



GOSPEL PRIORITIES

ANNUAL REPORT

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 2024-2025

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A Message from the Stated Clerk



In 2014, at our 34th General Assembly, we received a new vision statement to guide our mission together. Of course, our established mission was “the EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ, as a family of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.” The abiding question was, what would this look like (vision) if we lived fully into that mission? That vision statement reads:

“To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to embody and proclaim Jesus’ love as a **global movement** of congregations engaged together in God’s mission through **transformation, multiplication,** and **effective biblical leadership.**”

Embedded within our vision of “what” it should look like, we can find “how” we get there. Initially referred to as our strategic initiatives, then later our strategic priorities, we now have what we call our “Gospel Priorities.” It is through these four priorities that we have determined to live our lives on mission together as a family of churches. These Gospel Priorities are the way we, as The Evangelical Presbyterian Church, live into our mission, which is to carry out the Great Commission.

Over the last year I have watched with amazement as these four areas of focus have come together as one united effort in our becoming increasingly a family of churches united around our 7th and final Essential Tenet to carry out the Great Commission. In the following pages, you will see the Lord at work in and through the EPC family as we seek to be “obedient to all he commanded us.”

Blessings,
Coram Deo!
-Dean

An Introduction to EPC Gospel Priorities



Reflecting on the past year with the Gospel Priorities, I am profoundly grateful to witness our church's continued commitment to the mission entrusted to us by God. This year, we have observed remarkable growth both domestically and globally. It is inspiring to see how our resources are extending to more churches, pastors, and global workers who are experiencing spiritual growth and developing leadership skills.

The data presented in this report underscores the transformation and equipping of our leaders, enabling them to make a significant impact within our churches and presbyteries.

This achievement is a testament to the dedication of our team, the unwavering commitment of the National Leadership to the mission and vision, and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ working through our entire General Assembly.

*Michael
Davis*

Mission & Vision

The EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.

To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to embody and proclaim Jesus' love as a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership.



Making An Impact



From the Presbytery of New River

A shining example of the convergence of the work of a Transitional Pastor with the work of church health is the Forge Church community in Greensboro, North Carolina. Forge was birthed out of the decline of the Memorial Presbyterian Church. The congregation was in sharp decline and facing a pastoral transition. They contracted with one of our trained Transitional Pastors, to help them figure out God’s calling for them going forward. When he helped them face the reality that the community was no longer coming to them and they no longer had the energy to reach the community, they began to think about closing. In the midst of their wrestling, God was doing a work in the heart of an elder at Reynolda Church, a neighbor in the Presbytery.

A church planter felt a call to plant a faith community that served their community and lived invitationally toward that community. His vision was for a faith community named FORGE, standing for: faith, outreach, reconciliation, generosity, and evangelism. It would be a faith community for the community. Memorial Church heard about the vision. They decided to offer everything to the new vision — property, building, finances, and the remaining people. The result was something only God could have brought about: a multi-racial, multi-economic level faith community that serves the larger community in varied ways that matter most to that neighborhood. The Forge is a vibrant and thriving community of faith, which is reaching their neighbors with Good News of Jesus Christ.



From the Presbytery of the Alleghenies

Lebanon EPC in West Mifflin, PA, took very seriously our evangelism training last year and has been very intentionally getting out into their neighborhood through prayer walks and finding intentional ways to share the Gospel through relationships with the local school by their church. They are seeing the culture of an outward focus influencing their longtime members, expectantly welcoming and integrating their many new visitors each Sunday morning. We are working with them now on developing an even deeper missional presence in the community through their evangelistic efforts.



Praise for a Pastors' Cohort

“Participating in an EPC Cohort was a valuable experience. Not only did I engage with helpful leadership material in the reading, but I also had the chance to wrestle with the content alongside others and see how what we were learning was being applied in different situations. The extra accountability, encouragement, and wisdom gained from being in a cohort would be priceless for anyone, especially for those serving as solo pastors.”

Church Planting

As the EPC continues to grow our church planting footprint, 2024-2025 has seen several encouraging signs that we are moving in a very positive direction. Our work is not without challenges and some disappointments, but God is faithful, and He continues to grow His kingdom, in part, through EPC church planting.

-Tom Ricks, Director of Church Planting



From Mitchell Moore, one of our newest EPC church planters in Durango, CO

Church Planting At A Glance

- Structural Paradigm: We continue to work with the conviction that the role of national church planting leadership is to serve and equip local church planting efforts.
 - a. Regional church planting directors around the country give hands on coaching, mentoring and planning development to local church planting.
 - b. National church planting retreat serves to encourage and equip local church planters.
 - c. Local churches desiring to become parent or partner church planting churches have access to coaching, leadership development and planter recruitment from national and regional church planting leadership
- 2024-2025 saw new church plants launch in:
 - North Carolina
 - Southern California
 - Florida
 - Mississippi
 - Washington (State)
 - Pennsylvania
 - Virginia
- Three EPC church plants closed in 2024. With 48 active church plants, our closure rate was 6.5%, well below the national average of 44%.
- EPC now staffs its own church planting assessment center 2-3 times per year depending on the number of candidates. Two assessments in 2024-2025 with two more planned for 2025-2026.
- Church Planting Regional Directors (Part-time & Full-time):
 - Richard Rieves, South Region
 - Elizabeth Gibson, Atlantic Region
 - Keon Ebner, Northeast Region
 - Justin Garrett, Heartland Region
 - Shawn Robinson, Pacific Southwest Region

