



1
2 Rivers & Lakes Presbytery hereby respectfully overtures the 46th General Assembly of the Evangelical
3 Presbyterian Church with consideration of the preservation and stewardship of the historical record of the
4 Evangelical Presbyterian Church:
5

6 **Whereas**, it belongs to synods and councils to make provision for the better administration of the government
7 of the Visible Kingdom through the Order of the church (WCF 31.2), and that earthly government must
8 be maintained through diligence since it may err and need to be corrected or improved upon (WCF 31.3);
9 and
10

11 **Whereas**, *The Book of Government* grants the authority and responsibility of Presbyteries “to overture
12 the General Assembly on those matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church,” (BOG 19-
13 4.C.2);
14

15 **Whereas**, this church has from its genesis prioritized the decent and orderly handling of ecclesiastical
16 matters, since, at the inaugural gathering of the First General Assembly of the Evangelical
17 Presbyterian Church, on the first session on Tuesday afternoon September 22, 1981, the sixth
18 action was to adopt the *Rules for Assembly*; and
19

20 **Whereas**, at the Fifth General Assembly in 1985, The Committee on Administration reported
21 concurrence with the Stated Clerk [L. Edward Davis] that, “serious work should begin on
22 establishing denominational archives to house our history. George Scotchmer has been asked to
23 act as Historian, and with the Clerk, will begin to gather and sort historical data unique to EPC
24 history. For the present, denomination archive will be stored in the Office of the General
25 Assembly” (Minutes 5 – Journal Part II Appendix C “Report of General Assembly Administration
26 Committee, p. 61); and
27

28 **Whereas**, at the same Fifth General Assembly, The Committee on Administration presented
29 recommendation 21, which proposed amending § IV The Stated Clerk of the *Rules for Assembly*
30 by adding, “The Stated Clerk shall have surveillance over denomination archives and historical
31 documents on behalf of the General Assembly, and shall be responsible for the right of access to
32 such documents” (Minutes 5 – 12, p. 18), which was subsequently recommended by the

1 Standing Committee on Administration, adopted by the floor (Minutes 5 – 43, p.47), and
2 immediately recorded in the *Rules for Assembly* as 4-7¹; and
3

4 **Whereas**, in 1986, the Sixth General Assembly adopted Acts of Assembly 86-15, originally rising as
5 Overture 86-B from the Presbytery of the Central South, and commended by the Standing
6 Committee on Administration, “To establish [a] historical foundation, appoint a committee to
7 oversee its development, and instruct that committee to prepare a history of the origins of the
8 Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Committee for the Historical Foundation shall be
9 responsible for collecting, cataloging, and preserving historical documents, artifacts, and other
10 items of historical significance in the origins and ongoing life of the Evangelical Presbyterian
11 Church” (Minutes 6 – 75, p.58); and
12

13 **Whereas**, in 1987, the 7th General Assembly received a report from a body identified as the “Historical
14 Commission,”² (Minutes 7 – Part II “Historical Commission Report,” p. 114) though the Assembly
15 had authorized a committee to oversee a foundation rather than the establishment of a
16 commission. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the “Historical Commission” was comprised of TE
17 Kent Bull, RE Homer Graham, and TE George Scotchmer; and
18

19 **Whereas**, following this initial activity, since 1987 there is no record of sustained implementation,
20 development, or continuation of the Historical Foundation as envisioned by the General
21 Assembly, nor of an ongoing denominational strategy for the preservation and accessibility of
22 historical materials; and
23

24 **Whereas**, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, though relatively young, has a meaningful and instructive
25 history in its founding, theological commitments, ecclesiastical development, and ministry, which
26 bears significance for future generations of the Church; and
27

28 **Whereas**, the Holy Scriptures commend to the people of God the faithful remembrance and recording of
29 His mighty acts in history, that His deeds might be proclaimed among His people and not
30 forgotten, but declared to future generations “that we may not hide them from their children,
31 but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the
32 wonders that He has done” (Psalm 78:4–7); and
33

34 **Whereas**, the people of God are called to publish abroad His saving works and to make known His
35 providential care, saying, “I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD,
36 according to all that the LORD has granted us” (Isaiah 63:7; cf. Psalm 9:11; Psalm 105:1–2); and
37

¹ The section heading of “The Stated Clerk” changes from IV to V, the current section of the *Rules of Assembly*, in 2005 when Overture 04-C was ratified by the 25th General Assembly (Minutes 25 – 9, p. 13-15) to appoint the role of Moderator-Elect, which is the present § IV The Stated Clerk of the *Rules for Assembly*.

² The report is received from “The Historical Commission” (Minutes 7 – Part II “Historical Commission Report,” p. 114) even though the Assembly had authorized a committee to oversee the Historical Foundation rather than a commission (Minutes 6 – 75, p. 58).

1 **Whereas**, it is fitting that even in our own small portion of Christ’s Church - this blessed corner of Zion
2 entrusted to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church - we should remember with gratitude the Lord’s
3 faithfulness in our origins, preservation, and growth, and commit these things to record for the
4 instruction and encouragement of the generations to come (cf. Psalm 102:18; Joel 1:3); and
5

6 **Whereas**, the faithful preservation of ecclesiastical history serves the Church’s witness by bearing
7 testimony to the Lord’s work in her midst (cf. Psalm 78:4–7), and assists future leaders in
8 understanding both the principles and practices that have shaped the denomination;
9

10 **Therefore, be it resolved:** That the 46th General Assembly direct the National Leadership Team (NLT) to
11 study the current state of the preservation, cataloging, and accessibility of the historical records
12 of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
13

14 That this study include:

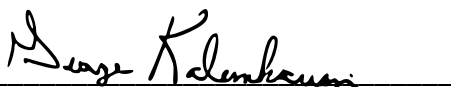
- 15 1. A review of Acts of Assembly 86-15 and its original intent regarding the Historical
16 Foundation.
- 17 2. An evaluation of the present responsibilities of the Stated Clerk under the *Rules for*
18 *Assembly* (particularly § 5–7) concerning archival oversight.
- 19 3. An assessment of existing denominational records, archives, and historical materials,
20 including their condition, organization, and accessibility.
- 21 4. Consideration of whether the original vision of an Historical Foundation remains
22 advisable, feasible, and beneficial.
23

24 That the NLT bring recommendations to the 47th General Assembly, including:

- 25 1. Whether to implement, reconstitute, or formally conclude the Historical Foundation
26 envisioned in 1986.
- 27 2. Whether the current assignment of archival responsibility to the Stated Clerk is
28 sufficient, or should be expanded, clarified, or reassigned.
- 29 3. Proposed structures, policies, or partnerships (if any) for the long-term preservation and
30 accessibility of denominational history.
- 31 4. Any recommended amendments to the *Rules for Assembly* or other governing
32 documents necessary to support these conclusions.
33

34
35 That, in its report, the NLT give consideration not only to administrative efficiency, but also to the
36 theological and pastoral value of preserving the history of this our beloved portion of ancestral
37 Zion, the EPC, as a testimony to the faithfulness of God across generations.
38

39 Approved by Rivers & Lakes Presbytery at its 47th Stated Meeting, April 25, 2026, by a vote of 31-0.
40

41 

42 RE George Kalemkarian, Moderator
43

41 

TE Annie Rose, Stated Clerk