports to the appropriate committee on the progress of the Candidate.

Proposed Reading: The Presbytery shall assign **a Teaching Elder or a Ruling Elder** in the Presbytery, ordinarily not the Candidate's Pastor, to serve as an advisor to the Candidate. The advisor and the Candidate's Pastor shall submit regular reports to the appropriate committee on the progress of the Candidate.

Rationale

A candidate under care needs two types of supervision, spiritual supervision as they discern a call to ministry and administrative supervision from the presbytery as they seek to navigate the complicated process of ordination. A candidate's pastor (or pastoral designee) is well equipped for the first task, and a candidate's advisor is well positioned for the second. This is in line with the Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidate Committees, which describes advisors as "project managers" who connect the candidate to the presbytery.

In the Midwest Presbytery, the candidate care director defaults to this 'project manager' role since the candidate's advisor typically does not serve on the Ministerial Committee. At other times, a ruling elder has been assigned as a 'liaison' to fulfill this role instead, but the Book of Order forbids a ruling elder from serving as the candidate's advisor. In these cases the advisor is a third elder with an unclear responsibility for the candidate.

This change would allow us to simply have two roles for the candidate: their pastor, who provides them career guidance and oversees their discipleship, and their advisor, who serves on the Ministerial Committee and oversees the candidacy process.

45-40 *(to the Ministerial Vocation Standing Committee)*
Overture from the Presbytery of the Midwest

To amend *Book of Government* 11-2 E

Current Wording	Proposed Wording <i><u>bold underline italics</u></i>
E. The Presbytery shall assign a Teaching Elder in the Presbytery, ordinarily not the Candidate's Pastor, to serve as advisor to the Candidate. The advisor and the Candidate's Pastor shall submit regular reports to the appropriate committee on the progress of the Candidate.	E. The Presbytery shall assign a Teaching Elder <i><u>or a Ruling Elder</u></i> in the Presbytery, ordinarily not the Candidate's Pastor, to serve as an advisor to the Candidate. The advisor and the Candidate's Pastor shall submit regular reports to the appropriate committee on the progress of the Candidate.

Rationale:

Candidates need both spiritual and procedural guidance. The Candidate's Pastor should provide the spiritual guidance, but the procedural guidance may be provided from either a Teaching Elder or a Ruling Elder thoroughly acquainted with the process of preparing for ordination.

Midwest Presbytery Overture

45-41 (to the Ministerial Vocation Standing Committee)
From the Presbytery Review Committee

Act of Assembly 12-11

Current Language <i>Act of Assembly 12-11</i>	Proposed Language: for new <i>Act of Assembly additions</i> , noted in <i>bold italics</i> , deletions
<p>12-11 The Assembly adopts a policy regarding approval and recording of ministers' terms of call, superseding the actions of the 18th and 31st General Assemblies (<i>Acts 98-04, p. 185</i>) and <i>11-08, p. 200</i>). (Minutes 32-56)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The initial terms of call shall be approved in public by both congregations and presbyteries, using the forms found in the Book of Order and <i>Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees</i>. 2. Changes in terms of call must be noted and voted upon by presbyteries on recommendation from the Ministerial Committee. The changes may be noted as either a dollar amount, or percentage amount, with only the change, not the new total, noted. 3. Background or supporting material regarding terms of call shall be made available to the Presbytery Review Committee through the Stated Clerk upon the Committee's request. 	<p>25-XX The Assembly adopts a policy regarding approval and recording of ministers' terms of call, superseding the actions of the 18th and 31st General Assemblies (<i>Acts 98-04, p. 185</i>) and <i>11-08, p. 200</i>). (Minutes 32-56)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The initial terms of call shall be approved in public by both congregations and by <u>presbyteries, <i>either the presbytery or by the Ministerial Committee of the Presbytery per G. 21-2D.1.f.</i></u> using the forms found in the Book of Order and <i>Procedure Manual for Ministerial and Candidates Committees</i>. 2. Changes in terms of call <u><i>for all active TE's</i></u> must be noted and voted upon by presbyteries on recommendation from <u><i>approved by</i></u> the Ministerial Committee <u><i>unless requested by the presbytery itself.</i></u> The changes may be noted as either a dollar amount, or percentage amount, with only the change, not the new total, noted. 3. <u><i>Terms of Call and</i></u> background or supporting material regarding terms of call shall be made available to the <u><i>both members of the presbytery and/or the</i></u> Presbytery Review Committee through the <u><i>presbytery</i></u> Stated Clerk upon the Committee's request.

