

**MINUTES
of the
45th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY**

**First Session
June 17, 2025**

45-01 OPENING WORSHIP

Worship began at 9:00 a.m. with leadership from the Ward Praise Team. The court continued in worship as noted below:

**ORDER OF WORSHIP
Tuesday morning, June 17, 2025
9:00 am**

Opening by Ward Praise Team

That's My King
Good Plans
Come Thou Font

Video re: E2025

Scripture

Hebrews 4: 12-13

Sermon

The Word of God

Rev. Dr. Michael Kruger

Benediction

The Assembly was dismissed after worship.

45-02 CONVENING OF THE 45th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 45th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Moderator, RE Victor Jones (Gulf South). The constituting prayer was offered by TE Michael Davis (Central South).

NEED prayer inserted here

45-03 Great Commission Share

RE Iris Antonucci (Pacific Southwest) shared a video featuring the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest's E2025 Partnership and brought a opening prayer lifting up the Pashtun people group.

45-04 INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. For ALL who wish to speak: Please prepare by reading all the information related to the motion.
- b. Step to one of the microphones on the floor.
 1. When you are acknowledged, state your name and your presbytery before making your remarks.
 2. You have 3 minutes to speak; you may not speak a second time until all others have had a chance to speak.
 3. If you intend to propose an amendment (or a substitute) to a motion, please prepare it as an email to gabusiness@epc.org before you present it. This gives our team time to make your amendment available on the screen to everyone.
- c. When a motion is considered, to ensure fairness, both speakers in favor of the motion and those not in favor of the motion will be chosen to speak in alternating order to the Assembly.
- d. Debate on a motion will not exceed 15 minutes; by majority vote debate may be extended for 5 minutes.
- e. The chair of the committee making the report may make the final statement as the debate ends.
- f. When debate ends, the motion will be presented and the opportunity to vote in favor of or not in favor of the motion. Ordinarily we will vote by voice, raising of hands or standing.

45-05 ADOPTION OF DOCKET

The Stated Clerk recommended the Adoption of the Docket.

ON MOTION The docket was adopted as follows:

45th General Assembly – Session 1

- 1.1 Business Convenes – Moderator RE Victor Jones
- 1.2 Constituting Prayer – TE Michael Davis

- 1.3 Great Commission Share and Opening Prayer – RE Iris Antonucci
E2025 Partnership of The Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest
- 1.4 “Instructions for Participating from the floor” – TE Dean Weaver
 - A. For ALL who wish to speak: Please prepare by reading all the information related to the motion.
 - B. Step to one of the microphones on the floor.
 1. When you are acknowledged, state your name and your presbytery before making your remarks.
 2. You have 3 minutes to speak; you may not speak a second time until all others have had a chance to speak.
 3. If you intend to propose an amendment (or a substitute) to a motion, please prepare it as an email to gabusiness@epc.org before you present it. This gives our team time to make your amendment available on the screen to everyone.
 - C. When a motion is considered, to ensure fairness, both speakers in favor of the motion and those not in favor of the motion will be chosen to speak to the Assembly.
 - D. Debate on a motion will not exceed 15 minutes; debate may be extended for 5 minutes.
 - E. The chair of the committee making the report may make the final statement as the debate ends.
 - F. When debate ends, the motion will be presented and the opportunity to vote in favor of or not in favor of the motion. Ordinarily we will vote by voice, raising of hands or by standing.
- 1.5 Approval of the Docket and Announcements – TE Dean Weaver
- 1.6 Local Arrangements / Announcements (if needed) – (Ward Church)
- 1.7 Election: Recording Clerks/Minutes Readers – Moderator RE Victor Jones
- 1.8 Opening Items – TE Dean Weaver
 - a. Call for the quorum
 - b. Enroll corresponding members –TE Samuel Sesay (EPC of Sierra Leone), TE Reggie Smith (Christian Reformed Church), TE Arman Arenbayev (The Evangelical Reformed Church of Kazakhstan), TE Trevor Gribben (The Presbyterian Church of Ireland), TE’s Ezzat Shaker, Refaat Fathy, Samuel Adel, Manassa Nessim, Samuel Rozfy Ibrahim and Tharwat Wahba (The Synod of the Nile).
- 1.9 Outgoing Moderator’s Remarks – Moderator TE Victor Jones
- 1.10 Presentation to Outgoing Moderator – TE Dean Weaver
- 1.11 Nominating Committee (I) partial report – TE Mike Goolsby
 - a. Election of Moderator of the 45th General Assembly
 - (1) **Recommendation 45-01** – Introduction and Nomination of Moderator of the 45th General Assembly
 - (2) Nominating speech – TE Mike Wright
 - (3) Election of the Moderator – Moderator RE Victor Jones

