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630-456-6453

January 25, 2026

Dear Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Dean Weaver,

Grace and peace to you in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Pursuant to the provision in Rules for Assembly 7-5, I am sending you the attached Ascending Overture which failed to pass at the 46th Stated Meeting of Rivers & Lakes Presbytery on January 24, 2026.

I received a written request from TE Jeffrey Durham that I send this overture for consideration by the 46th General Assembly. I hereby certify that TE Jeffrey Durham and the Session at GracePoint in Dubuque, IA had presented the overture, so he has standing for this request. The vote at Presbytery was 5 in favor and 40 opposed. Here is the relevant extract from the Provisional Minutes of the 46th Stated Meeting of Rivers & Lakes Presbytery:

46.05 Clerk's Report—TE Annie Rose

TE Rose gave a second reading of a proposed Ascending Overture from GracePoint Dubuque (requesting the GA direct the Permanent Theology Committee to revise the Position Paper on the Ordination of Women by adding Scripture references) and invited TE Durham forward to give a brief rationale.

Following discussion, a counted vote was taken: 5 Yes 40 No

The motion failed. The full text of the overture is included with these minutes.

TE Durham asked me to communicate that his desire is not to stir up strife in our denomination but simply to improve the quality of our Position Paper on the Ordination of Women.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding this request.

In the peace of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annie Rose".

Rev. Annie Rose
Stated Clerk

The Session of GracePoint in Dubuque, IA hereby respectfully overtures Rivers & Lakes Presbytery regarding a proposed revision to the *Position Paper on the Ordination of Women*, with a subsequent motion to overture the 46th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church if the Presbytery consents. It is the request of this Session that this business be presented to the 45th Stated Meeting of Rivers & Lakes Presbytery as new business for the purpose of a first reading and then postponed to a definite time of the 46th Stated Meeting of Rivers & Lakes Presbytery for a second reading and vote.

Whereas the *Book of Government* grants the authority and responsibility of church Sessions “to overture Presbytery on matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church” (G.18-3.N); and

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,” (G.19-4.C.2); and

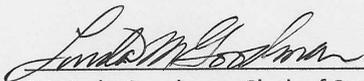
Whereas “the Evangelical Presbyterian Church believes that the issue of the ordination of women is not an essential of the faith. Since people of good faith who equally love the Lord and hold to the infallibility of Scripture differ on this issue, and since uniformity of view and practice is not essential to the existence of the Visible Church, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church has chosen to leave this decision to the Spirit-guided consciences of local churches concerning the ordination of women as Ruling Elders and Deacons, and to the presbyteries concerning the ordination of women as Teaching Elders” (G.9-2); and

Whereas “the Bible, uniquely and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, is the supreme and final authority on all matters on which it speaks” (*Essentials of Our Faith*); and

Whereas there are currently no Scripture references included in the Position Paper on the Ordination of Women;

Therefore, be it resolved that the GracePoint Session overtures Rivers & Lakes Presbytery and requests a subsequent overture to the 46th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to direct the Permanent Committee on Theology to revise the Position Paper on the Ordination of Women by adding Scripture references, giving even-handed treatment to those passages interpreted as being for and against women in ordained ministry, and providing support for the EPC’s position that this issue is not an essential of the faith.

Adopted by the Session of GracePoint on [date], signed


RE Linda Goodman, Clerk of Session


TE Jeffrey Durham, Moderator