Rationale:

The Review Committee finds that only six of the 16 presbyteries currently comply with the AoA 12-11 as it is currently written.

- a. The Review Committee observes that many presbyteries find that the significant variations in church size and “local” costs are so variable within a given presbytery that it is not realistic to expect the entire presbytery to properly judge the relative adequacy of any individual proposed Terms of Call. The Ministerial Committee is usually much better able to make that assessment based on its required review of the annual reports from each TE in the presbytery.
- b. Changes to item “c” still provide the members of Presbytery with an ability to review any specific Terms of Call if need be.

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45-42 (to the floor)
From the Presbytery Review Committee

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the Exceptions requiring responses and found in the 2024 minutes of 12 of our 16 Presbyteries.

Alleghenies

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

- a. Assistant Pastor Wes Piel – term not specified. 50, pg. 1085, 13C, G. 10-5, 10-6, Acts of Assembly 02-04.
- b. Assistant Pastor Aaron Badenhop – term not specified. Assistant Pastor Rob Peterson – term not specified 51, pg. 1151, 19B, C5, pg. 1223, 09A. G. 10-5, 10-6, Acts of Assembly 02-04.
- c. Aaron Badenhop – no ordination date recorded, Elija Bombeck – no ordination date recorded, Rob Peterson, Mark Simonds and David O’Leary – no ordination date recorded. 51, pg. 1151, pg. 1153, 19B and 19G, C5, pg. 1224, 09D, G. 13-1A. G. 21-1C.2.b
- d. No term specified for OOB call, TE Brian Carpenter. 49, pg. 1041, 10A-2nd bullet point, 50, pg. 1083, 13A, G. 10-8B.2a

Central Carolinas

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

- a. Candidate Drew McCarty’s position on Westminster not recorded. 5, no pg.#, 19, G. 12-4.
- b. Candidate Katie Piquette – no period of time recorded. Candidates Eric Bartel and Joe Carvajal – no period of time recorded. 6, no pg.#, 26, 7, no pg.#, 16:3e & f. G. 10-8B.2a.
- c. No details for retiring pastors TE Rob Chambers and TE Steve Wilkinson. 6, no pg.#, 27, G. 14-1, G. 15.
- d. No inactive roll listed. 5/6/7, G. 19-2. Acts of Assembly 05-08.

Central South

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

- a. No defined time period for TE Wayne Denny, TE John Richards, and TE Dennis Hermerding serving out of bounds. Mtg. 121, p.1073, 121.09 5.c, Mtg. 122, p.1094, 122.08 3.d, Mtg. 122, p. 1113, 122.23. G. 10-8.B.2.a.
- b. No specific duties listed for TE Sir Gregory Thornton and TE Eli Morris as Associate Pastor. Mtg. 121, p.1074, 121.09 5.h, Mtg. 123, p.1121, 123.07 4.b. G. 10-5
- c. No defined time period for TE Hannah Attaway as Assistant Pastor. Mtg. 121, p.1080, 121.10. G. 10-6.A
- d. No specific duties listed for TE David Bowen as Assistant Pastor even though it is a

- renewal. Mtg. 122, p.1094, 122.08 3.b. G. 10-6.A
- e. No specific duties listed for the following Assistant Pastors even though they are renewals: Brett Wynne, Barton Kimbrough, Will Weir and Greg Aydt. Mtg. 123, p.1121, 123.07 4.d-g. G. 10-6.A.
- f. No defined time period for TE Damon Conley as Assistant Pastor. Mtg. 123, p.1146, 123.20. G. 10-6.A.
- g. No listing of additional RE representatives allocated to churches to maintain a 1:2 ratio of TEs to REs. Mtg. 121, Mtg. 122, and Mtg. 123. G. 19-2A.4.b, Acts of Assembly 05-08

