

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 of 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.