- (4) Investiture of the Moderator – Moderator RE Victor Jones
- (5) Prayer for the Moderator – TE Brad Strait
- (6) Remarks by Incoming Moderator – Moderator TE Dave Strunk
- b. Election of Moderator-Elect of the 45th GA
 - (1) **Recommendation 45-02** -Introduction and Nomination of Moderator-elect of the 45th General Assembly -TE Mike Goolsby
 - (2) Nominating Speech -TE Tom Ricks
 - (3) Election of the Moderator-elect - Moderator TE Dave Strunk
 - (4) Investiture of the Moderator-elect – Moderator TE Dave Strunk
 - (5) Prayer for the Moderator-elect - TE Shawn Robinson
 - (6) Remarks by Incoming Moderator-elect RE Jack Cathey

- 1.12 Reminder of Deadline for New Business -*noon Wednesday* - TE Dean Weaver
- 1.13 Introduction of Fraternal Guests -TE Alan Trafford
- 1.14 Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards -Partial Report –TE Julie Hawkins and TE Doug Resler
- 1.15 Ad-Interim Committee on SSA and Ordination Standards - Partial Report TE Cameron Shaffer and RE Carol Williams
- 1.16 Face-to-Face – TE Fred Lian
- 1.17 Closing Prayer and Great Commission Share – TE Rick Dietzman
E2025 Partnership of The Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest
- 1.18 Assembly Adjourns

45-06 Welcome and Announcements from Ward Church

Welcome and announcements from Ward Church were brought by TE Terence Gray (Midwest).

45-07 ELECTION OF RECORDING CLERKS AND MINUTES READERS

Stated Clerk, TE Dean Weaver presented the following motions to elect Recording Clerks and Minutes Readers of the Assembly.

ON MOTION Elected RE Dexter Kuhlman (Mid-America) and TE Kermit Opprieht (Great Plains) to serve as Recording Clerks for the 45th General Assembly. Elected RE Ron Bengelink (Pacific Northwest), TE Zach Hopkins (Rivers and Lakes) and TE Nathan Arnold (Mid-America) as Minutes Readers for the 45th General Assembly as provided for in *Rules for Assembly* §9-13.

45-08 DECLARATION OF QUORUM AND ASSEMBLY ENROLLMENT

Stated Clerk, TE Dean Weaver, declared a quorum to be present with 595 Commissioners and 10 Corresponding Members) with registration in excess of the required quorum (**G.16-24**, “at least five Ministers and five Ruling Elders representing at least three Presbyteries”). The roll of the Assembly follows:

[Insert enrollment]

45-09 ENROLLMENT OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

ON MOTION Seated the following as Corresponding Members: TE Samuel Sesay (EPC of Sierra Leone), TE Reggie Smith (Christian Reformed Church), TE Arman Arenbayev (The Evangelical Reformed Church of Kazakhstan), TE Trevor Gribben (The Presbyterian Church in Ireland), TE's Ezzat Shaker, Refaat Fathy, Samuel Adel, Manassa Nessim, Samuel Rozfy Ibrahim and Tharwat Wahba (The Synod of the Nile).

45-10 OUTGOING MODERATOR'S REMARKS

[Insert remarks]

45-11 PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING MODERATOR

Stated Clerk, TE Dean Weaver shared words of appreciation and presented the retiring Moderator with tokens of his office to celebrate his year of service.