Coastal Mid-Atlantic

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

- a. This section was a narrative of the finances of the Presbytery. No tabular finance report was included. Also, no budget was included. Also, no audit or review of the financials was included. Mtg. 5, p.7, 1.12, Mtg. 6, p.6, 1.19. Rules for Assembly IX 9-12, G. 15.
- b. Candidate for transfer TE Michael Johnson (from RCA). His exception to Westminster Confession was detailed in the minutes. Mtg. 5, p.8, 1.14.02. Unless this has been specifically delegated the Ministerial Committee, the Presbytery would need to know what the TE's exception is, in order to allow or disallow it, but the exception should not be recorded. G. 12-4
- c. There was no listing of attendees – TEs or RE's. Excused TE's were listed but their church was not recorded. Mtg. 5, Mtg. 6, Mtg. 5, p.8, 1.15.03, Mtg. 6, p.4, 1.17.01. Acts of Assembly 00-11.
- d. No record of Session Minutes reviewed. Mtg. 5, Mtg. 6, Mtg. 7. G. 19-4A7, Acts of Assembly 07-08.
- e. Membership of the Presbytery's Ministerial Committee at its first meeting each year was not recorded. Mtg. 5, Mtg. 6, Mtg. 7. G. 21-2.
- f. Minutes did not include a date for installation of TE Michael Johnson, or where he is to be installed as Assistant Pastor. Mtg 5, p.8, 1.14.04. G. 13.
- g. Parity: approved that Churches may field three (3) RE per TE. Did not list churches to send 3 RE's, apparently intended to mean every church in the Presbytery. Mtg 6, p.2, 1.07. Acts of Assembly 05-08.3, G. 19-2A.4b.
- h. Ascending Overture: There was a vote to concur with another church's Ascending Overture – but no summary of the overture was recorded. Mtg. 6, p.3, 1.11. G. 19-4C2, Acts of Assembly 07-08.
- i. RE Michelle Munger, candidate under care, no advisor recorded. Mtg. 6, p.4, 1.17.04. G. 11-2E, Acts of Assembly 06-08.
- j. No term of service or area of responsibility specified for TE Michael Johnson. Also confusing that the floor examination (5/7/1:14) was separate from the other details in the MC report. Mtg. 5, p.8, 1.15.06.01. G. 10-5, 10-6, Acts of Assembly 02-04.
- k. No details on retirement of TE Mark Jumper. Mtg. 6, p.4, 1.17.02. G. 15
- l. No election of moderator and stated clerk. Mtg. 5, Mtg. 6. G. 19-3.
- m. The scattered reporting of candidates examined, although the candidates were CPs, makes it difficult to assess. All the aspects of the exams should be reported under the Ministerial Committee and each candidates' exam should be reported

separately. Very confusing and hard to follow. Mtg. 7, p. 8, 1.26-1.27. G. 12-2 through 5, G. 13-1 through 7, G. 19-4B1-7, G. 21-1A.2, G. 21-1C.2.b.

- n. Presbyteries shall submit signed copies of their approved minutes for all meetings of the completed calendar year to the General Assembly no later than March 1 of the following year. Minutes for meeting #7 submitted on April 2, 2025. G. 19-5D, Rules for Assembly 9-12G.1.

East

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

- a. No definite period listed for TE Nathan Cotton, TE Isaiah Nengean, and TE Jay Lee, Assistant Pastors. Mtg. 130, p.11-13, p.15, 130-14E and 14I. G. 10-6 A.
- b. No definite period listed for TE Anthony Bianchini and TE Art Lindsley Out of Bounds. Mtg. 130, p.14, 130-14I. G. 10-8 B.2.a.
- c. The minutes were not signed by the Moderator. Mtg. 130 and Mtg. 131, last pages. G. 19-5 D.
- d. 6 TE and 4 RE on Ministerial Committee not within 1 of each other. Mtg. 131, p.7, 131-12B, Mtg. 132, p.7, 132-13A. G. 21-2 A.
- e. No mention of election of Moderator. Mtg. 129, Mtg. 130, Mtg. 131, and Mtg. 132. G. 19-3 A.
- f. No Parity list provided to make sure there are 2 RE for each TE. Mtg. 130, Mtg. 131, and Mtg. 132. G. 19-2 A.4b, Acts of Assembly 05-08 3.
- g. There is no record in the Minutes that Candidates coming under Care 6 months minimum membership in an EPC church. Mtg. 130, p.10, 130-14C, Mtg. 131, p.8, 131-12D. G. 11-2A.
- h. There is no record in the Minutes that the Presbytery has received Endorsement forms from church sessions for Candidates coming under Care. Mtg. 130, p.10, 14-C, Mtg. 131, p.8, 131-12D. G. 11- 2A and Attachment 7, Procedure Manual.
- i. There is no record in the Minutes that Candidates coming under Care were assigned an advisor. Mtg. 130, p.11, 14-C. G. 11-2E.
- j. There is no record in the Minutes that the process of the dissolution of a local church or mission church was followed. Mtg. 132, p.29, 132-18B. G. 5-9.
- k. There is no record in the Minutes that the 132nd Meeting was closed in prayer. Mtg. 132, p.32, 132-29. G. 16-1A.
- l. There is no record in the Minutes listing the members of the Ministerial Committee. "Minutes must report the membership of the Ministerial Committee...to define for that year that its ratio of Teacher Elders to Ruling Elders meets the requirements of G. 21-2 for that Committee." Mtg. 130, Mtg. 131, and Mtg. 132. G. 21-2.