Church Planting At A Glance

- In 2024-2025 we launched Spanish speaking church plants in:
 - Texas (2)
 - Florida (3)
 - Oklahoma (1)
- In 2025-2026, Lord willing, we will launch Spanish speaking congregations in:
 - Florida
 - Puerto Rico
 - Kentucky
 - Oregon
- Reverend Alfredo Forhans is our part-time EPC Latino church planting consultant, helping us with assessment, coaching, and care for our Latino church planters.
- For several years, we have hosted a national retreat for our church planters. In October 2025, we hosted an East Region church planting retreat near Asheville, NC, with over 55 attendees. In March 2026, we will host our West Region retreat in San Diego, CA.
- We continue to explore and grow our church planting partnership with our friends and colleagues in the French denomination UNIPREV.

Summation: As we expand our church planting capabilities, we are reminded that God is the one who grows His kingdom. Our role is to follow Him in faith as we plant churches to evangelize the world with the gospel of our Lord Jesus. Please pray for wisdom, resources, and faith for all of us in the EPC to be faithful to God's call for us to actively plant new congregations across America and the World.

Current needs

Scan the QR code or click [here](#) if you feel led to support the expansion of the EPC through church planting.



- **Qualified & enthusiastic church planters**
- Presbyteries and local churches **utilize expertise of our CP regional directors**
- Sustainable **funding model**
- Did we mention **qualified and enthusiastic church planters?**

Church Health

By God's grace, we're striving to help our 600+ churches continue to become inwardly strong and outwardly focused, centered on the Great Commission in our local communities and participating in God's redemptive work around the world. Our team of Church Health Coordinators serves each of our sixteen presbyteries, equipping our congregations to live on mission for Jesus by actively proclaiming the Gospel and making disciples. We celebrate God's good work during this last season as we keep pressing into our missional identity moving forward!

-Marc de Jeu, Director of Church Health

Church Health At A Glance

- Facilitated Refocus/Vitality Seminars in **55 congregations**.
- Trained **34 congregations** (approximately 1,600 people) in building an evangelistic culture using the “3 Circles” evangelism tool.
- Conducted 10 Transitional Pastor training events that trained **103 people**.
- Facilitated Church Health principles in **230 churches**, representing **30,000 people**.
- Developed the Four Options for congregations on the edge of viability.
- Began collaborative discussions with the Effectively Biblical Leadership gospel priority to equip churches for intentional bi-vocational/co-vocational calls when contextually missional.

Current needs

Scan the QR code or click [here](#) if you feel led to support the growth and development of EPC local churches and leaders



- We're **praying for more Transitional Pastors to be trained up to serve** congregations during seasons of pastoral transition. This will be a growing reality as more of our TEs begin to shift into retirement.
- We're **seeking to serve our many rural churches and their TEs/REs**. We're doing this in partnership with the EBL Gospel Priority through cohort communities of support and equipping for rural church pastors AND through developing a rich Commissioned Pastor training curriculum.
- We're **wanting to cultivate front porch opportunities for our congregations where unchurched people can experience the church's gathering space** in an inviting and meaningful way, even before coming to a service of worship. To that end, we're prayerfully developing our partnership with [Alpha USA](#) and are working to create simple on-boarding pathways for our churches to host and Alpha Course.

World Outreach

Three billion people woke up today in spiritual darkness — unaware of the glory and love of Jesus Christ, cut off from worshiping the one true God — yet only 3% of Christian workers and 1% of mission dollars go to reach these unreached peoples. We are not content to watch and wait; we launched Engage 2025 to reach the unreached, especially in the Muslim world, stepping forward to pray, to partner, to send, and to support church planting where none existed.

We have seen God move in powerful ways, writing a better story through us and in us. Now, as we enter 2025, we continue as Engage — a movement to go deeper in commitment, wider in partnership, and stronger together in faith — because this is who we are: not just a sending church, but a sent church, called into God's mission until all have heard and no one wakes up in darkness again.

—Gabriel de Guia, Executive Director of EPC World Outreach

World Outreach At A Glance

- **All 16 presbyteries have committed to Engage 2025 church-planting efforts** – 13 UPGs (Unreached people groups).
- **Engage 2025 is now called Engage** to reflect our long-term commitment.
- **151** adult WO direct and Co-op Global Workers.
- **13** new World Outreach Global Workers commissioned.
- **53% EPC churches engaged** with WO financially.
- **\$7.05M total contributions** to World Outreach in 2024.
- **34 countries** worked in.
- **18 Co-op agencies** in partnership with WO.
- **4,068 Nationals** attending one-time ITEN training opportunities.
- **17 regular ITEN training hubs** with national partners.
- **293 churches planted** by ITEN's national partners from 2020-2024.