45-12 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (Partial)

TE Mike Goolsby (Great Plains) opened the report with prayer and on behalf of the Nominating Committee, nominated TE Dave Strunk (Southeast) to serve as Moderator of the 45th EPC General Assembly.

Recommendation 45-01: That the 45th General Assembly elect TE Dave Strunk (Southeast) Moderator of the 45th EPC General Assembly.

TE Mike Wright (West) brought the nominating speech.

ON MOTION Nominations were closed with the required two thirds of the Assembly voting in favor.

ON MOTION TE Dave Strunk (Southeast) was elected as Moderator of the 45th General Assembly.

RE Victor Jones (Gulf South) asked the constitutional investiture questions of TE Dave Strunk (Southeast) and the Assembly which all were answered in the affirmative. He then passed Dave the Gavel and Moderator's Cross, symbols of the office of Moderator, after which TE Brad Strait (West) asked all past Moderators and Stated Clerks present to lay hands on TE Dave Strunk (Southeast) as he offered prayer for the incoming Moderator.

The newly elected Moderator offered remarks that challenged the Assembly to action for the coming year.

TE Mike Goolsby on behalf of the Nominating Committee, nominated RE Jack Cathey (Central Carolinas) to serve as Moderator-Elect of the 45th EPC General Assembly.

Recommendation 45-02: That the 45th General Assembly elect RE Jack Cathey (Central Carolinas) as Moderator-elect of the 45th EPC General Assembly.

TE Tom Ricks (Mid-America) brought the nominating speech.

ON MOTION Nominations were closed with the required two thirds of the Assembly voting in favor.

ON MOTION RE Jack Cathey (Central Carolinas) was elected as Moderator-Elect of the 45th EPC General Assembly.

TE Dave Strunk (Southeast) asked the constitutional investiture questions of RE Jack Cathey (Central Carolinas) and the Assembly which all were answered in the affirmative.

TE Shawn Robinson (Pacific Southwest) offered prayer for the Moderator-Elect.

The newly elected Moderator-Elect offered remarks that challenged the Assembly to action for the coming year and closed with prayer.

45-13 Reminder of Deadline for New Business

Stated Clerk Dean Weaver advised the Assembly that according to our Rules of the Assembly any new business for this Assembly to consider must be presented to the Stated Clerk's office by 12 noon ET June 18, 2025, tomorrow.

45-14 Introduction of Fraternal Guests

TE Alan Trafford (Gulf South) Chairman of the Permanent Committee on Fraternal Relations opened with prayer and each of our Fraternal Guests introduced themselves to the General Assembly following which Alan Trafford (Gulf South) offered a blessing prayer.

45-15 Ad-Interim Committee Report on Ordination Standards (partial)

Doug Resler (West) opened with prayer and along with TE Julie Hawkins (Pacific Northwest) presented an overview of the committee's work and reminded the Assembly the full report with recommendations will be presented Thursday afternoon in Business Session 4.

45-16 Ad-Interim Committee on SSA and Ordination Standards

RE Carol Williams (Alleghenies) opened with prayer and along with TE Cameron Schaffer (East) presented an overview of the committee's work to date.

45-17 "FACE TO FACE"

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

(Insert Face to Face opportunities here)

45-18 Adjournment with Great Commission Sharing

TE Rick Dietzman (Pacific Northwest) shared a video featuring the Malay people group the Pacific Northwest's E2025 are focused on and closed the day's business with prayer.

The Assembly was recessed until worship.

45-19 WORSHIP with Global Worker Commissioning

Worship began at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary of Ward Church.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Tonight's Music was led by the Ward Praise Team

Goodbye Yesterday
Firm Foundation (He Won't)
In Christ Alone

Video E25 Moment

Scripture
Sermon

Cast Your Net

John 21:1-25
Asaph Din

Presentation and Commissioning of World Outreach Missionaries

Designated Offering is for the Global Workers Health Fund

Benediction Is He Worthy