Florida and the Caribbean

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

- a. No primary responsibilities or definite period listed for TE Charles Ruelke, TE Jude Vilma, and TE Brian Eida as Assistant Pastors. Mtg. 101, p.10-11, 101.13, Mtg. 101, p.12, 101.16, Mtg. 102, p.18-21, 102.19. G. 10-6 A.
- b. REs for Admin Commission for TE Zachary McIntosh need to come from at least 2

- churches. The TEs came from different churches. Mtg. 101, p.13, 101.16. G. 9-6a
- c. No definite period listed for TE Mike Jones, TE Eric McEwan, and TE John Quigley for out of bounds position. Mtg. 102, p.11, 102.12 omnibus motion 02, Mtg. 102, p.14-17, 102.12, Mtg. 103, p.11, 103.12 omnibus motion 4. G. 10-8 B.2.a.
- d. No primary responsibilities listed for TE Lou Kaloger Associate Pastor and TE Charlie Halleran Associate Pastor. Mtg. 102, p.12, 102.12. G. 10-5. e. Purpose of Called meeting not stated. 10th Called Meeting, p.1, 10.01. G. 19-5 B

Great Plains

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

- a. No differentiation between active, inactive, and retired in the rolls. Mtg. 31, p.648 and p.650-654. Mtg. 32, p.1-5. Mtg. 33, p.662 and p.665. G. 19-2. Acts of Assembly 05-08
- b. Membership of Ministerial Committee not reported. Mtg. 31, Mtg.32, Mtg. 33. G. 21-2.

Gulf South

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

- a. Minutes must report actions of Commissions but not include the entire report. Mtg. 29, p.183-184, 29.09, Mtg. 30, p.198-199, 30.07-08. G. 21-1 A.2.
- b. No mention that candidates Mansfield and Oh were examined by the Presbytery. Mtg. 29, p.185, 29.12. G. 11-2 C.
- c. No closing prayer. Mtg. 30, p.206, 30.17. G. 16-1 A.
- d. No definite period listed for TE Miguel Broche as Assistant Pastor. Mtg. 31, p.222, 31.21 6. G. 10-6 A.

Midwest

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

- a. Approve move of TE Ian Leslie to the Retired Roll (active or inactive?). The minutes must report all the steps for retiring TE's. Mtg. 181, p.12, G. 15-1.
- b. A motion was made and approved in an Executive Session. "An Executive Session may be used for the discussion of sensitive and/or confidential topics, but any motions resulting from such discussion by the presbytery must be done in an open session so that the action may be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting. Mtg. 182, p.14, 01. G. 2-4A.
- c. There is no record of the period of time for the call of Assistant Pastor TE Ferguson. Mtg. 182, p.9, 182-01. G. 10-6A.
- d. There is no record of a congregational meeting to concur on the dissolution of the calls of TE Jerry Van Auken, TE Briyan Gregory, TE Kevin Chen, TE Jeremy McNeill, TE Brandon LaFontaine and TE Josh Boehr Mtg. 181, p.11, 181-15, Mtg. 182, p.11, 182-07, Mtg. 183, p.620, 20. G. 14-1A.
- e. There is no record of the process for dismissing a local church. Mtg. 182, p.11.08,

G. 5-9.

- f. There is no record in the Minutes that the Presbytery reviewed any of the member churches Session Minutes. Mtg. 181, Mtg. 182, and Mtg. 183. Acts of Assembly 07-08.