Current needs

Scan the QR code or click [here](#) if you feel led to support our global workers and our work of sharing the Gospel with unreached peoples!



- **Launch new workers** by fulfilling our **Matching Grant**, which matches any gifts received for EPC World Outreach up to \$35,000.
- **Replenish the International Disaster Relief Fund** for emergency situations around the world.
- Partner with **specific global workers** and help those with **critical needs** stay on the field.
- Advance **special projects** around the world that are reaching the least reached people.
- Undesignated gifts to our **general World Outreach fund** help us with the greatest needs and opportunities.

Effective Biblical Leadership

Effective biblical leaders are people of increasingly Christlike character whose example and passion inspire others to follow Christ. In the EPC, we seek to foster a culture of leadership health in which our ministry leaders remain rooted in the love of God in Christ and continually grow in their love for God and others. In 2025, we curated a number of opportunities for our leaders to build strong relationships and be equipped for sustainable ministry.

—Annie Rose, Director of Ministerial Health



TE Annie Rose and her mother, RE Cathy Sayer, at the Lebanon Presbyterian Church women's retreat in October 2025

Effective Biblical Leadership At A Glance

- **66 children's, youth, and young adult ministry leaders** at our 2025 Next Gen Leadership Summit.
- Webinars on AI: over **300 views** on YouTube.
- Healthy Leaders, Healthy Churches webinars this year: **almost 400 views** on YouTube.
- Our 2025 Pastor Well-Being Survey revealed a high level of satisfaction among EPC pastors in their ministry role.
- In 2025 we **acquired the Sabbatical Planning Toolkit** created by PIR Ministries to equip pastors and their Sessions for sabbaticals. We offer this toolkit free of charge to any EPC church that requests it. The toolkit includes written materials, short videos, and a complimentary consultation with PIR for both pastor and Session.
- This year our **Chaplains Work and Care Committee** hosted their **annual workshop** for Chaplains and spouses, with a total attendance of 55 — **up from 40 the previous year.**
- **An all-time high number of EPC leaders took advantage** of our confidential and complimentary coaching for EPC pastors and pastors' spouses at this year's General Assembly.
- The EBL Team partnered with the Church Health Team and **received a grant from the Center for Rural Ministry at Grove City College** to create a dream cohort for rural pastors near western Pennsylvania.
- The EBL Team and Church Health Teams also **partnered to create an online Commissioned Pastor certification program with Knox Theological Seminary** (launching this program in early 2026) to provide quality training for current and prospective Commissioned Pastors throughout the EPC.

Current needs

Scan the QR code or click [here](#) if you would like to connect with Annie Rose, Director of Ministerial Health, for the support and development of our EPC leaders.



- **Paid internship/residency opportunities** for seminary students interested in pursuing ordination in the EPC.
- Contributions to **fund the recruitment and development of Effective Biblical Leaders** in the EPC.
- **Ruling Elders approved by their Ministerial Committees** to pursue training through the EPC/Knox Commissioned Pastor Certification program.
- **Contributions to the Care of Pastors and Spouses Fund** to help pastors and pastors' spouses access counseling, coaching, and attend retreats for their long-term health and effectiveness in ministry.
- **Contributions to the Care of Chaplains Fund** to help chaplains access care, training, and spiritual renewal opportunities.
- **Contributions to the Smaller Church Network Fund** to develop programs, purchase leadership training materials, and assist leaders of small churches with financial need to attend conferences and gatherings that will “affirm the small church in its missional purpose and practice.”
- **Contributions to the Revelation 7:9 Team** to help the 620+ churches of the EPC improve the delivery of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment within the 1-, 3-, and 5-mile radius of each congregation.
- **Contributions to the Next Generation Ministries Fund** to support leadership development and networking opportunities for ministry leaders and college students.

National Leadership Team

Victor Jones, Chairman
RE, Presbytery of the Gulf
South

Josh Hanson
TE, Presbytery of the
Midwest

Eric Shipton
TE, Presbytery of the New
River

Julie Hawkins
TE, Presbytery of the Pacific
Northwest

John Ivy Jr.
RE, Presbytery of the Central
South

Carolyn Poteet
TE, Presbytery of the
Alleghenies

Joi Williams
RE, Presbytery of the Coastal
Mid-Atlantic

Dave Strunk, Moderator
TE, Presbytery of the
Southeast

Greg Aydt
TE, Presbytery of the West

Chris Danusiar
RE, Presbytery of the Rivers
and Lakes

Rachel Toone Pies
TE, Presbytery of the Central
Carolinas

George Hertensteiner
RE, Presbytery of the Great
Plains

Linda McDaniel
RE, Presbytery of the West

Neil Smith
TE, Presbytery of the East

**Dean Weaver, Stated Clerk
(ex officio)**
TE, Presbytery of the
Alleghenies

**Jack Cathey, Moderator-
elect (ex officio)**
RE, Presbytery of the Central
Carolinas

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