Pacific Northwest

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

- a. No record in the Minutes that the Dissolution of Calls for the purposes of retirement were approved at a congregational meeting for purpose of retirement for TE George Dakin, TE Mark Toone, TE Dennis Yeung, and TE Ehud Garcia. All required Steps must be listed. Mtg 20, pg. 396, 20-34, Mtg 21, pg. 419, 21-35. G. 14.1B.
- b. No list of Churches is shown with the additional RE's needed from each to achieve a parity of two RE's for each TE at all Presbytery meetings. Mtg 19, Mtg 20, Mtg 21. G. 14-1B

Southeast

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

- a. No Notation of Opening with Prayer. No Notation of Closing with Prayer Mtg. 121, p.293, 121-01. Mtg. 123, p.370, 123-26. G. 16-1A, Rules for Assembly 9-12G2.
- b. TE Fischler was received as a member of the presbytery however, his status is not noted – Pastor, Teacher, Evangelist, etc. Mtg. 122, p.328-329, 122-11.4. G. 9-5A-E

West

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

- a. The names of churches whose session's minutes have been reviewed are not recorded. Mtg. 132, p.4, 132-5D. G. 19-4A7, Acts of Assembly 07-08.
- b. Members of the Ministerial Commission are not listed. Mtg. 131, p.6, 131.6. G. 21-2.

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45-43 *(to the floor)*
From the Presbytery Review Committee

The Presbytery Review Committee recommends that the 45th General Assembly recognize the **APPROVAL** of the responses from the Presbyteries to those exceptions sent to them by the 44th General Assembly.

Rationale:

Those responses were received in a timely fashion from all of those Presbyteries cited at the 44th General Assembly and reviewed by members of the Committee. The presbyteries reviewed include Alleghenies, Central Carolinas, Central South, Coastal Mid Atlantic, East, Florida and the Caribbean, Great Plains, Gulf South, Midwest, Pacific Northwest, Southeast, and the West.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-prc

45-44 (to the floor)
From the Permanent Judicial Commission

The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 45th General Assembly sustain the PJC's rulings related to Beverly Heights Church.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-pjc

45-45 *(to the World Outreach Standing Committee)*
From the World Outreach Committee

The World Outreach Committee recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** Crossworld as a Cooperative Agency.

Rationale:

As an approved Co-op agency, Crossworld would provide WO the ability to send more workers to the mission field, specifically to locations with least access to the gospel, through professional work placement options. Attaining visas as a religious worker is no longer a viable pathway to establish oneself in most countries that are void of or opposed to the gospel and the church. Crossworld helps place global workers into legitimate professional jobs in communities in need of those skills and also desperately in need of the light, love, and truth of the gospel. Crossworld has been sending workers for 90 years and has an extensive network of marketplace opportunities that help people of all kinds of vocations find their place in gospel-sharing, disciple-making, and church-planting, utilizing a professional platform.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-wo

45-46 *(to the Fraternal Relations Standing Committee)*
From the Fraternal Relations Committee

The Fraternal Relations Committee recommends that the 45th General Assembly **WITHDRAW** its formal fraternal relationship with the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar; and that future relationship be through the World Reformed Fellowship.

Rationale:

The Permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations evaluated the relationship between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and The Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar and found no evidence that the relationship, as defined in *Acts of the Assembly* 16-07 was in practice. Numerous attempts to contact representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Madagascar were unsuccessful. As a result, the committee does not believe this relationship meets the criteria for Fraternal Relations established in *Acts of the Assembly* 12-10. However, relations may still be maintained through the World Reformed Fellowship.

www.epconnect.org/2025report-fraternalrelations

45-47 *(to the Administration Standing Committee)*
From the National Leadership Team

The National Leadership Team recommends that the 45th General Assembly **APPROVE** the [44th General Assembly Minutes](#).

www.epconnect.org/2025report-nlt

45-48 *(to the floor)*
Possible Omnibus Motion

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

The following Committees and Teams have no recommendations:

Chaplain Work and Care Committee

www.epconnect.org/2025report-cwcc

Church Health Leadership Team

www.epconnect.org/2025report-churchhealth

Church Planting Leadership Team

www.epconnect.org/2025report-churchplanting

Disaster Relief Committee

www.epconnect.org/2025report-drc

Effective Biblical Leadership Team

www.epconnect.org/2025report-ebf

Ministerial Vocation Committee

www.epconnect.org/2025report-mvc

Next Generation Ministries Council

www.epconnect.org/2025report-nextgen

Revelation 7:9 Team

www.epconnect.org/2025report-revelation79

Theology Committee

www.epconnect.org/2025report-theology